



LIMELIGHT

Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society
Kingston Ontario Canada

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ISSN 1488-5565

November 2016

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lou Grimshaw

There are several important activities to grab our attention at this time. We are now into our annual awards season and are soliciting nominations for the KHS Award. The award was introduced in 1993 to recognize the work of individuals, groups and institutions in recognition of outstanding contributions to the study, interpretation and preservation of local history. Nominations should be sent as soon as possible to Joe Brites, Chair of the Awards Committee at jnbrites@aol.com

The 2016 awards will be presented at our Christmas awards event on Tuesday, 6 December. The second upcoming event is the Sir John A. Macdonald birthday dinner to be held on Saturday, 14 January, 2017. The guest speaker will be Mayor Bryan Paterson, speaking about Sir John A.'s early start in municipal politics. There is a reservation form elsewhere in this Limelight.

Our next general meeting will be on Wednesday, 16 November. Our speaker will be Tom Sylvester who will discuss "My Perspective on the Oldest Kingston House", a topic bound to be controversial.

Finally, it is membership renewal time. If you have not already renewed please return the membership form together with your payment to the KHS mailing address or see Membership Chair Paul Van Nest at the next meeting.



Next KHS Meeting
Wednesday, November 16, 2016 7:30 pm
Seniors Centre 56 Francis St

Thomas Sylvester - "My Perspective on the
Oldest Kingston House"

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Historic Kingston: Early copies for sale.

Peter Cunningham has good condition copies of Historic Kingston for sale. He is offering #1 - 12 and #14 - 20 as a lot for \$500, mailing included. There are two copies of #11, but none of the elusive #13. If you are interested, please contact him at [403-993-4031](tel:403-993-4031)

Community Announcements of Historical Interest

The Frontenac Heritage Foundation and the Kingston and District UELAC are co-hosting a book launch for Peter C. Newman: "Hostages to Fortune: The United Empire Loyalists and the Making of Canada" The event is going to be held on December 5, 2016, 7:30 p.m., at the Renaissance Event Venue, at 285 Queen Street, Kingston.

The Kingston Branch of the **Ontario Genealogical Society** will meet at the Kingston Seniors Centre, 56 Francis St., on Saturday, November 19th at 10 a.m. Gary Foster, President of Campbell Monuments in Belleville will speak on "The Story Behind the Stones". Visitors welcome. Further details at www.ogs.on.ca/kingston

On **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7th**, items from the first floor of the "Bishop's House" at the Central Library will move to the [Isabel Turner Branch](#) in preparation for library renovations. These items are being moved sooner than the rest of the collection because the shelving is needed at our interim location at 209 Wellington Street. This means that books with shelfmarks GENEALOGY and KINGCOLL and KINGCOLL REF will be found at the Turner Branch from November 7th onward. All other local history/genealogy items will stay at the Central Library until November 26th, including Special Collections, maps, microfilm, and vertical files. As of **Monday, December 4th**, all of these will be available at the [Isabel Turner Branch](#) near the Cataraqui Town Centre. **Special Collections:** Kingston city directories and fire insurance plans will be available for in-library consultation at the Turner Branch without prior notice, upon presentation of a KFPL library card or government-issued ID. The remaining items from the Special Collections Room and map cabinets will be stored off-site, but can be made available for in-library consultation with a few days' prior notice

For more information, please contact: Jo Stanbridge, Librarian - Local History and Genealogy jstanbridge@kfpl.ca [613-549-8888](tel:613-549-8888) ext. 3590
Laura Carter, Director - Branch Experience lcarter@kfpl.ca [613-549-8888](tel:613-549-8888) ext. 3530

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.



MAILING ADDRESS:

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www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.com



2016-17 KHS Executive Council

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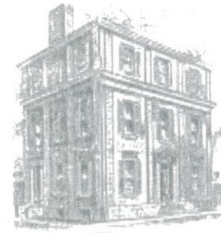
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KHS MEETINGS take place at 7:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month, September to May, except in December, when the meeting takes the form of an awards ceremony and gala, and is held at a different time and location. Until further notice, meetings 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.



Marc F. Raymond

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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.

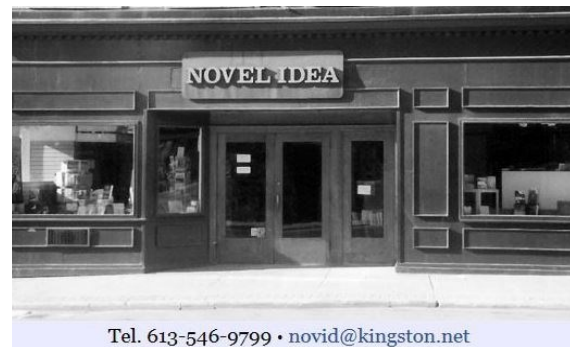
Membership also includes free admission to the Murney Tower, Kingston's oldest museum, and a discount at some of our sponsors' places of business.

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.

MEMBERSHIP RATES

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



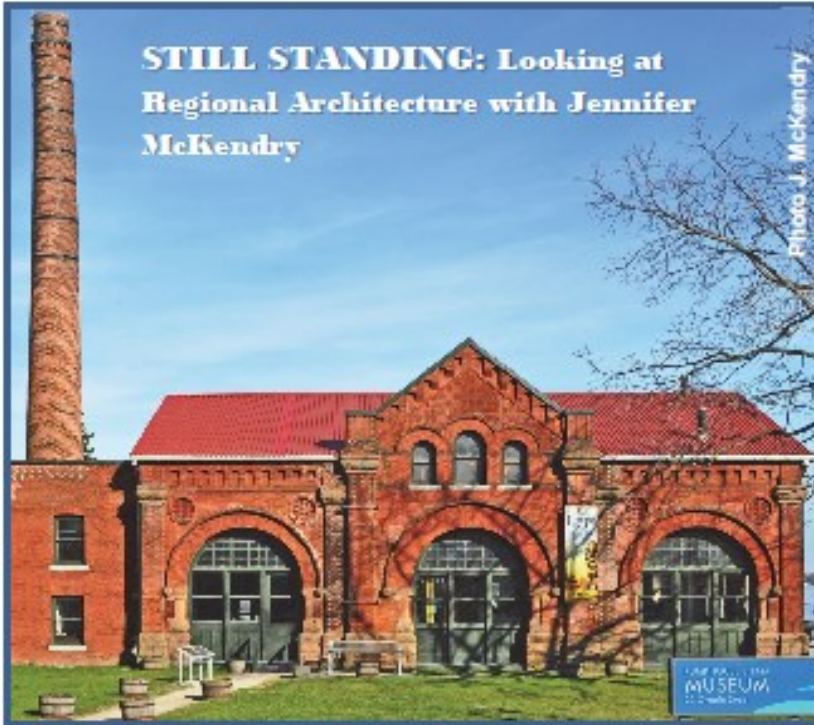
Tel. 613-546-9799 • novid@kingston.net



As we plan for next year, we are always interested in hearing from anybody who would like to join the KHS Council. It has traditionally met on the second Thursday of each month in downtown Kingston, except for the summer months. You would not be expected to volunteer for extra work during your first year, but you are welcome to help guide the Society. Please contact Past President Peter Gower (peter.gower@sympatico.ca) if you are interested.

**STILL STANDING: Looking at
Regional Architecture with Jennifer
McKendry**

Photo: J. McKendry



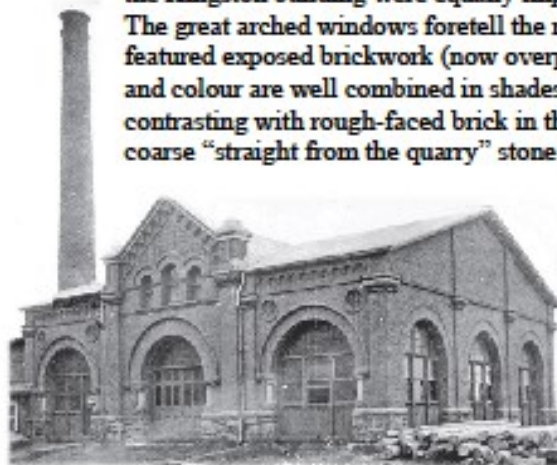
The Pump House (now a museum) at 11 Ontario Street and West Street is a fine example from 1890 of industrial architecture combined with monumental public architecture. What was commonplace at that date was the use of brick as the main building material for functional buildings but unusual for public buildings in Kingston, which had concentrated on stone for the city hall, penitentiary and insane asylum. Power & Son, which had much experience in handling brick brilliantly, was the architectural firm for the Pump House with Isaac Newlands as the mason.

The style was the now fashionable Romanesque Revival, which featured round arches and coarse stonework.

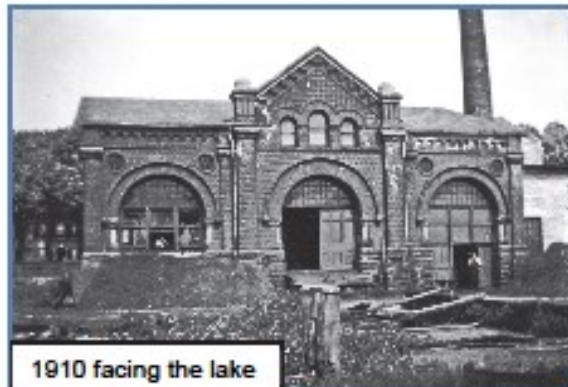
Both the street and waterside facades of

the Kingston building were equally impressive, as the view from the lake (now obscured) was important. The great arched windows foretell the mechanical wheels installed in the interior, which featured exposed brickwork (now overpainted). On the exterior, materials, texture and colour are well combined in shades of red with smooth pressed brick contrasting with rough-faced brick in the centre gable and both contrasting with coarse "straight from the quarry" stone but which is worked into smooth shafts

in the squat columns. Rondels are filled with alternating flat and angled bricks creating an almost water-like effect when seen from a distance. The round form of the tall chimney stack was more easily achieved in brick than stone. Kingston may have resisted brick for its earlier public buildings but its potential is boldly shown here.



1904 fronting the street



1910 facing the lake



1895 exposed interior brick

The Kingston Water Works of 1889

by Henk Wever

The Kingston Water Works building on Ontario Street is a magnificent Romanesque industrial pump house. It is a witness to the importance council and civil leaders assigned to modern firefighting and public health in the late 1800s. The municipally-owned water works was the second such public utility in Ontario, with Toronto a few years ahead of our city.

In 1887, the City started the planning process to build a prestigious brick and sandstone building with space for two steam driven pumps, at the foot of West Street on Ontario Street, adjacent to the original limestone structures of the old private pumping station dating back to 1849. The architect of the new building was Joseph Power, a well-recognized designer of several private mansions and public buildings in Kingston. The building was completed in 1889 at a cost of \$7,595.

Much has been written about the building but what is inside is a marvel of Victorian ingenuity, so let's have a look.

The first installed machine was a steam driven pump from the Osborne-Killey Company in Hamilton, with a design pumping rating of 2100 gallons per minute. It was installed in 1890. Its price was \$11,000, almost twice the cost of the building, an indication that in Victorian times "high tech" was expensive. Clean water was taken from Lake Ontario after the final leg of a 2450 feet intake pipe, with a diameter of twenty four inches, was installed in sixty feet of water, halfway up from the bottom of the lake.

The second engine and pump built by the John Inglis and Sons Company of Toronto, with a higher efficiency but more complex Corliss valve system, rated at 2800 gallons per minute, was added in 1896.

This addition was only needed as a backup in case of fires when the need for large volumes of pressured water was required by the firefighters. Both steam engines and pumps would then go flat out.

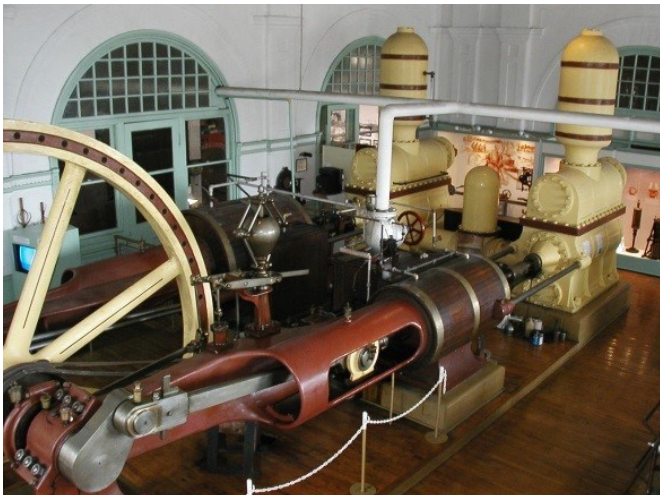
City statistics from 1888 to 1900 show that the water works delivered close to a million gallons of water per day to the newly-erected water tower on Tower Street. The demand for municipal water rose with the population of the City and the number of "takers" to nearly two million gallons per day in 1902.

Normally one engine would pump water, mostly from seven in the morning until five in the afternoon. The water tower would then hold enough water to last until the next day.

The Kingston Water Works lay mothballed from its closing in 1944 until the late 1960s. The great Victorian building was shuttered and the equipment inside lay dormant, the steam engines and pumps gathering dust and building up corrosion on the exposed steel parts. City staff suggested on different occasions scrapping the massive Victorian steam engines, pumps and pipes of the historic water works. Only a few argued that the building and machines should be preserved.

An eclectic group of science and technology enthusiasts who loved to get their hands dirty and their heads around complex Victorian steam engineering technology decided it was worth a restoration. In May 1969 Jack Telgmann suggested to the members of the Frontenac Society of Model Engineers (FSME) that restoration of the Victorian water works would be a worthwhile project for the club to take on for both cultural and industrial enrichment. The science and technology adventure paid off and the Pump House Steam Museum was presented to the City of Kingston as a Tercentennial Project in 1973.

The year of 2016-17 will see a new modern glass-built extension to the museum to provide accessible washrooms, a rear entrance hall for group tours, office space, and a meeting room. The new and the old reinforcing each other will offer its visitors a glimpse of how Victorian science and technology laid the base for our modern lifestyle. Thanks go to our responsible early leaders, and the people who cared to preserve our history.



A bird's-eye view of the Osborne-Killey engine.



The "governor" is a piece of art that regulates the speed of the steam engine.

One of the rewards of collecting is finding that unique and interesting item when you least expect to. This was just the case when I came across the item pictured. What initially caught my eye was the signature in the lower left corner: J. P. Gildersleeve, Notary Public, Kingston - a name with which we are all familiar. This Letter of Attorney illustrates how officers of the Army and Navy conveyed their salaries to an agent. As an aside, 1871 was when all Imperial Forces, except those at Halifax and Esquimalt, left Canada. In 1871, McGill was recently of the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment (RCR), the unit having been disbanded on the departure of the Imperial Forces.

The pay assignment reads much like a last will and testament, granting Vesey Weston Holt Esquire full power and authority to manage all sums of money and allowances owing to McGill. Holt & Co was established in 1809 offering banking services to officers and their families. The firm continued through WWI and dealt with pay for more than 50,000 officers and their families in that war. In 1939 the firm was acquired by the Royal Bank of Scotland although it continued to operate under its own name until 1992.

McGill was born on April 27th, 1841, to a prominent Montreal family. His father, Peter McGill, was a wealthy Montreal business man who numbered amongst his circle John Molson and John Redpath. Peter McGill was born Peter McCutcheon. In 1821, he changed his name when he became the heir of his uncle John McGill. Peter McGill held a seat in the Legislative Council of Lower Canada from 1832 to 1837, the Special Council of

Lower Canada from 1838 to 1841, and the Legislative Council of the United Provinces from 1841 to 1860. Peter McGill served as president of the Bank of Montreal from 1834 to 1860.

Sydenham Clitherow McGill was baptised at the Cathedral in Montreal on May 25th, 1841. His godparents were Lord Sydenham, Governor General of British North America, and Major General John Clitherow, commander of British Forces in Canada. He did not lack pedigree!

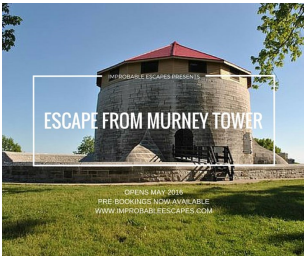
McGill, late of the 73 Regiment of Foot, purchased his commission as Lieutenant in the RCR in 1864. During his service in the RCR he served in the Fenian Raid of 1866 and the Red River expedition in 1870. After the disbandment of the RCR he purchased commissions in the Imperial Army in the 20th and 22nd Regiments of Foot. Purchase of commissions ended with the Cardwell Re-

forms in 1881. In 1876 McGill returned to Canada and served with the 4th Provisional Cavalry in Kingston. In 1883 he joined the Staff of the Royal Military College, Kingston, serving until his retirement in 1900 as Lieutenant Colonel.

The chance discovery of this document brought to light an alternate banking system for the military and through this a story of eminent Canadians.



Murney Tower



This year Murney Tower Museum opened its doors after hours to Kingston's own Improbable Escapes! From Thursday through Sunday nights IE hosted a historically-themed game with up to twelve players. Players had to

escape from a locked room in the basement and work through puzzles to finally reach the top floor to defend Murney Tower against invading ships. These games were very popular with several running each night. Interpreters and friends also got a chance to participate in the game. Improbable Escapes generated a lot of interest in the tower with many of the visitors asking the staff for information about it.

Kingston Historical Society

Annual Awards Presentation

and

Holiday Celebration



Tuesday December 6, 2016

The Renaissance in the Upper Salon 285 Queen Street

Social Time 6:30 pm KHS Awards Presentation 7 pm

Light Collation

Speaker's Corner By Lou Grimshaw

The general meeting on 19 October was very well-attended. The meeting featured Lt Col Arthur Jordan discussing the Hill 70 Memorial Project. Art reviewed the history and background of the Canadian participation in WW I leading to the Battle of Hill 70 at Lens in August 1917. He noted that the battle has been largely overlooked in Canadian consciousness because it was overshadowed by the Battle of Vimy Ridge of the previous June, and because Hill 70 was set strategically as a diversion from British operations elsewhere. The Canadian Corps was commanded by Sir Arthur Currie and the battle was entirely a Canadian Corps enterprise and a great success. He described how Currie's organization for the Canadian Corps made it the strongest British corps in the field, which was significant for Canadian status in the war.

The purpose of the Memorial Project is twofold. The first is to erect a permanent monument in proximity to the battle site. Art had a series of photographic panels showing the site and the proposed structure. The monument is to be unveiled in August 2017. The second is to create an education program for Canadians in both languages that will provide kits and teacher-resource packages for 2500 Canadian secondary schools.

Although national in scope, the Hill 70 Project is centred in Kingston with several KHS members deeply involved. For more information, see www.hill70.com.

Upcoming Papers:

16 November: Thomas Sylvester - "My Perspective on the Oldest Kingston House".





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KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Membership dues are as follows (please check one)

- \$50 for an individual membership
- \$60 for a family membership
- \$60 for an institutional membership
- \$25 for a student membership
- \$300 for a sponsor. Please speak to Pres. Lou Grimshaw directly 613-549-2500

Additional donation: The Society would sincerely appreciate any additional donation you may wish to contribute to the Society. Amount: \$----

Send this completed application form, along with a cheque made out to the 'Kingston Historical Society':

Kingston Historical Society, Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6

You can also register on-line from our webpage: www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.com > Membership

Membership includes the annual journal 'Historic Kingston' and 9 issues of the newsletter 'Limelight' as well as a discounted fee to selected special events. Some sponsors also offer discounts.

Name: _____

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City: _____ Prov. _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: ____ - ____ - _____

I would receive my Limelight online _____

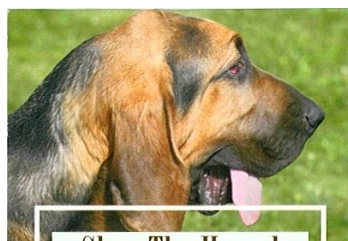
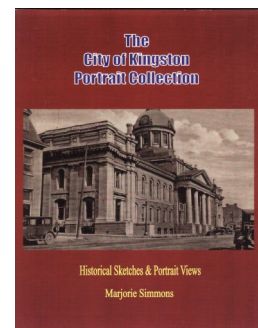
Email: _____

Book Sale!

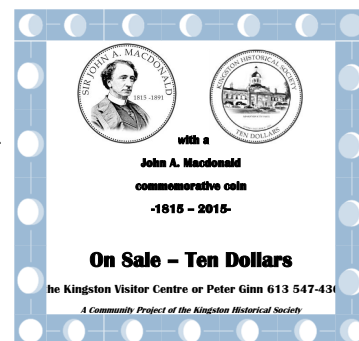
The City of Kingston Portrait Collection by Marjorie Simmons. Published by the Kingston Historical Society, 2006, Paperback, 160 pages.

This publication provides a local history about a unique Canadian art collection which includes framed oil portraits of 65 former Mayors and other officials of the City of Kingston. The book includes photographic portrait-views and historical sketches of the portrait subjects.

Sale price until December 31, 2016: **\$10.00**. Regular price \$30.00. There is no shipping charge (\$8.00) if the book is picked up at the October 2016, November 2016, or January 2017 meetings of the Society. Orders can be sent by mail to the Kingston Historical Society, P.O. Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6 or e-mail: kingstonhs@gmail.com.



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with a
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A Community Project of the Kingston Historical Society

Don't miss it! See page 6.

Kingston Historical Society

Annual Awards Presentation

and

Holiday Celebration



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Our guest speaker for this year's **Sir John A. Macdonald Anniversary Dinner**, set for Saturday, January 14th, 2017, will be our Mayor, Mr. Bryan Paterson. He will be addressing the early years of Sir John A. - "Sir John A. as an alderman and local politician before he became Prime Minister".

The dinner will take place at the Senior Staff Mess of the Royal Military College. Please 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. The cost of the dinner will be \$70 per person. Seating will be limited to 100 members and guests. Please fill out the tear-off portion below and send it along with your payment made out to:

The Kingston Historical Society
C/O Anne Richardson
750 Amaryllis Street
Kingston, Ontario
K7P 0A9

All reservations must be received no later than Monday, December 19th.

Please share this date with KHS members and friends.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Anne Richardson at richanne@hotmail.ca

Sir John A. Macdonald Anniversary Dinner 2017
NAMES:

TELEPHONE #:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING: _____ **VEGETARIAN MEAL:** _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

PLEASE LIST ANY FOOD ALLERGIES: _____

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