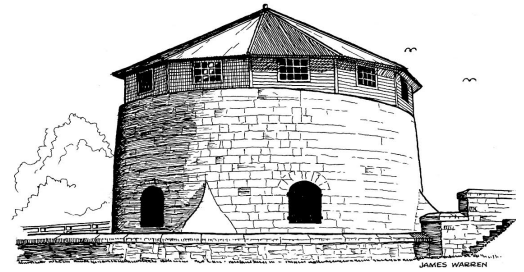


Limelight

Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

Kingston Ontario Canada

Volume 22 No 2 ISSN 1488-5565 February



KHS MEETING

Kingston Frontenac Public Library , Central Branch Room 1 130 Johnson Street

Wednesday, 19 February 2020 7pm

Annual General Meeting

Speaker: Bruce Cossar -A review of 70 years of "Historic Kingston"

The Pittsburgh Historical Society

invites everyone to its next meeting and presentation

Tuesday, February 25th, 2020
Fire Hall 3, Gore Rd. at Hwy 15, 7:30 p.m.



Guest Speaker: Murray Hogben
Former RMC History Professor
and Whig-Standard columnist



"Dr. Francis Wafer: Two Years as a surgeon in the American Civil War"



Dr. Francis Moses Wafer (1830-1876) from Pittsburgh Township's Middle Road, delayed his Queen's Medical School studies in 1863 to join the Union Army as a surgeon. He served until the end of the 1861-1865 conflict and returned home to complete his medical degree in 1867.

The Annual General Meeting agenda, 2019 Reports and 2019 audited Financial Statements will be on the website by about 12 February 2020. A direct link to the agenda, reports and statements will be sent out as soon as they are posted to KHS Facebook followers and to those whose email addresses are on file. Please read in advance of the meeting. As a cost-saving measure, the AGM Report will not be provided at the meeting.

If you want a hard copy, please print one.

<https://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca/events-news/>

Kingston Branch of Ontario Ancestors Saturday Feb 15th

56 Francis St. Join us at the monthly meeting of the

Kingston Branch of Ontario Ancestors for our AGM followed by a presentation - "Maximizing Your Membership: Discover the hidden resources on the OGS Website" Ron Mann is our speaker for the 9:30am short presentation "My Use of DNA Matches to 'Distant Cousins'". Visitors are always welcome, and there is lots of free parking available. Coffee is on at **9am**.

It is noted with regret, the death of Nancy Day, 4 January 2020, a former member and councillor of the Kingston Historical Society.

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.

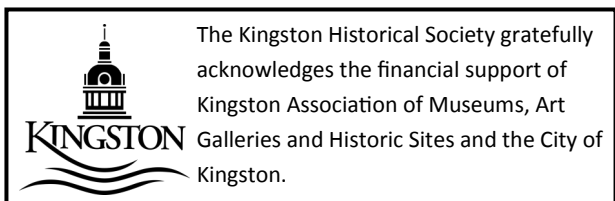
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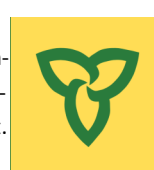
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The Kingston Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.



The KHS gratefully acknowledges the financial 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: Tabitha Renaud	Webmaster: Peter Gower	Membership Chair: Paul Van Nest	pvan nest@cogeco.ca
Councillors: Vincent Durant	Duncan McDowall	Alan MacLachlan	Tabitha Renaud
Paul Van Nest	John Whiteley		Anne Richardson

President's Message

by Warren Everett



As this will be my last letter as President, I want to take this opportunity to thank all those members of the Society who have been responsible for the success I enjoyed these last two years. These two years have seen a number of significant changes, all I believe for the long term benefit of the Society. The annual Sir John A Dinner passed into history and was replaced by the Canadian Heritage Dinner. The inaugural dinner was well attended and I look forward to this February's dinner featuring Dr. Laura Brandon who will speak on The Group of Seven and First World War. This January we returned to the Main Library for our monthly meetings. The meeting was well attended with a number of the public attending the presentation and two new members signed up; the return to the Library has had a positive result already.

The Society is well served by the hard work of the members of the Council who gave me their unwavering support over the last two years. Their strong leadership in all areas is responsible for our continued success. Many of the challenges which faced the Society over the last two years are still out there. I urge everyone to give your full support to the new President and Council.

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In closing, it has been a privilege to serve as your President. I look forward to seeing many of you at future monthly meetings and I will continue to serve on Council as Past President.

Announcement Follows

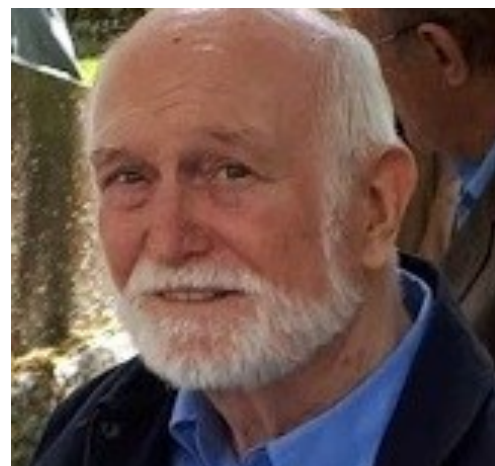
It gives me great pleasure to announce that **Brian S. Osborne**, a KHS Life member, has been made a Member of the Order of Canada. His citation reads in part: "*Brian Stuart Osborne, Kingston, Ontario for his contributions to historical geography and for his distinguished research on Kingston's geographic heritage.*" This is an honour richly deserved and long in coming. His citation in the Canadian Encyclopedia shows the scope of his works and awards.

Dr. Brian Osborne is Professor Emeritus of Geography at Queen's University, in Kingston, Ontario. His research areas include Aboriginal history, settlement history, cultural landscapes and the role of communications in the development of a Canadian sense of place. He has published extensively on the Kingston area. His most recent book is, Kingston: Building on the Past for the Future (2011).

Professor Osborne has served as a consultant for the National Capital Commission, Heritage Canada, Parks Canada, Canada Post and the National Film Board. He is past president of the Ontario Historical Society and Kingston Historical Society, as well as the recipient of Queen Elizabeth II's Gold and Diamond Jubilee Medals and the RCGS Cam-sell and Massey medals.

Brian has been a keen supporter of the Society for many decades. We joined the Council together in 1999. Shortly afterwards, he served as my Vice President, and provided much support and guidance to me as a newcomer to Kingston and as a new member of the Society. Brian served as President of the Society from 2002 to 2004. He was an initiator of the annual Sir John A. Macdonald birthday dinner.

Brian not only loves local history; he championed Kingston's role in early Canadian History. His contribution to ensuring that the Kingston Fortifications were included in the World Heritage Site designation for the Rideau Canal and Kingston Fortifications is a testament to his vision and perseverance.



Speaker's Corner The Land and Waters We Share by Duncan McDowall

Members of the Society were treated to an unusual presentation on the evening of 15 January, a presentation that invited them to reframe the context in which they conceived Kingston's historical evolution and the values embedded in that understanding. Cultural sociologist Dr. Terri-Lynn Brennan spoke on the need for Canadians as a whole to acknowledge and embrace the perspectives and values of Canada's Indigenous peoples. To do this, she focused on white-Indigenous interaction over the centuries in the Kingston area, events such as the Crawford Purchase and the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Covenant.

Born in the Six Nations Mohawk community of Grand River near Brantford, Terri-Lynn is founder and CEO of Inclusive Voices Inc. (www.inclusivevoices.ca), a consultancy that facilitates dialogue between our First Nations and other Canadians with the ambition of bringing age-old Native intuitions about the land and its use into the mainstream of Canadians values. In this fashion, Terri-Lynn served as a consultant last year in the preparation of the panels placed in the Murney Tower acknowledging Mohawk presence on that land long before the British military fortified the spot. Perhaps the most striking aspect of Terri-Lynn's presentation was her use of a huge painted map of Turtle Island – the Native conception of North American geography – which she spread before the feet of the audience and used to illustrate the tremendous diversity and, at times,


contentions within our First Nations. The evening, in short, prompted KHS members to ponder the broadest implications of our “national” evolution and an opportunity to introduce new values into that definition, values that will ultimately make the nation a truly inclusive society.



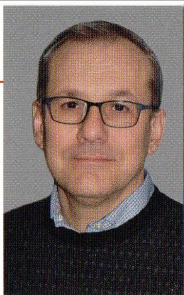
Photos by Peter Ginn



Dr. Terri-Lynn Brennan



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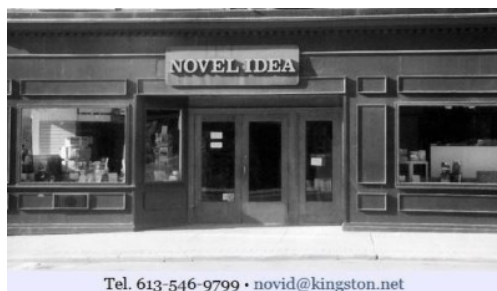
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It is noted with regret, the death of Robert Fleming, 13 January 2020, a former member of the Kingston Historical Society.



THE HOCHELAGA INN
— EST. 1879 —

Reconsidering History

by Peter Gower

“The Five: The Untold Lives of the Women Killed by Jack the Ripper” by Hallie Rubenhold

As we look back, we often realise that contemporary accounts and interpretations of events are not always as accurate as they may seem. Governments keep secrets; the identities of participants may not be known and their point of view is never heard; and rumours become oft-quoted facts. Hallie Rubenhold is not sure if there was just one murderer now known to us as Jack the Ripper, and her interest is not in the lurid articles about ‘him’: even Wikipedia exuberates over him!

Instead, she looks at the five lives lost. All of the victims’ lives had grown sadder as they grew older, and Rubenhold does a remarkable job of recreating each life in detail from birth to the unfortunate end. She notes they are “ordinary people, like you and me, who happened to fall on hard times.” Those hard times are what makes this book so interesting, as she describes in great detail just what it was like to try to survive – and almost impossible to prosper – if you were on the lower end of the social scale in Victorian England. By the end of the book, I had decided that even Charles Dickens gives us a pretty rosy picture of life of his period. He had probably not really understood what was going on around him. I was particularly moved by the descriptions of life in the workhouses, as my grandfather spent part of his pre-teenage years in one. And she believes that the workhouses were improvements over what had been before!

“The Five”, which has just won the Baillie Gifford Prize, Britain’s leading non-fiction literary award, is an easy, non-academic read which brings those five back to life, and recreates years which we can be well pleased are in our past. Reading about life a century and a half ago can only make us feel that there has been progress in some areas.



The Kingston Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Kingston Association of Museums, Art Galleries and Historic Sites and the City of Kingston.



Grants ceremony of Kingston Association of Museums, Art Galleries and Historic Sites and the City of Kingston. Tabitha Renaud, centre back, is receiving a grant for the KHS.

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

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 > 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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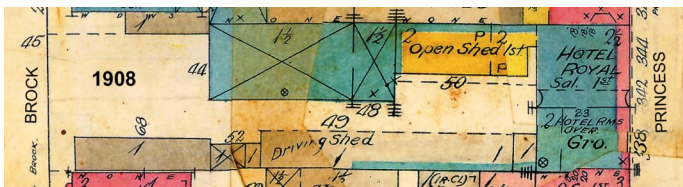
**Please renew
your
membership
now!**

STILL STANDING: Looking at Regional Architecture with Jennifer McKendry

In 1909, the Grimason Hotel, now known as the Royal Tavern at 342-344 Princess Street, was pushing its marketing, "it is heated by steam, and lighted by gas and electricity. The dining-room is a model in its way, and the tables are attractive with their snowy linen, while the best of market supplies is well cooked and properly served. A well stacked bar is in connection where the leading brands of wines and liquors, malted goods, and cigars are served. The guest rooms, 24 in number, are comfortably furnished, bright and airy (*Special No. British Whig*)." The fire insurance plan of 1908 shows that, at that time, the property ran to Brock Street and contained stone stables, portions of which survive as free-standing walls. The yard, needed for the carriages and horses of hotel guests, was accessed through an arched passageway (now filled in) from Princess St. The hotel's proprietor, William Marshall, son-in-law of the owner, Eliza Grimason, was noted in 1909 as horse dealer and "a perfect judge of horses." Little did he realize the handwriting was on the wall, as the automobile progressed, or that his wife Emily would be a widow by 1911.

Part of an 18-acre Loyalist grant to Sir John Johnson, the property originally was two lots running from Princess to Brock Streets, when the Selma Park subdivision laid out by Bishop Macdonell in 1824. John A. Macdonald acquired the half fronting Brock in 1840 for £150 and, in 1851, the other half fronting Princess for £300 – the latter a high enough price to suggest there may have been a modest building on the site. When he sold it five years later to Henry Grimason, 1811-67, an Irish emigrant and inn keeper, it was for the very large sum of £700. Macdonald provided a mortgage of £300, which was recovered in 1859. In 1863, Macdonald sold the Brock St half to Eliza Grimason. In 1913, the Grimason Hotel was re-named the Royal Hotel. Except for a severance on a small part on the east, it remained in the Grimason family until 1923. But when was the building we see today built?

In 1858, Henry Grimason was running an inn elsewhere but, by the time of the 1861 census, was established in a brick, 3-storey inn, along with Eliza, their 10 children, 2 horses and 3 cows in St Lawrence Ward. This must be our building (considered 3 storeys due to the top one garnering income as a hotel). In 1857, Grimason paid £30 for plans and specifications to architect William Coverdale. One scenario is that a building including and west of the large archway, replaced one that might have already existed (one map of 1850, however, shows no building next to Princess St) or it was a thorough remodelling of an existing one? The brick is veneered over stone, which is exposed when viewed from the back. It is likely that the eastern portion, composed of four bays, was added in 1876 when Power & Son, architects, tendered to build a shop and dwelling for Mrs Grimason. The definitive answer for the building dates is yet to be determined.



1908 fire insurance plan

Blue = stone, pink = brick, yellow = frame, grey = sheds

340-344 Princess

credit Jennifer McKendry 14 Dec 2019



HOMESTEAD

Murney Tower Operated by the Kingston Historical Society

Collections Management at the Murney Tower Museum

Tabitha Renaud, Museum Chair



The museum is currently undergoing extensive work in Collections Management. Over the past few years many interns from the Queen's history department have worked in the Heritage Room at Queen's Archives under the supervision of Peter Gower. Through hundreds of hours of sorting they have organized the collection and allowed new interns to move on to the business of cataloguing artifacts. Thank you to Danielle Marshall and Peter Gower for organizing the Heritage Room with new shelves and archival boxes. Our deepest thanks to UBC intern Nicole Mulder for setting up an electronic system for the museum to catalogue its artifacts.

This past year, our volunteer Violet Tang has been photographing, organizing and electronically cataloguing our museum's artifacts. Violet is now graduating and moving away and we will miss her sunny disposition and eagerness to help. We would like to thank her for putting in many volunteer hours in the Heritage Room and for training the incoming museum committee on how to continue her work.

Are you interested in learning to catalogue artifacts? We are currently looking for someone to continue Violet's work. If anyone is interested in volunteering in Collections Management for the museum we would love to hear from you!

Email us at:
murneytower@gmail.com



Violet Tang, here pictured in the Heritage Room of the Queen's Archives, has been volunteering to help organize and document the KHS collection. Photo by Tabitha Renaud

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Canadian Heritage Dinner

Sponsored by the Kingston Historical Society



ANOTHER WONDERFUL EVENING...SAME GREAT PRICE!

This coming year we will be holding the second annual Canadian Heritage Dinner sponsored by the Kingston Historical Society. The guest speaker for this very special event is **Dr. Laura Brandon**. Her presentation is **"Paint and Paper: The Group of Seven and the First World War"**.

Dr. Brandon is a freelance writer, curator, and lecturer specializing in international and Canadian war art. She was the historian of Art & War at the Canadian War Museum. She has written and lectured internationally for nearly 40 years, curated more than 45 exhibitions, and is currently an Adjunct Research Professor in the School for Studies in Art and Culture in the History Department at Carleton University.

Dr. Brandon will speak about the artists who first exhibited as the Group of Seven in 1920. She will highlight the critical and popular success of the 1919 war art in London, England, and explain how burgeoning notions of Canadian identity, along with the artists' own experiences in World War I as soldiers, painters and commercial artists, placed the conflict at the centre of their post-war success.

Date: *Saturday, February 29, 2020*
Time: *6:00 pm with dinner commencing at 7:00 pm*
Cost: *\$70 per person*
Location: *Senior Staff Mess at the Royal Military College*

Our meal will consist of the following: pretzel buns (gluten free buns available), butternut squash soup, your choice of entrée, lemon broccoli vegetable, tea or coffee, and raspberry cheesecake for dessert. Please choose from the entrée options below on the registration form.

Entrée Options: Braised beef short rib/red wine jus/garlic parmesan mashed potatoes
Fresh salmon filet/lemon beurre blanc/wild rice pilaf
Four cheese ravioli/herbed tomato sauce/reggiano parmesan

Please fill out the tear-off portion of the registration form and send it along with your cheque to the address below. **ALL** registration forms must be received **no later than Friday, February 13, 2020.**

Anne Richardson Kingston Historical Society
c/o 750 Amaryllis Street, Kingston, Ontario K7P 0A9

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Anne Richardson at: richanne@hotmail.ca

NAME(S): _____
TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Number of BEEF SHORT RIB Dinners: _____

Number of SALMON Dinners: _____

Number of VEGETARIAN Dinners: _____

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