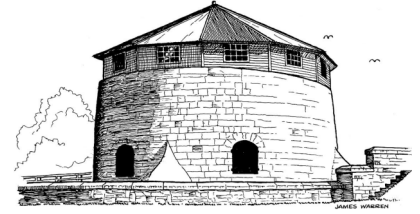


# Limelight

## Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

Kingston Ontario Canada

Volume 20 no 6 ISSN 1488-5565 September 2018



### September KHS Meeting **Venue Change**

Wednesday, September 19 , 2018 7:30pm

**For This Event - KHS Members Only**

**Meeting to be Held at the Senior Staff Mess at RMC - 9 Point Frederick Drive.**

*A tour of the RMC Commandant's Residence is kindly offered by*

*RMC Commandant BGen Sebastien Bouchard and his wife, Karen.*

**Presenters :** Robert Banks, Sue Bazely

**Topic :** "Reassessing the age and origin of two Royal Navy Buildings on Point Frederick."

The presentation will describe 2017 research on **the origin and history of the RMC Commandant's Residence**. The approach combined the fields of archival research archaeology, architectural history, curation and engineering. The results confirmed earlier opinions that the walls of an early 19th century Royal Navy (RN) surgeon's dwelling remain within the current Commandant's Residence. The wall construction was dated at 1817. It was also determined that another building, now a guest house, was the kitchen of the RN Hospital and may be contemporaneous with the War of 1812.

**Doors open 7pm**



### ANNOUNCEMENT

As a follow-up to the message from the President, Warren Everett, we are making changes to the annual dinner based on your input from the survey. We invite you to attend the inaugural Canadian Heritage Dinner – Sponsored by the Kingston Historical Society. This will allow the society to offer a more varied and diverse range of topics for the dinner speakers. This event will take place on Saturday, February 23, 2019 to coincide with Heritage Week and will be held at the Senior Staff Mess at RMC. Please set the date aside. Further details will follow.

**LIMELIGHT** is published nine times a year, September to May.

Please forward submissions to the Editor [betty.andrews@gmail.com](mailto:betty.andrews@gmail.com) Reprinting of articles from the Limelight must be accompanied by acknowledgement of the Society, the issue and date.

Photo credits and by-lines must be retained.

*The KHS gratefully acknowledges the support of its sponsors in producing Limelight.*



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## MEMBERSHIP RATES

**\$300 Sponsor**

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

## 2018-19 KHS Executive Council

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Treasurer: Peter Ginn Secretary: Don Richardson Webmaster: Peter Gower  
Editor, Historic Kingston: Peter Gower Editor, Limelight: Betty Andrews  
Murney Tower Director: Graeme Watson  
Membership Chair: Paul Van Nest [paulvannest@cogeco.ca](mailto:paulvannest@cogeco.ca)

**Councillors** Joe Brites Duncan McDowall Alan MacLachlan  
Tabitha Renaud Anne Richardson Marc Shaw

## Message from the President

Warren Everett



Welcome back from an unusually hot summer break. I trust all have enjoyed the weather and are looking forward to a new and exciting year! The annual Sir John A. Macdonald Grave Site Ceremony was a great success. As Emcee, Don Richardson provided yeoman service in both official languages. The speaker, Patrice Dutil, whose topic was: *Sir John A. at rest, what it meant and what it means*, was very well received. He spoke to the current controversy around Sir John, providing a balanced approach to the subject. Thank you to Alan Mac Lachlan and his team for providing a first rate speaker and ceremony again this year.

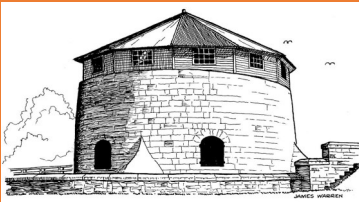
Over the summer, the KHS council dealt with the difficult issue of the Sir John A. Macdonald Annual Dinner. After receiving the results of a comprehensive survey from the membership, it became apparent that the annual January 11<sup>th</sup> dinner to celebrate his birth had run its course. However, it was agreed that it was not the desire to curtail the celebration of Sir John and his accomplishments that drove this decision, but that the topic has reached an acceptable conclusion, and a broader approach to the history of Kingston and Canada is desirable. To that end, the Council decided to cancel the Macdonald birthday dinner in January in favour of holding one in February during Heritage Week. More details will follow in future issues of Limelight.

Programme Chair Marc Shaw has put together a very interesting schedule of speakers for this coming season. We'll be starting the year with a unique experience. The September presentation, "Reassessing the age and origin of two Royal Navy Buildings on Point Frederick", will take place at the Senior Staff Mess, RMC, and following the talk, the Commandant of RMC will host a tour of his home. This meeting will be for members only. Please see Page 1 of this issue of Limelight for details. The coming year is one of changes and challenges. I look forward to the opportunity of meeting with you and discussing these issues. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have concerns or suggestions for the future of the Society.

KHS meetings featuring speakers on topics of historical interest are held on the third Wednesday of the months from September to May at the Seniors Centre, 56 Francis Street, Kingston, except in December when an awards ceremony and gala is held, usually at a different time and location. There are two annual events, the celebration of the life of Canada's first Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald held at his graveside in the Cataraqui Cemetery National Historic Site on 6 June, the date of his death in 1891; and the Society's Canadian Heritage Dinner in early January.

Historic Kingston, the journal of the proceedings of the Kingston Historical Society, is published annually.

The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will meet on Saturday, September 15th at 9:30 a.m. at the Kingston Seniors Centre, 56 Francis St. Shirley-Ann Pyefinch from the Ottawa Family History Centre, will speak on "Making the Most of FamilySearch.org". Visitors always welcome. Further details at [www.kingston.ogs.on.ca](http://www.kingston.ogs.on.ca)



## **Murney Tower Operated by the Kingston Historical Society**

**Olivier L-C Fontaine    Officer Cadet  
Princess of Wales Own Regiment**

Kingston is a city with a rich history; from being a home of Canada's first Prime Minister to its location at the intersection of three waterways, this city has enough historical significance to be of importance. There is a part of Kingston which has been deemed a UNESCO World heritage site: the Rideau Canal defences. Although Fort Henry was the largest fortification built west of Quebec City in British North America and was the first fortification to be built to protect Kingston, there exist additional defences which are considered to be part of a World Heritage site, Fort Frontenac and the four Martello Towers built in Kingston. As we all know, none of these fortifications was attacked, thus they are not the sites of any battles, yet they are still historically significant. The lack of deliberate destruction by the invading Americans has led to the preservation of Murney Tower. Most of the architecture which exists today is the same stone which was put there by the Corps of Royal Engineers in the 1840s. By examining this building, we can learn the degree to which the Royal Engineers had progressed and how they solved specific problems which they faced, like the echoing in the caponnières when the rifles were fired from within. During my research, I discovered that their solution to this problem was simply to do nothing. The engineers could not afford to build the tower with comfort in mind because their primary focus was always on protecting the lives of the soldiers, not their hearing. To solve this problem, the soldiers would often tear out a part of their tunic's lining and insert it into their ears as makeshift ear plugs. However, this was never a problem with the garrison at Murney Tower, as they never fired their rifles from within the tower, yet this little piece of history was almost lost to time. On the surface, this question would not be able to have been answered, but the opportunity to answer it was given to me through Queen's University, and has been appreciated. The internship with Murney Tower Museum, has given me the chance to do independent research on a topic in history which I not only enjoy studying but which also provided an insight into the past of both my chosen professions. I desire to pursue a career as a history teacher at the secondary level; I am also currently a member of the Princess of Wales Own Regiment, based in Kingston, and I plan to pursue an additional career in the Canadian Army Reserve. Although Murney Tower with its subsequent museum is but a footnote in both Kingston's and Canada's history, it has been recognized as important by many organizations committed to preserving history. Today, it stands as a glimpse of the past with the ability to show how the military and Canada once functioned, and it also stands as a monument to what could have been a second war between Canada and the United States. Just as its presence was important when it was built, it continues to be important to this day. So important is Murney tower that it is on the official emblem of CFB Kingston and on one of the most used snapchat filters. I am glad I could do my small part in preserving its rich history.

The Murney Tower Museum is thrilled to be participating in the Community Exhibits Program at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario from July 2018 to January 2019. This is a great opportunity for cultural organizations from across Ontario to showcase their treasures and share their stories with a wider audience.

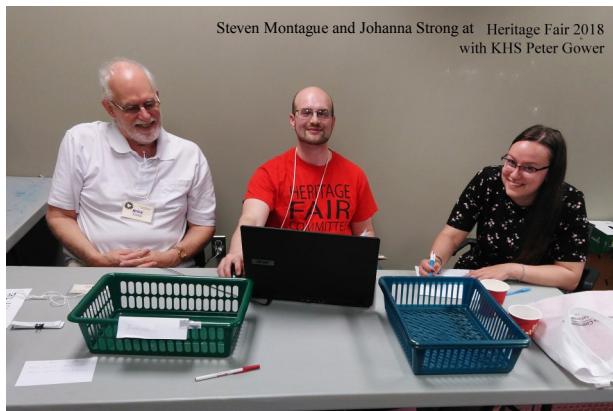
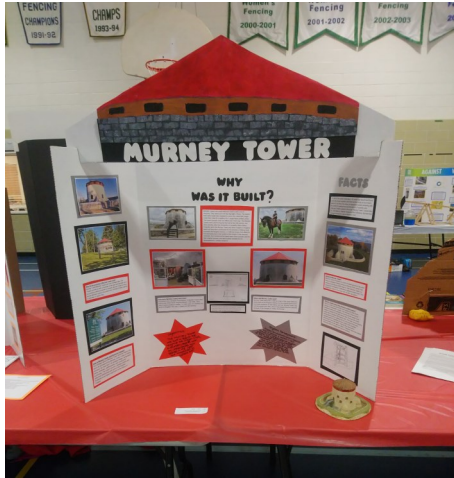


### **Kingston Regional Heritage Fair 2018**

**by Tabitha Renaud**

The Kingston Historical Society proudly sponsored the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Kingston Regional Heritage Fair in May. The fair was hosted on May 10<sup>th</sup> at McArthur Hall at Queen's University West Campus and was attended by 261 students from various schools in the region from Grade 4 to 8. There were over 100 individual or group projects submitted by students to be judged by community volunteers, and the children were divided into nine groups that rotated through an exciting day of activities including seven workshops and fifteen interactive booths. Murney Tower Museum (KHS) attended with a booth and interacted with hundreds of students, teachers, parents, volunteers and community members. The general public was welcome to view the projects and booths during an Open House timeslot and to attend the unveiling of the judging results at the Awards Ceremony. The fair is always looking for volunteers to assist on fair day and to help coordinate the fair throughout the year. Donations are also greatly appreciated! Learn more here: <https://www.krhf.ca/>

## Kingston Regional Heritage Fair 2018



Steven Montague and Johanna Strong at Heritage Fair 2018  
with KHS Peter Gower



### ***38 Hours To Montreal***

There is a new book at Novel Idea in Kingston, *38 Hours To Montreal*, which tells the amazing story of a road trip in 1840 that went right through Kingston! In February of 1840, William Weller, the Stagecoach King, drove Governor General Charles Poulett Thomson from Toronto to Montreal in under 38 hours. Not only was it a land speed record, but the political context made the media reports of the trip even more intense. The Mackenzie Rebellion was just two years past, Lord Durham (Thomson's boss) had completed his Durham Report and then Thomson was appointed as the next GG, sent to Canada to implement the recommendations of the Report. That's what he had been doing in Toronto and now needed to get to Montreal in a hurry to finish the work there. Oh, yes, they were under the pressure of time, needing to arrive in Montreal in under 38 hours. Of course, it was in the fall of 1841 that GG Thomson died in Kingston after a riding accident. He was interred beneath St. George's Cathedral, a sad ending to a fascinating career that had an impact on Canadian history. The book is documented history written as a narrative so that the reader can sit on the bench with Mr. Weller, seeing the road (where did it go in 1840?) and all the buildings along the way, several that still exist today. There is some history of every town and village along the way (including Kingston and area), a snapshot of Upper Canada in 1840.

For more information see author's website  
[www.danbuchananhistoryguy.com](http://www.danbuchananhistoryguy.com)

### *Speaker's Corner*

*by Marc Shaw*

At the 6 May 2018 meeting, KHS members and guests were treated to a most vibrant recreation of an early chapter in Kingston's history. Walter Lewis, a noted maritime historian, spoke on the history of the Ives family, which made its way to Kingston from New England around 1818 and flourished on the waterfront until 1851. During that time, the Ives were involved in numerous enterprises that included shipbuilding, towing, salvaging, inventing and real estate holdings which included a hotel and tavern. Over the 30-odd years the family was in Kingston, the family's reputation improved as its members' activities evolved from brawling and smuggling to more respectable pursuits. Walter's talk was energetic and copiously illustrated, and a lengthy question period followed the presentation.

# The 126th Sir John A. Macdonald Graveside Ceremony

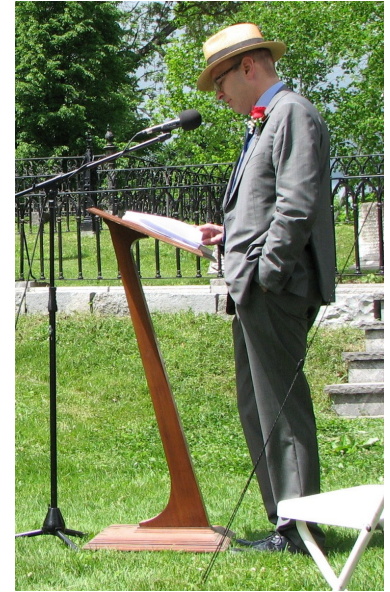
by Alan MacLachlan



Alan MacLachlan, Event Chair  
Photo E. Barnes

Unlike last year, the weather permitted the 2018 Commemorative Service to be held in the Cataraqui Cemetery at Sir John A. Macdonald's graveside. With the sun, a timely zephyr and approximately 175 people in attendance, the annual KHS 6 June ceremony commenced at 1:30 pm. The new Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Donald Richardson, orchestrated the event in French and English with adroitness and attention to detail. After the opening remarks by Mr. Richardson, Ms. Donna Ivey led in the singing of the national anthem, *O Canada*. The Reverend Andrew Johnston of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church gave a First Nations Prayer and a reading from the Bible. Following a welcome by the KHS President Warren Everett, Dr. Patrice Dutil, professor of Politics and Public Administration at Ryerson University, spoke. Dr. Dutil's talk was entitled: "Macdonald 'at rest': What it meant and what it means." His emphasis was on Macdonald's work ethic, which had been deemed of a high standard and was employed by succeeding Prime Ministers such as Laurier, Borden and Mackenzie King. Dr. Dutil's address will be published in an upcoming issue of *Historic Kingston*. After the laying of fourteen wreaths by representative of the three levels of government and of organizations affiliated with Sir John, the lament was played by a piper from the Fort Henry Guard, and the last Post and Reveille were played by a Fort Henry bugler. The benediction was given by The Reverend Andrew Johnston. In closing, Ms Donna Ivey led the singing of *God Save the Queen*. Refreshments were served at the Cataraqui Cemetery outdoor chapel. Special thanks go to Sgt. Marc LaPorte of the R.C.M.P, to the staff of Bellevue House, to the Fort Henry Guard, and to the Cataraqui Cemetery staff. Dr. Brian Osborne, Peter Radley and Patricia McGinniss also rendered invaluable assistance in making the day a success. I thank committee members Barbara Bonner, Eva Barnes, Peter Radley, Bob Lemmon, Craig Boals, George Muggleton, Mark Bennett and Alex McLean for their effort and dedication reflected in the production of this 126th Sir John A. Macdonald Graveside Ceremony.

Don Richardson, Master of Ceremonies  
Photo Anne Richardson



Speaker Dr. Patrice Dutil

Photo Eva Barnes



## Laying of the Wreaths

Photos Eva Barnes





Piper, bugler and guards from Fort Henry.  
Tower,  
Photos by Eva Barnes



Yanni Zhang Nicole Mulder from the Murney  
Matthew Eliot and Colleen Ruth from Bellevue  
House

### Among those Attending

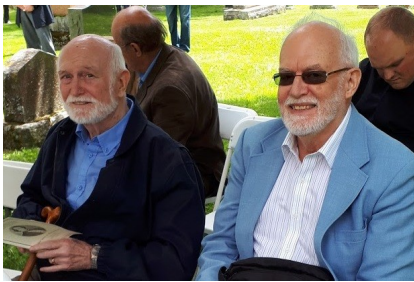


Photo by Eva Barnes



The Reverend Andrew John-  
ston and a group from St. An-  
drew's Presbyterian Church  
Photo by Eva Barnes



Photo by Anne Richardson



Photo by Eva Barnes

## KHS Provides Interpreters for Rotary Event

by Paul Van Nest

The Rotary Clubs from our district: Deep River, Montreal, Plattsburg, Watertown, Napanee, Smiths Falls and Perth, were represented by about 70 persons on a Saturday morning 12 May 2018, visiting Kingston. Their object was to raise funds toward The Rotary Foundation. This foundation is supported by 1.2 million Rotarians in over 120 countries of the world, dedicated to implementing projects to help countries and regions that need assistance. These projects can be wells, schools, teachers who train teachers, micro banks, etc.

But their singular project, since 1987, has been dedicated to the eradication of polio in the world. To do this, we are immunizing the children of the world. Before we started in 1987, maybe 300,000 children were infected annually; this past year, the number was maybe 25 in only two remaining countries. But the work is not complete; this number needs to be zero for three years. Rotary, assisted by Bill Gates, and WHO and the Centre for Disease Control (Atlanta GA) have more work still to do and therefore the need for more money – such as provided through The Rotary Foundation!

So Rotarians thanked the KHS for its part in their Foundation Walk. This was the first held in Kingston and, for the first time, this year's organizer Rotarian Murray Matheson thought that the walk should show off Kingston's history. Rotarian Paul Van Nest worked with Murray and his committee to lay out 5 historical vignettes along their route. The result was that, following a 10 minute orientation on the history of Kingston by Paul in the amphitheatre behind City Hall, 5 groups of 15 each were led to 5 centres, hosted by five of our members. Each gave a 5 minute (max) presentation on their feature before sending them on to the next.

Peter Gower met them at St. George's; Alan MacLachlan at City Park and Sir John A.'s statue; Vincent Durant at the Celtic cross and the Pump House; Marc Shaw at the dry dock and the locomotive works; and finally Paul Van Nest at the Delta Hotel's overlook of the river: the Martello towers, city park and the façade of City Hall. Luckily, the weather was outstanding: sunny and cool. And Rotary raised \$1,400 for The Rotary Foundation: 70 people x \$20 each. And 70 Rotarians now know about the Kingston Historical Society!

First Capital Day, 1 June. Alison Ginn gives a spinning and weaving demonstration

Photo Eva Barnes



Greg Baran, Surgeon Demonstration First Capital Day, 1 June.

Photo Eva Barnes



General Benoit Puga, Grand Chancellor of the Legion of Honour, and Colonel Mark Hutchings. The photo was taken May 10th, 2018, at the French Embassy in Ottawa, on the occasion of Colonel Hutchings being awarded the Legion of Honour for his leadership in the building of the Hill 70 Memorial in Loos-en-Gohelle, France, and contributing to maintaining the remembrance of the sacrifices in World War I.



Surgeon Baran  
Demonstrations

First Capital Day,  
1 June.

Photo Eva  
Barnes



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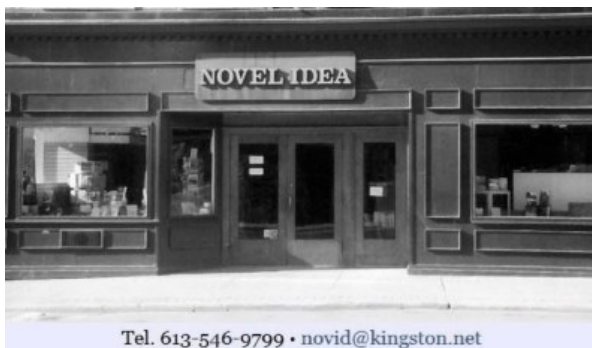


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