

LIMELIGHT

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A Message From the President

Dr. Marcus R. (Marc) Létourneau

Last month I was in St John's for a training course, and I had a wonderful discussion with several colleagues concerning the concept of intangible cultural heritage (also known as ICH). We were discussing it in the context of boatbuilding, and the loss of traditional skill sets for boat construction and maintenance. Newfoundland and Labrador is the Canadian leader for ICH, and the province even has an Intangible Cultural Heritage Development Officer. The province has recognized that ICH is an important part of provincial, community, and local identity, and has developed a dedicated website on identifying and celebrating what it calls "living heritage."



But what does ICH mean? It is sometimes over simplified to marketable stories, rituals, and stereotypes about the past. Indeed, there has been considerable debate on the risks of commodifying ICH. However, in reality it is a concept that is as much about the present and future as it about the past. UNESCO has defined it as:

the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage. This intangible cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity.

In an effort to provide further clarification on this definition, UNESCO identified several key aspects of ICH:

- ☐ It is traditional, contemporary and living at the same time;
- ☐ It is inclusive;
- ☐ It depends on those whose knowledge of traditions, skills and customs are passed on to the rest of the community, from generation to generation, or to other communities;
- ☐ It is Community-based.

UNESCO, in 2003, created the *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*. To date, 175 countries have ratified or approved the Convention; however, Canada currently has not.

This does not mean there is a lack of interest in ICH in Canada, and many communities are rethinking their heritage programs and the role of ICH. For example, there is a growing awareness of the relationship between tangible and intangible cultural heritage. And while there has been greater attention to ICH in light of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, this year is the 10th anniversary of the ICH program in Newfoundland and Labrador. Even in Kingston, there have been some great efforts to understand and communicate aspects of the City's ICH. Two examples include the Swamp Ward and Inner Harbour History Project and Stones Kingston. However, there is still much work to do, and I would challenge our membership to consider what are important, but poorly understood or documented, aspects of Kingston's ICH.

I am pleased to note that both the 2016 and 2017 editions of *Historic Kingston* are moving to production, and we will be sending both for printing before the end of the month. Again, I apologize for the delay. Also, we will be producing a book reprinting many of the Sir John A. Macdonald dinner and graveside speeches; that book will be sent to the printer shortly.

Lastly, as I mentioned at the last lecture, the Society recently received a copy of two speeches presented in 1894/1895 from the Buffalo History Museum. Presented by the Society's third President on the history of Fort Frontenac, these speeches will be included as part of the 2016 edition of *Historic Kingston*.

As always, if there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Wm. Ferguson 6 Still Standing 7 Murney Tower , Speaker's Corner 8



What's Your Rhythm? Show us **October, 21st at Edith Rankin Memorial United Church at 2 PM.** From instruments, music records or dance moves, Bring Your Thing and share objects which remind you of music and dance. Local museums will share something from their collections and there will be engaging activities to enjoy. Expect to be on your toes and Discover Kingston through the stories of others!

Community Announcements



The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will meet on Saturday, October 21st at 10 a.m. at the Kingston Seniors Centre, [56 Francis St.](#) Ron Mann will speak on "Some Hints and Guidelines for Beginning and Veteran Genealogists". Further details at www.ogs.on.ca/kingston



Sir John A. Macdonald, the Musical - an official event of the Ottawa 150th celebrations Canadian Premiere of the musical in which Gord Carruth weaves together the good, the bad and the ugly to tell the tale of Canada's first Prime Minister. At Centrepointheatre in Nepean Nov 02-04 Tickets \$25 - \$45.00 and may be ordered on line at www.centrepointheatres.com

The Kingston Historical Society Award is given to individuals, groups and institutions in recognition of their contributions to the preservation, understanding and interpretation of local Kingston history. Historical Society members are asked to nominate those that they believe meet this award criteria. Please send nominations by letter or email, and include the nominee's contact information and the reasons for your choice. Nominations by mail may 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, 2017. The awards will be presented on December 6th 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.

THE "OLD CHIEFTAIN" WANTS YOU!!

What are you doing on Saturday, January 13, 2018?? I hope that you plan on joining your KHS Council at the Sir John A Macdonald birthday dinner. The registration form for the dinner will be posted in the November and December issues of *Limelight*. We look forward to seeing you all at the dinner. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Anne Richardson at richanne@hotmail.ca

THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY *Established 1893*

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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 its 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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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.

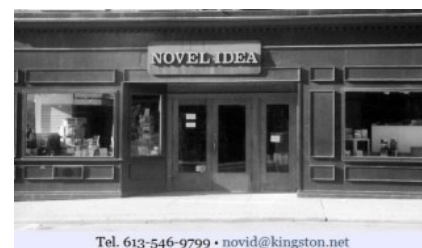
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Kingston and Hill 70 – A Connection

By Warren Everett

On 08 April 2017 the Hill 70 Patron, the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, dedicated perhaps the last Canadian First World War Memorial in France. This cenotaph, near Hill 70 in Loos-en-Gohelle, France, is a memorial to those Canadians who fought and died in August 1917 at that location. The victory at the Battle of Hill 70 was the first major action of the Canadian Corps after a Canadian, Lieutenant General Arthur Currie, took command in June 1917 following the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Yet, this victory was soon relegated to the footnotes of history.

Much has been written of late in major Canadian newspapers about Hill 70 and the Hill 70 Monument; the Globe and Mail in particular has written expansively on this topic. What has not been conspicuous is the connection of Kingston to the Hill 70 Monument. In 2013 a group of like-minded volunteers gathered together in Kingston to pull back the shades of history and bring the story of the victory at Hill 70 into the public eye. At first it was a modest proposal. However, with much enthusiasm and perhaps little awareness of the enormity of the task ahead, we pressed onward. We were fortunate to have the services of a prominent Canadian architect, Sarah Murray, who volunteered her time and talent and came forward with a grand design. Although much of that initial design changed over time, in essence, it was completed for a public opening on 22 August 2017.



The Board of the Hill 70 Memorial that managed the project throughout the last four years include: Mark Hutchings, Chair; Dr. John S. Cowan, Vice-Chair, Art Jordan, Douglas Green, David Parker, and myself, all residents of Kingston. We had the able assistance of a professional fundraiser, Robert Baxter, another Kingstonian, whose enthusiasm and diligent work eventually brought in the millions of dollars, all from Canadian citizens, necessary to bring our vision to completion. The Memorial Park is about four hectares in size; the centre piece is an imposing obelisk that rises some 60 feet over a large amphitheatre. In the park, are a number of Canadian Maple trees planted to honour the soldiers who died. Paved pathways and plazas encourage the visitor to take time to reflect on the enormity of the sacrifice the Canadian soldiers made in World War I.

Early in our deliberations, it became apparent that not many Canadians could or would make the journey to France to visit the monument. Something else was needed to bring the message to Canadians: that was an education programme. Susan Everett was brought on board to develop an education plan.

She gathered a team of retired teachers, Don Richardson, and Bob and Elva McGaughey, and, with Anne Richardson as Chief of Staff, the team developed a learning kit for secondary school history classes using Hill 70 as the focus for studying World War I. The learning kit, in both English and French, was sent out to over 3500 high schools throughout Canada. The kit is available for downloading at hill70.ca under the education tab. Also, a book was commissioned, published by the University of British Columbia Press. *Capturing Hill 70*, edited by Dr. Doug Delaney, another Kingstonian, and Dr. Serge Durflinger, has become a best seller in the year since it was released in October 2016. The names of 11,285 Canadian soldiers who have no known grave are inscribed on the nearby Vimy Memorial. Their remains continue to be found throughout France and Belgium. On 24 August the recently-identified remains of two young soldiers were laid to rest in the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery adjoining the Hill 70 Memorial Park. The two young men, Sergeant Harold Wilfred Shaughnessy from New Brunswick and Private Reginald Joseph Winfield Johnston from Manitoba, were both killed in action at Hill 70 in August 1917.

On 22 August 2017 in Canada's Sesquicentennial year and on the 100th anniversary of the battle, we, and another 150 Canadians who had travelled so far for the event, along with 500 French people, were present to see the Commander of the Canadian Army, today's successor to the Canadian Corps, Lieutenant General Paul Wynnyk, declare the Memorial Park open.



People Flourishing at the Time of Confederation

Sheriff William Ferguson

by Pam Harris



"William Ferguson was a prominent farmer, councillor and treasurer of the Midland District, sheriff, and MP for Frontenac in 1863...He was churchwarden seven years and lay delegate to Synod nine years..."
William J Patterson *Courage, Faith and Love*, p. 24

When I first moved to Kingston I was surprised to learn that I was not the first in my family to live there, that, in fact, there was a good chunk of my family history right in Kingston. It felt strange to be walking about a city more than a hundred years later knowing my own relatives, including my grandmother played out their lives in this same city! How could I not know this? I still do not know very much and someday, when retirement comes, I'll take time to pore over the documents and research already compiled for us by my paternal uncles.

William Ferguson is my great-great grandfather. He was born in the City of Armagh, Ireland in 1804. William, accompanying his father James, came to Canada in 1826. They established a farm in Pittsburgh Township. The farm was not very far from the St. Lawrence; the area it was in was known as the Front – not the water-front, rather, it was anticipated during the rebellion that the Americans would come up behind Howe and Wolfe Islands when they attacked, and thus this area would be the battle front. Fort Henry was built to prevent just this. When William's father died, William started business in Barriefield as a general merchant where, amongst other things, he provided forage and fuel for the Kingston garrison, and he also was contracted to draw the cut stone required to build Fort Henry in 1834-36.

In 1833, William Ferguson married Mary Jane Walker, daughter of William Walker, a farmer of the township of Storrington. Together William and Mary Jane had 13 children, one of whom died at birth, and only one, Charles Marks, had children.

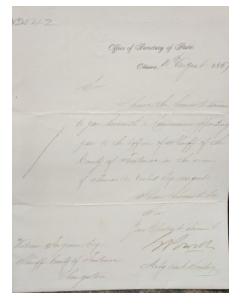
In 1846 William Ferguson accepted an appointment as county treasurer for the united counties of Frontenac, Lennox and Addington, a position he held for 22 years, relinquishing it only to become the Sheriff in 1867. Pictured is an original parchment document, sealed with the Great Seal of Canada, and described on the outside with the words:

Commission Appointing William Ferguson Esquire, Sheriff of the County of Frontenac, in place of Thomas A. Corbett Esq.; Dated 7th August 1867, Lib B Folio 15; Signed by the Acting Deputy Registrar of Canada.

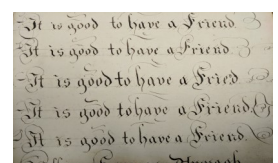
On the face of the same document is Sir John A. Macdonald of whom William was a staunch supporter and, family lore has it, a great friend. The Sheriff was often called upon to fetch Sir John A. whenever he disappeared, as he did often. William was the only man who knew where to find him. Family notes indicate Sir John A. usually went to Bath on these occasions, likely to a tavern there which started out as a Hudson Bay Company post and, many years later, was occupied by the Royal Bank.

The Fergusons lived in Bellevue House (1853—1869) and owned and lived in the Cartwright House, 191 King Street, from 1877. There is a family doggerel which was apparently often repeated and a source of merriment for the Fergusons, who were known for their sense of humour:

Oh how I wish that I were able
To build a house like Cartwright's stable.
Alas it gives me much remorse
To be worse housed than Cartwright's horse.



A Ferguson child
and a page from his
copy book..



STILL STANDING:

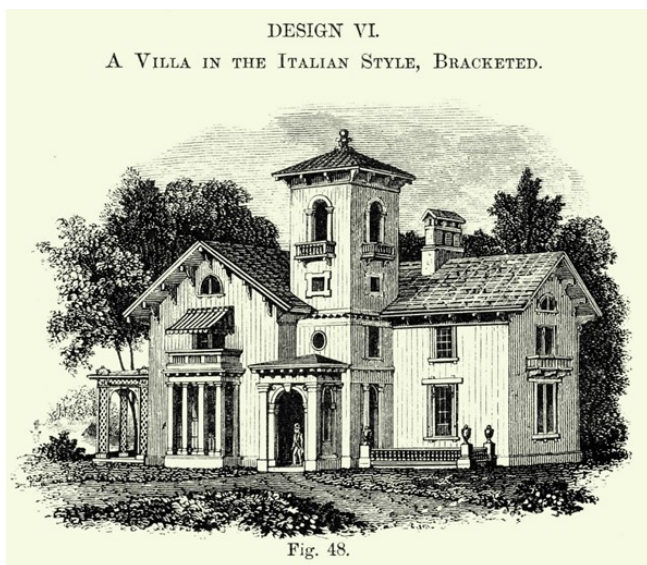
Looking at Regional Architecture with Jennifer McKendry, Architectural Historian

I have taken a cottage or rather, I beg its pardon a Villa.... It is a large roomy house for a retired grocer, was resolved to have an "Eyetalian Willar," and has built the most fantastic concern imaginable. From the previous laudable tho' rather prosaic pursuits of the worthy landlord the house is variously known in Kingston as Tea Caddy Castle, Molasses Hall and Muscovado Cottage

This delightful witticism originates with none other than John A. Macdonald on 15 August 1848 during the months he and his wife Isabella leased Bellevue House at 35 Centre Street. Today well publicized and a tourist destination because of this famous family, it should also be lauded as an important example of Canadian architecture.

The villa's precise building date is important because if 1843 is the correct date (as I believe), Bellevue House is among the first of its type, that is a Tuscan villa, in British North America. Such a date is compatible with attributing it to architect George Browne, who was in Kingston 1841-1844 during the capital period, and that his design was influenced by an American pattern book of 1842.

In early 1841, merchant Charles Hales purchased Bellevue's 9½-acre site, bounded on the south by King Street and the lakeshore, and by two newly created streets, Union and Centre, on the north and west. This land was very desirable for development--with three street-frontages, a view of the lake, and proximity to both the town and the Governor General's residence. Hales was ready to develop in the spring and authorized George Browne to tender five cottages, now known as Hales Cottages, on the King Street frontage. In the meantime, Hales was expanding his business quarters, the Commercial Mart (now the Smith-Robinson Building, Princess at Ontario) with a Browne design. These projects accomplished, Hales was in a position in 1843 to turn his hand to Bellevue, design elements of which were compatible with other projects by Browne.



Tuscan Villa in A.J. Downing, *Cottage Residences*, 1842



Photo by Jennifer McKendry

The form of a Tuscan villa was novel enough that he probably turned to pattern-book illustrations, such as one in A.J. Downing's just-released *Cottage Residences*. A key identifier for this type is the incorporation of a campanile or tall bell-tower, modelled after early picturesque Italian villas. The house on its elevated site is a striking design: its white rough-cast walls stand out against the green vegetation of summer and its painted wooden trim against the white snows of winter. There may be minor awkward aspects and a reluctance to incorporate round arches (usually found in Tuscan villas), but these are simply signs of experimenting with a novel style. In this Canadian building, we have a fine contribution to the development of asymmetrical and free planning in the designing of residences.

Murney Tower

On September 1st, members of the Fort Henry Guard visited Murney Tower for promotional photos of the cannon in use. Photos were taken elevating the cannon, sighting it, and “moving” it forward. Photos were also taken with the hot shot furnace as the Guard were “unloading” a heated cannonball and of this cannonball being “loaded” into the cannon. It was our pleasure to have the Fort Henry Guard here and to be able to see the cannon “in use”. We can't wait to see the final product!



Speaker's Corner

by Marc Shaw

On Wednesday September 20th, a capacity crowd gathered at the Seniors' Centre to hear Lucinda Bray speak on the topic “A Thoroughly Equipped Modern Airport: The Story of the Kingston Municipal Airfield.” Back in April 2016, Lucinda spoke to the KHS on daily life in the “wartime housing” (now known as Kingscourt District) area. With her most recent talk, Lucinda related in colourful detail the story of the same part of town as it was between 1929 and 1942 when the area north of Concession Street, reaching up to St. Mary's Cemetery, was home to several large grass runways, hangars and other associated buildings. Pilots were trained at this location, and Kingston became a part of the novel concept of “air mail” delivery. But in the late 20's and early 30's, it was the spectacle of the massive airshows, attracting many thousands of visitors who flocked to the airfield (often within only feet of the aircraft!), that imprinted the airfield on the minds of Kingstonians. By using newspaper accounts, speeches, maps and photographs, Lucinda brought the story of early aviation alive for the audience. A special treat was the inclusion of some very rare film footage of the planes and the crowds. Lucinda brought as her special guest, Lloyd Shales, known to many as the long-time operator of a hobby shop on Division Street near Queen. Lloyd's father Carl Shales was a pilot at the Kingston Airfield, and Lloyd's lifelong interest in aviation and plane modelling grew from this family connection. Lloyd's first-hand reminiscences, combined with Lucinda's research skills, thoroughly entertained the audience with this little-known chapter of Kingston history.