



# Limelight

Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

Kingston Ontario Canada

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Marcus R. (Marc) Létourneau

"What's past is prologue"

*Tempest, Act 2, Scene 1, William Shakespeare*

While arguably an overused quote describing the impact of the past on the present, I could not help but be struck by its resonance during the first strategic planning retreat held by the KHS Council on March 26, 2017. The Kingston Historical Society has a long and illustrious past, and decisions concerning the future must take into account the Society's impact and contributions to Kingston, both historically and today. What struck me during the conversations, and in reviewing the results of our 2016 membership survey, was the belief in the tremendous potential and opportunity for the Society but with a tempering view that the status quo cannot continue. There was a common refrain that we must ensure that the KHS is relevant and resonant to both our membership and the Kingston community; we must also ensure that we are understood as welcoming and collaborative, as well as open to change and debate. I sincerely want to thank the KHS membership for its honest and direct feedback concerning the strengths and weaknesses of the Society. With nearly half of the Society's membership responding, I was personally very pleased to see the members' dedication and interest in the future of their organization. While there is still much work to do, I look forward to bringing the results of the strategic planning process to the membership in the near future. To this end, several members expressed an interest in volunteering (in some way) for the Society; the KHS membership is itself a tremendous repository of skills and knowledge. As a non-profit organization, we are dependent upon our volunteers to help the Society succeed. **I would encourage anyone interested in volunteering to contact any member of Council or speak directly to me. You can also email me at [mletourneau3@cogeco.ca](mailto:mletourneau3@cogeco.ca) or [ml155@queensu.ca](mailto:ml155@queensu.ca) if you are interested and willing.**



### Kingston Historical Society Meeting

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 7:30pm

John Grenville Blockhouse No. 5

Seniors Centre 56 Francis Street

Rooney Castle and the War of 1812 Defence of the Western Approaches to Kingston. While the War of 1812 water defences of Kingston and the Naval Dockyard are relatively well understood, the land defences, a series of blockhouses joined by palisades, are lesser known and long gone. John Grenville will be speaking about the defence of the western approaches to Kingston including Rooney Castle, the blockhouse that stood at the end of Sydenham Street for almost a hundred years.

"Let us make bricks... and let us build ourselves a city" *Bricks in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Architecture of the Kingston Area* is the lengthy but evocative title of a new book and talk by architectural historian Dr Jennifer McKendry on Thursday, April 20, in Kingston City Hall, sponsored by the Heritage Resource Centre at 10AM. The subject of brick has been, on the whole, ignored in Kingston publications and yet we are more likely to be living or shopping in a brick building than in a stone one. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge. Please reserve a seat at (<https://bricks-in-19th-century-architecture.eventbrite.ca>) Books will be for sale. And yes, the questions of where and when brick was made will be addressed! Further information: [HRC@cityofkingston.ca](mailto:HRC@cityofkingston.ca).

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will meet at the Kingston Seniors Centre, 56 Francis St., on Saturday, April 22 at 10 a.m. Gary Foster, President of Campbell Monuments in Belleville, will speak on "The Story Behind the Stones: Reading the Monuments". Visitors always welcome. Further details at [www.ogs.on.ca/kingston](http://www.ogs.on.ca/kingston)

### In this Issue:

President's Message, Announcements	1	About Us, March Speaker	2
Still Standing	3	Museums of Kingston	4
Our Sponsors	5	Sir Oliver Mowat	6
Our Publications	7	June 6 Commemoration	8

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**Please forward submissions to the Editor Betty Andrews.** [betty.andrews@gmail.com](mailto: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 .**

#### MAILING ADDRESS:

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[www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.com)

#### Membership

Family 92 Student 2  
Individual 61  
Institutional 12  
Sponsors 8 Life 19



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



**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.

#### 2017-18 KHS Executive Council

*President:* Marcus Létourneau

*Treasurer:* Peter Ginn

*Vice-president:* Graeme Watson

*Secretary:* Don Richardson

*Past President:* Lou Grimshaw

*Historic Kingston Editor:* Virginia Létourneau

*Limelight Editor:* Betty Andrews

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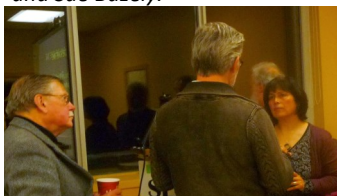
John Whiteley

## Speaker's Corner by Lou Grimshaw

The speaker at our meeting on Wednesday 15 March was our own Sue Bazely. Sue is a prominent local archaeologist with considerable experience both in the Kingston area and elsewhere in eastern Ontario and in the UK. She is currently a

*Lou Grimshaw, Don Richardson and Sue Bazely.*

PhD student at Queen's. Sue's talk was entitled 'We all Die Sometime': An Archaeological Perspective on the Lost Cemeteries of Kingston. She described a number of burial sites and small early cemeteries found in the Kingston area. Some were early aboriginal burial sites; others were early European cemeteries that had been abandoned or repurposed over the years and so became "lost". Most of these required archaeological work of some kind when found by accident or through construction or restoration activities. The archaeological work included determination of perimeter boundaries, location of individual interments, and preservation and interpretation of remains. Although the subject was perhaps a bit macabre, Sue's account provided considerable historical interest and generated a lively question and discussion period.



### NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

#### Bring a Friend!

Membership includes an invitation to attend monthly meetings and mingle with people of like interests; 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 membership chair.](#)

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

We are still looking for someone to take over the program coordinator function. Volunteers please contact Lou Grimshaw or any member of Council.



## STILL STANDING:

### Looking at Regional Architecture with Jennifer McKendry, Architectural Historian

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, many local buildings were either built or remodelled with grand porticoes, spanning two storeys, evoking the Georgian past, in turn evoking Roman architecture. This style is usually described as Colonial Revival.

The “purest” example because of the use of stone (as opposed to wood) is **the Nurses’ Home** (now the Museum of Health Care, George Street) of 1904, Kingston General Hospital, by architect William Newlands. Designed in the Ionic Order, the style transferred dignity to the emerging profession of nursing.



*The 1927 extension to the nurses’ home, photo by J. McKendry in 1992*

In 1927, Stevens & Lee added a handsome stone wing (demolished) on George and Okill Streets. In 2006, a modern addition with glass and red panels was added along George Street by HDR Mill & Ross.

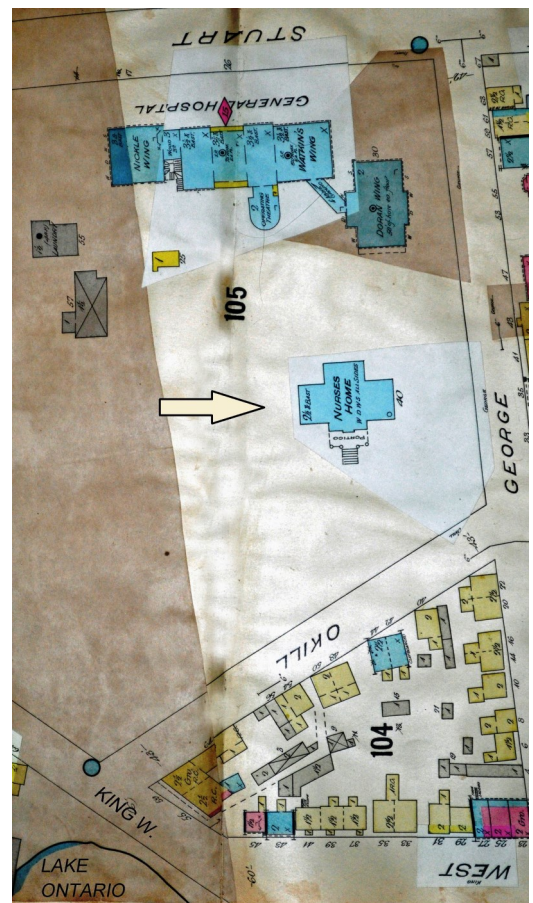
Now hard to imagine because of other buildings being erected to the south and west, the Nurses’ Home was originally located in an

unobstructed site and, in fact, had a view of the lake from the portico’s balcony. For the nurses, their new living quarters, refreshed by lake breezes, must have seemed a great relief after strenuous shifts in the nearby hospital.

*Postcard cancelled 1912, coll. J. McKendry*



*fire insurance plan 1892-1904, coll. J. McKendry*



# MUSEUMS OF KINGSTON

## The Museum of Health Care

Do you know your local medical history museum?

First conceived in 1988, the Museum of Health Care was born in 1991 when work was started to build a collection of medical and general health artefacts. This collection now comprises over 35,000 artefacts and the Museum has become the only museum in the country solely devoted to the history of health care in Canada. The Museum is a registered charity and non-profit corporation, and has been governed by a Board of Directors since 1996.

In 1995, the Museum of Health Care moved to its permanent home in the former nursing-student residence at Kingston General Hospital. Built in 1904, the Ann Baillie Building is a beautiful two-storey Beaux-Arts-style limestone structure that has been designated a National Historic Site commemorating the history of nursing education in Canada.

The Museum of Health Care strives to help Kingston residents, as well as those visiting from all across Canada, to better understand how people have handled injury and disease, and have worked to maintain health, over the last two centuries. By connecting visitors to the realities of health care in the past, the Museum aims to provide context and perspective on today's health issues. To achieve this, the Museum provides stewardship of a unique collection of artefacts, access for researchers globally and in the community, engaging and informative exhibitions, and interactive programming for all ages

The Museum manages and conserves one of the largest and most important collections of medical artefacts in Canada. With a collection of artefacts substantially originating from the Kingston General Hospital, Queen's University Faculty of Medicine, and regional health care facilities, the Museum uses Kingston's material culture to illustrate larger healthcare narratives. The Museum also extends its reach by regularly loaning its artefacts to museums across the country.

An online catalogue of the Museum's collection (found at <http://mhc.andornot.com/>) provides access to information and images to other museums and researchers around the world. The online collection's database was upgraded in 2016 and is now easier to access and more intuitive than ever. The Museum responds to many research queries each year about items in the collection, identification of medical objects, and questions about proper storage of medical artefacts, and facilitates on-site visits as required. Each year, the Museum also supports a Margaret Angus Research Fellow who undertakes research into an aspect of the collection and presents this research in a written manuscript and a public lecture each fall

Year-round at the Ann Baillie Building, visitors are invited to explore eight exhibitions on a variety of topics. Those familiar with the Museum's galleries will notice significant changes this coming summer with the opening of three new bilingual exhibits about the KGH crisis of 1867, medical innovations of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and quack medicine. Throughout the year, numerous temporary exhibits are created both on- and off-site for a variety of topics and groups. In addition, the Museum website (found at [www.museumofhealthcare.ca](http://www.museumofhealthcare.ca)) features eight online exhibits, as well as access to mobile apps about Kingston's hospital and nursing history that are free to download.

Through guided tours, lectures, curriculum-linked education programs, and family programs, the Museum engages learners of all ages with the history and science of health care. The Museum also offers a number of off-site programs, such as visits to seniors' residences and workshops at the Kingston Regional Heritage Fair, to remove the barriers of travelling to the Museum. Special in 2017, the Museum will invite Kingston residents to a series of activities on Canada Day, including the interpretive program "Quarantine Tent," which features historical re-enactors suffering from vaccine-preventable diseases.



The Museum is independent and supported by grants, sponsors, donors, members, and volunteers, all of whom are essential to its operation. Museum admission is by donation, most programs are offered for \$3 per participant, and research requests are free.

There are many ways to benefit from what the Museum of Health Care has to offer, just as there are many ways to support and strengthen this local resource. To learn about the Museum activities and resources, or about how to get involved, subscribe to the Museum's Bailliebytes E-Newsletter, visit [www.museumofhealthcare.ca](http://www.museumofhealthcare.ca), or contact the Museum at 613-548-2419 or [info@museumofhealthcare.ca](mailto:info@museumofhealthcare.ca).





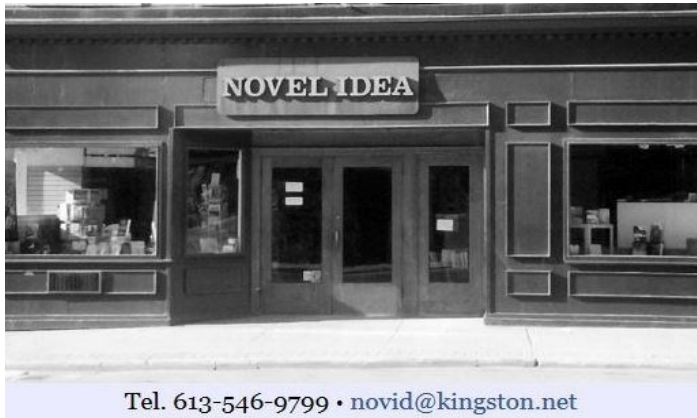
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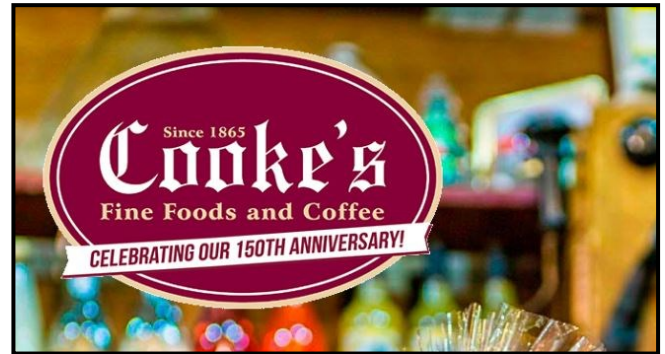
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## Sir Oliver Mowat 1820-1903

From p.149 Monuments, Memorials & Markers in the Kingston Area

Published by the Kingston Historical Society 2000



Born in Kingston, Mowat studied law under John A. Macdonald. After moving to Toronto in 1840 he was elected a Liberal member of the legislature of the Province of Canada in 1857 and served as provincial secretary in 1858 and postmaster general, 1863-64. He took part in the Quebec Conference of 1864, which led to Confederation in 1867. Mowat became Ontario's third Prime Minister in 1872, succeeding the Honourable Edward Blake, and retained that post for almost 24 years. Resigning in 1896, he accepted a seat in the Senate, and became minister of justice, 1896-97 in the cabinet of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Mowat served as lieutenant-governor of Ontario from 1897 until his death.

**Location:** Frontenac County Court House, Court Street, Kingston

**Type:** Aluminum **plaque** on post

**Sponsor:** Ontario Heritage Foundation

**Date Erected:** 1962

**Readings:** *Anonymous* 1962; Swainson 1972; DCB vol. 12; Evans 1992.

*Oliver Mowat at the end of his premiership.* Archives of Ontario, Acc. 1750-5315



From Wikipedia:

Mowat Avenue in Kingston is named in his honour.

Queen's University organized a two-day historical colloquium in 1970 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Mowat's birth.

Mowat was portrayed by David Onley (the 8th Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario) in the Canadian TV series *Murdoch Mysteries* in 2013 in the episode "The Ghost of Queen's Park."

Mowat was portrayed by Kingston actor Patrick Downes, in Kingston-based Salon Theatre's stage productions featuring the life of Sir John A. Macdonald.

The building where Mowat and Macdonald practiced law together in the 1830s, on Wellington Street between King and Brock Streets in Kingston, ... renovated during 2014–15, ... its heritage elements preserved, insofar as possible, under direction from Kingston City Council.

Taken from the Stanford, KY, Journal 1900

Lord Roberts was badly **hurt** by his horse falling with him while riding Sunday. If the Lord would more fittingly observe the Lord's day, the Lord might take better care of the Lord.

### KINGSTON REGIONAL HERITAGE FAIR

THURSDAY, MAY 11<sup>TH</sup> AT QUEEN'S WEST CAMPUS

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO JUDGE GRADE SCHOOL**

**HISTORY PROJECTS**

SIGN UP HERE: [HTTP://WWW.KRHF.CA/REGISTRATION/VOLUNTEERS](http://www.krhf.ca/registration/volunteers)

**OPEN HOUSE FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC HELD FROM  
1:30 – 3:00 PM**

VIEW HISTORY PROJECTS AND COMMUNITY HERITAGE BOOTHS

If you have an article you would like to see published in *Limelight* or an historical anecdote you would like to share with KHS members, please contact *Limelight* editor. [betty.andrews@gmail.com](mailto:betty.andrews@gmail.com)

## SOME OF THE KHS PUBLICATIONS - OR SPONSORED PRODUCTIONS

<p><b>Kingston Volunteers: The Thing to Do</b> by Peter Gower 2008</p> <p>Now available from Novel Idea \$35</p> <p>Sponsored by KHS</p>	<p><b>Illustrated Guide to Monuments, Memorials and Markers in the Kingston Area</b></p> <p>Published by Kingston Historical Society. 250p. 2000.</p> <p>\$25.00</p>
<p><b>Williamsville Revisited: an Illustrated History of "Williamsville" at Kingston, Ontario</b> by the Williamsville Book Committee. 274p. 2004</p> <p>Now available exclusively from Novel Idea, 156 Princess St., Kingston, Ontario, K7L 1B1, tel: 613.546.9799.</p>	<p><b>"A Troublesome Berth": The Journal of First Lieutenant Charles Allan Parker, Royal Marines: The Canada Years 1838-1840</b> edited by R. Andrews &amp; R. Parker Art 336p. 2009</p> <p>Published by Kingston Historical Society</p> <p>\$40.00</p>
<p><b>The City of Kingston Portrait Collection - Historical Sketches &amp; Portrait Views</b> by Marjorie Simmons 150p. 2006</p> <p>Published by Kingston Historical Society</p> <p>\$30.00</p>	<p><b>Favourite Son? John A. Macdonald and the Voters of Kingston 1841-1891</b> by Ged Martin 214p. 2010</p> <p>Published by Kingston Historical Society</p> <p>\$35.00</p>
<p><b>An Historic Tour of the City of Kingston</b> (pamphlet) by Lt. Col. L. J. Flynn</p> <p>Published by Kingston Historical Society</p> <p>\$10.00</p>	<p><b>Sideshow or Main Event: Putting the War of 1812 into Regional Contexts.</b> Conference proceedings. Various authors. 2012</p> <p>Published by Kingston Historical Society</p> <p>\$20.00</p>

### Out of Print

#### Sir John A. Macdonald 1815 - 1891

Collection of addresses from June 6 services 1970-1991 by Margaret Cohoe



**The Murney Tower opens  
for the season  
May 19, 2017**

Book Launch Troublesome Berth 2009



Bob Andrews and John Whiteley





## THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY presents

### The Graveside Commemoration Service for Sir John A. Macdonald

**Tuesday, June 6th, 2017 at 1:30 pm**  
**Cataraqui Cemetery National Historic Site**  
**927 Purdy's Mill Road, Kingston ON**

*The public is invited to join the Kingston Historical Society,  
 members of the Fort Henry Guard,  
 Bellevue House historical ambassadors,  
 representatives of Cataraqui Cemetery National Historic Site,  
 and many special guests and dignitaries  
 from local, provincial and national organizations.  
 Wreaths will be laid, surrounded by solemn formal pageantry  
 to mark the 126th anniversary of the passing  
 of Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first Prime Minister.*

**Guest Speaker:**  
**The Hon. Hugh Segal, OC, O.Ont**  
**Master, Massey College**

***"Beyond 150 - the real Sir John A..."***

Information: Alan MacLachlan, Commemoration Service Chair  
 (813) 549-8841 or (813) 453-7078 (cell) [alaguide20@gmail.com](mailto:alaguide20@gmail.com)

Alternate location in unfavourable weather:  
 Christ Church Parish Centre, 990 Sydenham Road, Kingston

photos by Peter Glenn, design by Eiva Barnes

