



Vol. 22 No. 7
1 October 1995

Editor
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LIFE IN THE PEN

Peter Hennessy will be the guest speaker at our meeting on Wednesday 18 October. His topic will be Life in the Kingston Penitentiary in 1858, a timely subject, given recent guests in our local institutions. Peter is known to readers of the Whig for his spirited and thought-provoking discussions of education and we can be assured of a colourful exposition of his research into the history of Portsmouth's biggest bed and breakfast. Time is 7.30 pm, place is the Wilson Room, upstairs at the Central Public Library, 130 Johnson Street. Do join us.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Phil Quattrocci presented a touching account of the immigrant experience through the lives of his grandfather and father, early in the century. They settled in Perth and, with old Sicilian friends in Brockville, Belleville and Kingston, established a lively competition in the sale of produce that exists to this day. It is hard to imagine the difficulties of the immigrant family, with little knowledge of the language and few pennies in the pocket. Yet, like the Quattroccis, they have succeeded in becoming the most enthusiastic of Canadians, contributing so much to the vitality and diversity of our great country. Canada salutes them.

AUTUMN WEDDING

We are delighted to share the happy news that Past President Frank Milledge and Margaret Kohler will join together in marriage in Vancouver on Saturday 14 October. Frank has spent the summer revisiting the battlefields of Normandy and Holland, as well as Denmark, England and Vancouver. They will live in Vancouver during the winter, but return to Kingston in Spring. We all wish them great happiness.



SESQUICENTENNIALIA

President Bill Fittell should have our blessings for resolving, we hope, the design of the coin which will celebrate Kingston's 150 years as a city and Murney Tower's 150 years of existence. This year marks the tower's 70 years as our museum. The design was the product of many conflicting expert opinions at our September executive meeting which, at one point, resembled a news clip from the O.J. Simpson trial. Would there be any merit in hearing all the dissenting opinions *before* the work is done, particularly when working to tight deadlines?

The new two dollar coin will be

presented in Memorial Hall, City Hall, during our Christmas party on the 13th December. We are happy to welcome members of the Pittsburgh Historical Society to this meeting, which should be further illuminated by our Mayor and officials from City Hall. In addition to wine, cheese and cookies, we will have the pleasure of listening to guest speaker Don McCallum who will inform us that Kingston Swings, illustrated by a small jazz group. I can dig that, man!

NEW INDEX: HISTORIC KINGSTON

To enliven his summer, Editor Donald Redmond compiled a new index for Historic Kingston's more recent volumes. It should be available for sale early in the new year. Meanwhile, Margaret Burdsall can supply copies of the three earlier indices. The complete set will cover transactions of the Society for the years indicated:

Volumes 1 - 20 for years 1951 - 1971
Volumes 21 - 25 for years 1972 - 1976
Volumes 26 - 33 for years 1977 - 1984
Volumes 34 - 43 for years 1985 - 1994

As in the past, the index lists papers by subject, author and title, providing an extremely useful tool for those seeking historical material on particular topics, program directors seeking to avoid duplication and joy to those seeking errors or omissions in the historical record. Donald Redmond can be reached at 546-7728; Margaret Burdsall at 531-8948 sells the older indices for \$5 each plus postage.

KINGSTON SHIPYARD

Diane Duttle, President of the Pittsburgh Historical Society, informs us that their next meeting may be of special interest to us. It will deal with

the Kingston Shipyard, with special emphasis upon its role during World War Two. Presented by Archie Zagrodney, it will include a video interview with Robert Sutton, the shipyard's last general manager. Their meetings are held in #3 Firehall at Gore Road and Highway 15. The time is 8 pm on Tuesday 24 October. In 1996, their society celebrates its 20th anniversary.

PAINTINGS OF KINGSTON

Marjorie Simmons was the pleased recipient, on behalf of our society, of five charming watercolours, donated by Evelyn Bishop and painted by her late mother, Alice Rosemary Pratt, and grandmother, Sidney Brown Pratt. They depict a waterfront scene of Kingston, two views of boathouses in Gananoque, a sailboat at a dock on the Rideau and the RMC arch. There is also a photo of the drugstore operated by her father near the Capitol Theatre, now gone. We extend our warm gratitude to Evelyn, a member of our Society, for this addition to our historical collections.

WAYS AND MEANS

In the September THEN, we announced the formation and membership of a Ways and Means Committee whose job will be to investigate our present financial situation and suggest ways in which our Society can become more viable. Its prospective chairman, Frank Milledge, was obliged to withdraw for happy reasons described above. Nevertheless, the committee's concerns present an opportunity for imaginative thinking on the part of all of us. May I remove my editorial hat for a moment and suggest some rather radical solutions. Have a pen ready to send me your outraged, critical responses to each one. If not too libelous, I'll put

them in forthcoming newsletters. Better yet, send in your own suggestions:

Should we continue to have monthly meetings? Of our 248 members only about twenty showed up in September, about 8 %. We could save \$1200.

Would an annual conference, tied in with the Heritage Fair, provide a more effective vehicle for both the social and historical activities of our Society? What would that cost?

If we discontinue monthly meetings, do we need a monthly newsletter? We could save \$2400.

Without monthly meetings, could historical papers be transmitted directly to an editorial board and the editor for publication?

Does Historic Kingston need to be given freely to all members? If sold, would all members buy it? If not, could it recover the costs of publication? It now costs \$4800.

In an electronic age, are there more cost-effective ways in which to disseminate our historical knowledge and other aspects of our mandate such as by videos or CD ROMs?

Should we seek commercial sponsorship, for example to pay for videos or CD ROMs?

Would a permanent exhibition, sales and meeting place be a more effective way to promote and inform people about our colourful past? Would this attract more young people? The Heritage Fair proved popular with young students, perhaps because they could actively participate.

Since all the other historically-oriented societies in Kingston suffer the same financial difficulties, should we aggressively invite them to join us in seeking mutually beneficial solutions?

Should Jim Warren be stoned for suggesting such heresies?

