

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, August 18, 2011

KINGSTON CELEBRATES FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT'S LANDMARK VISIT

Kingston, Ontario: On August 18, 1938 United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited Kingston, Canada and delivered one of the most important addresses ever by an American Chief Executive on Canadian soil. To salute our American friends and neighbours, Tourism Kingston has partnered with Kingston writer Arthur Milnes, editor of the book, *In Roosevelt's Bright Shadow*, which pays tribute to FDR's visit to Kingston and Canada-US relations as a whole.

Any American citizen visiting Kingston today will receive a free walking tour, expertly guided by Arthur, of our historic downtown. The tours will leave from the Kingston Visitor Information Centre in front of City Hall at 11 am and 1 pm on Thursday, August 18, 2011.

"We are proud to partner with Arthur to offer these complimentary tours to our American guests. Roosevelt pledged his powerful nation's support for Canada if we were ever attacked by a foreign power and that statement remains a hallmark of Canadian-American defence relations today," says Rob Carnegie, Director of Tourism Marketing & Development for the Kingston Economic Development Corporation. "Thousands of Kingstonians poured into the streets to welcome the American President that historic day. After visiting our city, President Roosevelt, accompanied by Prime Minister Mackenzie King, drove to Clayton, New York where the two leaders opened the International Bridge that still unites our proud nations in partnership."

To mark the August 18 anniversary of United States President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's famous visit to Kingston in 1938, Tourism Kingston has audio records of Roosevelt's address on-line as a permanent celebration of the city's connection to this highly significant world leader.

"No Canadian community our size can claim to be associated with Franklin Roosevelt the way Kingston is," notes Arthur Milnes, Kingston historian and Fellow in Political History at Queen's University. "His visit here on August 18, 1938 is one of the great moments in 20th century Kingston history, and a moment to be celebrated today and into the future."

President Roosevelt's Kingston speech can be found on-line at <http://tourism.kingstoncanada.com/en/fdr.asp>

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