

Limelight

Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

Kingston Ontario Canada

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January 2018

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Marcus R. (Marc) Létourneau

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a great holiday season. I am particularly excited for our upcoming 125th anniversary year. Starting with our Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner on Saturday January 13th, we have a great program of events already arranged. I encourage you to visit our newly-redesigned website and our list of events at: <http://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca/events-news>. We are also working on several special events, so please keep watching Limelight and the website.



I also wanted to apologize for the continuing delay of *Historic Kingston*. We finally have all the outstanding articles for the 2016 and 2017 editions, and will be finalizing them shortly. The KHS Council is in the process of taking steps to ensure that future editions are not delayed.

I must also congratulate the Murney Tower Museum NHS for getting another \$37000 grant for the museum. Well done!

Over the holiday season, I finally had the chance to get caught up on some reading. I was reviewing an article about a nascent heritage program in Europe, and was struck by the assertion that for heritage programs to be viable, they must be linked to economic development and tourism. As someone who makes part of his living in the heritage industry, this bothered me. While I certainly see a relationship between heritage programs, tourism, and economic development, I was concerned by the statement that it must be linked. What is lost when the overriding justification for heritage programs is tourism or economic development? What narratives or research questions are lost in this process? Who owns the information produced by commercial heritage work? In Ontario, there is a tremendous amount of heritage research and information in grey literature (such as archaeological or heritage reports). Access to this information is very limited, and in some cases, people do not know it exists. This left me with the question about how community organizations such as KHS can support (or continue to support) dissemination of this knowledge as well as information that may not be seen as integral to tourism or economic development. While KHS has a great program of publishing and lectures, my unanswered question is "What else can (or should) we do?"

Lastly, I would like to encourage everyone to renew your 2018 membership! And, as always, if there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. This is your Society, and we would love to hear from you!

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KHS Meeting

Wednesday, January 17, 2018 7:30

Senior Centre

56 Francis Street

Paul Van Nest - "The Impact of the United States on Canada's Confederation"

THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY *Established 1893*

LIMELIGHT is published nine times a year, September to May.

Please forward submissions to the Editor Betty Andrews. betty.andrews@gmail.com

Reprinting of articles from the *Limelight* must be accompanied by an acknowledgment of the Society, the issue and date. All photo credits and by-lines must be retained.

The KHS gratefully acknowledges the support of our sponsors in producing *Limelight*.

2017-18 *KHS Executive Council*

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The Kingston Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

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KHS MEETINGS take place at 7:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month, September to May, except in December, when the meeting takes the form of an awards ceremony and gala, and is held at a different time and location. Until further notice, meetings will be at the Seniors Centre, 56 Francis Street. At regular meetings refreshments are available; a small donation is appreciated. Two annual events are held celebrating Canada's First Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald (1815—1891): a formal dinner on the Saturday closest to January 11th honouring his birth, and a service on June 6th at the Cataraqui Cemetery National Historic Site commemorating his death.

MEMBERSHIP RATES

\$300 Sponsor	
\$50 Individual	\$60 Family
\$60 Institutional	\$25 Student

Membership includes an invitation to attend monthly meetings; nine issues of *Limelight*, delivered electronically or in hardcopy; and a copy of *Historic Kingston*, the KHS annual journal containing the substance of the papers delivered at the monthly meetings. Membership also includes free admission to the Murney Tower, Kingston's oldest museum; and a discount at some of our sponsors' places of business. Sponsors receive monthly advertising in *Limelight* and, it is hoped, the patronage of KHS members. If you are interested in the advantages of being a sponsor, please speak to the president or to the membership chair.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS of Historical Interest

The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will meet on Saturday, January 20th at 9 a.m. (please note this earlier time just for this meeting) at the Kingston Seniors Centre, [56 Francis St.](#) Marion Press will give two talks: "Are You Really Finding it All When You Search? Mining Databases for Every Nugget of Information" and "Putting Your Family Tree Online: Making Use of Modern Technology to Share What You Know." Visitors always welcome. Further details at www.kingston.ogs.on.ca

Awards Night

by Marc Shaw

On December 6, about 40 Society members gathered at the Renaissance Venue for the annual festive gathering and Awards Ceremony. President Marcus Letourneau welcomed guests to the event and then handed over the hosting duties to Awards Committee Chair Joe Brites who presented the Society's award to two most deserving recipients, John Grenville and Warren Everett.

The Kingston Historical Society Award was first presented in 1993, and since then over 50 individuals and organizations have been recognized.

The celebrations were significantly enhanced by the festive décor and a delicious array of foods. Many thanks to Society member and Renaissance owner Paul Fortier for hosting the event in such exemplary fashion.

In commemoration of the One Hundred and Twenty-Fourth Anniversary of the founding of the Kingston Historical Society in 1893, the KHS award is presented in recognition of the outstanding contribution to the preservation and interpretation of local history.

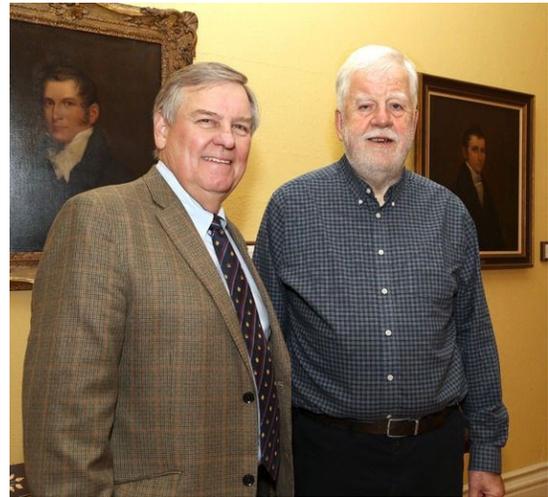
Award Citations 2017

John Grenville

John Grenville's contributions to local history have taken many forms including work as an historian, writer, and editor in a wide variety of publications. He was chair of the Kingston Historical Society Plaque Committee for *An Illustrated Guide to Monuments, Memorials & Markers in the Kingston Area* with overall responsibility for the publication of the book. He has written several articles on a range of topics related to the history of Kingston in *Historic Kingston*, contributed a chapter on the history of militia and reserve forces for the Frontenac County history, and was chair of the editorial board for County history with overall responsibility for the publication of the book.

John Grenville was one of the founding organizers for the Kingston Association of Museums, and served as Director of the Kingston Association of Museums, Director and Secretary/Treasurer of the Fort Henry Guard Club of Canada, Director of the Fort Henry Guard Foundation, President of the Lower Burial Ground Restoration Society, and served on the Kingston Historical Society Council as Treasurer and Vice-President. He has also been critical to the success of the Jane's Walks in Kingston, having acted as Kingston organizer for the event and as a tour leader.

Over the course of his professional career with Parks Canada, John Grenville made significant contributions to the implementation of Parks Canada's Cultural Resource Management policy (CRM). During this time he worked closely with owners and managers of National Historic Sites in Eastern Ontario and was a founding director of the National Historic Sites Alliance for Ontario. Parks Canada recognized his work twice with its CRM Award of Excellence and also the CEO's Award of Excellence. In 2002 he received the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal.



Warren Everett and John Grenville

Warren Everett

The Kingston Historical Society recognizes Major (Retired) Warren Everett in recognition of his contributions to the preservation, understanding and interpretation of local Kingston history. Over a period of 15 years, Major Everett made significant contributions to the Kingston Historical Society through his various leadership roles. He served on the Kingston Historical Society Council between 1999 and 2014. He served as President from 2000 to 2002, as Past President for an additional 3 years and also served as Chair of the Financial Committee. Along with Professor Brian Osborne, he founded the annual Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner and presided over the event for the first two years. He was also director and then curator of the Murney Tower Museum between 2002 and 2014.

In addition to his contributions to the Historical Society, Major Everett was co-chair of the first Doors Open Kingston and event chair for the subsequent two years. He was also co-author of the book *The Canadian Militia in Photographs (1860-1910)*. Published in 2013, the book is national in its scope and features a great deal of history related to Kingston & South Eastern Ontario. This includes the 14th Battalion, (The Princess of Wales Own Rifles), the Storrington Rifle Company and A Battery of the Canadian Artillery which was based in Kingston. For the past 5 years, Major Everett has served on the Board of Directors for the Hill 70 Memorial Project. Kingston's 21st Battalion, which was one of the battalions to attack Hill 70, has been recognized both in the project's extensive educational materials and at the memorial in Loos-en Gohelle, near Lens, France.

Anne Richardson reminds guests of the Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner .



Joe Brites, Awards Chair



Photos by Peter Ginn

HISTORY AND KINGSTON'S MARKET

by John Fielding

My favourite place in Kingston is City Hall and the Market. It was not long after we moved to Kingston in 1989 that we discovered the delights of wandering through the market on a beautiful sunny day, admiring and purchasing fresh produce of all kinds, much of it local. Before we retired, we were restricted to Saturdays, but now Tuesdays and Thursdays can also beckon us downtown. It is not only the stalls that attract us but also the wonderfully eclectic architecture that is the backdrop for the Market. For me it doesn't take much imagination to conjure up Sir John A. Macdonald, our first prime minister, or Sir Oliver Mowat, the first premier of Ontario, walking about, perhaps glad-handing the electorate. My imagination is assisted as I look up from my computer to see David Walkley's superb painting of the Market circa 1900.



It was one of those glorious days while wandering Confederation Basin and the Market that I noticed a "fifty-something" couple leave the docking compound and head towards City Hall. About 15 minutes later in the



Market, I passed close by as they were engaged in an animated conversation, and being a curious or nosy type, I hung about. Their conversation went something like this:

Him: "Let's go back to the boat."

Her: "Why? I want to look around. Look at the architecture of these old stone and brick buildings."

Him: "This is boring. There is nothing to see."

Her: "Boring! The market is alive and the setting is incredible."

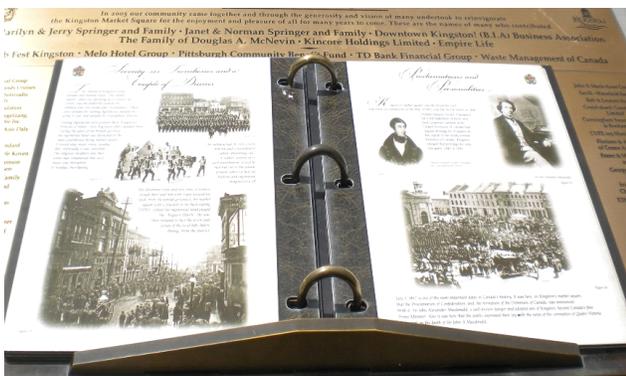
Her: "I read somewhere that the City Hall was built to house

the Parliament of Canada."

Him: "Who cares and when was that anyway?"

Her: "There is a plaque over there let's read what it says."

Him: "Why?"

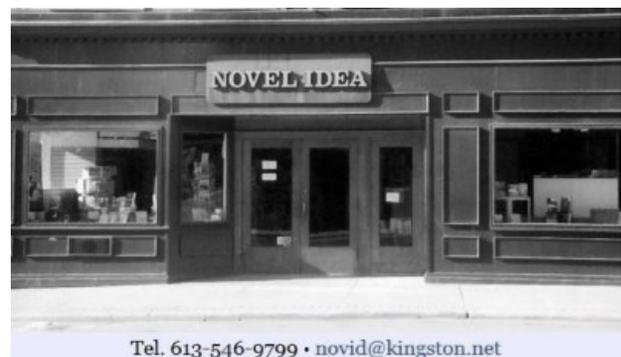


She didn't win him over, and he started walking back towards the water and she followed.

I couldn't help but think, now there is a woman with a sense of history and an imagination, a person who can take pleasure in many settings and places. She would have enjoyed reading the plaques, especially the excellent one with historic photographs near the amphitheatre on the southwest side, or she might pick up a pamphlet and learn more about Kingston, City Hall, and the Market. She would engage what I like to call her "historical imagination." I don't know if that couple is still together, but I do know that by learning the history of a community and engaging your imagination, you enrich your experiences in life. What might be a flat picture takes on depth and dimension when you know something about its history. The more you learn, the more context you have to understand yourself, your community, other people, and the world around you. History brings life to names, places, and events. It gives you a depth of understanding, and by exercising your imagination a realizable enjoyment in everyday things around you and to the places to which you travel.

My advice, before you leave on your next travel adventure, is to do some research and reading about your destination's history. Public libraries and books are still available, although perhaps not as convenient as the Internet. When you arrive at your destination, go for a local walking or riding tour. Read the plaques and visit the museums. Engage your historical imagination and you will never be so bored that you would rather sit on a boat drinking beer while you stare at the water.

Not that there is anything wrong with a nice cold beer – especially if it is a local brew that you just happened to come across in your research.



Thanks to the Kingston Association of Museums and the Tourism Office, staff at Murney Tower received FAM Passes for this season. The “Familiarization” Pass allows for staff to visit local museums and provide guests with personal accounts of exhibits around Kingston. A highlight for us was touring Fort Henry, as well as attending Sunset Ceremony. Staff were incredibly impressed by the talent of the Fort Henry Guard and the newly added narrative for Canada150. Tour guides were very informative about the history of the Fort and we really appreciated the immersive nature of all the costumed staff. Additionally, David and Henrietta, the Fort Henry mascots, were available for guests to visit – staff were very excited to pet the goats. Other museums that the staff enjoyed included the Healthcare Museum, the Pump House Steam Museum, and Bellevue House. Staff look forward to this opportunity to continue in the future.



Murney Tower

Operated by the Kingston Historical Society

On May 25th, 2017 Murney Tower Museum participated in the Kingston Association of Museums, Art Galleries, and Historic Sites’ “Bring Your Thing”, a pop-up exhibit featuring items from members of the community. Murney Tower, as well as the Frontenac County Schools Museum, attended the event, which had “My First” as its theme. Interpreters at the Tower chose to bring our pancake maker as part of the theme “My first...Post in Canada”, honouring the soldiers of the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment stationed at the Tower. The evening also featured Kingston 4 Paws, a local organization which trains and provides service dogs to those who require them. There was an inspiring talk filled with stories of “My First” laughs, tears, and tricks with the dogs as they were being trained. The evening was a success and we were honoured to have been asked to participate!



Kingston is a vibrant city with a rich cultural heritage. Not only does it deserve to be explored by tourists, but also by the young residents who call the city home.

There's an 'app' for that! Beyond Classrooms Kingston is a non-profit charitable organization that immerses teachers and their students in a museum, art gallery or cultural heritage site for a full week of inquiry learning.



- Kingston

MOVING CLASSROOMS INTO COMMUNITY SPACES

During their Beyond Classrooms week, students get to slow down, and explore content rich sites that have unique links to stories and experts which relate to elementary curriculum. They get to ask their own questions, meet the staff, and visit and revisit galleries and exhibits that interest them as they seek answers. In this way, students are able to discover the richness each site holds and the stories that each site can tell.

By the end of their week, students feel like they own the space they have called their classroom for the last five days. This is not a 90-minute field trip. The teacher works with Beyond Classrooms' Program Coordinator to develop a unique week of programming. Program weeks focus on overall and daily inquiry themes, which allow students to build knowledge independently. Students often arrive on Monday with a list of questions they hope to find answers for during their stay. Often, they end their week with more questions, but have also developed a research strategy.

If you would like an opportunity to share your knowledge and your passion for our city's historic and cultural spaces, Beyond Classrooms Kingston needs your help:

- Parent and community volunteer chaperones help students and teachers make the best use of the sites they visit;
- Content experts with specialist knowledge of a museum collection, gallery exhibit, or inquiry theme visit each day to share their knowledge;
- Board and Committee members drawn from the community provide policy direction and hands on support.



And, financial support is always welcome! Beyond Classrooms Kingston is a registered charity, listed with Canada Helps.

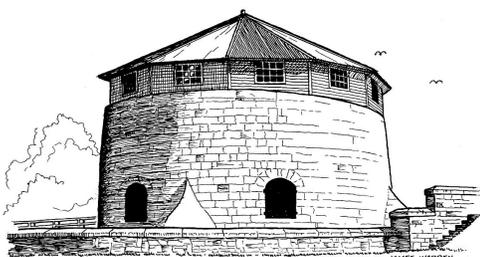
For more information, visit our website at www.beyondclassrooms.ca, follow our adventures on Facebook and Twitter,

or drop us a line at info@beyondclassrooms.ca.



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COME CELEBRATE!!

**It is Sir John A. Macdonald's birthday
and the 125th anniversary of the KHS**



To kick off the 125th anniversary of our Society, the guest speaker for the upcoming Sir John A. Macdonald anniversary dinner will be Mayor, Mr. Bryan Paterson! He will be addressing the early years of Sir John...."Sir John A. as an alderman and local politician before he became Prime Minister".

The dinner is planned for Saturday, January 13th, 2018 and will be held at the Senior Staff Mess at the Royal Military College. We will gather in the mess at 6:00 pm to meet our guest and mingle with your friends. The dinner will commence at 7:00 pm and the cost will be \$ 70. per person. Seating is limited to 100 members and guests.

We invite you to wear your best period costume for this event!

Please fill out the tear off portion noted below and send it along with your cheque made out to:

Kingston Historical Society C/O Anne Richardson

750 Amaryllis Street

Kingston, Ontario K7P 0A9

Feel free to pass along the information for this evening. It is always fun to share a memorable event with friends! If you have any questions, please contact Anne Richardson at richanne@hotmail.ca

NAME(S):

TELEPHONE #:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING: _____ NUMBER OF VEGETARIAN MEALS:

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

LIST ANY FOOD ALLERGIES:

***Please ensure that you include the names of all of those attending the dinner. Many thanks.*