

Limelight

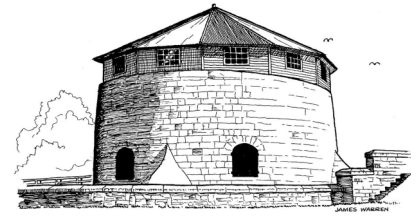
Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

Kingston Ontario Canada

Volume 21 no 6

ISSN 1488-5565

September 2019



KHS MEETING 18 September 2019

Seniors Centre 56 Francis Street

Gathering at 7 for 7:30pm

Speaker: John Morgan

Honourable Alexander Mackenzie – Canada's stonemason prime minister

Drawing on family, archival and other records, John will speak of the character and accomplishments of Mackenzie, along with the influences that propelled him from his humble beginnings to the highest position in the land. This will include his early childhood in Scotland; immigration to Canada with his sweetheart; tragedies and triumphs as a young husband and stonemason in Kingston and Sarnia; early political activities; time as prime minister; and later political years in opposition. In many respects, Alexander Mackenzie was the antithesis of Sir John A. Macdonald. Known for his utmost honesty, integrity and hard work, Mackenzie sought no recognition or reward for himself. He fought passionately for equality, democracy, the rule of law, and honesty in government.

A champion of Canada's rights as a nation, Mackenzie declined three offers of knighthood and almost came to blows with the Queen's representative in Canada. Described at the time as "one of the truest and strongest characters to be met with in Canadian history", his is a compelling story of duty and honour.

John Morgan is a great-great grandson of Alexander Mackenzie. He graduated from Queen's University in 1976 with a Bachelor of Commerce degree and then obtained his CA designation. John worked at Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and then at The Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat.

He retired in 2009 as the Assistant Comptroller General of Canada, responsible for government-wide financial management. John helped Canada achieve recognition for leadership in financial management and was honoured with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012 for his contribution.

John spoke at the Government of Canada's commemoration ceremony of Mackenzie's grave site in Sarnia, and also on CPAC's *The Prime Ministers* episode on Mackenzie. He recently wrote an article on Alexander Mackenzie that was published in the Ottawa Citizen's book, *Capital Builders: The Remarkable People Who Shaped Ottawa*.

Pittsburgh Historical Society

Tuesday, 24 September 2019
Fire Hall 3, Gore Rd. at Hwy 15, 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Bill Patterson

"The 1st Battalion, Stormont, Dundas and
Glengarry Highlanders, 1940-1945: The Kingston Connection"
Author of the recently published updated regimental history:
"Up The Glens - Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders".



Ontario Ancestors Kingston Branch – September 21 - "Giving British Home Children a Voice"

Speaker **Judy Neville** The presentation gives a voice to over 100,000 children who were sent to Canada between the 1860s and 1940s and most often never revealed what growing up was like in that era. More info on our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/KingstonBranchOGS/> or website <https://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

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 its sponsors in producing Limelight .

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 pvannest@cogeco.ca

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

MAILING ADDRESS:

Kingston Historical Society
P.O. Box 54,
Kingston ON K7L 4V6
kingstonhs@gmail.com
www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca



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

President's Message

Warren Everett



I trust all of you had a very pleasant summer albeit a wet one and then a hot one if you stayed in Kingston. We ended the 2018/2019 season with an excellent June 6th event. Our speaker raised interesting and provocative questions as he spoke about Sir John at the gravesite commemoration. For our 2019/2020 season, our new Programme Committee has compiled a very interesting list of speakers for our Wednesday meetings. They have secured a first-rate speaker for the Heritage Dinner, but I cannot steal their thunder and must keep you in suspense!

Looking ahead, I came back to council as President in 2018 in what one might call a last minute selection! The first time I became President, it was perhaps seen as a meteoric rise from obscurity! At the 2020 AGM, my present term will end. Succession planning is important for any organization. In the years since I first served on council, the tenor and thrust of the Society has changed a great deal. For 2020 we are faced with choosing both a new President and a Vice President. These positions are crucial for the success of the Society. I charge all of you with the challenge of putting forward strong and willing candidates to fill these positions.

I look forward to seeing you at the September 18th meeting.



SAVE THE DATE – Saturday, February 29, 2020

Canadian Heritage Dinner

This is the first notice for the second annual Canadian Heritage Dinner, sponsored by the Kingston Historical Society. We have an exciting speaker scheduled for the upcoming dinner. She is Dr. Laura Brandon, former curator of the war art collection at the Canadian War Museum.

Our event will be held at the Senior Staff Mess at the Royal Military College.
Further details will follow.

The 126th Sir John A. Macdonald Graveside Commemoration Service

Interpreters Bria Crosby, Madeline Legg, Michelle Boon, Matthew Eliot



Graeme Watson
Murney Tower Director



M.C. Don
Richardson



KHS President
Warren Everett



École Sir John A. Macdonald Public
School children



The Reverend
Blair Peever

Guest Speaker
Christopher
Moore



For the second consecutive year we were blessed with excellent weather for this event held 6 June at the Cataraqui Cemetery with MC Don Richardson. About 150 people were in attendance. Young voices from École Sir John A. Macdonald Public School under choir director David Rankine led in the singing of O Canada to begin the ceremony and God Save the Queen at its close.

The Reverend Blair Peever of Christ Church Cataraqui gave the scripture reading and prayers. KHS president Warren Everett spoke words of welcome and introduced guest speaker Christopher Moore, whose topic was "John A. Macdonald and Reconciliation."

Fourteen wreaths were laid by representatives of the three levels of government and of organizations affiliated with Sir John A. Macdonald. The Lament was played by the Fort Henry Guard piper, and the Last Post and Reveille by the Fort Henry Guard bugler.

Following the commemoration, the guests retired to the Cataraqui Cemetery outdoor chapel for refreshments.

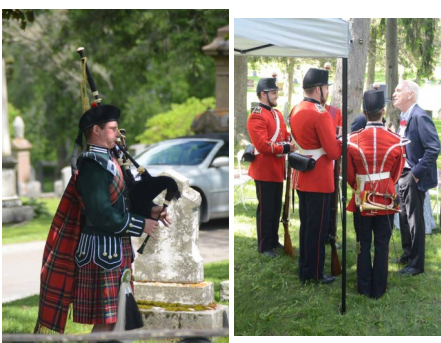
Special thanks go to Sgt. Marc LaPorte of the R.C.M.P, the staff of Bellevue House, the Fort Henry Guard and the Cataraqui cemetery staff, all of whom helped make this graveside ceremony one of colour, pageantry and tradition. As well, without the the advice and assistance of Dr. Brian Osborne, Don Richardson, Peter Radley and Patricia McGinniss and the assiduous and dedicated combined efforts of our committee, Barbara Bonner, Eva Barnes, Peter Radley, Bob Lemmon, Craig Boals, Mark Bennett and Alex McLean, this annual service would not have been as successful as it was.



Photos by
Peter Ginn



Fort Henry
guardsman
and wreath
layer Les
Dawley of
The Ancient
St. John's
Lodge No. 3



Committee Chair Alan MacLachlan
and Christopher Moore



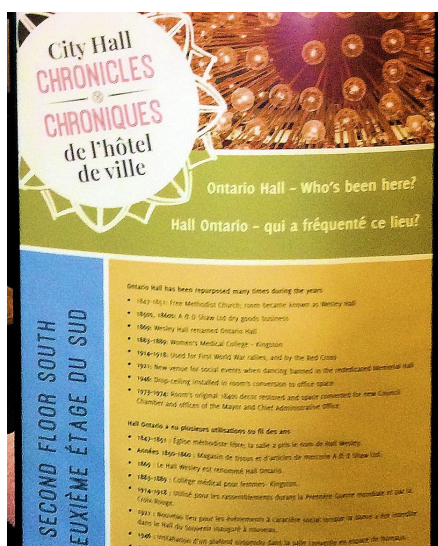
The next time you are in Kingston City Hall, be on the lookout for stand-alone information posts (titled *City Hall Chronicles*) that help tell the story of various areas of the 175-year-old building. There are about a dozen of them strategically located throughout the building. Each contains pictures, and text in French and English, giving a mini-history of that particular location.

Curator Paul Robertson inaugurated the City Hall Chronicles project several years ago. The panels were produced by local graphic designer Steve Walker. My role in the project included researching the history of the various areas and helping scout out pictures and other artifacts. We relied heavily on Dr. Jennifer McKendry's *Illustrated Chronology of Kingston City Hall National Historic Site (2010)*, and Andre Scheinman's *Kingston City Hall: Conservation and Maintenance Plan (2010)*, as well as Queen's University Archives, and of course past issues of *Historic Kingston*.

The information posts are designed to complement City Hall's 40-year-old volunteer tour guide program. As well, the Chronicles provide valuable information for staff at City Hall; several have commented on how they "brought to life" areas of the building in which they work, but about which they knew very little.

An example of the Chronicles and the information they contain may be found in the south wing of the second floor. Since the tercentenary renovation in 1972 this area has housed the council chamber, mayor's office and administrative offices. But its past also includes playing host to: a Methodist congregation; a Salvation Army meeting place; a dry goods merchant; temporary school rooms for KCVI (following a fire at the school); the YMCA-run recreation centre for soldiers during World War One; and office cubicles – *with an ugly drop ceiling* – during a post WW2 cost-cutting period! Perhaps the most interesting use for this wing occurred when the city donated it to house the *Women's Medical College* in the late 1800s. (Other parts of the building were also used by the College, including the dome as a library/study area and the current councillor's lounge as *a dissection room*.)

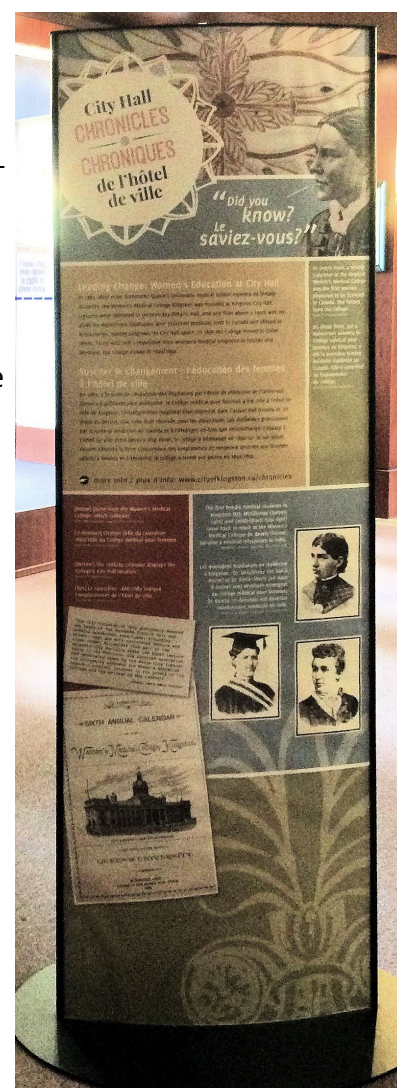
In addition to the City Hall Chronicles project, several areas of the building have recently received special "historical" attention. The two small meeting rooms (John Counter Room and Sir John A. Macdonald Room) have been repurposed as mini-museums, and the old jail cell/police area in the basement has been wonderfully transformed into a museum devoted to policing and social development in early Kingston.

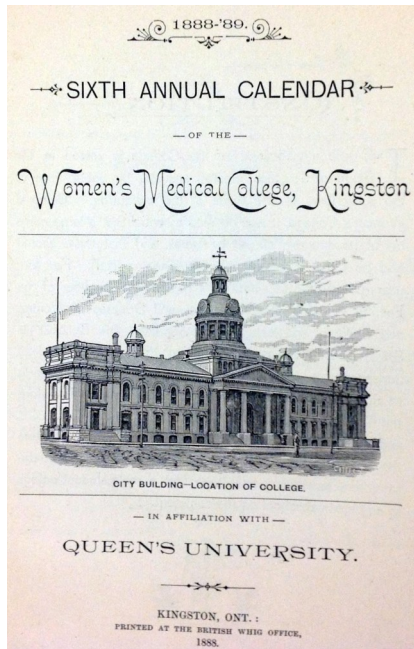


See the history section of the city hall website: <https://www.cityofkingston.ca/explore/culture-history/history/city-hall>.

City Hall Chronicles – 2nd floor south, side one

City Hall Chronicles – 2nd floor south, side two





1888-'89 Calendar for Women's Medical College, housed in Kingston City Hall

Bronze covered plaster statuette, by famed 19th century Quebec sculptor Louis Phillippe Hebert, located in the Sir John A. Macdonald mini-museum on first floor of City



New Murney Tower staff costumes created by Eva Barnes – Complete Victorian outfits for interpreters' use at special formal functions

Marine Museum

By Curator Emeritus Maurice D. Smith

In what is truly one of the great reverses, the evicted Marine Museum of the Great Lakes is going back home.

Ian MacAlpine Published 29 July 2019 The Whig Standard|

The museum board on Monday afternoon, 29 July, announced that, with the help of an anonymous benefactor, the property at 55 Ontario St. has been bought back from Patry Inc. Developments. Chris West, the museum's board chair, said the benefactor is donating a large parcel of the property, including the building and dry dock, back to the museum. Plans for the other part of the property haven't been finalized. In an interview, West would not say who the benefactor was. He and Jay Patry would also not reveal the purchase price for the property.

"We're over the moon," West said on Monday afternoon. "We're thrilled and delighted that, thanks to a very generous gift from an anonymous benefactor, we were able to arrive at a business understanding with Mr. Patry and purchase 55 Ontario St., our old location."

"After not being able to develop the property the way he envisioned," Patry said, "the company looked at other offers on the property but eventually opened the door for the return of the museum. We felt it was best to work a deal with the benefactor for the marine museum."

West said the board has approved a capital campaign to help fund the refurbishment and renovation of the current buildings. Details on the campaign are to be announced at a later date.

In early 2019, a somewhat beleaguered Kingston property developer, Jay Patry, decided to sell what he had purchased from the federal government three years earlier. The irony – only a few years before the private sale, an enormous amount had been expended by the government in the restoration of the nationally-des-

ignated dry dock and the shipyard buildings. Other improvements included various interior elements to attain museum standards. The private purchase was an existential threat to the museum, so it was not long before negotiations started between museum Chairman Chris West and Patry to keep the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes (MMGLK) on site. Patry wanted more than the museum could afford, so he evicted the museum in August of 2016.

This led to a monumental movement of the collections to various city depositories and the establishment of a pop-up museum at the Portsmouth Olympic Site in Portsmouth under the management of Doug Cowey. A museum release in 2016 said, “The work of volunteers cannot be underestimated. Moving it all has been a huge feat, and has been made possible thanks to the tremendous efforts of an army – well, maybe a navy! – of volunteers. We owe our heartfelt thanks to Tom Wroe and his crew from MetalCraft Marine, who were able to perform a lot of the heavy lifting, along with Peter Rubens and his trusty helpers, Dennis and Mark, and to our own Stephen Duncan, who helped manage summer staff and dozens of willing volunteers – including the Boat Crew and one tireless seventy-seven year old, Peter Ashley!” The city provided the space for storing the collections and, thanks to the timely intervention of Hank Doornekamp, our museum ship, the *Alexander Henry*, has been towed to a snug wharf near Prinyer's Cove, Prince Edward County. The ship *Alexander*, saved by the MMGLK in the mid-1980s, was acquired by the Lakehead Museum Transportation Museum in Thunder Bay and is now a thriving attraction in that city.

The collections are the largest vertically and horizontally integrated marine history holdings in central Canada with 3,500 linear feet of records, 50,000 ships’ plans, 12,000 books, 4,000 artifacts, and 31,000 photographs and negatives. There are many instruments and tools used in navigation and shipbuilding. It is the collections that will support the front-end development of the exhibits in whatever mode is decided by the Board.

The historic Shipyard buildings first housed a gallery of the museum in 1976 under the leadership of the late and then driving force, Audrey Rushbrook, a gutsy move encouraged by a ‘wink, wink, nudge’ from a federal official. I was hired in 1978 to assist the Board of Directors in restoring the site, help raise money and develop the collections. The campaign, led by Michael Davies in the early 80s, was quite successful with all levels of government providing financial support along with a large number of local and distant private corporations. Two people long-associated with the KHS who used their influence to help the museum are Bogart Trumpour and Margaret Angus.

Volunteers have returned to the museum, cleaning up the interior, mowing the grass, just glad to be back home and, I suspect, thinking of new projects. In the meantime the Board has to mount a fund-raising campaign and think hard about a future that will evolve and change from what it was before.

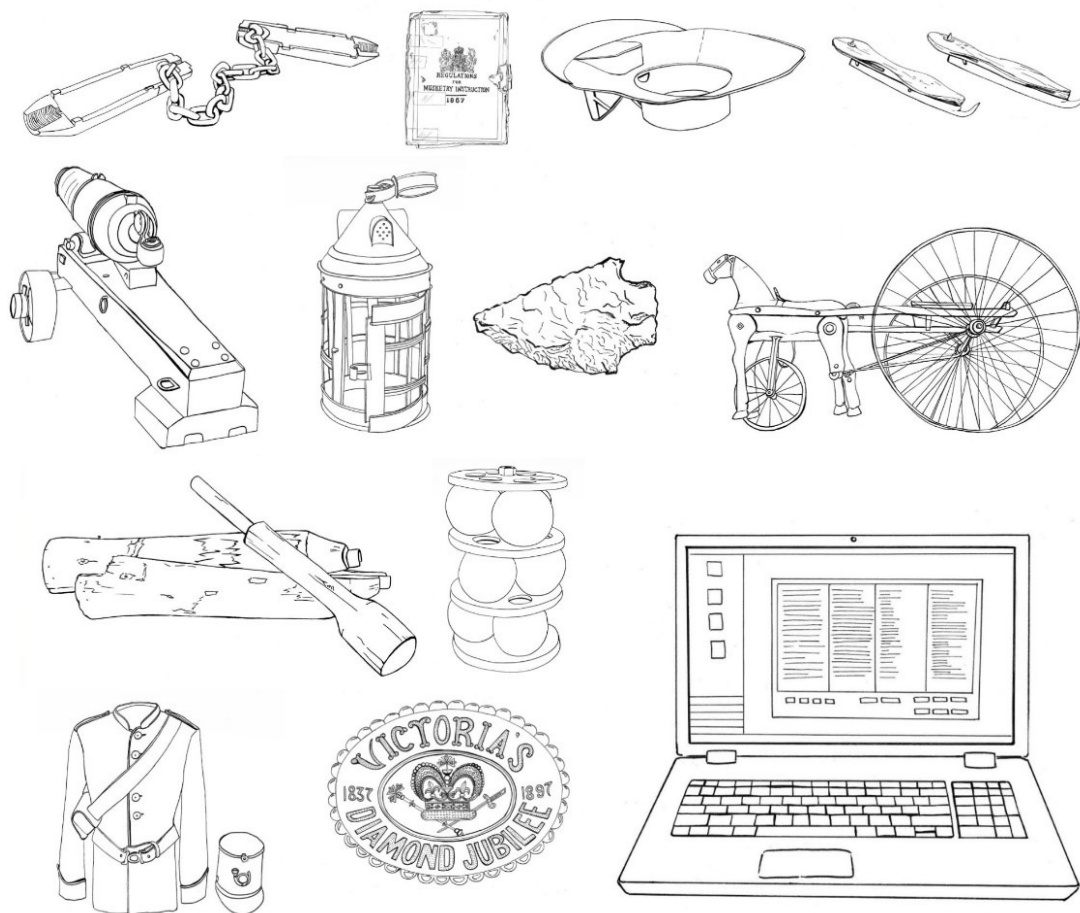


The Murney Tower Museum Digitization Project

The 2019 season saw significant progress on the Murney Tower Museum (MTM) Digitization Project. Former Chief Historical Interpreter, Nicole Mulder, returned to MTM for the summer to take the lead on the Project as a Collections Management Assistant. As part of a University of British Columbia School Co-op work term, Nicole's primary responsibility was to establish a new filing system for the physical object files and start the migration of MTM's paper-based collection system to a digital database. The goal of this Project is to not only make the MTM collection more accessible but also support MTM's inventory overhaul, deaccessioning objectives, and future exhibitions.

In addition to implementing the digital system and new filing system, Nicole has entered nearly 550 artifacts into the database and has incorporated preventative preservation practices in the rehousing of paper physical object files. With an estimated 1300+ recorded objects in (and previously part of) the MTM collection, the migration process is ongoing. Future MTM staff and volunteers will continue work on the Project. To support this transition and the sustainability of the new systems, Nicole created an illustrated and easy-to-read 56-page user guide for the Project called "A Guide: Murney Tower Museum Digitization Project."

The MTM Digitization Project and Nicole's position were generously funded by the City of Kingston Heritage Fund.



The illustrations on the cover of "A Guide: Murney Tower Museum Digitization Guide." The Guide was written and illustrated by Nicole Mulder.

James Reid
FUNERAL HOME **1854**
CREMATION & RECEPTION CENTRE

JAMES F. REID

THE
**CELEBRATION
CENTRE**

1900 John Counter Blvd. K7M 7H3
Tel: 613-544-3411 Fax: 613-544-3414
jamesreidfuneralhome.com
info@jamesreidfuneralhome.com

James Reid Furniture
250-256 Princess Street
Tel: 613-548-3022
princess@jamesreidfurniture.net



James Reid Furniture
1880 John Counter Blvd.
Tel: 613-544-4415
counter@jamesreidfurniture.net



Sutton Group-Masters Realty Inc. Brokerage
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED
1650 Bath Road
Kingston, ON K7M 4X6

Joe Brites

Sales Representative

Direct: **613.329.2184**

Office: 613.384.5500

Fax: 613.384.6800

Email: jnbrites@aol.com



PAN CHANCHO

the pig with a peel

44 Princess St

613-544-7790



68-R Princess St

613-549-7673

HOMESTEAD



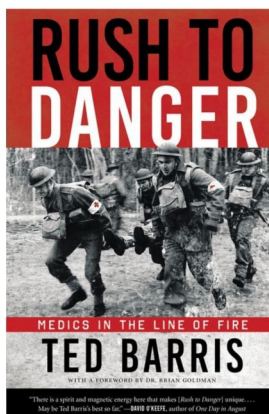
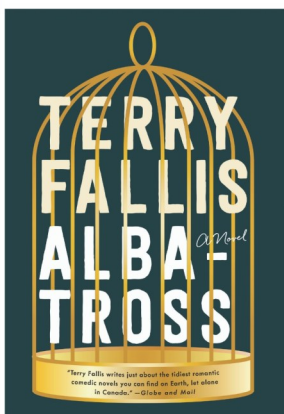
THE HOCHELAGA INN

— EST. 1879 —

1000 ISLANDS WRITERS FESTIVAL PRESENTS:

Join us to celebrate new books & new stories with

TERRY FALLIS & TED BARRIS



WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 4 6:30 PM AT THE GANANOQUE LEGION

Tickets
\$20



GANANOQUE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

Sleepy Hollow
Bed & Breakfast

