



LIMELIGHT

Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

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September 2016

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lea Grimshaw



The summer is rapidly moving to a close, too rapidly as usual. I hope that everyone has had a safe and enjoyable time and has taken the opportunity to at least once visit the Murney Tower Museum. The staff there has done another tremendous job this season.

The Council has also been busy preparing for the fall and winter season and catching up with continuing Society work. We are looking forward to an interesting speaker program.

September is very much a beginning month, and provides a good opportunity to recruit new members among people who may be new to the city and wish to learn more about it. We are still looking for someone to come forward and volunteer for the position of Program Chair. As usual, any suggestions for speakers can be forwarded to me together with the contact information and potential subject matter for the suggested speaker.

KHS Meeting

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Seniors Centre

Marcus Letourneau - "Ronald L. Way"

Letter to the Editor

from Bill Morley

As I read the name of the Society, it's the Society that 's Historical. I think you mean Kingston History Society - or better: Kingston's History Society. Picky, picky? Well, best get it correct - Yes?

Community Announcements

October 3, 2016 - The Frontenac Heritage Society is holding an event to hear about the review and designation process that the City of Kingston undertook for numerous heritage properties. City staff and consultant Kayla Jonas Galvin with ARA consultants will outline the work that has been done.

193 Ontario Street, 2nd floor, starting at 7:30 p.m.

October 18, 2016 - The Frontenac Heritage Society is holding its annual FHF AWARDS CEREMONY at the Renaissance Centre, 285 Queen Street starting at 6:30 p.m.

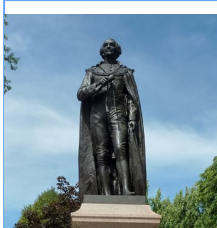
In this Issue

President's Message, Announcements	1
About Us	2
Historical Costuming, History Walk	3
June 6 Ceremony	4,5
Speaker's Corner	6
Murney Tower	6
Museums of Kingston, Still Standing	7
Working for the CJS	8

The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will meet at the Kingston Seniors Centre, 56 Francis St., on Saturday, September 17 at 10 a.m. Sher Leetooze, author and family researcher from Bowmanville, will speak on Parish Level Research in Scotland. Visitors welcome. Further information at www.ogs.on.ca/kingston

Kingston and District Branch, United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada invite all those interested in Canadian history to hear author **Jennifer DeBruin** on Saturday, September 24 at St. Paul's Anglican church hall, 130 Queen Street (corner of Montreal Street), Kingston. Her topic **"In Search of 'Home' - The Loyalist Experience through War, Displacement, and Settlement from the Mohawk Valley to the St. Lawrence River.** The meeting begins at 1:00 pm. As usual, it will be preceded by a Sandwiches 'n Squares lunch starting at noon. Arrive after 11:30 am to mingle with friends or make new ones. Lunch \$3.50 for those not contributing food.

kingston.uelac@gmail.com



Planning has begun for the birthday celebration of Sir John A Macdonald which is scheduled for Saturday, January 14, 2017. The location is the Senior Staff Mess at the Royal Military College. Please share this date with KHS members and friends.

A registration form will be included in both the October and November issues of Limelight. In the meantime, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Anne Richardson at richanne@hotmail.ca

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 acknowledgement 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.



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



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Feedback welcome.

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.

2016-17 KHS Executive Council

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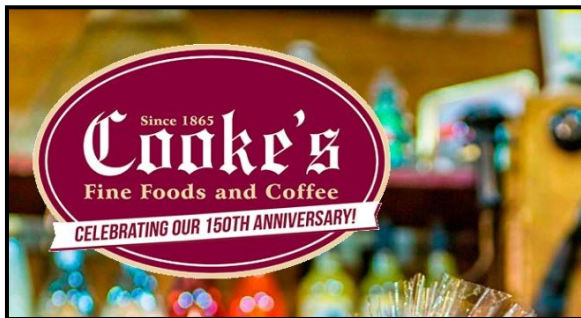
NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

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.*

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In my rather enjoyable ongoing capacity as a local "historical costume lady", I often receive requests to supply heritage clothing to individuals for special civic events. Usually they come in as last minute messages of desperation ... once people find out that it's almost impossible to rent period clothing items in Kingston that aren't Mardi Gras type fun dress-up costumes for Hallowe'en from places like Audrey's Costume Castle. And the theatre companies don't have much to offer in this regard either. To complicate matters, very few people sew these days, and to own a custom-made heritage costume of any style can easily run into thousands of dollars because of the research and labour involved. (Most seamstresses start now at a base rate of \$25 per hour for their skills.) Anyway, my most recent creative design assignment was to put together an historical ball gown ensemble, circa 1841, for Rose Bruce, wife of Rob Bruce. Rob was designated to play the first Chief Constable of Kingston for the celebration of the 175th anniversary of our local police force, back in May. I had about two weeks to pull it all together. Fortunately, Rose was close to my size, so I was able to create a bodice for her to go with bits and pieces of things that I had in my own private collection.

On May 14 2016, Chief Constable Samuel Shaw (portrayed by Robert Bruce) attended the inaugural Kingston Police Gala, accompanied by his wife Anne Shaw (portrayed by Rose Bruce). Ceremonies commenced at the newly-opened Police Museum located in the basement of Kingston City Hall; the original location of the first city police headquarters from 1844. Chief Constable Shaw and Anne welcomed guests and provided background information on the life and times of the Police Force, established in 1841 by an Act of Town Council. From there, guests moved to the Four Points Sheraton Hotel for a reception, silent auction and dinner in support of the Kingston Youth Diversion Program and the 175th anniversary of the Kingston Police. Photo by Jennifer Love-Shoniker.

WALKING THROUGH HISTORY

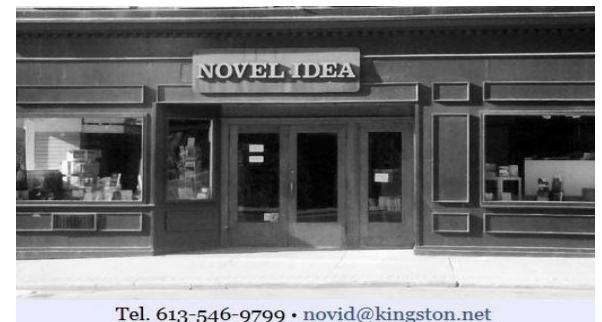
by Don Richardson

At the May meeting of the Kingston Historical Society, John Grenville told us about the upcoming Jane's Walk. I freely admit that, up to that point, I was not aware of this event in Kingston but gladly decided to participate. On Saturday, May 7, my wife Anne and I took part in the walk of the Inner Harbour. It was a delightful excursion into Kingston's industrial past, focussing on what the whole area must have looked, smelled and sounded like when it was filled with industry, railroads and all the attendant physical attributes of that era. Our leader, Laura Murray, Professor of Cultural Studies and English at Queen's University, gave a thoroughly enjoyable and information-packed tour, helping us to imagine life at that time. Beginning at the K-Rock centre and finishing at the broom factory, she brought insight and recounted historical anecdotes to the tour members which intrigued us. For example, at one time there was one brewery for every 500 inhabitants of Kingston! And children used to "play" in an area which today would be considered toxic and off limits. A part of the tour which I found to be particularly interesting was seeing where all the railroad tracks had been through lines chalked on the ground on a site which is now completely terra firma and the location of a park!

The next day, we were privileged to have Jennifer McKendry take us on a tour of the exteriors of the Cartwright villa, the "lunatic asylum" and the Church of the Good Thief. So many times, as I am sure is the case for many Kingstonians, I have driven past these buildings and properties, not realizing their place in Kingston's past, or their incredible historical significance. The irony of seeing the Cartwright residence was that we had attended the May KHS meeting where a descendant of the Cartwrights, John Cartwright, fascinated us with another piece of the Cartwright history. The asylum is an impressive building which sits unused, its future undecided; the Cartwright residence took us back to a time in Kingston's history when the property was considered to be far out in the country, removed from the busy city. We ended the tour by walking to the Church of the Good Thief, a truly beautiful building in its simplicity and design and, as with so much of what we experienced during the tours, replete with historical significance. My hat goes off to John Grenville and to all those who worked to make such tours possible. We are most fortunate to live in a city where history is valued and preserved, and to have people such as John who help us to make our history live. I can't wait for next year's tours!



Jennifer McKendry leads group on a Jane's Walk tour. Photo by Jack Barnes



Rain had been forecast for 6 June and threatening dark clouds passed by just before the service began; however the sun came out, thankfully. Peter Radley, our Master of Ceremonies, using his customary humour, poise and attention to detail, unfolded the program with aplomb. Under the direction of Mr. David Rankin, the voices of the student choir from École Sir John A. Macdonald Public School led us in our national anthem. The Scripture Reading and the Opening Prayer were given by The Reverend Blair Peever of Christ Church Cataraqui. The key note address was given by Donna M. Ivey, who was introduced by the KHS president, Major Louis Grimshaw and then thanked by Peter Radley. In her presentation, "The Rideau Street House History and Sir John A.'s Judicious Role" traced Sir John's life with the 110 Rideau Street house and also what has happened to the house in the years following Sir John's involvement. It has been Ms Ivey's home for over 10 years.

Following the traditional laying of wreaths, 13 in all, which included our three levels of government and organizations affiliated with Sir John, the lament was played by the Fort Henry Guard piper and The Last Post and Reveille were played by the bugler from Fort Henry. The Benediction was given by the Rev. Blair Peever. We then rose and joined the choir in the singing of "God Save the Queen"

Following the commemoration, the gathering retired to the Cataraqui Cemetery outdoor chapel for refreshments and conviviality. Special thanks goes to the staff of Bellevue House, the Fort Henry Guard, and the Cataraqui cemetery staff, all of whom made this graveside ceremony one of colour, pageantry and tradition. Special appreciation is extended to Principal Michèle Babcock and Choir Director David Rankin at École Sir John A. Macdonald P.S; to John Coleman for his program insert on Sir John A. Macdonald: A Brief Bibliography"; and to Peter Ginn, Jack Barnes and Jennifer McKendry for their photographic contributions. We thanked Peter Radley who, after 10 years at the helm, is regrettably stepping down as the M.C. of the June 6 ceremony.

The success of this event was the result of the assiduous and dedicated combined efforts of our committee which included: Barbara Bonner, Eva Barnes, Peter Radley, Bob Lemmon, Craig Boals, George Muggleton, Mark Bennett, John Coleman, Louis Grimshaw, and Brian Osborne.



Photos - June 6, 2016 Sir John A. Macdonald Commemorative Ceremony at the Cataraqui Cemetery, Kingston

- 1 Donna M. Ivey, guest speaker Photo by Jack Barnes
- 2 Fort Henry guardsmen Photo by Jack Barnes
- 3 Lou Grimshaw, KHS council president Photo by Peter Ginn
- 4, 5 A rose is pinned on Mayor Bryan Paterson and on St. Andrew's Society President Louise Coull by Eva Barnes Photos by Jack Barnes
- 6 RCMP officer looks on Photo by Jack Barnes
- 7 Tents before the grave Photo by Peter Ginn
- 8 Bellevue House staff members Ellen Rowe and Jared McDougall with Eva Barnes Photo by Jack Barnes
- 9 École Sir John A. Macdonald Public School choir led by David Rankin Photo by Peter Ginn
- 10 Norma Kelly, Donna Ivey, Alan MacLaughlan Photo by Jennifer McKendry
- 11 Sam Laldin, President of Kingston and the Islands Provincial Liberal Association Photo by Peter Ginn
- 12 Fort Henry piper Photo by Peter Ginn
- 13 A presentation to retiring Master of Ceremonies Peter Radley by June 6 Event Chair Alan MacLachlan Photo by Jennifer McKendry
- 14 Fort Henry guardsman Photo by Peter Ginn
- 16 The Reverend Blair W. Peever Photo by Peter Ginn

John A.'s former Rideau Street house is heading into new a new phase of its ownership. We, Donna Ivey and Norma Kelly, owners of 110 Rideau since February 2002, are yielding to the challenges of old age and have put our much admired house on the real estate market. We want to let our friends and fellow members of the Kingston Historical Society know that we are about to deal with a significant change in our lifestyle, such as hip replacement, etc. etc. and it has become necessary to place our Rideau Street house on the real estate market! From early 2017, others will enjoy the aura of the significant history that we have experienced during our 14 years here. Re/Max has listed the house and Marnie Lockington will arrange inspection of the property. Certainly, as residents of St. Lawrence Place, we plan to continue our involvement with KHS and friendship with our many colleagues and friends.

Donna Ivey



Speaker's Corner by Lou Grimshaw

The General Meeting of the KHS on 18 May was again well-attended with a full room. The speaker was Professor John Cartwright, who spoke on *The Cartwrights of Kingston: Profitable Patriotism?*. John Cartwright is a member of the seventh generation of the well-known Kingston family, which came to Kingston in the late 18th Century as Loyalist refugees from what became New York State. He began his account with the senior Richard Cartwright and traced his and his descendants' fortunes through the 19th Century. Various family members occupied positions in the church, business, banking, law and politics, gaining considerable wealth by taking advantage of business opportunities that arose, but also experiencing the vagaries of fortune common for those times. He illustrated his paper with pictures of his ancestors and extant Kingston buildings in which they lived or worked. He described political and charitable ideas and works of the family, some of which were quite modern for their time. In sum, it was an interesting paper tracing Kingston political, commercial, and social evolution through the experiences of this one prominent family.

Upcoming Paper:

21 September: Marcus Letourneau on "Ronald L. Way".



John Cartwright in Question Period

Murney Tower



On May 25th, The Kick & Push Festival hosted its season launch at Murney Tower! Kick & Push is a theatre festival with several local drama groups participating. The announcement of the season's programming occurred right on the gun-platform. Enjoyed by all were the "morphs" (people in 'morph' suits) and the cotton candy and snow cones. Many Kick & Push members, as well as the general public, were invited to the launch, and were invited to tour the Tower after the official activities had ended. Murney Tower was chosen for the launch because of its special role in the festival. "Stubborn Stone", a piece performed by the Cellar Door Project about the history of Murney Tower, ran at the Tower from July 26th to August 13th. We were very pleased to welcome the actors and the enthusiastic audience for this interesting production!



No Season Launch is complete without Cotton Candy!



Reports on other summer events from 2016 will appear in future issues of Limelight.

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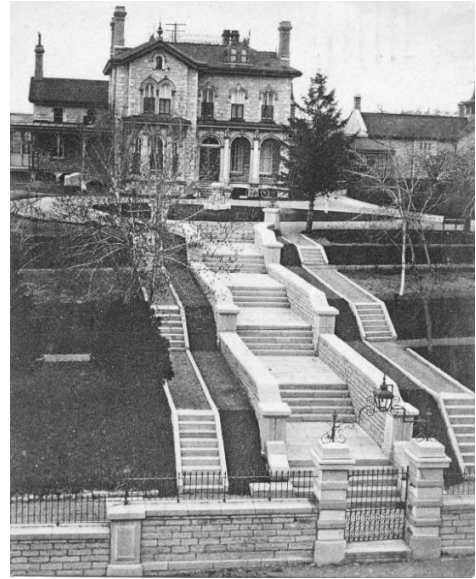
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MUSEUMS OF KINGSTON

Canada's Penitentiary Museum

The Correctional Service of Canada Museum's earliest beginnings go back to 1964, but it was recognized officially in 1967 as a Centennial project, under the name Canadian Penitentiary Service Museum, and was housed in the coach house of the Canadian Penitentiary Service Staff College at 443 Union Street. In 1985, the 150th anniversary year of the Kingston Penitentiary, it was renamed and moved to Cedarhedge, 555 King St W. (entrance off Sir John A. Macdonald Blvd). Cedarhedge was built as the Kingston Penitentiary Warden's residence and served as such from 1873 to 1933 when it became the home of the administration offices for the Kingston Penitentiary and the Prison for Women. The museum's mandate is to "preserve and interpret the past and contemporary experiences of the people and places associated with the history of corrections in Canada." To emphasize that its focus is on the federal institutions, not municipal facilities, and on all areas of the country, not just Kingston, it is now commonly referred to as Canada's Penitentiary Museum. The museum's collections began with weaponry items confiscated in the 1950s in Kingston and assembled to be used in training at the staff college. New Brunswick's Dorchester Penitentiary in 1973 sent archival material and artifacts, which had been collected over 20 years by a personnel officer there. Display items now fill eight rooms and include, from many federal prisons, art work of the inmates and glimpses into the lives of the staff, as well as items depicting the grisly side of prison life. The museum has often been cited for excellence in Kingston This Week and online by Tripadvisor, and it has won the Rand McNally Best of the Road Award in 2003. Open daily from May to November, it is otherwise mainly by appointment. Admission is by donation to The Friends of the Penitentiary Museum at Kingston. www.penitentiarymuseum.ca



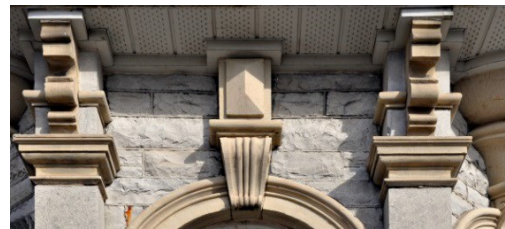
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STILL STANDING:

Looking at Regional Architecture with Jennifer McKendry



It is a tribute to Edward and Henry Horsey's 1868-1870 design for **THE WARDEN'S HOUSE** (Cedarhedge) that the numerous losses and alterations to the stone building have not significantly diminished its vigorous and worthy Victorian appearance –both inside and outside. Even the grounds with their theatrical terraces, fence, iron gates and stone steps are of major importance to the history of regional landscape design. The house's chimneys, finials and a verandah are missing, as is the conservatory on the east, but the bold stonework (detailing in Ohio sandstone) is perhaps the best carved in the city. And why not? There was, after all, a captive labour force just across the street at Kingston Penitentiary.



Photography by J. McKendry; postcard, early 20th century, McKendry Coll.

My experience with the C J S began in April 1963 when I became the secretary to a psychologist at the Prison for Women here in Kingston. At that time, in the whole of Canada, it was one of only two prisons for women sentenced to terms of two years or more, the other being a small facility in Montreal for French-speaking inmates. The first thing that was required of me was to meet with Superintendent Isobel MacNeil, a Maritimer who had been head of the Canadian Wrens in WW2. She had, as a result of her position, met Winston Churchill, who, earlier in his career, had been responsible for HM Prisons. She was given a memo he had written concerning prisons and the people sentenced to long periods of incarceration. I was lucky enough to get a copy of the memo and have it in my possession for anyone interested in seeing it.

Working with inmates was an entirely new experience for me. Having trained as a teacher, I knew absolutely nothing about the C J S in general and inmates in particular. Luckily for me I was just the sort of person they were looking for — one with no preconceived ideas at all.

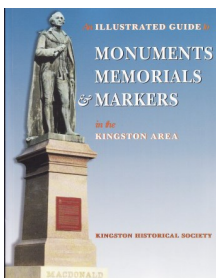
On my first tour of the prison, I was pleased to see a school in action. It was led by Edwina, who made the school run like the proverbial Swiss watch. The students could earn their High School equivalency — and many of them did. Joyce taught her students shorthand and typing, the necessary skills to become secretaries in those days. In the beauty salon students learned the arts of cutting, shampooing, colouring and styling hair. Other options for the more practical persons were to learn while working in the laundry facility, and in the institutional kitchen, where quite reasonable meals were offered, considering what they had to work with. There were a couple of women from Quebec who had chosen the Prison for Women in Kingston simply because of the programmes available.

At this point I would like to mention the very valuable services provided to the prison by the psychiatrists from Kingston Penitentiary who worked closely with our prison psychologist and the other staff of the prison. Additionally, we benefited greatly from the services provided by an addiction counsellor whose skills were invaluable to the women with alcohol, drug, and personality problems.

Each and every person admitted to the prison would have a thorough case study of her situation made for her. A programme would then be arranged for her to follow, and an application would be made to the Parole Board requesting early release from her imprisonment. The only type of application was a paper review, not a face-to-face interview, which was at that time many years away. The available staff, I have to say, was professional — dedicated to the rehabilitation of those incarcerated, to the people of Canada whose safety was a concern, and to the government of the day.

About the time I joined the Prison For Women staff, the Penitentiary Service decided to implement a Temporary Absence Programme for suitable inmates. This had been in the works for some time but, as everyone knows, Government works very slowly. We were glad to see it finally moving on this one. On Boxing Day I found myself in the wonderful position of being charged with the responsibility of taking out an inmate from 9am until 8pm, to be with me, my three children, my husband and my elderly parents. We had the usual Christmas dinner with all the trimmings, prepared by my parents, so all was English style. We played a few board games and around 3pm we went over to a visit with a neighbour who had invited us and our “guest from B.C.” for tea, coffee, wine, sherry and goodies of every description. Going out on a temporary absence pass with a staff member required some paper work. Essentially the inmate was required to sign a document restricting her movements, and having her agree not to indulge in alcohol or drugs. All went well until the drinks tray came around. I could sense the inmate’s eyes on me. I looked up and saw there was a questioning look of her face. I just shook my head very slowly and she nodded hers in return. The next moment she was explaining with a straight face that she never took drink of any kind. So all our worries were over. Mission accomplished! We all happily went home and I took my charge back safely. It was the beginning of a great programme that helped ensure a smoother return to society for many inmates.

.....to be continued



Book Sale! Book Sale! Book Sale!

An Illustrated Guide to Monuments, Memorials, & Markers in the Kingston Area by John H. Grenville, David C. Kasserra, Jennifer McKendry, William J. Patterson, and Edward H. (Ted) Storey. Published by the Kingston Historical Society, 2000, Paperback, 244 pages. This book includes texts of more than 190 plaques, monuments, and memorials. Illustrations, additional information, related markers, and readings are provided for each entry. Visitors and residents alike will find this a fascinating and useful guide to Kingston’s historic past. Markers are grouped geographically for ease in touring, assisted by helpful maps.

Regular price: \$25.00 plus \$8.00 shipping. Sale price May through September, 2016: \$12.00 plus \$8.00 shipping.

There is no shipping charge if the book is picked up at the May, September, or October 2016 meetings of the Society. Orders can be sent by mail to the Kingston Historical Society, P.O. Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6.

By email: kingstonhs@gmail.com, or via the website: www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.com

The Kingston Historical Society annual awards are given to individuals, groups and institutions in recognition of their contributions to the preservation, understanding and interpretation of local Kingston history. Members are asked to nominate those that they believe meet these criteria. Please send nominations by letter or email, and include the nominee’s contact information and the reason for your nomination. Nominations by mail should be sent to Chairperson, KHS Awards Committee, Box 54, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4V8. If submitting by email send your nomination to 1985@kos.net. The deadline for nominations is October 31, 2016. The awards will be presented in December at the KHS Christmas event.

Joe Brites