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James Warren
Editor



KENTÉ

For our last regular meeting in May, we welcome Dr. Paul Germain who will bring us greetings from Prince Edward County. Paul received his doctorate from Laval University in the philosophy of science, and continues to examine the conflict between our pursuit of advanced technology and the need to preserve more human values. He is now founder and president of the Kenté Portage Heritage Conservation Society which has rebuilt Fort Kenté.

Our meeting is at 7:30 pm on Wednesday 20 May in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Frontenac Public Library, 130 Johnson Street in Kingston. Members and friends are always welcome at our meetings and to refreshments afterwards.

LAST MONTH

Rick Neilson presented a most interesting account of the steamship Kingston, built in 1854, and of the lively traffic along the St. Lawrence in the last century, traversing the rapids. His slides and videos of his dives in local waters drew an audience of sixty-seven members and friends.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The Murney Tower Museum re-opens to the public on Friday 15 May.

On Thursday 28 May, the Museum Committee and Staff will host a KHS Members Social from 3 to 5 pm at which refreshments will be served.

The Museum is an important public presence for our Society and I hope that we shall have a good turnout for this event. This is an opportunity for our members to refresh their knowledge of the Tower and its programs, to demonstrate their continuing commitment to this activity and to meet the staff whose hard work and dedication is so essential for a successful season.

KINGSTON HERITAGE FAIR

The fourth annual Kingston Regional Heritage Fair will be held, as before, in the Sir Archibald Macdonell Centre of the Royal Military College on Thursday 21 May from 10 am to 7 pm and Friday 22 May from 9 am to 2 pm.

The help of our usual kindly volunteers would be appreciated for two-hour stints. Call Jim Warren for details at 544-7410.

FUN AT SWAMP WARD FESTIVAL

Those who live north of Princess Street will not be denied their rightful place in history and culture. On Saturday 23 May from 8 am to 4:30 pm, the streets around the Armories and St. Paul's Anglican Church will be awash with happy adults and children enjoying the pancake breakfast (8 am), a yard sale, children's activities, a bake sale, BBQ, PWOR Cadet Band, PWOR Pipe Band, Opening Ceremonies (10:30), Face Painting, Balloons, PWOR demonstrations, Kingston Grenadiers, Dixie 6+1 Jazz, a Magician, a Clown, David Smith Marionettes, Royal Scottish Country Dancers, a Ceili Band, the Rob Roy Highland Dancers and the Music Vets Concert. Wow!

The Swamp Ward, between the Cataraqui River and Division Street, is the earliest historic section of Kingston. St. Paul's Anglican Church was built in 1854 assisted by the Royal Engineers. Its graveyard, established in 1780, is the resting-place of Molly Brant and several of her children, for Stuarts, Cartwrights, Macauleys and Metcalfes. Its inhabitants provided the workers for the shipyards, the Davis Tannery, the Canadian Dredge & Dock company, Heild Brothers Cotton Mill, Millard & Lumb and the Canadian Locomotive Company. They were represented in Princess of Wales Own Rifles and the Royal Canadian Field Artillery (after 1906 the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery Brigade). Artillery Park and its barracks were built in the 1840s.

Sounds like a wonderful celebration of Spring. Let's all go!

MUSIC LOVERS' HOUSE TOUR

Also on Saturday 23 May will be the third annual Music Lovers' House Tour of seven outstanding Kingston homes. a penthouse apartment and an historic church. The tour will run from 10 am to 5 pm in any order you wish, with live music in each home and refreshments in the church from 11:30 to 2 pm.

Sales of \$20. passbooks, illustrated by Shirley Hulley, will help support the Kingston Symphony Orchestra, the Kingston Choral Society and the Kingston Youth Orchestra. These are available, while they last, from the Grand Theatre, the Tourist Information Office at 209 Ontario Street, Olden Green Ltd. at 78 Princess Street, Expressions Fashion Boutique at 2815 Princess Street and the Kingston Symphony Association at 77 Brock Street. Call Melba Matthews at 545-9551 for further detail. Here is the lineup:

Cartwright House, 191 King Street East at Gore.

Century House, 18 Wellington Street.

Penthouse in the Shipyards, 33 Ontario Street.

Grove House, 2 Beverley Street at King Street East.

The Mews, on 50 Alwington Avenue.

Hillcroft, 26 Hillcroft Drive, off Union Street.

Gildersleeve House, 264 King Street East at Johnson.

The Secret Garden, 73 Sydenham Street at William.

Sydenham Street United Church, Sydenham Street at William.

Each of these buildings is an historic gem. You will enjoy each one of them!

WE CELEBRATE SIR JOHN AGAIN

Sir John A. Macdonald, our first Prime Minister and the Father of this great land, died in 1891, and we continue to honour his humour, his imagination and his political savvy. On Saturday 6 June at 2 pm, we meet at his grave site in Cataraqui Cemetery to celebrate his life and the country he built.

The guest speaker will be our fellow citizen Hugh Segal. Also in attendance will be the Parr-Christie Singers and the Fort Henry Guard. Refreshments will be served. Let us all be there to honour Sir John.

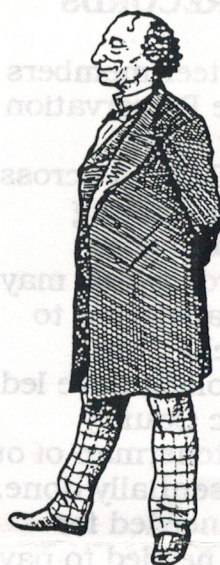
HAVE YOU MOVED ??

If you have moved, our Membership Secretary Margaret Burdsall needs to know about it. How else can she do her fine job of ensuring that you receive this newsletter and Historic Kingston? Not only that, but if you have moved and did not tell us about it, how can we tell you to tell us about the fact that you have moved? You can see the problem! So if you have changed your address, please call Margaret at 531-8948.

GUIDE TO HISTORIC PLAQUES

The Plaque Committee of the Kingston Historical Society consists of John Grenville, Chair, Bill Patterson and Ted Storey. Their most recent plaque, composed by the late Fred Gibson, was the one installed opposite City Hall, commemorating Kingston's sesquicentennial in 1996.

Some years ago, the Whig published a booklet on the historic plaque sites in Kingston. The Plaque Committee toured all of these, took photographs and prepared a written report indicating any need for repairs



or replacement. Their intention is to prepare a more comprehensive guide to historic plaques including those from federal or provincial sponsors, and to recommend new plaques which note old events and those resulting from amalgamation. We commend them.

COL. LOUIS J. FLYNN PAPERS

Col. Louis J. Flynn, OBE, KStJ., ED., LLD, (1902-1980) was one of the most effective presidents of the Kingston Historical Society, serving from 1964 until his retirement in 1972. His obituary in Volume 29 of Historic Kingston tells of his distinguished military and civilian career before that. One of his accomplishments was to save the Bishop's House from demolition when the Kingston Public Library was built.

His papers have now been donated to Queen's Archives and through the efforts of Isobel Trumpour his books and booklets will be placed in the historical collections of Bishop's House, the grey stone building now attached to the Kingston Frontenac Public Library. He would be pleased.

PRESERVING LAND RECORDS

More than 1100 volunteer members of the Association for the Preservation of Ontario Land Registry Office Documents (APOLROD) from across the province have been working mightily to inventory and copy precious original records which may be lost as their data is transferred to computer and microfiche. Paul Woodrow and Steve Vollick have led the effort in Frontenac County assisted by Martin Betcherman of our Society. This job is essentially done. However space is still needed for storage and funds are needed to pay for copying charges. Donations have covered only half the expected cost. If you can help, send a cheque to APOLROD, 251 Second Street, Stouffville, ON L4A 1B9. For more information, call Ruth Burkholder at (905) 640-7391.

KINGSTON STUDIO TOUR

Fourteen Kingston artists invite us to visit them in their studios and to see and purchase their work for our art collections. Their blue brochure provides a map of studio sites, photographic samples and a brief description of each artist's work. You will see them at art supply stores around town.

The times are 12 noon to 6 pm on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 May.

GENEALOGISTS MEETING

Saturday 23 May at 9.45 am is the time for the next meeting of the Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society who meet in the Wilson Room, Kingston Frontenac Public Library, 130 Johnson Street. Rick Roberts will speak on the genealogical software Family Tree

Maker and digital imaging. There will be a demonstration of the latest version. Visitors are always welcome.

On Saturday 20 June, the same group will celebrate their 25th anniversary Cemetery Picnic Luncheon at Cataraqui Cemetery with conducted walks through the grounds, displays, spring flowers and trees in leaf. For more information, call Margaret Amson at 389-1503 after 5:30 pm.

MUSTY BOOKS

The Alberta Genealogical Society advises that to deodorize musty books, place them in a brown paper bag with some clean kitty litter. Close the bag tightly and leave for about a week. When you remove the books they should be odour-free. Return litter.

RODS AND CHAINS

In 1620, English mathematician Edmund Gunter invented a chain for measuring roads and land. Each link in the chain was 7.92 inches long. Twenty-five links equalled one rod. Four rods made one chain. Each chain measured sixty-six feet. Eighty chains made one mile. An area 10 chains by 10 chains was one acre. And in early Upper Canada, these measurements were carried out in swampy country and in clouds of mosquitoes only slightly relieved by frequent snorts from the whisky jug.

CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM

Ed Grenda, Chair of the Murney Tower Museum, has been approached by the Canadian War Museum to consider a form of mutual collaboration with them and other military museums across Canada. This would generate greater public respect for military history, which tends to falter in times

of peace, and offer the benefits of sharing information, programs, research, exhibitions, publications and loans of artifacts.

The Canadian War Museum has worked with the Murney Tower Museum before, providing historical encampments beside the Tower during our special summer programs.

WHO SIGNS THE CHEQUES

To ensure integrity in the handling of the Society's financial affairs we have Executive Meetings, a Treasurer, we establish Budgets and, at year's end, engage an Auditor. But even in the day-to-day expenditures of an active organization, there is control in the signing of cheques. Those authorized to sign cheques for the Society may be any one of: the President, Treasurer, Secretary or Vice President Programs for expenditures under \$500. For amounts above \$500, the signature of two of these officers is required. Our bank is the Bank of Montreal.

SYDENHAM WARD VOLUNTEERS

Now called District 10, the old Sydenham Ward has always been the centre of distinctive residential architecture in Kingston. Located in the downtown area, it is also the most vulnerable to the depredations of insensitive developers, which is why it has always kept a keen, determined and active eye on planning activity in City Hall.

With amalgamation and the expansion of this ward, they now call themselves the District 10/Sydenham Ward Tenants and Ratepayers Association. If you live in this area and would like to continue this protective tradition, call Rosemary Dobbin at 546-0433.

HOTEL DIEU REVISITED

In my brief historical note about Hotel Dieu Hospital in the newsletter last month, there is a factual error. I am indebted to our member Sister Loretta Gaffney for clarifying my account:

The Notre Dame Sisters came from Notre Dame Convent, to Kingston in 1841 to establish a boarding school for young girls.

The Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph, however, were nurses from Hotel Dieu Hospital in Montreal who came in 1845 to establish the hospital we seek to save today.

Incidentally, three of our readers took exception to my including, as editor, the 'political matter' of saving/dissolving historic Hotel Dieu. If they had called me directly, instead of remaining anonymous, I would have invited them to place their objections in the newsletter.

I wrote the Hotel Dieu piece as an historical story, suggesting that we should save our life-saving historical institutions from those who would evaluate matters only in materialistic terms. Surely, the Kingston Historical Society and, by extension its newsletter editor, should not hesitate to take a stand on important historical matters if it wishes to earn the respect of the community.

If, on the other hand, the Society prefers to restrict its editor to stories that are politically correct and banal, this editor is quite prepared to pass the job to someone else. Any volunteers?



The Cat in Gloves catches no Mice!

PRESIDENTS OF OUR SOCIETY

With gratitude to the editors and contributors to Historic Kingston over the years, we submit this list of our distinguished Presidents since 1932:

1932-1958 Col. Courtlandt Strange

1959-1963 Dr. G.F.G. Stanley

"Bellvue House", Kingston

1964-1971 Col. Louis J. Flynn

1972-1973 Dr. Margaret Angus

1974-1975 Bogart Trumpour Q.C.

1976-1977 Alan Cohoe

1978-1979 Neil A. Patterson

1980-1981 Isobel Trumpour

1982-1983 Ray Haslewood

1984-1985 Anne MacDermaid

1986-1987 Kevin Quinn

1988-1989 Dr. Wallace G. Breck

1990-1991 Isobel Trumpour

1992-1993 Maj. Francis H. Milledge

1994-1995 J.W. Fittsell

1996-1997 A.G. (Joe) Boucher

1997 (acting) Maj. Lou Grimshaw

1998 Dr. Desmond O'Meara

We would be grateful to anyone who can furnish presidential names for the Society between 1893 and 1931.

