

# Limelight

## Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

Kingston Ontario Canada

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April 2018

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Warren Everett

As part of a recent strategic planning exercise, a survey was sent out to the membership seeking input on the Society's activities. One result of the survey was that a review of our activities was likely in order. The Sir John A dinner was one that generated much interest.

Over the years attendance at the dinner has gradually decreased. A number of issues likely play a role, such as cost, fatigue around the topic, and the general decrease in the membership. If we wish to continue with a banquet style dinner, the cost at RMC is very competitive and little relief could be expected in that area. However, of these three, and there are likely more, the continuing theme of Sir John A talks seems, at least anecdotally, to be a factor. Discussions at the Council table about expanding the topic to consider talks about other Prime Ministers, such as Alexander Mackenzie, Canada's second Prime Minister, were deliberated. In view of this, a new survey on the dinner is included in this issue. Please take the time to respond. Membership feedback is critical to our success.



The programme of speakers proposed for the balance of this year and the beginning of next year promises to be interesting. However, I'm not entirely sure that the Society is providing a broad enough range in these topics. The strategic study seemed to indicate a need to widen our topics. Our last two speakers spoke about Black History in Kingston, and I found these refreshing. Sustaining a varied list of speakers takes considerable effort and in this regard my thanks to Marc Shaw, our Programme Chair. Any suggestions on speakers will be warmly received.

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### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS of Historical Interest

The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will meet on Saturday, April 21 at 9:45 a.m. sharp at the Kingston Seniors Centre, [56 Francis St.](#) Kyla Ubbink will speak on "Preservation of Documents and Photos". Visitors always welcome. Further info at [www.kingston.ogs.on.ca](http://www.kingston.ogs.on.ca)

### KHS Meeting

Seniors Centre 56 Francis St

Wednesday, April 18, 2018 7:30 pm

Speaker: Bruce Cossar

"Kingston During the American Civil War"

### CEMETERY CELEBRATION WEEKEND AT CATARAQUI UNITED CHURCH

965 SYDENHAM RD., KINGSTON, ON

**Sat. June 9th:** - time to explore the cemetery - opportunities to find family grave sites and give them some TLC  
 - information about how to clean headstones - learning about the ongoing restoration work to the cemetery at Cataraqui  
 - information about local history - stories and music from the early days of the United Empire Loyalists and the Wesleyan church at Cataraqui - people available on site who can take your requests for record searches to help with genealogies

**Sun. June 10th:** The Sunday service will feature stories of the people who came to Cataraqui as United Empire Loyalists, and the Methodist church on the hill, as well as music from over the years since 1784 at Cataraqui

## THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Established 1893 125 years ago*

*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 acknowledgment of the Society, the issue and date. 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 support of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.



### ***KHS Executive Council 2017-18***

**President:** Warren Everett **Treasurer:** Peter Ginn

**Vice-president:** Graeme Watson

**Past President:** Marcus Létourneau

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**Historic Kingston Editor:** Peter Gower

**Murney Tower Director:** Graeme Watson

**Limelight Editor:** Betty Andrews

**Membership:** Paul Van Nest: [pvannest@cogeco.ca](mailto:pvannest@cogeco.ca)

### **Councillors**

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Tabitha Renaud Anne Richardson Don Richardson

Marc Shaw

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

### **Members**

Family	72	Institutional	9
Student	1	Individual	62
Life	16	Sponsor	10

**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 Cataract Cemetery National Historic Site commemorating his death.

**SIR JOHN A. NOT GUILTY OF CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY** was the decision of The Honourable Ian Binnie, C.C., Q.C., Judge, at the mock trial performed at the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts 16 March, presented in collaboration with Queen's Faculty of Arts and Science as part of the Isabel Human Rights Arts Festival 2018. It was staged for the CBC program *Ideas*, hosted by Paul Kennedy, to be aired in April.

Prosecuting Attorney Jean Teillet and Defence Lawyer Frank Addario with witnesses for the defence Sir John A. Macdonald and Patrice Dutil on video, the case was argued, before a well-filled house, that the prime minister was responsible for the ill treatment of the indigenous peoples in Canada in the Red River area in the 1890's. While cleared of criminal culpability, Sir John did not escape censure. To listen to the arguments and to the judge's opinion, tune in to the ***Ideas* program 11 April 2018.**

## KINGSTON REGIONAL HERITAGE FAIR

It is that time of year again! The Kingston Regional Heritage Fair Committee is hard at work planning for Heritage Fair 2018, and we would appreciate your support.

Kingston Regional Heritage Fair 2018 will be held on **Thursday May 10, 2018 at Duncan MacArthur Hall, Queen's University**. The schedule for the day will run similarly to last year, with students arriving to be registered at 8am, and judging sessions running from 9:30am-2:45pm (lunch at 11:30am). This will be followed by the specialty judging and award selection, and then finally our recognition assembly at 3pm.

As usual, there are volunteer opportunities for **Morning, Afternoon, and All Day positions** (with All Day volunteers receiving a **Free Lunch!**)

If you are interested in signing up as a volunteer, please register:

English <http://www.krhf.ca/registration/volunteers>

French <http://www.krhf.ca/fr/inscription/benevoles>

If you have any additional questions, we'd be happy to answer them at [info@krhf.ca](mailto:info@krhf.ca)

### City invites Kingstonians to become City Hall tour guides.

Ryan J. Leary, RPP, MCIP, CAHP Senior Planner, Heritage Planning, Building & Licensing Services

The City of Kingston is seeking history enthusiasts to help share the many fascinating stories of Kingston City Hall as City Hall tour guides.

"If you love the city's culture and heritage and love and enjoy public presentation, we encourage you to apply to become a City Hall ambassador," says Jennifer Campbell, manager of cultural heritage. "As a tour guide, you will have the opportunity to share the histories behind the artifacts, portraits and architecture within this National Historic Site."

We are seeking candidates fluent in another language including French and Chinese. Full training will be offered to all new tour guides. Tour guides volunteer from May to October, with flexible weekday shifts.

All interested in being a City Hall tour guide are asked to complete an application. Applications are available at the reception desk in the Heritage Resource Centre (HRC) at City Hall or by contacting [bpoirier@cityofkingston.ca](mailto:bpoirier@cityofkingston.ca).

Please return your application in person c/o: Ben Poirier, to HRC reception desk in City Hall or return via email to [bpoirier@cityofkingston.ca](mailto:bpoirier@cityofkingston.ca).

Visit <<http://www.cityofkingston.ca/cityhalltours>> for more information on the tours and the history of Kingston's City Hall .

### **Exhibition: Events of a Military Life in Kingston**

28 April to 5 August 2018

Frances K. Smith Gallery

Agnes Etherington Art Centre

36 University Avenue, Kingston

featuring watercolours and drawings of

Charles F. Gibson, Ensign at Kingston in 1831-1832

picturing the construction of the Rideau Canal

and the rebuilding of Fort Henry;

also works by Lieutenant Edward Charles Frome,

Sir Richard Henry Bonnycastle,

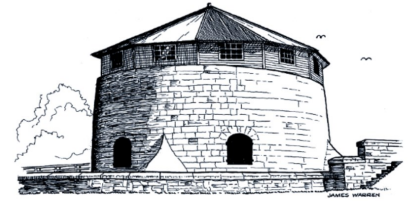
and Harriet Dobbs Cartwright

Curated by Susan M. Bazely



# Murney Tower

Operated by the Kingston Historical Society

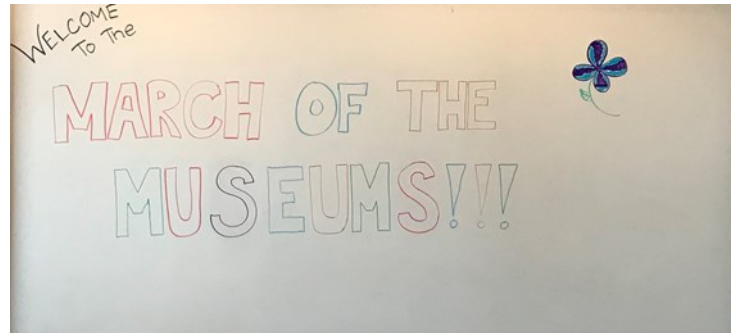


## *March of the Museums!*

This year for March Break Murney Tower Museum participated in the March of the Museums!

March of the Museums was a collaborative initiative that used the Military Communications and Electronics Museum site as a programming venue. It was a partnership between Military Communications and Electronics Museums, Frontenac County Schools Museum, Royal Military College of Canada Museum, Murney Tower Museum and the Kingston Association of Museums, Art Galleries and Historic Sites. The premise was to offer a “pop-in” event that was free for families looking for activities during the March Break.

Murney Tower and RMC Museum partnered to paint and build a Martello Towers - using Styrofoam cups, Muffin tin liners and craft paint or markers, participants could design and decorate their own Martello tower. The other sites also offered activities such as paper weaving an Easter egg, Morse Code beading and Elenco Snap Circuits© kits and we ended the week by building a fort!



**Murney Tower Museum Curator Danielle Marshall and a participant with completed Martello Tower**



Samples of Martello towers created





Participants in front of the balloon Martello tower



Volunteer and a participant building a fort on Friday

## **SPEAKER'S CORNER**

**BY MARC SHAW**

On Wednesday, March 21, Rick Neilson spoke to the Society on the life story of Joseph George (1821-1910), relatively unknown today, but in his time clearly a powerhouse of industry in Kingston. Joseph George, an African-American born in Pennsylvania, came here as a young man, and over the course of his long life distinguished himself in any number of enterprises - entrepreneur (from operating grist mills to melodeon manufacturing), inventor, property owner and man-about-town, much remarked on and quoted in the daily press. Rick's research was mostly comprised of a vast array of news stories, notices and advertisements from the daily papers, and what emerges from his prodigious research is an almost year-by-year account of the life of an unusual man who deserves to be better known. Our thanks to Rick for bringing this chapter of Kingston history to life.



Murney Tower Director Graeme Watson with 3D printed model of the Murney Tower made from laser-scanned data.



Speaker Rick Neilson is introduced by KHS member, Doug Petty

Photos by Marc Shaw



# MUSEUMS OF KINGSTON

## The Kingston Scout Museum

Bill Lewis

The Scout museum was created in 2007 to celebrate the centenary of Scouting formed by Baden Powell in 1907.

A request for donations brought about a deluge of uniforms, badges flags etc from the 1930's on, with photographs and books dating from the very early 1900's. Articles were selected for displays assembled in the *Selby Scout* all at the Northern end of MacDonnell St. (Close to the intersection of Princess & Bath.)



Beaver Display



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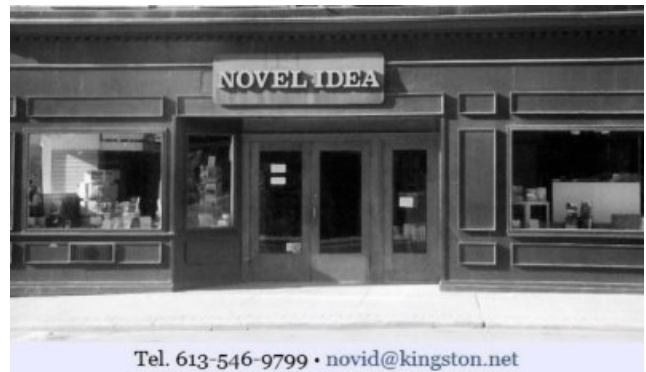


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## THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

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

Wednesday, June 6, 2018, at 1:30 pm  
Cataraqi Cemetery National Historic Site  
927 Purdy Mills Road, Kingston, Ontario

*The public is invited to join the Kingston Historical Society,  
members of the Fort Henry Guard,  
Bellevue House historical ambassadors,  
representatives of Cataraqi 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 127th anniversary of the passing  
of Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's First Prime Minister.*

Guest Speaker: Patrice Dutil,

author of : *Prime Ministerial Power in Canada:  
Its Origins under Macdonald, Laurier and Borden*

Title of his presentation is : "**Sir John A 'at rest': What it meant, what it means**"

**Information:** Alan MacLachlan, Commemoration Service Chair  
Tel: [\(613\)549-8841](tel:6135498841) Cell [\(613\)453-7078](tel:6134537078) [alaguide20@gmail.com](mailto:alaguide20@gmail.com)

Alternate location in unfavourable weather  
Christ Church Cataraqi, [900 Sydenham Rd., Kingston](http://www.churchcatharqui.org)