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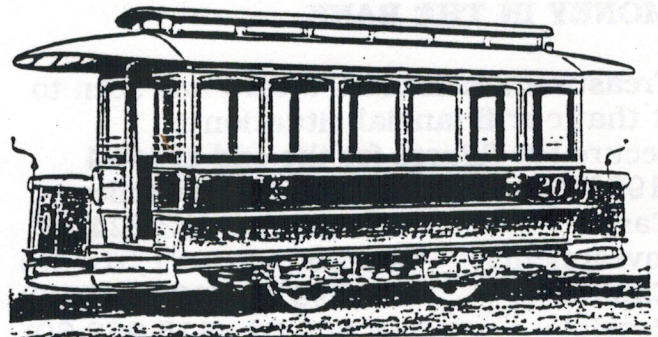
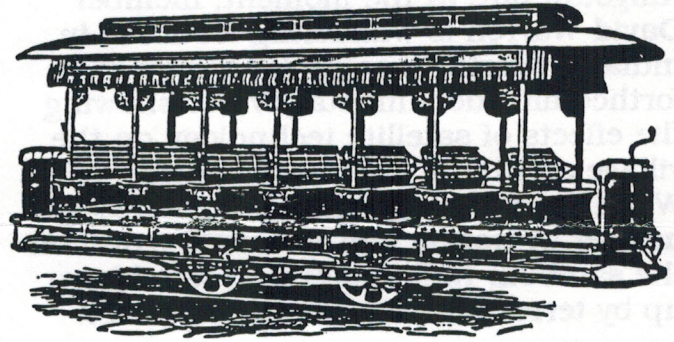
Editor
James Warren

KINGSTON'S STREET RAILWAY

Our February meeting will reveal the colourful history of the Kingston-Portsmouth-Catarqui Electric Railway. Our guest speakers will be Bill Thompson and George Dillon, both long time railroad history buffs. Bill's father worked with the Grand Trunk Railroad, so it is in the blood. After a career in agricultural chemicals, he has spent his retirement as an active member of the Canadian Railroad Historical Association. George Dillon is a history teacher at KCVI, with a passion for railroad history. The time is 7.30pm on Wednesday 15 February in the Wilson Room of the Public Library at 130 Johnson Street. We can't wait until they get steam up!

OUR ANNUAL MEETING

The formality of our Annual General Meeting was relieved by a most efficient re-election of officers and a most interesting variety of special features. The list of our officers, council and Murney Tower stalwarts is listed elsewhere for your convenience. Other official business is scattered through this newsletter, but the fun part was a display of models of historic buildings by students from the Kingston Christian School, three stirring poems by James Chapeskie and the ever-popular if sometimes long-winded Show'n'Tell. Stay tuned for more.



HERITAGE ROOM IS SAVED!

We are indebted to Queen's new Archivist, Donald Richan, for extending the warm welcome we have always received to continue to use the Heritage Room on the fourth floor of Queen's Archives to house our books, papers and other historical material. Given the itinerant nature of our Society, homeless as it were, we treasure this spot in which the history of our Society is preserved. We are also pleased that member Doug Petty, who has helped so often with his energy and good nature, has agreed to undertake a reorganization of the room and its contents. And now he has his own key!



DISTANT MEMBERS

Many of our members live beyond Kingston but, at the moment, member David Warren is wandering footloose in India, preparing a script for a forthcoming documentary video showing the effects of satellite technology on the village culture of the subcontinent. When leaving Kingston, he reassured his mother by noting that he would travel on the same Air India flight that was blown up by terrorists two years before. Kids!

MONEY IN THE BANK

Treasurer Desmond O'Meara has seen to it that our financial situation is secure. His figures for the end of 1994 (1993 figures in brackets) are as follows:

Cash:	\$3,157.92	(\$3,224.48)
Investments:	\$63,957.92	(\$61,524.48)
Capital:	\$63,799.00	(\$61,299.00)
Receipts:	\$12,800.62	(\$15,963.60)
Expenditures:	\$12,737.18	(\$17,847.72)
Operating Gain:	\$63.44	(\$-1,884.12)
Balance from previous year:	\$10.48	(\$1,894.60)
Operating Fund Balance:	\$73.92	(\$10.48)

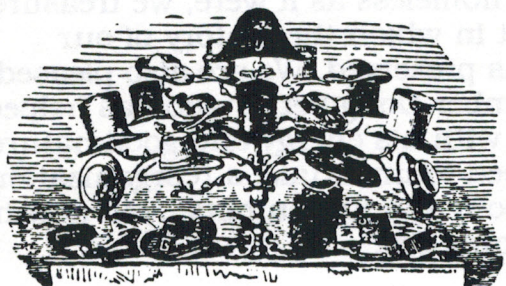
For further information, unless you received the complete financial statement at the annual meeting, please call Desmond at 546-5439.

MEMBERSHIP

Despite Joe Boucher's best efforts, our membership is declining. Father Time takes his toll, of course, and we are fortunate in having a few new younger members who have been extremely energetic, but our society needs to do a better job of attracting younger people. While we all do the best job we can, our executive meetings and sometimes our regular meetings must appear pretty soporific to any visitor under thirty. While our membership fees are based on the very real costs of renting our meeting place, printing and mailing our publications and so on, they can be a bit too much for many of the young and the older of us. Here is the evidence:

	1994	1993
Paid memberships:	147	164
Life memberships:	55	61
Patrons and others:	28	27

President Bill Fittsell must be given credit for introducing a number of innovations, such as student models, musical groups, poetry reading, dramatic presentations and the art show. However these worthwhile and entertaining features are only known to those who are already members and receive the newsletter. Our best hope is to collar our friends and neighbours, recruit our storekeepers, bug the media and create a sense of excitement about our mission. History has been neglected in our schools, but history is story-telling and story-telling is a part of any human relationship. Do it now. Call someone you know and invite them to join us. Enthusiasm works!



KINGSTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Our January meeting was graced by a most interesting display of models of many historic buildings of Kingston built by students of Kingston Christian School under the imaginative direction of their teacher, Karl Reid. Carrie Johnson built Kingston Mills Blockhouse. Brooke Shillington and Rosemary Bengtsson built Bellevue House. Another built St. George's Cathedral, I think it was Jonathan Trout or David Van Dyke or maybe both of them. Katie Anderson was another builder. In all, 34 students were involved, and their project included photography and research of ten historic buildings. All are to be congratulated. What a great way to get kids involved in what drives all of us!

HOTEL DIEU IS 150 YEARS OF AGE

Sister Loretta Gaffney, Religious Hospitallers of Saint-Joseph, has joyfully informed us that Hotel Dieu Hospital, founded in 1845, is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. We extend to them our heartiest congratulations and admiration for the fine work they have carried out in Kingston since they began caring for sick immigrants and orphaned children amid the typhus epidemics of the mid-nineteenth century. The celebrations will begin in City Hall on 8 March 1995. There will be a heritage area designation in Hotel Dieu Hospital Chapel on 1 May, and a closing event on 27 June in St. Mary's Cathedral. God bless them.

PUBLICATIONS AWAY!

The team of Margaret and Bernard Burdsall are unbeatable when it comes to handling the distribution and collecting the money for our publications. In 1994, Historic Kingston was mailed to 31 subscribers in Canada, 7 in the United States and one in England. Two are deposited in the National Library, Ottawa, and Queen's Archives and one to the Ontario Historical Society in Toronto. Free copies were mailed to all authors who contributed to Volume 42. All outstanding accounts were paid up and customer addresses were up-dated. Can you imagine the amount of work this entails? Joe Boucher wrote to every school principal in Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Counties recommending our historical vignettes. Thirty sets were sold to schools and twelve to others, not to mention some sold to tourists. The vignettes have now paid their way and have realized a profit of \$323.51. Not content with that, an inventory of the 1790 stored back copies of Historic Kingston was carried out. If you want volumes 21 to 42, call Margaret at 531-8948. Price is \$5 plus \$2.50 postage.

WHAT THEN?

During the year 1994, eight numbers of THEN were produced by your ever humble editor. These added up to 477.5 column inches of words (12,128 mm), and 23 pictures, not counting blood, toil, tears and sweat. Cost for printing, folding, stuffing envelopes and postage was \$2420.31, up \$51.97 from 1993.

THE ICEMAN COMETH

One of the joys of a new year is the pleasure to be derived from paying promptly for your membership in the Kingston Historical Society. You have no idea how much your contribution is appreciated and what relief it brings to Joe Boucher who must, otherwise, report a decline in membership. Each of us is like a personal friend to Joe. How sad if he must count you as an unrequited love. Oh, the pathos. Your invoice and a self-addressed envelope appeared in your last newsletter. If you have not already heeded the call, please be kind to Joe and send him your hard-earned money.

THE ELDON HOUSE DIARIES

In May 1994, the Champlain Society published the most recent volume in its Ontario series, "The Eldon House Diaries: Five Women's Views of the Nineteenth Century". Eldon House is the oldest house in London, Ontario, once the home of the Harris family. Editors of the diaries are Robin S. Harris and Terry G. Harris. Two of our members were closely involved with this project. Brian Osborne, as editor of the Ontario series, presented a paper to the London and Middlesex Historical Society entitled, "The Champlain Society and the Eldon House Diaries: A Social Memory of People and Place". Donald Swainson, a member of the Champlain Society's Council, contributed to the book launch with his paper, "The Gentlemen of Eldon House". Incidentally, it is rumoured that the dynamic duo are currently collaborating on a joint paper for our Society entitled, "The Harrises of Eldon House: The Kingston Connection." Should be interesting.

CRB HERITAGE FAIR

The Charles R. Bronfman Foundation is the charitable group who co-sponsor the Heritage Minutes on Television and several other fine efforts to engage school children in our history. Another has been launched in Kingston. In a broad, co-operative effort between Queen's, the school boards of Belleville, Smith Falls, Kingston, and the counties of Frontenac, Leeds & Grenville, Hastings, Prince Edward, Lennox & Addington and Lanark, a mammoth Heritage Fair will be held in Kingston on May 26 and 27. It will link teachers, students, citizens and commercial sponsors in a colourful event that is expected to attract 1500 participants and more than 5000 viewers.

With more than 100 display booths, school children, mainly in grades 4 to 9, will perform music and dance numbers, wear costumes, display models, paint pictures, make videos, write essays and read poetry. They will connect to their home schools by a computer and video network all integrated, as far as possible, with their school programs. Still in the planning stage, we will keep you posted. Needless to say, the Kingston Historical Society is deeply involved and would like your enthusiastic participation. If you have ideas, want to carry them out and can help us in our efforts, be sure to call President Bill Fittsell at 549-8354. We're counting on you. Yes, you!



MEDITATION ON KINGSTON'S BARDS

The wind is a-haunting
With a message sublime
As it whirls and it wisps
Through the Old Winds of time.
It laughs and it cries.
It seems never to rest,
Like a sweet, purling voice
In a thunderous quest.

While it cradles our Sangster
In downy, soft sleep,
In the nook of our hearts
His poems we will keep.
Beauty in dreamlands
Oft will inspire
The Kingstonian soul
With the sounds of his lyre.

Now only night, brave MacColl,
Your sleep is unbroken.
Yet Kingston forgets not
That your soft muse has spoken
The rapturous Muse,
Delighting in days
Long gone, old pathways,
Old streets and old ways.

You knew not or dreamt not
In all your great lines
Of one who would come
From the Valley of Pines
And sing of the seraphim
Gathered around
Your blanket of snow
And your graves in the ground.

As the bleak winds sweep over,
Those angels rejoice
O'er the rills and the hills
Because a new poet's voice,
Not forgetting the old,
Brimming full of the new

Follows the footprints
Left, Sangster, by you!

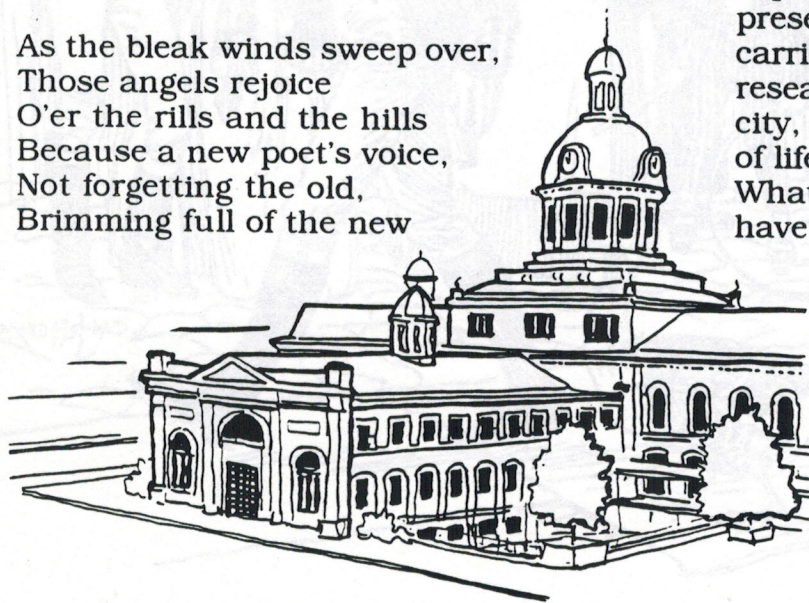
More golden visions
Than you or I know
Were waiting for someone
To plant and to grow.
I will add to the rose tree
Of thought's gleaming hours
In Life's passing gale
A few humble flowers.

Though my own footprints vanish
In the chill mists of time,
May one little silvery
Token of rhyme
Bend down from that rose tree
All fiery, aflame
And kiss with its beauty
The stone with my name.

James Michael Chapeskie

THE TOWER BY CITY HALL

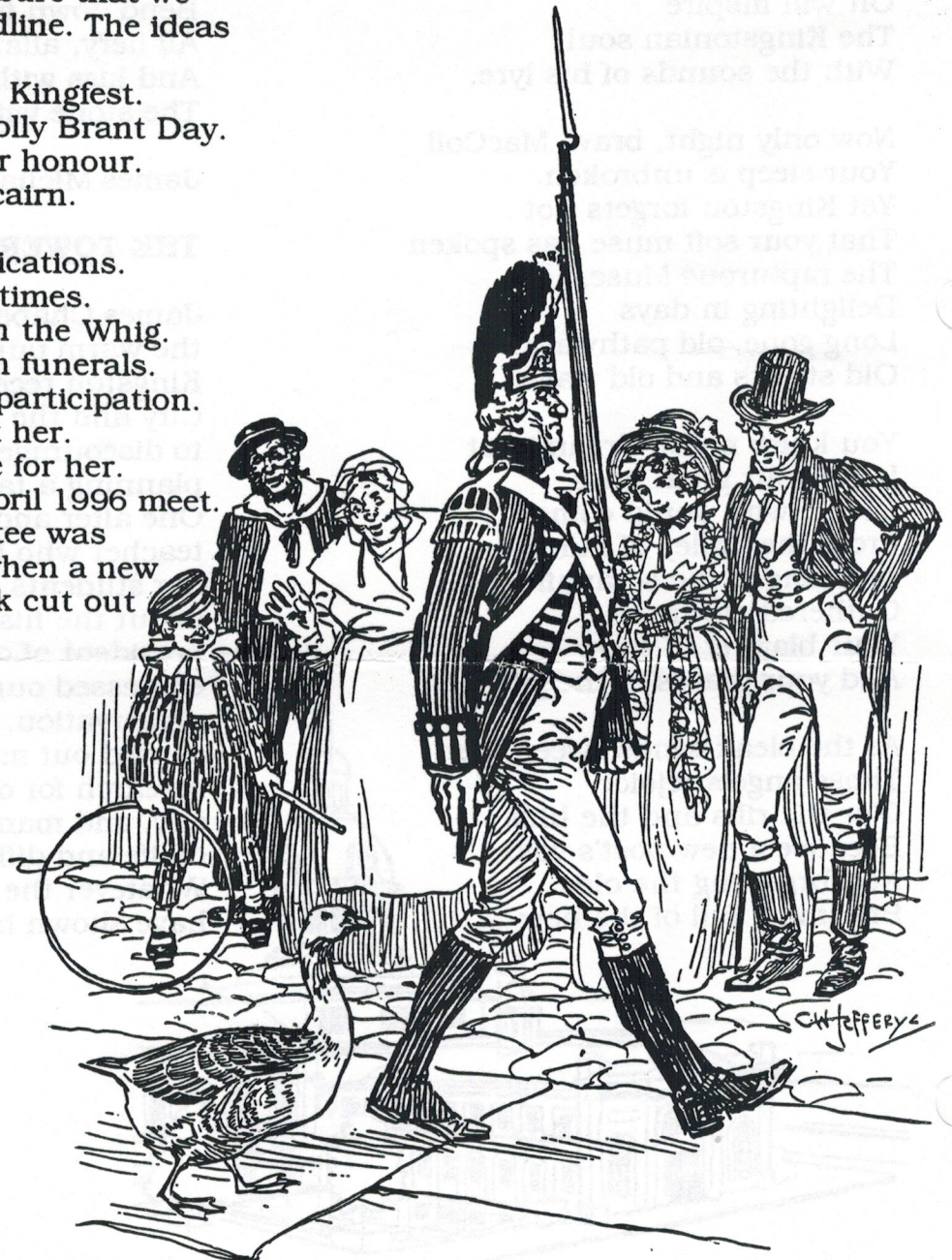
James Chapeskie's poem reminds me of the warm public support which Vision Kingston received in its appeal to the City and the Ontario Municipal Board to discourage an Ottawa developer from planning a tall building beside City Hall. One after another they spoke: a young teacher who had used City Hall to teach her students and her own daughter about the history of Kingston. The president of our historical society who expressed our concern for historic preservation, a retired civil servant who carried out much of the background research for our cause, the mayor of our city, and many more from different walks of life and different perspectives. Whatever the outcome of the hearing, we have shown how much Kingston cares.



WHITHER MOLLY BRANT?

Sharon Rudy, the spirited chair of our Molly Brant Bicentennial Committee, has prepared a fine, fourteen page report with the assistance of her colleagues, Marjorie Simmons, Peggy Cohoe and Mary Patterson. It contains suggestions for celebrating Molly Brant's contributions to our very existence as a city, her biography, a reprint of Earl Thomas' account of Molly Brant in Vol. 37, Historic Kingston, ideas for themes for the celebration, possible collaborating groups and a list of decisions that must be made by our executive and council to ensure that we meet the 16 April 1996 deadline. The ideas include:

- Summer holiday event with Kingfest.
 - Mayoral proclamation of Molly Brant Day.
 - Riverside walk named in her honour.
 - Commemorative plaque or cairn.
 - Plant a tree in her honour.
 - Prepare and distribute publications.
 - Map of Kingston in Molly's times.
 - Reprint historical articles in the Whig.
 - Respect Mohawk customs in funerals.
 - Encourage school children participation.
 - Perform a play or skit about her.
 - Arrange an Anglican Service for her.
 - Arrange a speaker for our April 1996 meet.
- And then the committee was dissolved until September when a new committee will have its work cut out



EXECUTIVE 1995 KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Past President	Frank Milledge	389-4627
President	Bill Fittsell	549-8354
V.P. Membership & Publications	Joe Boucher	548-8181
V.P. Programs	Lou Grimshaw	549-2500
V.P. Museum	Ken Rutherford	548-8674
Secretary		
Treasurer	Desmond O'Meara	546-5439
Editor Historic Kingston	Don Redmond	546-7728
Editor Newsletter Then	Jim Warren	544-7410
Publication Distribution	Margaret and Bernard Burdsall	531-8948

COUNCIL

Publicity	Sharon Rudy	546-1128
	Barbara Bonner	542-9600
	George Henderson	545-2378
	Marjorie Simmons	542-8947
	Jack Pike	546-9187
	Doug Petty	546-0422

MURNEY TOWER MUSEUM COMMITTEE

Chairman	Ken Rutherford	548-8674
Treasurer	Beverly Lazier	542-7012
Curator	Doug Petty	546-0422
	Peter Gray	546-7183
	Frank Milledge	389-4627

PROGRAMS for 1995

Kingston Historical Society

FEBRUARY
Wed. 15

Bill Thomson & George Dillon
Kingston-Portsmouth-Catarauqui Electric Rail'y

MARCH
Wed. 15

Paul Wiens
Queen's Libraries (in the new Stauffer Library)

APRIL
Wed. 19

Jennifer McKendry
Rural Cemetery Movement: Catarauqui Cemetery

MAY
Note: Tues. 16

David R. Taylor
Appointed Township Constable System
1790-1930

JUNE
Tues. 6

Sir John A. Macdonald
Annual Memorial Service: Catarauqui Cemetery

SEPTEMBER
Wed. 20

Phil Quattrochi
The Italians of Kingston

OCTOBER
Wed. 18

Peter Hennessy
Life in Kingston Penitentiary: 1858

NOVEMBER
Wed. 15

to be announced

DECEMBER

Christmas Party
Date and Place to be announced

Have a fulfilling year!