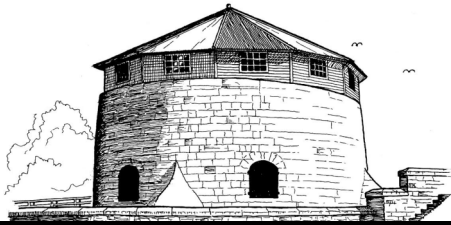


# Limelight

Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

Kingston Ontario Canada

Volume 19 no 8 ISSN 1488-5565 November 2017



## A Message From the President

Dr. Marcus R. (Marc) Létourneau

**"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." George Santayana**

What does the future hold? I am no prognosticator. But I believe one can learn from the lessons of the past.

I recently attended a workshop on the future of historic churches. There was an interesting debate concerning whether a church was the people, the physical building or both. The session delved into key questions of group identity, demographics, the role of churches in contemporary society, and the issue of neglecting the emotional attachment of communities to their places. However, the discussion also considered why certain churches were successful; a presentation by the National Trust (Heritage Canada) identified seven key attributes

A Family Focus

Support for Social Enterprises

A Clear Mandate

Appropriate Use of Technology

A Focus on Joining Together

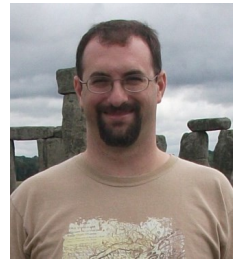
Community Run

A Bias for Action

What struck me was the fact that many of these can be applied to other organizations. As the KHS moves forward with the Strategic Planning process, for me, it raised questions concerning what we can learn from other organizations. In particular, I really recommend Kevin M. Guthrie's *The New-York Historical Society: Lessons from One Nonprofit's Long Struggle for Survival* for those interested in the management and issues with non-profits organizations. The KHS Board met in late October to review the Strategic Plan to date, and to help set some priorities for the organization. I am looking forward to sharing what has been accomplished with the membership.

Memberships are now being accepted for 2018! Please renew as it is our members who ensure that the Society can thrive.

Lastly, as was announced at the last meeting, 2018 is the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of KHS. We are already planning some exciting events; stay tuned for more details! As always, if there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me



## Community Announcements



A very special event is coming up in Gananoque. The final showing of the movie **"The Little Canadian"** will take place in the original theatre where it played in 1955! One of Canada's earliest colour films, it stars local talent including a famous and controversial poet, a pretty 18-year old ingénue from KCVI and a handsome young man from Gananoque. It's fun to watch and in the short pre-show you'll hear many fascinating facts about the back story. Then, following the movie, I'll provide lots more about the legacy of this film including introducing 2 of the original cast as well as cast members' families each with their own stories. Special guests will be coming from Vancouver, Chicago, Iowa, Toronto, and Montreal.

Brian R. Phillips

### Kingston Historical Society Meeting

**Dr. Duncan McDowall**

**Is There More to Elrond College Than An Ugly Building on Princess St**

**Nov 15 7:30 Sen-**

**SPEAKING EVENT** – Dianne Lake from Sharbot Lake will be presenting her project – **'150 Years, 150 Women, 150 Stories'**, which tells stories about pioneer women in Central Frontenac County. This event will be held at the R.C.H.A. Club building, 193 [Ontario Street](#), 2<sup>nd</sup> level, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 21, 2017.

The Kingston & District Branch of the UEL Association of Canada invite you to join with us on **Saturday, December 2, 12:30 p.m.** at St. Paul's Church Hall, [137 Queen Street, Kingston](#). Speaker: **Adriane VanSeggelen, Conservator at the Archives of Ontario, will present "Accessing and Preserving Family Heirlooms"**. Her focus will be paper artifacts – documents, photographs, great-grandma's bible. Join us for the optional Sandwich 'n' Squares lunch, 11:30 a.m. for 11:45 sitting. Cost \$3.5 NOTE THE EARLIER TIMES THAN NORMAL, Annual General Meeting to follow the speaker.

The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will meet on Saturday, November 18 at 10 a.m. at the Kingston Seniors Centre, [56 Francis St.](#) Nancy Cutway will speak on In Remembrance: Vimy and Other European Memorials For further information [www.ogs.on.ca/kingston](http://www.ogs.on.ca/kingston)

## 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](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 its sponsors in producing Limelight.



### MAILING ADDRESS:

Kingston Historical Society  
P.O. Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6  
[kingstonhs@gmail.com](mailto:kingstonhs@gmail.com)  
[www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.com)

Annual Dues may be paid any time  
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The Kingston Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.



### Councillors

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Alan MacLachlan  
Tabitha Renaud  
Anne Richardson  
Marc Shaw  
Paul Van Nest  
John Whiteley

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Webmaster: Peter Gower  
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September Presenter Lucinda Bray and airplane enthusiast Lloyd Shales Photo Linda Bray



Artist Gesina Laird-Buchanan  
Photos by Marc Shaw

## Speaker's Corner by Marc Shaw

On Wednesday, October 18, we were delighted to welcome Napanee artist Gesina Laird-Buchanan, accompanied by two of her life-sized wool friends, Sir John A. Macdonald and Molly Brant. Gesina studied art history at university, taught the subject for many years, and has been a practicing artist most of her life. About seven years ago, she veered from paint and sculpture into the medium of needle felting, which is essentially sculpting with wool, using a wire framework and a considerable amount of ingenuity to hold it all together. She produces remarkably life-like figures. With Macdonald, she had photographs and busts to reference for his facial characteristics – which depict the old chieftain later in life, sitting in his chair and reading a document. With Molly Brant, of whom no depiction is known, she relied on meeting descendants and examining a portrait of Molly's brother Joseph as well as an existing bust located at Rideaucrest in order to come up with what she feels is a reasonably accurate portrayal of the younger Molly, standing tall and clutching a stalk of White Flint Corn, traditionally used by the Mohawks for bread-making and brought with them from their original homes in the Mohawk Valley. The audience was fascinated by Gesina's description of the felting process and the massive amount of time and effort required – several months for each sculpture. Gesina has previously sculpted Emily Carr and Tom Thomson, and suggests that four wool friends around the house may be enough!

**BOOK LAUNCH** – Frontenac Heritage Foundation will be hosting a book launch of Peter Gower's "**Kingston in 150 Pictures**" on Tuesday, November 7, at the Sir John A Public House, [343 King Street East](#), upper level, 5:30 – 8. This non-academic, unchronological look at Kingston's history looks at some of the lesser known aspects, many of which we pass by daily without realizing their importance.

Gesina's work may be viewed at her upcoming show at the Window Art Gallery, 647a Princess Street, November 1-26, 2017, Opening reception Sunday November 5, 2-4 pm



## People Flourishing at the Time of Confederation

### R.M. Horsey

**A REPRESENTATIVE BUSINESSMAN**      **by Carl Fechter**  
**Daily Whig Special Edition December 1886**



*In December 1886, The Daily Whig produced a two section, eight page Special Feature. Through the efforts of Peter Ginn, the articles on the history of Kingston produced by Carl Fechter in 1886 have been made available to Limelight readers today. Portions of some articles are left out to adapt them to the space available.*

Mr. R. M. Horsey was born ... in the city of Exeter, Devonshire, England, in 1828, and left school for the workshop at an early age. He had mental endowments of a very high order... In August 1846, Mr. R. M. Horsey arrived in Kingston accompanied by his brother William M., now mayor of Bowmanville and four years his junior. Their father and the members of the family followed them in the next October. R. M. got work in the shop of Messrs. E. & A. Chown, who did business on the site of the Shanahan restaurant. In the spring of 1847 he was in Cobourg, but returned in the fall to work for his father, who had commenced business in the old Miller stone premises on Bagot street, where E. Chown & Son now are. In the autumn of 1848 he left for the states, and served as a journeyman in Rochester, N. Y., Wheeling Va., Gallipolis and Cincinnati, Ohio, New Orleans, La., and Mobile, Ala. When he came back to Kingston it was to start business ...on the corner of Wellington and Princess streets, where Dunbar's clothing now is. ... he would have been ere this comfortably well off but for the fire of 1876, which, in an hour, consumed or destroyed the savings of a life time. ...Mr. Horsey re-established himself anew...Mr. Horsey ... was one of the social lions of the town, and in local entertainments, in yachting, in chairvaring, as a fireman, a volunteer, a mason, a temperance man, he went to the front and merited all the honors which he carried. It was while in the United States that he became a member of the Sons of Temperance, and he has continued a member of the order to this day, being now attached to the St. Lawrence division. He has been a member of the masonic craft for twenty-five years, and is a past master of the Ancient St. John's Lodge, No. 3, A.F. & A.M. in... a great many friendly societies, including the Oddfellows, the Good Templars, the Temple of Honor, the Orange order and St. George's society. He was secretary of the national society ... In 1850 he, Mr. Joseph Dumble, and others, organised the first hose company, the council providing the cart. What old fireman will not remember the rooster of the hose cart, and the motto, "While we live we crow." ... Previous to the formation of the company a few lengths of hose had to be carried to the fires on the top of the engine. Mr. Dumble was elected the first captain, but in a few weeks he removed to New York, and Mr. Horsey took his place. The company was composed of twenty members...Soon after Mr. Horsey resigned his command of the hose company he turned his attention to school matters, and was for many years a member of the board of education.



The 200th anniversary of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Kingston was celebrated on Saturday evening, September 16th, 2017 with an autumn harvest dinner served to a full house of church alumni in St. Andrew's Hall. The guest speaker was The Honourable Peter Milliken. The opening prayer was lead by The Reverend Peter Bush of Winnipeg, the Moderator of the 143rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Special music was prepared for the occasion for the choir by Music Director John Hall. Some of the special guests for the evening are pictured from left to right: Queen's Professor Emeritus Brian Osborne, the author of *The Rock and the Sword*, a comprehensive history of the church; Eva Barnes, wearing 1890s historical attire for her presentation while portraying a friend of writer, artist and activist Agnes Maule Machar, who was the daughter of the second minister; Reverend Doctor Andrew Johnston, the current minister, dressed in the ecclesiastic clothing of the early 1800s for his portrayal of the Rev. John Barclay, the first minister for the congregation; and renowned Kingston historian, consultant, professor and writer Jennifer McKendry, whose historical leads for research for the evening were much appreciated.

Photo Ada Mallory



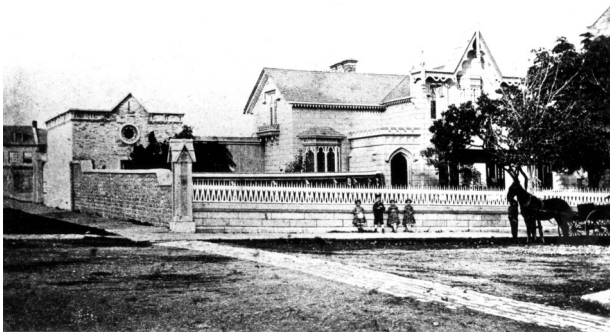
## STILL STANDING:

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

Why did architect Edward Horsey build Elizabeth Cottage (251 Brock St at Clergy), an attractive and stylistically innovative house in 1846 during the depression after Kingston was abandoned as the capital of Canada East and Canada West? In autumn 1846, Edward Horsey was appointed Kingston Penitentiary's architect, an important long-term government position that exposed him to public scrutiny. The timing was propitious for a new residence in a boldly contemporary style – Gothic Revival, perhaps its first use for houses in the Kingston area. In 1883, architect William Newlands continued the medieval theme in his addition for the Fowler family (Elizabeth Fowler was the daughter of Edward Horsey).

This raises two points for consideration by those interested in heritage architecture: firstly, the need for accuracy in dating; and secondly, whether or not additions should be permitted to echo the style of the original building. Elizabeth Cottage has been dated as early as 1841 because Edward Horsey was assessed for an unfinished house, but one needs to take into account that he built the neighbouring one at 247-249 Brock St at this time and the cottage does not appear in the tax rolls until 1847 (reflecting part of the previous year). This may seem like splitting hairs, as the difference is only five years, but the social and economic situation for Kingston in 1841 and in 1846 was radically different. For the earlier year, it was a time of great optimism as Kingston was the capital, and Horsey's frenzied building activity – including a row of 18 cottages along Clergy St (burnt in 1862) -- is an example of what was happening throughout the town. In fact, seasoned building materials became hard to acquire. Contrast that with the situation in 1846, soon after the Seat of Government had moved in early 1844 to Montreal, leaving Kingstonians with the burden of their improvements and in great shock.

**Elizabeth Cottage and stable, photographed c1870, architect Edward Horsey. Queen's University Archives.**



The second point is that architect William Newlands designed the cottage's addition so sensitively in 1883 that we need to consult a historic photograph to distinguish what is what. Today, however, the pendulum has swung towards additions not using stylistic elements from the original. On the other hand, it does seem a good idea that an addition should show courtesy towards the original building by being set back from the original main façade. Would the Gothic Revival addition of 1883 be rejected or need to be significantly modified if Newlands sought today approval from the city for his design?

Both architects were inspired by designs in American pattern books of the 1840s and '50s. The resulting cottage is in the spirit of the New York country houses rather than -- as it has been claimed -- directly modelled on an English 16<sup>th</sup>-century manor house. The contribution of Elizabeth Cottage to Canadian architecture was acknowledged on October 15, 1999, when it became a National Historic Site. Today, it is the Chabad Student Centre of Kingston.



Elizabeth Cottage 1883 section

1846 section

Horsey Building, 247-249 Brock St, 1841-42

photo: J. McKendry

# The Kingston Historical Society

by Betty Andrews with thanks to Brian Osborne

—An account of the history of the Society is here presented as a forerunner to the celebration of its 125th year.

**Founding** -The Kingston Historical Society was established in 1893 with constitution and by-laws drawn up by 24 November. Reasons for the formation of such a society were presented to a November 10 gathering of interested citizens by Prof. G. Ferguson, Mr. R. M. Horsey and Dr. R. T. Walkem. These reasons included noting “the places of honour held in the country by Kingston’s illustrious sons.” and “that documents might be preserved which might otherwise be lost and which materially bear upon the history of our country”.

*Historic Kingston, (HK) Vol. 5 (1956) p 47*

Further aims for the society were added at the meeting of 2 February 1894. It was proposed by Mrs. William Neish that while “it would be well to preserve ...(landmarks and buildings of historic interest) – in the meantime for fear of accident to have such photographed” and by Mr. R. M. Horsey “that marks should be placed where the old forts and buildings stood”. At this February meeting a communication was received from M. Flanagan, City Clerk, “regarding the establishment of a museum in the City buildings...as an education to our citizens and a place of interest to tourists...” It was asked if the Historical Society would undertake its management if the City would furnish rooms for the purpose. The council expressed interest, and struck a committee to consider and report upon the subject. At the 4 May 1894 meeting: “Lengthy discussion took place regarding the non-action of the City Council in reference to the museum and noting of old landmarks...No action was taken.”

KHS Archives - At the April 1894 meeting the first artifact for the Society’s archives was received when “Mr. R.M. Horsey on behalf of Mr. John F. Baker presented...an old map of Canada...” The artifacts were to be stored at Queen’s. Above quotes from HK, Vol. 6 (1957) pp 46 - 49 (A reorganization of the artifacts held by the archives is being undertaken now to explore and re-organize the paperwork accumulated by KHS over 124 years. When the work is completed, it is planned to have a permanent exhibit in the Murney Tower.)

The KHS was inactive from 1907 to 1911 and during the 1914-1918 war years.

In 1919 the Society discussed incorporation in order to care for property it might acquire. (The Kingston Historical Society was incorporated under a provincial charter in 1962 when the constitution was drafted. The constitution was up-dated in 2007).

**Plaques** - The first marker, the John Stuart plaque in St George’s Cathedral, was installed in 1916. 17 markers were created between 1923 and 1959 and a further 17 by 1968. A plaque commemorating Bradstreet’s landing of 25 August 1758, erected in 1953 at the foot of Albert Street in Breakwater Park, was later damaged in a motor vehicle accident. It was removed by the city and placed in storage. In 2012 it was replaced by a booklet-type plaque, and that is the most recent KHS plaque erected. Many of these plaques are listed in the 2000 KHS publication *Monuments Memorials & Markers in the Kingston Area*.

**Murney Tower**—The Murney Tower was named for Henry James Murney (1759-1835), who was, from 1809, the owner of the land upon which the martello tower was built in 1846. In 1924, thirty-one years after the idea of making it into a museum was presented by an alderman, Dr. Curtis, (discussed in the Kingston Daily News of 2 March 1894) the Murney Tower was leased by the KHS. The city supplied workers to repair the tower and granted funds which covered two-thirds of the bill for the repairs. It opened as a museum 1 August 1925. The IODE took responsibility for providing refreshments during the first three days of the opening celebrations. Donations of relics poured in. *HK Vol. 47(1999) p.25*

The KHS lobbied for preservation of Fort Henry and in 1936, Fort Henry’s centennial year, it opened to the public for the first week of August. 7000 visitors went through it and soon afterwards it was opened on a permanent basis. A junior branch of the KHS was started in 1936. At the AGM of 1937 it was reported that there were 28 members, of whom many were Fort Henry guides.

The KHS was inactive from 1941 to 1951.



**Historic Kingston**, in which are recorded speakers' presentations to gatherings of the Society, began annual publication in 1952. There had been a first issue in 1923.

Under Louis F. Flynn, president from 1962 to 1971, membership grew until, in 1972, it reached 600.

KHS organized tours in the Kingston area, begun in 1964, **have been featured occasionally over the years since.**

**The Society was instrumental in having the federally-owned Bellevue House become a Sir John A. memorial in 1967.**

**June 6 Celebration of the Life of Sir John A. Macdonald** - One year after his 6 June 1891 death, a memorial service for Sir John A. Macdonald was organized by the Macdonald Club of Kingston which, for a number of years, continued as sponsor. Then the Conservative Party of Canada assumed the responsibility. In 1970, the Kingston Historical Society began its sponsorship. The memorial service takes place at the Macdonald family plot in the Cataraqui Cemetery National Historic Site. A speech on some aspect of Macdonald's personal or public life is followed by the laying of wreaths by representatives of government and local organizations.

**KHS Awards**, first suggested in 1985 by a strategic study task force as a way to recognize outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of local history, were first presented in 1993 in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the 1893 Kingston Historical Society's founding. They have been presented annually to committee-selected individuals, groups, or institutions.

The KHS has supported the **Heritage Fairs** from their beginning in May of 1995, first with a presence, then by helping with financial assistance and with providing some of the judges and prizes.

**Sir John A. Macdonald Birthday Celebration** - Although there had been earlier celebrations of the 11 January 1815 birth of Canada's first Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald (the first Sir John A. dinner was in 1965) it only became an annual event for the Society in 2001. Each year a speaker addresses dinner guests on an aspect of Macdonald's life.

**Publications** -The KHS has published several books and helped support the publishing of others. A list of recent publications may be found in the *Limelight* of April 2017. Works in progress are collections of J.A.M. Dinner Speeches and the Memorial Service Addresses.

The ***Limelight*** newsletter began in 1998. Before that there was a newsletter called *Then*. **Thanks to the KHS sponsors whose contributions have offset most of the cost of the newsletter over the years.** *Limelight* is delivered digitally to members who agree not to have a paper copy.

**Digitizing Historic Kingston** - Indexes for Historic Kingston have been scanned into a searchable on-line index in collaboration with the Kingston Frontenac Public Library, and with the aid of a KAM grant. It is planned to digitize the volumes themselves. The digitized files will be hosted on the library's servers and made available via Digital Kingston.

**Website**-The KHS website was begun in 2002, originally in partnership with the Kingston Heritage Foundation but now at its own address. [www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.com) Today this description of our society, can be found there: "The Kingston Historical Society (KHS) is an active group working to create, foster and maintain interest in the history and heritage of the City of Kingston and its environs. We do this in many ways, including monthly meetings with guest speakers, a monthly newsletter (*Limelight*), a yearly journal (*Historic Kingston*), and by operating the Murney Tower National Historic Site as a museum."

The KHS has served the city well in the preservation of local history over the past 124 years, and perhaps some day we may achieve that 1894 goal of a city-sponsored Kingston Museum.



**COME CELEBRATE!!**  
**It is Sir John A. Macdonald's birthday**  
**and the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the KHS**



To kick off the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Society, the guest speaker for the upcoming Sir John A. Macdonald anniversary dinner will be Mayor, Mr. Bryan Paterson! He will be addressing the early years of Sir John.... "Sir John A. as an alderman and local politician before he became Prime Minister".

The dinner is planned for Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and will be held at the Senior Staff Mess at the Royal Military College. We will gather in the mess at 6:00 pm to meet our guest and mingle with our friends. The dinner will commence at 7:00 pm. Seating is limited to 100 members and guests. The cost will be \$70 per person.

**We invite you to wear your best period costume for this event!**

**Please fill out the tear off portion noted below and send it along with your cheque made out to:**

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

**All reservations must be received no later than Monday, December 20, 2017.**

**Feel free to pass along the information for this evening. It is always fun to share a memorable event with friends! If you have any questions, please contact Anne Richardson at [richanne@hotmail.ca](mailto:richanne@hotmail.ca)**

-----  
**NAME(S):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**TELEPHONE #:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**EMAIL ADDRESS:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**NUMBER OF VEGETARIAN MEALS:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**LIST ANY FOOD ALLERGIES:**

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



## Murney Tower

This year, Murney Tower had the privilege of partaking in Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School's "Kingston Then and Now: The Merging of History with Digital and Dance" Project. The School sent over 40 students this May to take pictures of their Ballerinas with the Tower's cannons and exhibits in order to bring to light the beautiful scenery, architecture, and historical value that the Tower offers. All photos were taken and edited by Holy Cross Students, demonstrating both the young talent, and the vibrant historical community of the city. The Tower was more than delighted to see so many enthusiastic young people bring our displays to the public!

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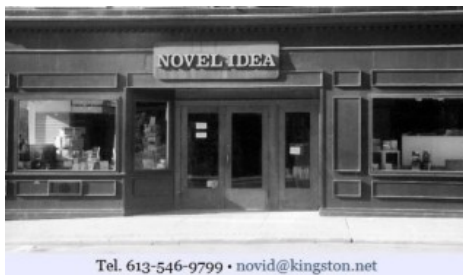
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## Awards Night~~~Christmas Party

*December 6th KHS Christmas Event*  
*Renaissance Event Venue. 285 Queen St Cash Bar and Hors D'oeuvres beginning at 6*  
*Awards presentation at 7 p.m.*

