

# Outlook

ISSUE 89

DEC. 1990

The Newsletter of **The Hastings County Historical Society**

EDITORS: Janet & Mike Hoyer

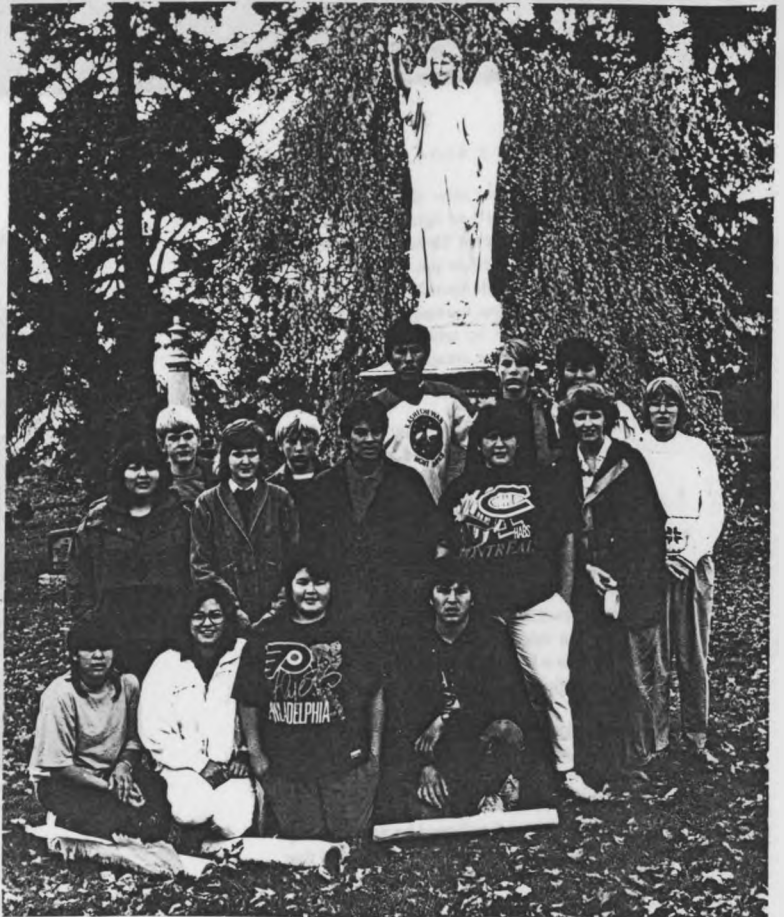
P.O. BOX 1418 - BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO K8N 5J1



### Next Meeting

Tuesday, 15th January 1991  
Pie Social - 7pm  
Annual Meeting - 8pm  
-Committee Reports  
-Presentations, etc.  
-All Welcome-

PLACE: Quinte Living Centre  
370 Front St. (enter by North Door)  
Belleville



A group of students from Quinte Christian High School spent a fall day doing a cemetery study

The Intelligencer Wednesday, November 21, 1990

### LAST MONTH'S MEETING

## Fair key part of Belleville history

By JENNIFER READ  
Staff Reporter

Kay Summers recalls sneaking over a back fence into the Quinte Exhibition at the tender age of 13.

But the second vice-president of the exhibition — a Belleville tradition since the 1820s — says she's sent a few children back over those fences since that day.

"I only did that once, and I felt terribly guilty about it," laughed Summers

She spoke to members of the Hastings County Historical Society at the November meeting Tuesday on the history of the Quinte Exhibition.

"Everyone who lives in Belleville has some memory of the fair — it has touched us all in some way," said Summers.

The lifetime resident of Thurlow township, who has been involved with agriculture since her early teens, told members while the location of the exhibition has changed over the years, "the strong sense of tradition and family involvement has remained."

The Belleville fairgrounds have occupied much of Bridge Street West at Sidney Street since the 1930s. Prior to that, the fair was held on the grounds of what is now Albert College. Summers says first accounts of the fair place it in a vacant lot between Pinnacle and Church Streets in the early 19th century.

She says early fairs were held mostly for the purpose of trade but as they evolved, entertainment also became a focus.

"The fair board has to keep up with the times to provide exciting entertainment for our young people," she added.

She's already auditioning acts for next year and says "bungee jumping may be a possibility for 1991."

Summers said the fair board will try to increase its cultural aspect by introducing more of an ethnic flavor into the exhibition in future years.

And, as always, there is the emphasis on bridging the gap between the city and the country, she adds.

"There are children who don't know that milk comes from a cow and not from a store. I think the emphasis on education must increase to help meet those needs."



#### THE CABLEVIEW SAGA

You will be aware now that although Teddingsons had signed an agreement vowing to protect the façade of Belleville's Cableview Building they failed to put up the necessary steel bracing and on April 23, following some interior demolitions, the building began to collapse and had to be taken down. All that remains is the stone arcade of the main floor along the street — admittedly the handsomest and most essential part.

Our photo shows the result: a one-storey free-standing screen propped up temporarily till it's figured out what to do next. Belleville's City Hall (recently cleaned and renovated) stands like a new toy in the sunshine. This is what the Mayor and some of Council wanted all along — an open plaza on the riverbank to show off City Hall.

The purist approach is to assert that this arcade is a valuable artifact and might be left standing as a feature in an open plaza, but that to rebuild the upper parts would be a falsification.

The LACAC has to say, I think, that they had agreed from the start that most of the building was too shaky to keep, and that a look-alike approximation of the missing two storeys is the best they hoped for and will keep the Victorian streetscape idea intact, and that this is what the developer engaged to do.



Cableview Arcade remains propped up along street with Belleville City Hall behind it.

R. C. GIBBIE

Striking as the City Hall now appears (and no one has ever seen it this way before), it really is out of proportion. It would never have had such a tall tower if it was meant to be fully revealed. Baroque town planning places important buildings at the head of a vista, but the Gothic style is to let your towers rise above a jumble of lesser buildings, and that's what the builder counted on here, and heightened his tower accordingly.

Teddingtons are going to tie in their new developments with the design of City Hall, and we have to point out that the recent renovations leave a lot of matters unresolved. For one thing, City Hall was built with four great tall upward-reaching chimneys that once helped to offset the boxy proportions of the main part.

Secondly, iron roof-crests originally helped to soften the too-emphatic horizontal of the roof-line, and if restored it could help to hide the skylight and various modern machinery that have recently sprung up to mar the roofscape. Thirdly, the city fathers might recollect that mansard roofs in the 1870s were commonly sheathed in coloured slates hung in patterns, and the current asphalt shingles don't do much to suggest quality. If Teddingsons are to tie in with City Hall, let's give them the handsomest possible model to relate to.

#### LOYALIST PARKWAY

Our Quinte Region Branch joins other and older organizations in taking a keen interest in that segment of Highway 33 from Kingston to Trenton now consecrated as the Loyalist Parkway.

Distressing it certainly was, years ago, to see the Celanese plant, a cement plant, and the Lennox generating station all come to be built on the old road that winds picturesquely along the shore from hamlet to hamlet through some of the province's earliest settled farmland.

But these three huge plants, though they change the scale of things, are worth coming to see for themselves. At least, the generating station is uncommonly handsome (if they don't get it all hidden with trees), and the cement plant with its conveyor bridging the road looks dramatic and the huge ships loading up by the shore are fun to see and a very proper concomitant of the mighty water system that the highway follows.

Though an inland route has been built that might be expected to take traffic off the Parkway, still there is great pressure to develop the waterfront. Year by year, a shocking rash of new and expensive houses spreads out from Kingston and other centres. We don't travel

the Parkway to admire a trade show of builders' wares, but that's what we're getting.

And year by year the Ministry of Transportation is rebuilding segments of the road. Curves are smoothed out, dips and hollows flattened, overhanging trees eliminated, ditches like tank traps dug each side. Bridges are rebuilt, one to be four feet higher than it was, and one seven feet. It's mostly for the new breed of commuters, one supposes, but the original old road that the Parkway concept was supposed to protect is being lost sight of.

In the works is the rebuilding of the Adolphustown segment — the first five miles or so east of the Glenora ferry. And any change here would be truly criminal and unnecessary. This is the heart of the Parkway, the part one mainly goes to see. It's like an English lane in places, with high banks and shrubbery crowding down nearly to the pavement, glimpses of farm fields between the trunks of trees that form a canopy over the road.

For a mile or so there aren't even any utility wires. Apple orchards line both sides of the road for a space. The traveller takes a bend through the ancient hamlet of Adolphustown and then the road gently trickles along till you stop at the ferry. Apart from a lot of summer-cottage-type properties the ferry is your only destination at this end of things. Dead silence, while you muse and meditate, admire the view of the headland across the

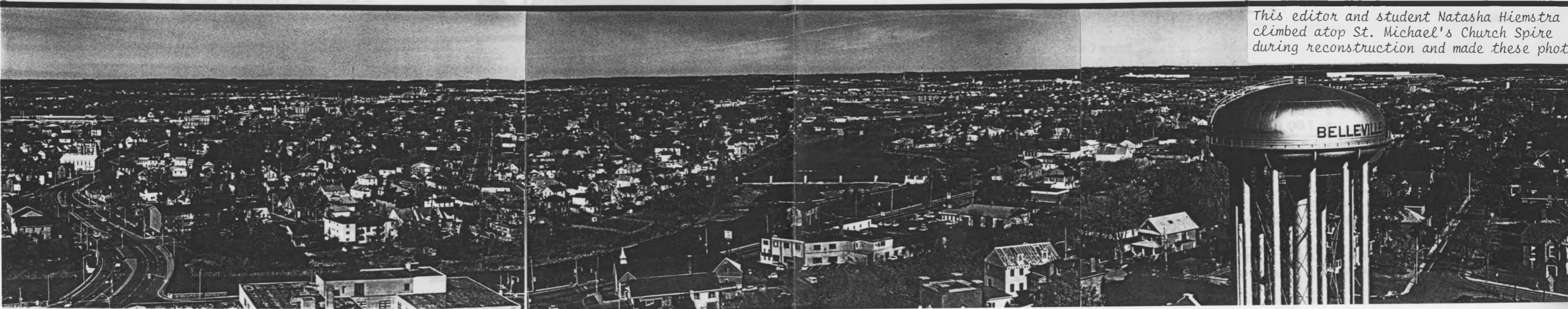
water, watch perhaps an ocean-going vessel glide by, and await the next car ferry, which always comes soon.

The two ferry boats, when they finally get lengthened to carry 32 cars each, and if they rush and make five trips per hour each way, will be able to carry a total of about three hundred cars per hour. We can visualize a tunnel or a high level bridge here, but traffic for most of the year is too light to justify anything of the sort. And either of these would surely put an end to the "Loyalist Parkway experience", of which that old-time rural road and the ferry ride are essential factors.

It's true the cars line up for miles on a sunny Sunday in the summer, on their way to the Sandbanks, but that makes for even less tendency to speed, doesn't it? The road need not be built to accommodate more than the ferry will handle. Anyway, the road is virtually straight already, except for the bend through Adolphustown and that is a desirable feature.

So we hope the Ministry will heed the efforts of those who have been working for many decades to institute the Parkway, and do their part to preserve this most essential bit.

ACORN



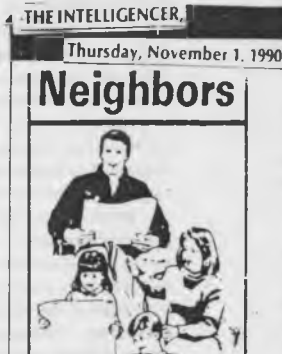
This editor and student Natasha Hiemstra climbed atop St. Michael's Church Spire during reconstruction and made these photos.



Shirley Semple and Margaret Koning attempting a gravestone rubbing.



Mr. Hoyer, demonstrates making a rubbing of a tombstone



Former Belleville resident William Hamblen has been honored by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation.

Hamblen, now a resident of Athens, was presented with the Excellence in Education award this month. He was honored for his work at Athens and District High School, particularly his efforts with staff and students involved with basketball and badminton! his involvement with staff-student activities and his expertise in the history of the American Civil War.



## DECEMBER IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME - PLEASE RENEW

- A. YES, I (We) are interested in supporting the work of the Society during 1991. The fee of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars is enclosed for the following category of membership. (Please "X" type requested.)
- Note that (1) a "91" on your mailing label indicates that fees already have been paid for 1991. (2) tax deductible receipts will be issued for fees.

Name .....

Address .....

Postal Code .....

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

Individual	\$10.00 ( )	Life	\$100.00 ( )
Family	\$12.00 ( )	Corporate	\$ 25.00 ( )
Senior Citizen	\$ 7.00 ( )	Women's Institute	\$ 10.00 ( )
Student	\$ 7.00 ( )		

- B. I would like to make a donation of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars to help in the general activities of the Society. Please send a receipt for Income Tax purposes. (Reg. No. 0281204-52-12)

- C. I would like to make a donation of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars to the Society's Living Trust Fund, a fund from which only the interest will be used annually for special projects.

HASTINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 1418, BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO K8N 5J1