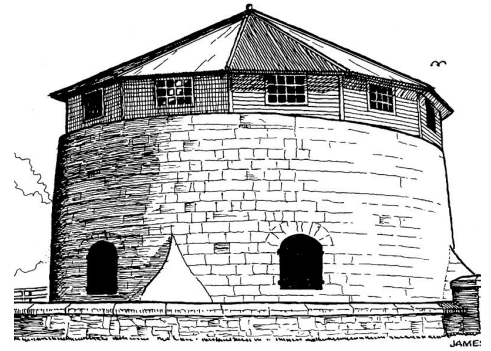


Limelight

Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

Kingston Ontario Canada

Volume 20 no 5 ISSN 1488-5565 May 2018



President's Report

Warren Everett

Throughout the last 125 years, the strength of our Society has been our volunteers. Since the inception of the Society, these volunteers have devoted literally hundreds of hours of their time to ensure that this Society remains active and strong. Recently, four of our volunteers were awarded the Ontario Ontario Service Award. They are:



Betty Andrews, for 15 years of volunteer service; over those years Betty served on the Council of the Society in a number of positions. Most recently, she has been the Editor of Limelight. Limelight is crucial to spreading the word to our members and she has done excellent work!

Alan MacLachlan, for 15 years of volunteer service; in those 15 years Alan held the position of Vice-President, President and Past President, as well as Programme Chair and now is the June 6th Coordinator. He has given truly yeoman service to the Society. The Society is the better for his long service.

Don Richardson for 5 years of volunteer service; initially as a council member, he has lately served as Secretary to the Council. Don's enthusiasm and attention to detail is indispensable for the business of Council.

Paul Van Nest for 5 years of volunteer service; initially as a member of Council, he serves now as the Membership Chair. Most of you will be familiar with Paul round about the annual renewal time!

I recognize that not all of our volunteers serve on Council. There are a number who work quietly in the background. One of these is Charmaine Martel – Murney Tower Museum Volunteer. In her short time at the Tower, Charmaine has helped in numerous ways, assisting with the collection inventory, exhibition research and design, French translations and various other Tower-related activities. Charmaine is a valuable addition to the Tower's team. We are lucky to have her!

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KINGSTON REGIONAL HERITAGE FAIR

THURSDAY, MAY 10TH 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)

Kingston Historical Society Meeting

May 16, 2018 7:30 p.m.

Seniors Centre 56 Francis Street

Speaker: Walter Lewis

"The Ives Family of Kingston"

The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will meet on Saturday, May 19 at 9:45 a.m. at the Kingston Seniors Centre, 56 Francis St. James Brownell, president of the Lost Villages Historical Society, will speak on "Through the Lands of the Lost Villages". Visitors always welcome. Further details at www.kingston.ogs.on.ca

We note with regret the passing of a long-time KHS member, historian J.K. Johnson, who died 13 April 2018. He was the author of *Affectionately Yours: The Letters of Sir John A. Macdonald and his Family*.

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 .**

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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 11 January honouring his birth, and a service on June 6th at the Cataraqui Cemetery National Historic Site commemorating his death.

KHS Executive Council 2017-18

President: Warren Everett **Treasurer:** Peter Ginn
Vice-president: Graeme Watson **Past President:** Marcus Létourneau
Secretary: Don Richardson **Webmaster:** Peter Gower
Historic Kingston Editor: Peter Gower
Murney Tower Director: Graeme Watson
Limelight Editor: Betty Andrews
Membership: Paul Van Nest: pvan nest@cogeco.ca
Councillors Joe Brites Duncan McDowall Alan MacLachlan
Tabitha Renaud Anne Richardson Don Richardson Marc Shaw

MEMBER-SHIP RATES

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

Jane's Walk

This year, Kingston's Jane's Walk weekend offers more than ever; more variety, more destinations, more choices. Join a cycle tour, a guided podcast tour or a traditional walk. Knowledgeable residents will lead you around RMC and Barriefield in the east, the old Morton Brewery site and Portsmouth Harbour in the west and part of the K&P trail in the north, as well as historic parks and neighbourhoods in between. The walks are free and take place Friday May 4th, Saturday May 5th and Sunday May 6th, mornings and afternoons, rain or shine. For more details:

<https://janeswalkkingston.wordpress.com/>

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

Saturday, May 12: Peter Gower has offered to give tours of the crypt and the tower of St. George's Cathedral (both in about one hour). The tours will be limited to five people each, starting at 1 p.m., and will run through the afternoon. Please call Peter Gower at 613-329-2480 or email him at peter.gower@sympatico.ca to confirm attendance. This is a unique chance to see one of Kingston's truly special buildings.

The Frontenac Heritage Foundation will be holding its Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday, June 6th** at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre at [36 University Ave.](#) The business portion will start at 7 p.m. Afterwards, at about 8 p.m., Sue Bazely, well known archaeologist and doctoral candidate, will give us a talk and tour of the show about the art of Charles F. Gibson which she has curated for the Agnes. Refreshments to follow.



Kingston & District Branch United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada invite you to attend.

Place: Minos Village Restaurant, 2762 Princess Street, Kingston

Date and Time: Wednesday, May 30, 2017. 6:00 p.m. for 6:30 seating. Free parking.

Speaker: Jennifer DeBruin, Central Region East UELAC Regional Councillor

Topic: "The History of Slavery along the St. Lawrence River"

Menu:

House Salad

CHOICE OF:

Chicken Cotoleta
(Double breast of chicken, lightly breaded topped with mushroom sherry sauce)

OR

Panko Crusted Grouper
Grilled to perfection

OR

New York Cut Steak
Premium quality beef, well trimmed

Each meal comes with rice, potato and steamed vegetables

Dessert

Coffee or Tea

Cost: \$45 including tax and gratuity.

Cash Bar Available

Must specify choice of entrée when ordering tickets. Please note any food accommodations required, e.g. "No sauce" or "No salad dressing" or "Vegetarian".

Tickets may be ordered by sending a cheque payable to **Kingston & District UELAC** to PO Box 635, Kingston ON, K7L 4X1 before May 21, 2018. Tickets will not be mailed, but will be held for you at the door. A confirmation email will be sent upon receipt of your payment: include your email and telephone number when ordering your tickets.

For further details, please contact kingston.uelac@gmail.com or call Nancy at 613-549-2280 or Anne at 613-483-3245 (cell & text) or visit www.uelac.org/Kingston-Branch.

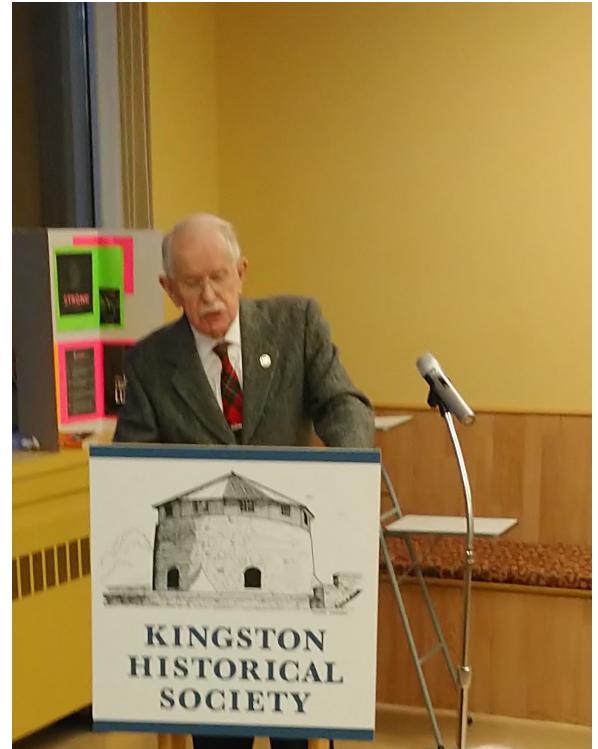
Name: _____

Number of tickets: _____ Choice of entrée and number of each: _____

Evening Telephone: _____ Email: _____

The FHF is hosting a talk by Ron Brown, well known author based in Toronto, who is going to be speaking to his book called the "The Top 150 Unusual Things to See in Ontario". This will be held on **Tuesday, June 26** in the Upper Hall at the Spire at [82 Sydenham Street](#), starting at 7:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, April 18th, Bruce Cossar gave another of his informative and fact-filled talks on “Kingston During the American Civil War.” He spoke about the city businesses which were still recovering from Kingston’s no longer being a capital city, and from the improvements to the St. Lawrence River, which took trade away from Kingston. He noted that, while Kingston’s population was about 27,000 people, over 51,000 people were killed and wounded at Gettysburg alone. Kingston was still a military town and had new Martello towers ready to fend off any invasion. There were 17 churches and 19 fraternal Lodges. There was a Hospital, there was Queen’s College, there were at-homes and dances – and many taverns. And there were newspapers. These tended not to write very knowledgeably about the Civil War, at least at first. Three days after the attack on Fort Sumter, the Whig announced “THE BLOODY WAR NEARLY OVER”. There were reports from the south as the war continued, but they were brief and often inaccurate. Much of the news received from the letters sent from the battlefronts and published in the papers was of more value. Gettysburg was hardly mentioned, but Lincoln’s death provoked an outpouring of grief, and many businesses closed for three hours in mourning.



The Reverend Bruce Cossar addresses the gathering. A new KHS sign, created for this podium, is being used for the first time.

Bruce also followed the lives of several Kingstonians who served in the war, usually on the side of the north. Many served as physicians, showing what a good medical education Queen’s gave, even then. Dr. Alfred Sales Oliver, Dr. Francis Moses Wafer, Charles Brownley and Dr. Thomas Dupuis all played their valuable parts, and gave Kingston a small role in the Civil War. This was another memorable evening as we learned about Kingston 150 years ago, on the sideline of a major continental event.

Murney Tower

Operated by the Kingston Historical Society



The new guides at the Murney Tower are busily engaged in making themselves familiar with the history and artefacts of the tower in preparation for the 2018 season, which opens Saturday, May 19. The students hired for this year are Nicole of the University of British Columbia, Yanny of Queen’s University, and Adam of Queen’s University.

The Murney Tower Museum is pleased to unveil its new exhibition, KaBoom, on the gun platform. This exhibition renewal was made possible with monies from the City of Kingston Heritage Fund. For more information on what’s happening at the Tower this season check out our

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MurneyTowerMuseum>;

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MurneyTower> or

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/murneytower>

Take advantage of the free entry to the site to which your KHS membership entitles you, and visit soon. Bring along your summer guests.

MUSEUMS OF KINGSTON

Murney Tower

DAILY BRITISH WHIG

Saturday, August 1, 1925

KINGSTON'S MUSEUM IS ITSELF A CURIO

What the Quaint Tower Now
Contains—Formal Opening
Saturday Afternoon

To-day, the dream of the Kingston Historical Society is realized for at last the city of Kingston has a museum, and a museum that in itself is a curio of the greatest interest. "No other Canadian city is fortunate enough to have been given a real fortification in which to keep its treasures." Kingston's quaint martello towers have always been one of her attractions since they were built in the early forties, and the old tower, opened to the public for the first time to-day, will draw many visitors within its walls if only to see the way the Royal Engineers, stationed in Kingston about 1842, built the thick walls; to peep into the old well that was to provide water for a besieged garrison; to enter the caponnières or small chambers that guarded the moat, through a narrow stone passage, passing the iron gate, rusty with age; to see the loopholes where the sharpshooters might pick off the enemy who ventured over the stone escarpment of the moat.

On the main floor there are many objects of interest and still more will be collected as time goes on. The cannon are in their embrasures as of old and the grape shot supplied for the guns is still in the tower. A splendid collection of rifles of a by-gone pattern are here, and on the upper storey are various curios of less war-like character. Spinning wheels, old candle moulds used by the first settlers, a pewter teapot and coffee pot loaned by a Kingston lady, a smoking set used by the late Sir John Macdonald, a quaint foot warmer, a horn lantern taken from old Fort Frontenac, pictures of Kingston in the early days and books and documents, which are of the greatest interest and of historic value.

At half-past four the museum will be opened by Hon. W.F. Nickle, M.P.P. His worship, the mayor, and a representative of aldermen, Brig.-General A.E. Ross, M.P., and Brig.-General Hill have been invited to be present. Among the members of the committee in charge of the arrangements are Mrs. E.J. Adams, vice-president, Mr. J.H. Mitchell, the secretary; Mrs. Norman Fraser, Mrs. W.B. Carey, The I.O.D.E. will take charge of refreshments, Mrs. T.M. Asselstine, regent of Lasalle Chapter being convener of the committee.

Article from *Historic Kingston* No. 24 1976 p 88 .

Reprint of column from *Daily British Whig*, Saturday, August 1, 1925

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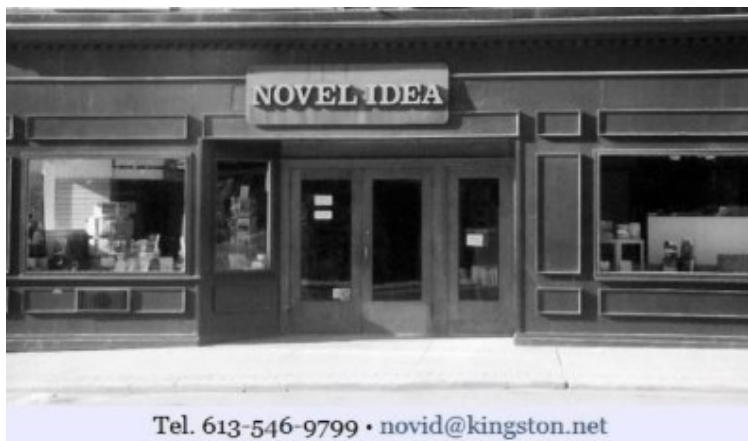
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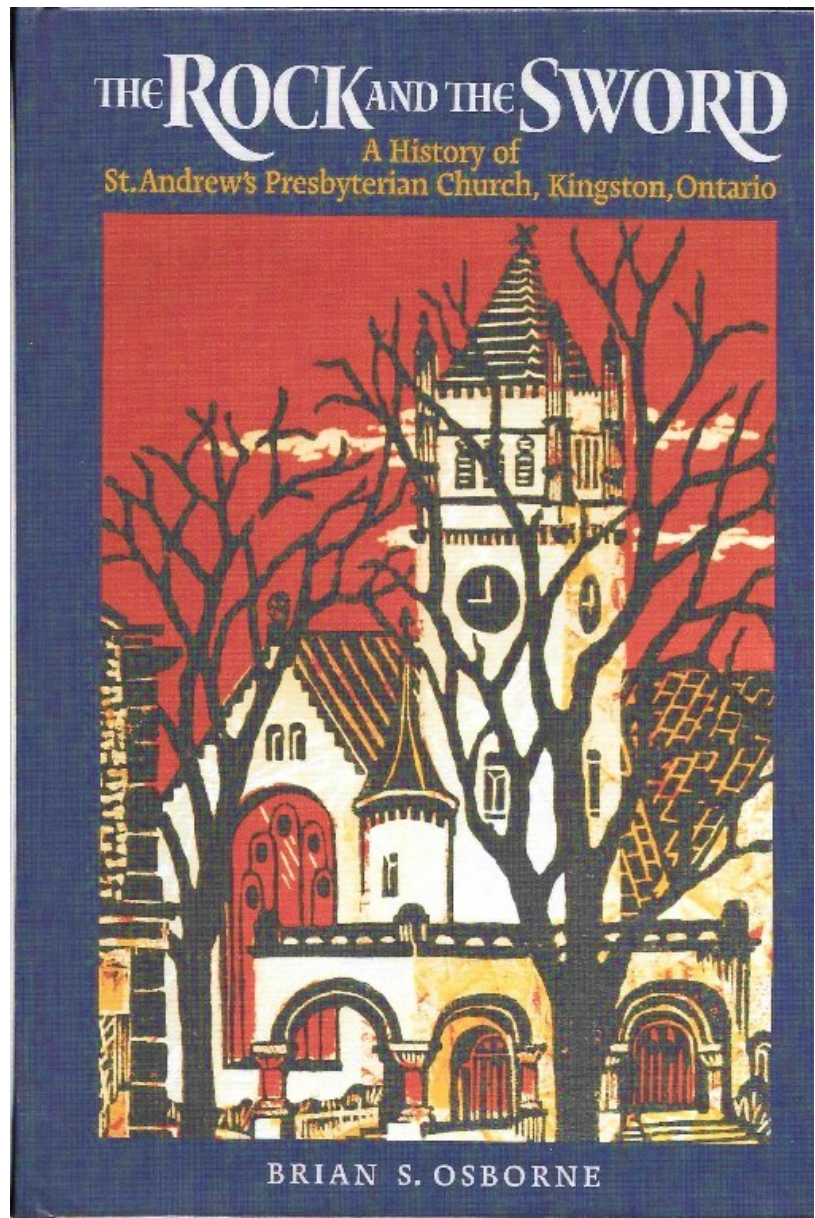
A BOOK SALE FOR KINGSTON HISTORIANS

In 1817 a group of Kingston residents met at the newly-opened Moore's Coffee House on Store (Princess) Street and pledged personal subscriptions that led to the establishment of St. Andrew's Church.

In 2017, to mark the bicentenary of this event, the church sponsored a new and updated edition of Brian Osborne's 2008 volume, *The Rock and the Sword: A History of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Kingston, Ontario* (Heinrich Heine Press). Because of the generosity of benefactors, this volume was first made available to members of the congregation. Now, a year later, St. Andrew's wishes to offer the remaining volumes to Kingstonians interested in the history of their community

If 2017 marked the commemoration of the bicentenary of St. Andrew's, it was also the 175th anniversary of the founding of Queen's University and the 150th anniversary of Canada's Confederation, events also connected to the church history. Further, St. Andrew's has been central to the history of Kingston, a theme that runs through the 460 pages of *The Rock and the Sword*. Its story contributes to a fuller understanding of our community.

Accordingly, at 2-4 pm on Saturday, 5 May, the few remaining volumes of *The Rock and the Sword* will be on sale to the public at large at a reception hosted by St. Andrew's at Novel Idea (156 Princess Street). Please join us.





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 Cell (613)453-7078 alaguide20@gmail.com

Alternate location in unfavourable weather
Christ Church Cataraqi, 900 Sydenham Rd., Kingston