

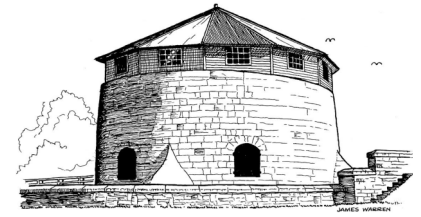
# Limelight

## Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

Kingston Ontario Canada

Volume 20 no 8 ISSN 1488-5565

November 2018



### Next KHS meeting

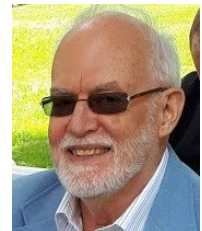
**Wednesday, 21 November 2018**

7.30 at the Seniors Centre      56 Francis Street

**Peter Gower : “The Kingston Legacy of George Taylor Richardson”**



George Richardson had a stellar career in Kingston before he went off to war. His death left an even greater legacy, from which Kingston still profits.



#### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Kingston and District Branch, UEL Association of Canada invites the public to its next meeting, on Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. in St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall - 137 Queen Street at Montreal Street. Our speaker will be Ruth Nicholson UE, a retired educator from the Hamilton, Ontario area. Ruth's topic is **Three Loyalist Heroes**. "This will cover different acts of greatness in different time periods," says Ruth: "The American Revolution where you will meet a courier, the War of 1812 where you will meet a young spy and the beginnings of parliament in Upper Canada where you will meet an early politician. These are my three heroes: Robert Land, Isaac Ferriss and John Cornwall. Come to hear the intrigue!" All visitors with an interest in Canadian history are cordially welcome. You are also invited to join with us for an optional sandwich 'n square lunch, 11:30 am for 12:00 noon. Cost \$4.00 for those not asked to bring food.

The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will meet on Saturday, November 17th, at 9:30 a.m. at the Kingston Seniors Centre, 56 Francis St. Nancy Cutway will speak on "In Remembrance: Vimy and Other European Memorials". Visitors always welcome. Further info at [www.kingston.ogs.on.ca](http://www.kingston.ogs.on.ca)

## THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Established 1893*

*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 an 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 .*

### 2018-19 KHS Executive Council

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

## President's Message

*Warren Everett*

November 11<sup>th</sup> this year will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice that ended hostilities on the western front. It did not, however, end the fighting for Canadians. In October, 1918 the Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force (CSEF) was formed to join the Allies in support of the "White Russian Forces" fighting against Lenin's Bolsheviks. The CSEF departed Vancouver for Vladivostok, in eastern Russia, on October 5, 1918, and returned to Canada on June 5, 1919. Canada also contributed a unique force to the North Russia campaign, the *Canadian Malamute Company*. This force was formed to fight on sleds; however, the terrain proved unsuitable for the sled dogs. The company worked with Sir Ernest Shackleton to train the Allies in cold weather warfare.



Kingston, like Canada, punched well above its weight during the Great War, forming or providing soldiers to the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 59<sup>th</sup>, 80<sup>th</sup>, 146<sup>th</sup>, and the 253<sup>rd</sup> (Queen's) battalions. Queen's also raised the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Field Engineers; the 46<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 72<sup>nd</sup> Artillery Batteries; and the 5<sup>th</sup> Stationary Hospital and the 7<sup>th</sup> General Hospital. In addition to the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, Kingston also raised the 22<sup>nd</sup> Field Battery. Their Battery Flag now hangs in St George's Cathedral in the Artillery Gallery. Over 530 Kingstonians sacrificed their lives in the war. One of these was Nursing Sister Agnes Florien Forneri who died on April 24, 1918. She was one of 44 Canadian women killed in the Great War.

I believe this year it is more important than ever to take the time to remember the fallen from a century ago. It was the tremendous successes of the Canadian Corps in the war that led to Canada having a place in the Paris 1919 Conference and being a signatory to the peace accord. It is fitting that our speaker in November will talk about Major George Taylor Richardson, who was killed in action on February 9, 1916.

We should be mindful of another centenary and that is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Spanish Flu pandemic. The pandemic swept the world from 1918 to 1919 leaving behind almost 50,000 deaths in Canada alone, nearly as many as were killed in the Great War.



## ***Awards Night ~ ~ ~ Christmas Party***

***Renaissance Event Venue***

***285 Queen Street***

***Wednesday, 5 December 2018***

***Cash Bar and Hors D'oeuvres at 6***

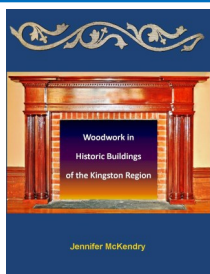
***Awards presentation at 7 p.m***

***\$10 Cash donation welcome to help defray expenses***

KHS President **Warren Everett, Susan Everett, and Doug Green** recently received the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, which is awarded to Canadians who have made significant, sustained and unpaid contribution to their community in Canada or abroad. The medals were presented 18 September 2018 by Mayor Bryan Paterson on behalf of the Governor General at the council chambers in City Hall.

The honours were primarily awarded for work over the last five years on the Hill 70 Memorial Project. However, much other volunteer work was considered in the nominations. Warren has been a dedicated volunteer in many capacities in the Kingston Historical Society and at St. George's Cathedral; Susan has worked with Queen's General Research Ethics Board, the Queen's Medical Admissions Panel, and fund raising at St. George's; and Doug has served as Executive Vice-Chair of the Federation of the Military and United Services Institute and President of the Royal Kingston United Services Institute.

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 February.



At a 25 October 2018 meeting in Memorial Hall, The City of Kingston 2018 Heritage Property Grants of \$5000. each were distributed to owners of ten heritage properties. Following the presentations, Dr. Jennifer McKendry, as part of the Heritage Resource Centre Lecture Series, gave an interesting address based on the material in her latest book, ***Woodwork in Historic Buildings of the Kingston Region.***

A Brief History of the Pittsburgh Historical Society

The Pittsburgh Historical Society is a relatively young society when compared to other local historical organizations. Officially, it was created in 1976; however, its history would not be complete without including its predecessor, the Historic Buildings Committee, a new committee appointed by Pittsburgh Township Council in 1973.

This committee was appointed at the urging of several township residents concerned about the possible loss of heritage buildings to new development, especially in Barriefield Village. Public events to promote a better understanding and appreciation of the township's architectural heritage, and its conservation as a valuable legacy and resource in defining the township's identity, were arranged and soon developed into regular biannual presentations by owners of historic family homes in Pittsburgh Township and by experts in the conservation and appreciation of heritage buildings.

The Historic Buildings Committee members became an actively dedicated group in the inaugural year when they also undertook clearing brush and debris and doing basic landscaping in the neglected and overgrown Milton Cemetery, established in 1820. An extensive photographic record was made, buried headstones recovered and inscriptions on its many memorials transcribed and published. This initial work led to more extensive restoration of the memorials and reconstruction of the 1878 vault by the township. It is no surprise that the committee's activities led to its becoming known as the "Stones and Bones" Committee.

With the passing of the Ontario Heritage Act in 1974, and the ability of the township to create a Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, which it did in 1976, the Historic Buildings Committee became redundant.

But, the interest in local history that had been created in the Pittsburgh community could not be ignored. And so, to make certain it could continue, the former committee members met and wrote a constitution that created the Pittsburgh Historical Society. With an annual membership fee of three dollars, it had sixty-two members in its founding year. Meetings were initially held in the municipal building on Gore Road, but, by 1990, space limitations required the move to the new Gore Road Fire Station #3 where they have since been held.

The new historical society continued to focus on Pittsburgh Township and regional history with guest speakers increasing to six each year, well-advertised with posters and a bi-annual newsletter, and the papers presented being combined and published in volumes, now numbering thirty-two. A feature of the spring program, until recently, was the annual day excursion by car, chartered bus or sometimes by boat, to destinations of historical interest.

Full of enthusiasm, the new society promoted the township's history with ambitious exhibits at community and regional events, including plowing matches, Heritage Fairs etc.

One of the aims of the society was to acquire and conserve all manner of historical documents and photographs concerning Pittsburgh Township. It was able to recover and consolidate many strayed nineteenth-century assessment rolls and other historical records, that were then kept safely in a small archive established in the lower level of the township hall. It was also able to purchase lost documents to be added to the collection. In 1997, before the township was amalgamated, it made provision for a small archives room for the records to be incorporated in the new Pittsburgh Branch Library, built in 2000.

During the 1980s, with the assistance of the township and provincial and federal student summer employment grants, the Society was able to transcribe and publish historical township census records,

assessment records and a bibliography of township history sources.

Its most significant publishing achievement, however, was the production of a comprehensive history of the township in recognition of the bicentennial of its 1787 founding. A comprehensive history of Pittsburgh Township had never been written, and the bicentennial presented an opportunity for the Society to take the initiative and recognize this significant milestone by documenting details of its first two hundred years in a commemorative book. It was decided that using a single author would be the most successful route to take, rather than having a series of independent essays. The Society was able to take advantage of a New Horizons for Seniors project grant to assist with the funding.

After much hard work collecting resource material and finding an author, *Lilacs and Limestone - An Illustrated History of Pittsburgh Township 1787-1987*, written by William J. Patterson, was published in 1989. In addition to his military career, BGen (ret'd) Bill Patterson's background includes a twenty-five year association with historical museums; he served for many years as Superintendent of Historic Sites for the St. Lawrence Parks Commission, responsible for Old Fort Henry, Upper Canada Village and Fairfield Historical Park. He traces his family history through several early Pittsburgh families, and so had a familiarity with the history of the township, which made him the ideal author to take up this writing challenge. The attractive book, with a cover illustration (and limited edition print) painted by the renowned township artist, photographer, and musician, Don McCallum, was an immediate success; it soon went to a second printing. (It is ironic that no one anticipated that Pittsburgh Township would cease to exist in another ten years with the Kingston amalgamation).

Another project of the society, supported by the township, and later, by its Benefit Fund, was the placing of commemorative plaques at locations of historical interest in the township. Plaques were mounted on stone cairns at Brewers Mills and Kingston Mills. Three plaques, commemorating the history of the township, its reeves, prominent resident and first reeve John Marks, and the library's historic 1866 Ruttan house, "Hawthorn Cottage", were on a single cairn beside the KFPL Pittsburgh Branch Library. Two plaques, one in French and one in English, outlining the history of Barriefield, were on a massive block of limestone bordering the Rock Garden.

The society's endeavours were recognized in 1997 by the Ontario Historical Society when it was awarded the *Scadding Award of Excellence*, "*In recognition of outstanding contributions to the local society movement in this province*". The award was presented to the society at the OHS annual conference in North Bay, 24 May 1997.

It is now forty-two years since the Pittsburgh Historical Society was established. It can justifiably take pride in having created a credible presence in the Kingston community and beyond. It has, over the years, made a significant contribution to the understanding, recording and conservation of the history of the Pittsburgh community.

**A change is being made to the annual dinner, based on your input from the 2018 spring survey. You are invited to attend the inaugural Canadian Heritage Dinner – sponsored by the Kingston Historical Society. This change 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.**



## CANADIAN WWII HISTORY: THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN

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[kingstonitaliancampaign.grouptoursite.ca](http://kingstonitaliancampaign.grouptoursite.ca)



David Anderson, Chair of the Gananoque Heritage Committee, holds a special gift from the Joanne Gervais art studio in Elginburg entitled *The Spirit of Ferncliff*. This commemorative painting, which captures the memory of Agnes Maule Machar (1837 - 1927) at her beloved waterfront nature retreat in Gananoque, celebrates the life of a remarkable Canadian writer, artist, social activist, community leader and environmentalist, whose roots were in Kingston. She was the daughter of the Rev. Dr. John Machar, the second minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Kingston and the first principal of Queen's College University) Photos by Jack Barnes

Dr. Richard Alway, Chair of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, hosted the unveiling of a commemorative plaque at the Arthur Child Museum in Gananoque on September 29th, 2018 as part of the official designation of Agnes Maule Machar's *Ferncliff* as a protected heritage property. Seated from left to right are: Eva Barnes from the Kingston Historical Society, who read a selection of Agnes Maule Machar's poetry from the 1890s; Joanne Van Dreumel, Executive Director of the museum; Mark Gerretsen, Member of Parliament for Kingston and the Islands; Erika Demchuk, Mayor of Gananoque; and David Anderson, Chair of the Gananoque Heritage Committee. Acquiring the designation for the property was a passionate local project for the late Gord Brown. Historians in attendance from Kingston at this special event were: Jennifer McKendry, John Grenville, Susan Bazely and Brian Osborne. Presentations of small photo portraits of Agnes Maule Machar, together with the book, *The Rock and The Sword*, written by Professor Emeritus of Queen's University Brian Osborne, were given to the Heritage Committee and to Glenn and Damaris Davis, the present owners and residents of *Ferncliff*. It was their heartfelt wish and personal vision to preserve in perpetuity the Machar property for future generations in its uniquely natural state.





## Murney Tower

Operated by the Kingston Historical Society



Work being done on tower  
October 2018

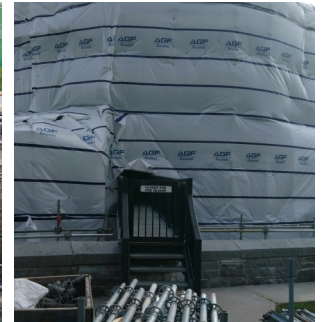
October 2018

Murney Tower aerial view

Photos

Graeme Watson

The renovations started in September after the tower closed for the season and are expected to be finished in time for the 2019 season. The renovations will include a full masonry restoration of the tower walls and of the walls of the ditch.



## Speaker's Corner

*by Marc Shaw*



It was standing room only in the bleachers on Wednesday, 17 October, when 80- plus members and guests were treated to a most entertaining evening

presented by four veteran members of Kingston's 'Red Barons' women's hockey team: Katherine "Cookie" Cartwright, Annabelle Twiddy, Jenean Sargeant and Carolyn Aylesworth. Women's hockey is commonplace now - there are literally dozens of teams in Kingston, catering to all age and skill levels - but it wasn't always so, and our four presenters painted a vivid picture of the events and personalities of a half-century ago, when the Red Barons blazed a formidable trail across the sports landscape. Apart from our presenters, many other former members of the team were on hand to contribute to the discussion and reminisce amidst many items of Red Barons memorabilia.

### **Please Renew Your Membership Now**

KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL Membership dues are as follows (please check one) - \$50 for an individual membership - \$60 for a family membership - \$25 for a student membership - \$60 for an institutional membership - \$300 for a sponsor. Please speak to Membership Chair Paul Van Nest, 613-544-6802 or email [membership@kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:membership@kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca)

Additional donation: The Society would sincerely appreciate any additional donation you may wish to contribute to the Society. Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send this completed application form, along with a cheque made out to the 'Kingston Historical Society':

Kingston Historical Society, Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6

**You can also register on-line from our webpage: [www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.com) > Membership**

Membership includes the annual journal 'Historic Kingston' and 9 issues of the newsletter 'Limelight' as well as a discounted fee to selected special events. Some sponsors also offer discounts.

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