

# DOWNTOWN KINGSTON! **IT'S THE REAL DEAL**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 13, 2009

## **2009 PEWTER COLLECTIBLES RELEASED NOVEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>**

Downtown Kingston! Business Improvement Area is pleased to announce the official launch of the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Limited Edition Pewter Collectibles. This holiday program celebrates a five-piece series of beloved and well-known historic Kingston landmarks cast as pewter ornaments.

*The selected buildings and their release dates are:*

**‘Heathfield’ Providence Motherhouse – November 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**National Bank – November 23<sup>th</sup>**  
**King’s Town College – November 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**The Right Spot Restaurant – December 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**Alexander Henry – December 14<sup>th</sup>**

In conjunction with the Frontenac Heritage Foundation and submissions from the public, a committee selects the buildings for each year’s collection. All input is considered and thoroughly examined to ensure a collection that is balanced, attractive and representative of Kingston’s historical nature.

Each ornament can be purchased for \$8.00 upon presentation of \$25.00 worth of receipts from downtown businesses. The ornaments have a regular retail value of over \$20.00. Receipts dated after November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 are valid and may be from several businesses. As a reminder, receipts from all downtown businesses are applicable – from the dentist to the grocer – and of course, all holiday purchases. Quantities are limited and are available only as long as quantities last.

The 2009 Limited Edition Pewter Collection is sponsored in part by the Frontenac Heritage Foundation and Downtown Kingston! Ornaments are available at the Grand Theatre Box Office on Princess Street, Visitor Information Centre, 209 Ontario Street (in Confederation Park), National Bank, 328 King Street East and Wellington Foreign Exchange, 153 Wellington Street beginning on Monday November 17<sup>th</sup>.

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*For more information, please contact:*

Jan MacDonald, Projects Manager – Marketing, Downtown Kingston! BIA – 613-542-8677

\*\* Please note attachment – 1 page, historic descriptions for the selected buildings\*\*

## **2009 Pewter Descriptions**

### **'Heathfield' Providence Motherhouse 1200 Princess Street**

Once owned by Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A Macdonald, Heathfield is now the home of the only religious congregation founded in Kingston, the Sisters of Providence of St Vincent de Paul. The original villa, built in the 1830's, was named Heathfield when it was purchased by Charles Heath in 1852. Sir John A Macdonald acquired the residence in 1865, rented it to his sister Louisa, and made it his home on frequent visits from Ottawa. The Sisters of Providence purchased the land in 1930 for a novitiate. Rebuilt of limestone quarried in the area, it was officially opened as Providence Motherhouse on July 6, 1932 and has many additions and renovations in the years since.

### **National Bank – 328 King Street East**

The cornerstone is all that remains of the former Garrett building which was erected in 1837 on this site. Two Garrett buildings still remain at 324 and 326 King Street East. The building was known for years as "Reid's Corner" as its long time tenant was William Reid, a butcher. In 1911 the Garrett building was demolished and the present day ashlar building was built and owned by the Bank of Commerce, now CIBC. The National Bank now calls this cornerstone of Market Square home.

### **King's Town School 66 Rideau Street**

This hammer-dressed stone building located on Rideau Street has come full circle in its usage. It opened in 1868 as Catarqui School which was built to replace the old Princess Street and Charlesville Schools. By 1919, the population of the school exceeded the space available so it was sold to the Coca-Cola Bottling Company. After years of use as commercial space, 66 Rideau Street returned to its former purpose when King's Town School opened as a private Montessori and elementary school in 2004.

### **The Right Spot Restaurant 171 Wellington Street**

Although a fire in 1833 destroyed the original block on this strip of Wellington Street, it was rebuilt by then owner John Collar the next year. This four bay, 2 storey house was built to house a small store with residential above. The corbelled arch to the carriage way is unusual to Kingston. John A Macdonald was the new building's first tenant when he opened his law office in 1835. Shortly thereafter he took in two law students, Oliver Mowat and Alexander Campbell, both of whom became Fathers of Confederation. Now a diner owned and operated by Gus and Penny Marras, The Right Spot is an institution in downtown Kingston!

### **Alexander Henry 55 Ontario Street**

The Alexander Henry, named for an 18<sup>th</sup> century British explorer and fur trapper, was built at the Port Arthur Shipbuilding Company, launched in 1958 and commissioned in 1959 into the Department of Transport's Marine Service. She served her entire career on the Great Lakes as an icebreaker and buoy tender. The Alexander Henry was retired from service in 1984 and acquired by the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes as a Museum Ship. She is the largest artifact in the collection and has received over 80,000 guests since becoming a Bed and Breakfast. She remains in ship shape due to the incredible dedication of Museum volunteers, staff and sponsors.