KHS Meeting

Wednesday, October 17, 2018  7:30pm  Seniors Centre  56 Francis Street

“She shoots! She scores!”

During the 1960s and 1970s, the “Red Barons” team was a well-known pioneer in organized female hockey in Kingston. On Wednesday, October 17, four former members of the fondly-remembered team will be speaking on the Red Barons’ remarkable achievements locally and legacy in the wider sphere of women’s hockey today. The evening will feature reminiscences, photos and artifacts.

The Kingston Historical Society Award is given to individuals, groups and institutions in recognition of contributions to the preservation, understanding and interpretation of local Kingston history. Historical Society members are asked to nominate those that they believe meet the award criteria. Please send nominations by letter or email, and include the nominee’s contact information and the reasons for your nomination. Nominations by mail can be sent to Chairperson, KHS Awards Committee, Box 54, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4V8. If submitting by email send your nomination to Joe Brites at jnbrites@aol.com. The deadline for nominations is October 31, 2018. The awards will be presented on December 5th at the KHS Christmas event which will take place at the Renaissance Event Venue. Cash Bar and Hors D’oeuvres beginning at 6 pm. Awards presentation at 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will meet on Saturday, October 20th at 9:30 a.m. at the Kingston Seniors Centre, 56 Francis Street. Gail Dever, well-known speaker and genealogy blogger from Montreal, will speak on “Today’s Social Media for Genealogy”. Visitors always welcome. Further details at www.kingston.ogs.on.ca
President’s Message

For this month’s President’s message, I would like to introduce Joe Brites. Joe has been on council for a number of years and is the Chair of the Awards Committee. He has devoted considerable time and research to recognize Kingstonians who have contributed to the history of our city. From time to time, I plan to have other members of the Council use this space to share their experience and the work they do on your behalf.

This year the Kingston Historical Society (KHS) marks two significant milestones. Many will know that the Society is celebrating its 125th anniversary. However the KHS Awards Night also marks an important achievement as it holds its 25th Awards Celebration on December 5th at the Renaissance. The KHS Award was itself created to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Kingston Historical Society in 1993. The award is presented in recognition of individuals, organizations and institutions that have contributed to the preservation and study of local history.

In the past quarter century, we have recognized a broad cross-section of accomplishments celebrating everything from literary works of local history to efforts around the preservation of local historical sites that offer tangible reminders of our past. Although they come from a variety of disciplines, what the 50 plus past award recipients have in common is a heartfelt affection for our city and a recognition that Kingston and her history are worth exploring, understanding and preserving. In many instances, they are ambassadors to our past, giving context to history and bringing to light subjects that could otherwise remain hidden or even be forgotten. History as it is taught in schools is often about the grand historic events that helped shape our country. But the work done at the local level is equally important on two fronts. Not only does it tell the stories unique to our community; it can help demonstrate the impact grand national events had on Kingston and its people. For these reasons it’s important that we try to honour those who have taken it upon themselves to help preserve and study Kingston.

The work of the Awards Committee is only one piece of the puzzle. Its work is greatly enhanced by the participation of members and friends of the Society who are encouraged to bring forward the names of potential nominees. If you believe you know of a deserving recipient, look for more information on submitting a nomination on page 1 of this issue of Limelight. The deadline for nominations is October 31, 2018. We look forward to seeing you on December 5th at the Renaissance Event Venue, 285 Queen Street. Our social time begins at 6pm with awards presentations at 7pm.
1993 **Dr. W. Breck**: historian; **Shirley Gibson-Langille**: artist; **Dr. George F. G. Stanley**: historian

1994 **Dr. William Angus**: historian; **Frederick A. McConnell**: curator, historical animator; **Dr. Richard A. Preston**: historian, museologist

1995 **Dr. Margaret S. Angus**: historian, author, government advisor

1996 **Canadian Forces Communications and Electronics Museum**: Margaret Cohoe: historian, teacher

1997 **A.G. (Joe) Boucher**: past president (posthumous); **Isobel and Bogart Trumpour**: past-presidents

1998 **B-Gen William Patterson**: author, historic site historian; **Donald Redmond**: editor, Historic Kingston, librarian; **Carol White**: teacher, consultant history curricula; **Gary Schult**: teacher, Heritage Fair organizer

1999 **J. William Fitchell**: journalist, sports historian; **Gordon D. Smithson**: founding president, Pittsburgh HS

2000 **Cataraqui Cemetery Company**: 150th anniversary of founding; **Marjorie Simmons**: historian, genealogist

2001 **George F. Henderson**: archivist, long-time chair, grave site ceremony; **Maurice D. Smith**: historian, museologist

2002 **Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation**: 25th anniversary of founding; **Jennifer McKendry**: architectural historian, author

2003 **Downtown Kingston Business Improvement Area**: advocate of building preservation; **Ingbert J. Huber**: retired master stone-cutter; **Helmut L. Graf**: retired master mason

2004 **John K. D'Esterre**: preserver of marine lore, ship builder; **George W. Vosper**: public official, preservation activist, museum benefactor

2005 **Kevin E. Reed**: teacher, KCVI War Memorial; **Robert C. Cardwell**: active in historical and heritage groups

2006 **The Kingston Whig Standard**: for special Canada Day supplement The People Who Built Kingston; **Ann Lukits**: major role in that production; **Patricia Fleming**: author, preserver of local social history

2007 **Kim Donovan**: builder, preservationist; **John (Jack) Gibson Pike**: teacher, museologist; **Brian Stuart Osborne**: community builder, historical geographer; author, Past President

2008 **Ken Watson**: author, historic site historian, society web master; **Henk Wevers**: ship builder, museum benefactor; **Peter Gower**: author, historian

2009 **Beatrice Corbett**: author, Navy Park developer; **Arthur Britton Smith**: author, benefactor

2010 **Captain Brian Johnson**: author; **Donna Ivey**: author; **Norma Kelly**: author

2011 **Robert J. Andrews**: author, educator; **Edward R. Grenda**: past president, researcher

2012 **Dr. James Low**: founder, Museum of Health Care at Kingston; **Queen's University Archives**: preservation

2013 **Canada's Penitentiary Museum**: interpreting the history of Canadian penal system; **The Royal Military College of Canada Museum**: preservation and interpretation of local history

2014 **John Fielding**: for his major contribution in improving the teaching of history, 10 years editor of Limelight

2015 **Oscar Malan**: Owner of Novel Idea Bookstore; **Doug and Marianne Thompson**: lead roles in the preservation of the St Paul's Anglican Church Lower Burial Ground.

2016 **Dr. Duncan Mc Dowall**: historian; **Joanne Stanbridge**: writer, illustrator, librarian, Kingston Public Library

2017 **Warren Everett**: Hill 70 project, Murney Tower, author, past president; **John Grenville**: local history author, museums promoter, Parks Canada
Museum Orientation Pass

The Kingston Association of Museums, Art Galleries and Historic Sites provided a Museum Orientation Pass, M.O.P for short. The pass gave front-line tourism employees free admission to participating museums and the tourism sector in the Kingston area, allowing them to expand without cost their knowledge of other museums, landmarks and activities so they could provide informed recommendations to visitors regarding local museums, and be better equipped to answer questions about local tourist attractions. Murney Tower staff had the opportunity to take advantage of the M.O.P pass, touring the Kingston Penitentiary and the Pumphouse Museum. Not only did these visits allow staff to provide more information regarding these museums to guests, but they enhanced the staff’s understanding of different aspects of Kingston’s past.

While the central focus of Murney Tower is the transmission of Kingston’s military history, staff are now able to provide greater insight into different aspects of a 19th century livelihood. The Murney Tower staff have also been able to provide new information to other museums’ service workers visiting the Tower on the M.O.P. Overall, tours both given and received by staff through use of the M.O.P have been positive, and the staff hope to continue to take advantage of the passes in the future.

Speaker’s Corner

Summer staff projects included creating two panels, an activity book, a Mandarin self-guided tour, an off-season social media plan, the collections inventory including photos, a new tour script and updating information for the website.

KHS members were treated to a special event on October 19, when Lena Beliveau, Sue Bazely and Bob Banks presented a fascinating look at their research into the history of a number of structures on the Royal Military College property, dating back to the War of 1812 period. By using both traditional research and newer photogrammetry imaging techniques, the research allowed for a re-assessment of the age and location of some key Point Frederick structures. Appropriately, the meeting took place in the beautiful Senior Staff Mess. Following the formal meeting, Brigadier General and Mrs. Bouchard led tours of their home, the Commandant’s House. It was a very special and memorable evening.
“Still Standing” is indeed a good description of two very early stone buildings now known as the Commandant’s House and Guest House at the Royal Military College. They may be the earliest surviving buildings on Point Frederick. Thanks to the enthusiasm of Bob Banks, KHS member and ex-cadet, the mystery of their origins has been explored – likely dating to 1817 as a surgeon’s house (part of today’s Commandant’s House) and cook house for the Naval Hospital (today’s guest house) under the supervision of contractor John Cumming (1764-1829). They are among the very limited number of stone buildings surviving from that era in Kingston.

We have not been kind to similar early buildings, perhaps due to undervaluing their architectural simplicity and playing down their antiquity. They were built in log, frame or stone, and the number of storeys ranged from one to one-and-a-half (a useable attic space, such as in the now-demolished Ferris House, built by 1810, Cataraqui Village) to two full storeys (the latter seen in the Rochleau House of 1808 at 70-72 Princess Street). Roofs were usually gable or parapet-gable, large and steep-pitched. If the attic space was useable for bedrooms or weaving, there were small windows in the upper gable walls and, in addition, some had shed- or gable-roof dormers. Window openings in the main walls were relatively small when compared with later buildings and usually had 12 small panes in the upper sash and 12 in the lower. Panelled shutters may have been present. Doors were four or six solid panels with or without a simple rectangular transom. Ornamentation was minimal but might be found in the woodwork of a door surround. The main façade might be organized in a Classical fashion with a centre door and balancing windows or asymmetrical favouring how the interior functioned, for example, no interior hallways with one room leading to the other. Heating and cooking were by fireplaces with large stone chimneys centrally placed or rising from the end walls.

Early plans for the two Point Frederick buildings have not survived and the interiors have been modernized. Confusing the present Commandant’s House with the Naval Hospital (demolished) in secondary sources obscured the history of the surgeon’s house until archaeologist Sue Bazely proved conclusively that the Commandant’s House and the hospital were two different buildings. How the layers of history were peeled back was explored by Banks and Bazely in the Society’s September meeting.
ANNOUNCEMENT

A change is being made to the annual dinner, based on your input from the 2018 spring survey. You are invited to attend the inaugural Canadian Heritage Dinner – sponsored by the Kingston Historical Society. This change will allow the society to offer a more varied and diverse range of topics for the dinner speakers. This event will take place on Saturday, February 23, 2019 to coincide with Heritage Week and will be held at the Senior Staff Mess at RMC. Please set the date aside. Further details will follow.

KHS meetings featuring speakers on topics of historical interest are held on the third Wednesday of the months from September to May at the Seniors Centre, 56 Francis Street, Kingston, except in December when an awards ceremony and gala is held, usually at a different time and location. There are two annual events, the celebration of the life of Canada’s first Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald held at his graveside in the Cataraqui Cemetery National Historic Site on 6 June, the date of his death in 1891; and the Society’s Canadian Heritage Dinner in Heritage Week in February.

Historic Kingston, the journal of the proceedings of the Kingston Historical Society, is published annually.
These pictures were not available when *Summer of ’78* was published in the December 2017 issue of Limelight. Go back and enjoy Pat Carson’s article again and find here the people involved in the Young Canada Works Cataraqui Cemetery Project.

This is what the ORIGINAL statue looked like.

Jennifer McKendry will present an illustrated talk based on her new book, *Woodwork in Historic Buildings of the Kingston Region*. The styles, construction and details of log and frame buildings will be analyzed from the late 18th to the late 19th century. In addition, woodwork, such as mantels, staircases, verandahs and doors will be illustrated in frame, brick and stone houses. Kingston is known as “the Limestone City,” but tribute must also be given to the work of the carpenter and joiner.

Dr. McKendry is an architectural historian, a photographer and an author of such books as *With Our Past before Us: 19th-Century Architecture in the Kingston Area, Modern Architecture in the Kingston Area* and *Bricks in 19th-Century Architecture in the Kingston Area*. Her latest book will be available for purchase at this event.