

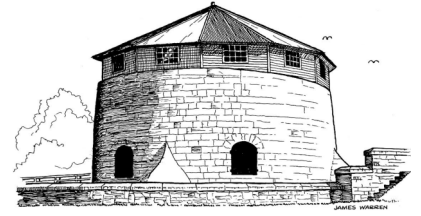
Limelight

Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

Kingston Ontario Canada

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March 2019



Next KHS meeting

Wednesday 20 March 2019 Gathering at 7 for 7.30
at the Seniors Centre, 56 Francis Street

Speaker: Cameron Willis

Archives and research officer at Canada's Penitentiary Museum

***"WW1 and Kingston Penitentiary, through
the experience of one convict"***

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALLING ALL IRISH ANCESTORS RESEARCHING IRISH RECORDS

The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will meet Saturday, March 16, 2019 at 9:30a.m. at the Seniors Centre 56 Francis Street. The speaker is Ruth Blair, a Professional Genealogist and lecturer based in Oakville. She has been doing family history research for over 30 years. You can visit Ruth's website here <https://familyhistorysearches.com/>. Visitors are welcome. For more details, visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/KingstonBranchOGS/>. Or at <https://kingston.ogs.on.ca/>.

Pittsburgh Historical Society Meeting Tuesday March 26th 7:30 pm
Gore Road Fire Hall, Gore Road at Hwy 15
Speakers: Art Shaw and Jeff Earl

"The Lansdowne Ironworks: – A Community Archaeological Project"

The Municipal Heritage Committee for Leeds & 1000 Islands, together with the Lyndhurst Rejuvenation Committee, has been conducting archaeological research on the location of the first iron smelter in Upper Canada. The site, known as the Lansdowne Iron Works, is in Lyndhurst, formerly known as Furnace Falls. The smelter operated from 1802 until it burned down in 1811 and was designated a National Historic Site in 1932.

Local historian Art Shaw, and industrial archaeologist Jeff Earl will reveal what has been found until now at this historically important site.

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Join us for FREE March Break!

March to March 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

AT THE Military Communications and Electronics Museum
95 Craftsman Blvd



Special Museum Programs @ 11:00 • Costumes • Crafts



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

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.

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

2019-2020 KHS Executive Council

President: Warren Everett Vice President: Joe Brites Past President: Peter Gower
Treasurer: Peter Ginn Secretary: Don Richardson Editor, Historic Kingston: Peter Gower
Editor, Limelight: Betty Andrews Director, Murney Tower : Graeme Watson Webmaster: Peter Gower
Membership Chair: Paul Van Nest paulvannest@cogeco.ca

Councillors Vincent Durant Duncan McDowall Alan MacLachlan
Tabitha Renaud Anne Richardson John Whiteley Paul Van Nest



Photo Sue Bazely

Duncan McDowall, Graeme Watson,
Warren Everett, Tabitha Renaud, Vincent
Durant, Joe Brites, Alan MacLachlan, Don
Richardson, Peter Gower Front: Paul Van
Nest, Peter Ginn, Anne Richardson,
Betty Andrews Absent: John Whiteley

President's Message

Warren Everett

February is a short month, yet we managed to have two major Society events in those 28 days! The first was this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM). It was an upside down meeting, with the presentation coming before the business section. This came about because Graeme's presentation to the Frontenac Heritage Foundation (FHF) on the Tower's renovations in January, was cancelled at the last minute. FHF wondered if they could join us at the AGM to hear Graeme's presentation on the renovations. We agreed that this was an excellent idea and perhaps more joint activities could follow in the future. Graeme's presentation was so well received, I'm sure we could have spent hours on the question period, but alas business called!



The very good news is that the Society is in a very stable financial position, particularly the museum. The credit for the positive financial position of the museum is largely the result of excellent grant proposals submitted by Director Graeme Watson with the strong and able assistance of Curator Danielle Marshall. The Society continues to be in a healthy fiscal position. This success is due to Peter Ginn's steady and yeoman service as our Treasurer. I would be remiss if I did not mention the success Peter Gower has had wrestling the challenge of back issues of the Journal to the ground. Moreover, Peter has initiated a system of home delivery of the Journal that has saved the Society considerable cost. While I cited some of our Council members for their hard work over the past year, I am indebted to all of the Council for their professionalism and hard work over the year that makes the Society the success it is and my role as President easy.

Following shortly after the AGM was our inaugural Canadian Heritage Dinner at RMC. What a great triumph that evening was! More than 70 of us enjoyed a great meal, and for the first time, a choice of entrees was offered. Anne Richardson had the courage to try this format, the first time in 19 years, and what a success that turned out to be. I've always looked upon the dinner as the beginning of the new year for the Society. Our speaker James Stewart's topic, "Being Prime Minister: Behind the scenes stories of Canada's Leaders", was extremely well received.

In closing, I continue to ride my hobby horse of membership. We need to maintain our enthusiasm and increase the numbers. So, I reiterate my challenge, bring a new member!



Graeme Watson and Gary McDonald

MEMBERSHIP RATES

\$300 Sponsor

\$50 Individual

\$60 Family

\$60 Institution

\$25 Student

The iconic image of the Murney Tower has been wrapped in plastic for several months now, and many Kingstonians are curious as to what is exactly happening “under the sheets”. Parks Canada (PC) received funding for restoration of the Tower and has been engaging in some unique techniques to preserve the structure. The KHS has a long standing partnership with Parks Canada, with the Society running the museum inside the Historic Site. This collaboration has continued with PC fully engaging with the KHS on the construction’s impact on the museum. A benefit of this close communication was that the Society’s Director of the Museum Graeme Watson was able to give a talk regarding the renovations to the AGM on 20 February 2019. The site manager for the project, Gary McDonald of Daoust Construction, was able to join Graeme and provide expert commentary and answer questions regarding the historic masonry techniques being employed.

Graeme began the talk by relating how Laser scanning was used to map out the Tower in to-the-millimeter accuracy, and how this data was used by PC to scope out the project. Gary then took the lead and described the numerous pictures of the restoration work. Particularly fascinating was the use of lime mortar and the requirement to keep it moist and at the proper temperature for a month while it set.

It is a testament to the workers and masons in 1846, that they were able to fully construct the Tower in 9 months. As the restoration continues and the walls are exposed it becomes more apparent what an achievement this was.

The Murney Tower is a fine example of the KHS contribution to the local community, and all members are encouraged to visit it (for free) or join the MTM committee. Graeme is delighted to answer any questions, or to have assistance in running the museum. You can contact him at murneytower@gmail.com.

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME

Membership includes an invitation to attend monthly meetings, nine issues of *Limelight*, delivered electronically or in hardcopy, and *Historic Kingston*, the KHS annual journal containing the substance of the papers delivered at the monthly meetings.

Membership also includes free admission to Murney Tower, Kingston's oldest museum, and a discount at some of our sponsors' places of business.

Sponsors receive monthly advertising in *Limelight* and 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.

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.

Fellow Historians : The Hastings County Historical Society by Richard Hughes, President

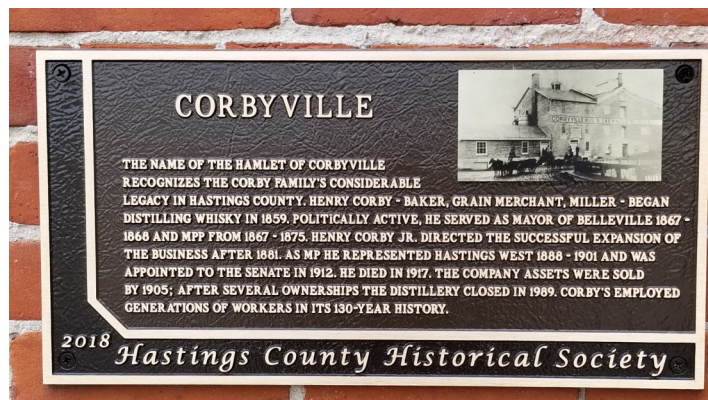
For the past 62 years, the Hastings County Historical Society has enthusiastically developed and promoted the rich history of Ontario's second largest county. For the first 50 years, under the energetic leadership of historical advisor and occasional president, Mr. Gerry Boyce, the Society's team of volunteers focussed on assembling and protecting an archival collection of irreplaceable documents, photos, maps and much more.

As this collection grew into the thousands of priceless historical treasures, it became apparent to the Society that it was becoming necessary to shift the precious collection from an archives, housed in an old township hall and run by volunteers to a modern, professionally managed municipality facility. In 2007, the Society launched a major program to develop a community archives, opening discussions with the City of Belleville and the County of Hastings. Taking the lead, the Society undertook a fundraising campaign which eventually raised almost \$300,000, which prompted the City and County to enthusiastically join forces with the Society. Ultimately, in April 2016, the partnership of the Society, City and County celebrated the opening of the state-of-the-art Community Archives taking up much of the second floor of the public library building in Downtown Belleville. The Society continues to support the Archives, in 2018 purchasing a scanner/reader for the reading room.

With the new facility, managed by a professional archivist taking over the archival duties, it was possible for the Hastings County Historical Society to shift its focus to a series of community programs to bring our history to the wider population of the County. The previous monthly meeting, with an audience of about 40 persons, was converted to a monthly Public Presentation, with top level guest speakers and a full evening of historical entertainment. The average monthly audience grew to the current 125 people. Twice in 2018 the audience approached 200 people.

To take the people to their history, we created annual bus tours, visiting the villages and historical sites of north, central and south Hastings County followed by central Lennox and Addington last year and south L&A in the spring of 2019. Another vehicle for bringing local history to the wider public is our program of publishing books by local authors. This serves to gather the disparate information on local historical topics between the covers of a book and brings these stories to the public in an entertaining manner.

Our main project over the past two years has been the creation and installation of a series of brass memorial



plaques. In 2017, for Belleville's 200th anniversary, the Society installed six plaques in the Downtown, unveiled with full ceremony and media coverage. In 2018, we developed seven plaques and held major community events to unveil them in villages across Hastings County. This program has aroused considerable interest in the history of our towns and villages. This summer, a new interactive website will be launched which ultimately will list, provide full details and locate all historical plaques in Hastings County.

In Belleville we developed, with the mayor, a contest, called *The Mayor's Hunt for History*, whereby school children in grades 5 to 8 received a booklet with questions drawn from the Downtown plaques. The students visited them and answered questions in hope of winning the attractive prizes.

To get our news out to our members, friends and the public, the Society issues a monthly eight-page newsletter, *Outlook*, with coming events, reports and historical stories. We also maintain a first-class website at www.hastingshistory.ca and a presence on social media through Facebook and Twitter. We are currently developing our Instagram site. In carrying out all of these programs, we have found that success is enhanced through our close and cooperative relationships with the City of Belleville and County of Hastings as well as working with other heritage groups across the Quinte area. The Hastings County Historical Society enters its 63rd year invigorated by our great success in the past years and planning for a busy future.



Canadian Heritage Dinner - by Anne Richardson

On the evening of Saturday, February 23, 2019, members of the Kingston Historical Society and guests came together at the Senior Staff Mess on the grounds of RMC. We were all there to celebrate the **inaugural** Canadian Heritage Dinner which was a great success. By all accounts everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening, so much so, that we already have two individuals who wish to be put on the guest list for next year!!

Everyone had an opportunity to mingle with friends in the lounge and get to know some of the new individuals attending, including our speaker. We were also fortunate to have Violet Tang and Alex Stein, from Murney Tower, dressed in period costume to brighten the evening. Peter Ginn used his expertise to take wonderful photos throughout the evening.

Graeme Watson was able to get the attention of our guests by using a Boatswain Call – “Hands to Dinner” as a unique way to have everyone enter the dining room for dinner.

Anne Richardson, the event organizer, opened the evening by welcoming everyone and asking Mrs. Connie Gardiner to say grace. Our president, Warren Everett, gave very welcoming opening remarks and introduced our MPP, Mr. Ian Arthur, and Mr. Ruslan Yakovychuk, the PC candidate for our constituency. Mr. Peter Milliken also provided us with a most topical toast on the heritage of Canada and Kingston. It was a pleasure to have Peter, with his extensive experience, speak at our event.

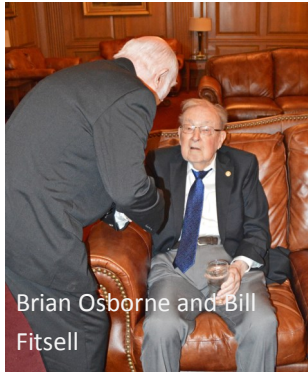
A delicious dinner was enjoyed by our guests and served in a very professional manner by the Senior Staff Mess staff. We then adjourned to the lounge to pick up our coffee/tea and dessert and get settled in to hear the speaker.

Paul Van Nest introduced our speaker, Mr. James Stewart, educator and author who spoke to us about the latest research for his book, **Being Prime Minister: Behind-the-scenes Stories of Canada's Leaders**. The details James provided were very entertaining and informative with quite a few amusing stories. Dr. Duncan McDowell thanked Mr. Stewart for his insightful and enjoyable speech about a different side of our prime ministers.

Warren closed our event by thanking everyone for their attendance and expressed his hope that we would all be there next year.



Murney Tower Summer Staff members
Alex Stein and Violet Tang



Brian Osborne and Bill
Fittell



Brian Osborne, Doug Petty,
Patricia McGinnis, Alan MacLachlan



Sue Kilpatrick, Peter and Carol Davy



Duncan McDowall, Speaker James Stewart



Graeme Watson, Danielle Marshall, Ian
Arthur MPP Kingston and the Islands



Guest Speaker J.D.M. Stewart



Photo by Tabitha Renaud



Bob Gardiner, J.D.M. Stewart,
Paul Van Nest


Canadian Heritage Dinner
 Sponsored by the Kingston Historical Society
 We are pleased to have as our guest speaker this evening
 James Stewart, educator and author.
 His topic:
Being Prime Minister: Behind-the-scenes-stories of Canada's Leaders.
 MENU
 Potato and Leek Soup
 Roasted Fingerling Potatoes
 PEI Vegetables
 Entrée
 Stuffed Chicken Supreme
 or
 Grilled Salmon Loin
 or
 Stuffed Risotto Croquette
 Tea, Coffee and Dessert in the Lounge

Heritage Dinner
2019
Photos by Peter Ginn

Murney Tower Operated by the Kingston Historical Society



Barracks Exhibition Renewal

Following overwhelmingly positive feedback regarding the exhibition renewal of the gun platform, staff have moved forward with similar initiatives for the barracks floor. Chief interpreter Nicole Mulder and Interpreter Yanny Zhang assisted Curator Danielle Marshall in 2018 with the production of two new research projects to be displayed in the barracks for the 2019 season. Nicole has focused on information regarding other Martello Towers throughout the world and Murney Tower building materials, while Yanny has delved deeper into the Oregon Crisis, the conflict which spurred the construction of Kingston's four Martellos. Both provided text backed by comprehensive research, and have designed draft examples of how the panel might be displayed for guests. These drafts will be forwarded to the same team which produced the banners on the Tower's gun platform, and will be reproduced with the same emphasis on clarity and quality which have made the banners so popular to visitors. Additionally, Interpreters have considered visitor feedback regarding the layout and accessibility of the museum and banners, which allowed interpreters to consult on the dimensions of banners and the layout of the update of the barracks. To ensure the new displays maintain the Tower's commitment to bilingualism, Interpreter Adam Falconer and Volunteer Charmaine Martel provided French translations to accompany the English text. The project, supported by the City of Kingston Heritage Fund, is hoped to be ready for the opening day of Murney Tower's 2019 season.





PAN CHANCHO

the pig with a peel

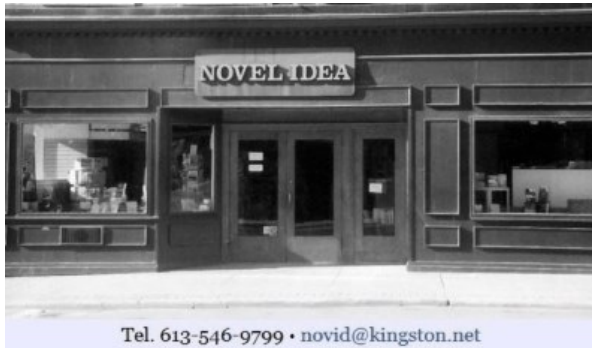
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