

Social/Educational/Recreational Activities at the Annual Meeting in Kingston

While in Kingston attending the CHA Annual Meeting, members and guests are invited on a **cruise of the Thousand Islands**, Sunday June 2, 1991. This three hour cruise on the Island Princess departs from 1 Brock Street (the Confederation Basin across from Kingston City Hall) at 19:30 returning at 22:30. Cash Bar. Tickets are \$15 but there are only fifty places available so reserve as soon as possible. Cheques may be made out to the CHA and sent to the Secretariat, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, K1A 0N3.

In addition, there is a **weekend field trip sponsored** by the CHA Native History Study Group and the Canadian Indian/

Native Studies Association for June 1st and 2nd. The trip will go from Belleville, to the Tyendinaga Indian Reserve, the Nor'-westers and Loyalist Museum in Glengarry. On the second day, participants will be taken to Kanasatake, near Oka and to Akwesasne on Cornwall Island. The trip will include presentations at some of the stops and a chance to meet and discuss with elders at the Mohawk communities. There is room for approximately 40 participants. Estimated cost is \$150. For more information contact Bruce Hodgins or Brent Reeves at the Frost Centre, Trent University, Peterborough, ON, K9J 7B8; 705-747-1750.

The CHA Graduate Students' Committee will host an **informal reception for History Students** and their guests at the Annual Meeting on the evening of Monday, June 3. Look for details at the CHA Registration Desk.

Finally, Kingston is an historic city with much to offer visitors. What follows is a list of places of interest in and around Kingston:

On Campus:

- Agnes Etherington Art Gallery
- Queen's Archives
- Douglas Library - Special Collections
- International Centre in the John Deutsch Centre
- Faculty of Education - McArthur College, on Union Street, west of Main Campus and of the Donald Gordon Centre

Within easy walking distance:

- Bellevue House on College Street (Parks Canada)
- Murney Tower Museum, King Street West and Barrie Street
- Kingston Steam Museum, Ontario and West Streets
- Great Lakes Museum, Ontario Street
- Kingston Public Library, Johnson Street
- Cataraqui Archaeological Foundation, 370 King Street West
- Fort Frontenac, National Defence College, at Place d'Armes
- Penitentiary Museum, King Street West, opposite Kingston Penitentiary

Further afield (requires a car):

- Royal Military College Museum, Fort Frederick
- Fort Henry (St. Lawrence Parks Commission)
- Kingston Mills (Lock and Block House, Parks Canada)
- Fairfield House (Fairfield Homestead Heritage Association, Sundays only)
- MacLachlan Woodworking Museum, Grassy Creek
- Wolfe Island, by public ferry from the bottom of Barrack Street
- Thousand Island Boat Tours, from Gananoque Island
- Princess Boat Tours, from bottom of Brock Street

Clio Under Attack

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consultants to ministries of education when curricular changes are being implemented, and new courses are being mounted. Unfortunately, university professors who provide these consulting services often operate in a vacuum, and find themselves, like the teachers, reacting to policies generated by the ministries, rather than having any meaningful input into the planning process. Again, it appears to me that the CHA could keep our membership more fully informed about the state of history at all levels of the educational system. We also have a role to play in lobbying provincial ministries of education to retain history as an important part of the curriculum.

One model for a more activist and comprehensive approach to promoting the teaching of history is provided by the Organization of American Historians. To demonstrate "its commitment to improving history education at all levels," it has a separate membership category for primary/secondary school teachers that costs less than a professional membership, and provides these members with their own publication, *The Magazine of History*. The OAH also sponsors a separate publication for elementary and secondary school teachers of history called *The History Teacher*. The time appears especially propitious for the CHA to initiate something similar, for *The History and Social Science Teacher*, the

closest thing we have to a national magazine for history teachers, is on the verge of disappearing due to a withdrawal of support by the publisher. *HSST* currently has a subscription list of over one thousand members; in its heyday, when it was operating out of the Faculty of Education at the University of Western Ontario, it had approximately 3500 subscribers. Taking on the task of supporting a specialized periodical for non-university history teachers may be more than the CHA wants to undertake, but through our own newsletter, we can certainly encourage dialogue and address issues relating to the teaching of history at all levels.

I therefore invite all interested members, and especially those who teach history in secondary schools or colleges, to let me know (c/o the CHA) their opinions on the following questions:

1. Should the CHA assume a more active role in supporting the teaching of history in provincial educational systems?
2. If so, what specific actions might it take?

I look forward to hearing from you!

Notes:

- ¹ See for example the articles by Harry Dhand and Paul W. Bennett in vol. 15, no. 4 (Autumn 1989) and Michael Hayden in vol. 16, no. 1 (Winter 1990).