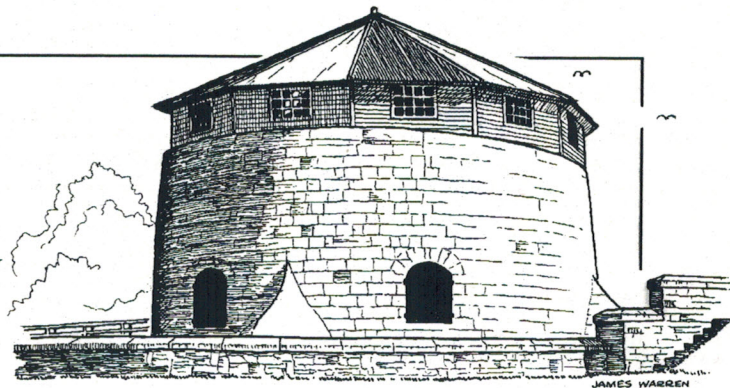


LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

vol 4 no 6 September 2002 ISSN 1488-5565



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome back to the world of KHS. We have a lot to look forward to this fall. As **Alan MacLachlan** reports on the back cover, apart from another programme of fine speakers, he has been working on some more adventures and excursions. On 5 October, a group will be travelling to Ottawa to visit Earnscliffe, the National Art Gallery, and Rideau Hall. The Society has also been invited to tour one of Sir John A.'s Kingston homes, 110 Rideau Street. Be sure to sign up early to reserve your places on each of these activities!

And look what's happened to your *Limelight*. Three years and four volumes ago, we lost our Editor. I agreed to take it on, but knowing one's own limitations is the first sign of wisdom. Accordingly, I "persuaded" a young doctoral candidate and computer-whiz, **Brandon Beierle**, to assist me. This he did from Vol. 1 No. 2 until this summer when, as Dr Beierle, he returned home to Calgary. Thank you for all your efforts on our behalf, Brandon.

It is our good fortune that **Jennifer McKendry** has agreed to take-over the task of designing and producing *Limelight* with me. As you can see with this issue, we are already benefitting from her skills and imagination. Thank you, Jennifer.

Finally, welcome to new members and, in particular, to our new sponsors: Tango Restaurant, Chien Noir and Blake McKendry Books.

So, once again, welcome back, and on with the show!

Brian S. Osborne










OUR NEXT MEETING: *see also back cover*

"Constructing a Family History"
with **Peter H. Aykroyd** and **Judy Harvie**

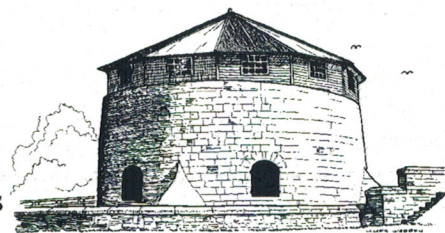
Wednesday **18 SEPTEMBER** in the Wilson Room,
Kingston Public Library, Johnson St at Bagot

all welcome!

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THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ESTABLISHED 1893



Murney Tower by James Warren

Limelight is published nine times a year - September to May. Submissions should be addressed to the **Editor**, Brian Osborne, 613-533-6042, email osborneb@qsilver.queensu.ca. *Limelight* designer, Jennifer McKendry, 613-544-9535, email mckendry@kos.net. The Kingston Historical Society (KHS) gratefully acknowledges the support of *Limelight*'s sponsors.



KHS holds monthly talks or events, usually on the third Wednesday of the month, September to May, usually in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library on Johnson St at Bagot St. Special annual events include a dinner and talk honouring the birthday of Sir John A. Macdonald in January and a ceremony marking his death in June. **New members are welcome!** - individual \$ 35, family \$40, institutional \$ 40, student \$ 25; memberships include *Historic Kingston*, published annually by KHS.

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

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history in the making -



Over the coming weeks, the Society's Awards Committee will be considering its recommendations to Council of the **KHS AWARDS for 2002**. All members are invited to participate in this important process by nominating individuals or organizations considered to be worthy candidates by using the form enclosed with this newsletter. Nominations may be mailed to the Chairman of the Committee, Dr J.G. Pike, 150 Macdonnell Street, Kingston K7L 4B8 before the deadline of **31 October** 2002. The Awards Committee would appreciate it if as much information as possible be presented in support of each nomination.



The **Frontenac Heritage Foundation (FHF)** announces a name change. Established in 1972 and dedicated to the preservation of heritage buildings, its original name, Frontenac Historic Foundation, created confusion with the Kingston Historical Society, and prompted FHF members to approve the new name at the recent AGM. Jennifer McKendry has been appointed as the editor and designer of its quarterly newsletter, *Foundations*. Membership information, Shirley Fortier 541-0749.

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TWO HUNDRED YEARS A BURIAL SITE

by Marjorie Compton Simmons

On Sunday, 11 August, the Cataraqui Cemetery Company unveiled a monument in the original Quaker burying ground to commemorate its two hundred years as a burial site.

The "Kingston Preparative Meeting of the Society Friends" was approved on 16 April 1801 under the "guidance" of the "monthly meeting" at Adolphustown. It would provide religious support for the Quakers who had settled as early as 1796 at Sandville – later to become Waterloo – on Lots 15 and 16 in the Third Concession of Kingston Township.

Meetings were to be held "on the sixth day of the week preceding the third and fifth day in each month at the eleventh hour," and a committee was appointed to attend. It consisted of John Dorland,

James Noxon, Robert Hubbs, Jacob Cronk, Daniel Haight, Phillip Dorland, and Jacob Cronkhite. On 21 May 1801, the committee reported that the Meeting "opened agreeable to the said minute of our last meeting" and on 17 September 1801 the Kingston Meeting asked to have James Lambton Hudson appointed as Overseer.

On 17 June 1802, the "Kingston Preparative Meeting" was reported to be considering purchasing a "suitable pease of land for a burying place" at a

cost of £3 per acre. By 16 September 1802, £1 15s 3d had been collected, and - with the contribution of an additional £1 10s 4½d on 21 October at the Adolphustown Preparative Meeting - it was decided to buy one acre. Isaac Barton was named as Overseer.

By 1850, the Town of Kingston was in great

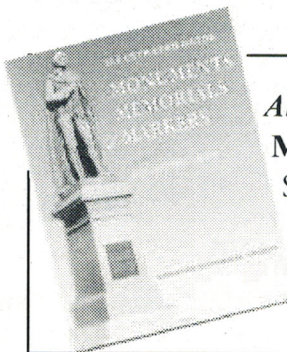
need of land for a new cemetery and it turned its attention three miles to the north-west to a large farm on Lot 16 in Kingston Township. The prosed site abutted on the lands owned by the Society of Friends. The newly formed Cataraqui Cemetery was soon constructing maps, roadways, water-courses, and sections. It offered to involve the Quaker Cemetery in its planning process. Accordingly, on 22 January 1856, the two cemeteries

entered into an "Agreement by Deed Poll" whereby the Cataraqui Cemetery would take over the lands of the Society of Friends in consideration of the sum of five shillings, "to and for the use of the Society of Friends as and for a burial place" in accordance with the "Trusts raised and created" by a deed dated 6 January 1834.

These were the events commemorated and memorialized by the ceremony at Cataraqui Cemetery on 11 August.



John Clements and Gus Pangeotopolous unveil the Quaker monument at Cataraqui Cemetery.
Photo by Jennifer McKendry



An ILLUSTRATED GUIDE to MONUMENTS, MEMORIALS & MARKERS in the KINGSTON AREA, published by KHS, is available for \$ 24.95 at local bookstores or \$ 29.95 postpaid (cheque or money order to the Kingston Historical Society, include your name and mailing address) from The Kingston Historical Society Book, P.O. Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6.

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FIRST CAPITAL DAY

15 June 2002

On Saturday, 15 June, Kingston celebrated "First Capital Day" with a parade from the County Court House to City Hall, a Civic Ceremony hosted by Mayor Isobel Turner and her Council, and a programme of musical entertainment and festivities in Confederation Park.

As noted by the Hon. Peter Milliken, "When tracing the history of our great nation, one of the key dates that is certainly worthy of attention is June 15, 1841 -- one hundred and sixty-one years ago today -- the day on which the first Parliament of the United Provinces of Canada was opened by Governor General Lord Sydenham in Kingston."

This theme was echoed by Ian Milne, co-founder with Margaret Angus of the First Capital Project. In his address, Mr. Milne emphasized how ever since these heady, albeit short-lived, years of political dominance, Kingston has "developed into a splendid little city with strong roots. That is a wonderful legacy for you and me to inherit. We have much to be proud of as Kingstons."

Ian Milne also emphasized that the focus in the 2002 celebrations and activities was on youth. Accordingly, Mayor Turner presented the London Life Insurance Company's "Ontario Youth Heritage Award" to Carol White's students at Calvin Park Public School who had developed an historical web-site as a class-project.

Perhaps the most memorable feature of the day was the programme of songs presented by ten different school classrooms of Grade 5 - 8 students. Under the direction of David Archibald, the young student composed the lyrics and music for songs depicting life and events in Kingston in the 1840s. Governor Generals

continued next page

Sydenham and Bagot, the fire of 1840, the cannons of Fort Henry, and many other dimensions of Kingston's history came alive. Consider "Kingston First Capital" by Grade 6 (Mary Ann Lyons) Central P.S:

*In the year of 1839
Lord Durham he did write
That two great lands should join as one
Two peoples should unite
They were searching for a capital
That they could call their own
A place that held a stronghold
To defend our glorious home
Which one will it be?
Is it Toronto?
No way!
Or Montreal?
Mais non!
What about Kingston?*

Look out for the CD of the complete collection of these songs. It's a project sponsored by the City of Kingston, the Community Foundation of Greater Kingston, and KHS.



David Archibald and friends.
Photo Rob Mooy, courtesy *Kingston This Week*

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TOWNSHIP OF FRONTENAC ISLANDS: THIS IS YOUR LIFE

by Gord Smithson

During the week of 27 July to 2 August, local residents and visitors were treated to an art, history, and music fest presented by artist and local historian, **Shirley Gibson-Langille**. This well attended event was held at St. Margaret's Church Hall and was entitled, "*Kingston Artist Shirley Gibson-Langille Continues Her Legacy.*"

Shirley Gibson-Langille was born in Toronto but has lived most of her life in Kingston. Her long-standing ambition has been to create art for the enjoyment of others. Also, over the past two decades Shirley has contributed to the collective memory of a number of our local communities by her blending of art and history and the recording of so much information that would have otherwise been lost to future generations.

Appropriately, therefore, the central theme of Shirley's 2002 exhibition was "*Frontenac Islands: This Is Your Life*," a pictorial history of Wolfe, Howe, and Simcoe islands. Over the past two years, Shirley's water-colour, pastel, and pen and ink art has preserved images of the Town Hall, old cheese factories, log homes, farms, many one-room schools, churches, country stores, inns, hotels, lighthouses, and derelict boats. And last but not least, she has recorded visually the life of Johnny Wall, a crippled squatter who lived on Brophy's Point, 1895-1927.

The opening ceremonies were accompanied by a piper,

Stan Bendle, and hosted by local historian, Gord Smithson, who introduced the special guests, Mayor Jim Vanden Hoek, former MPP Ken Keyes, MPP John Gerrettsen, and MP Peter Milliken.

As in previous years, an enthusiastic crowd was entertained by an array of activities. Wolfe Island resident and historian, Rene Marshall, provided an informative history of the islands. Carrying on the tradition of previous art-shows, the ghost of "Tricky McDermott" (played by Art Warmingtton, a nephew of "Tricky"), arrived in a horse-drawn carriage and sat quietly as

local residents, John O'Shea and Richard Fawcett, entertained the audience with stories of the life of this infamous former resident of Wolfe Island. Margaret Darling presented a history of Johnny Wall and a walking tour of Marysville was conducted by local resident, Marjorie Bousfield. Musical entertainment included performances by Bill McDonald, Gilbert Riddell, the "Old Tyme Fiddlers," Barry and Lisa Russell, Andrew Ray, and the Pickett Fences.

Antique displays were exhibited by Elaine & Bill Stinson, Flora Pomeroy, Tony MacPherson, George Lockwood, and Gord Smithson.

Congratulations, Shirley, for another spectacular and interesting extravaganza of art, history, music...and fun!



photo by Gord Smithson



CHECK OUR WEBSITE for colour photographs of KHS activities and information on KHS events and publications. *Coming soon* (likely in December or early 2003) - a searchable version of monuments, memorials and markers in the Kingston area.

www.heritagekingston.org

LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES

RUINS: THE STRATHCONA CEMENT WORKS

by Shirley Gibson-Langille

In September of 1994, I went to Strathcona Village. It was once called Bowers' Mills after Adam Bowers who built the first mill there in the 1820s. In 1875, the Napanee Paper Mill started there. What I was interested in, however, was the Rathburn Cement Company plant which had been erected on the Bowers' property in the 1830s and then dismantled and moved to Marlbank in 1904. I was interested in seeing what might be left there.

I walked up the streets towards the church and the school and stopped to ask directions from a man with a 1920 Chevy parked in his driveway. He said that there were two aqueducts and a few ruins in the field behind. I was surprised when he told me Basil Ballance (the man who witched for graves) owned the property.

I went to see Basil who lived two doors down. He remembered me and offered to take me on a tour. We went through a locked gate at the back of his house. His grandfather had bought the land from the cement plant. It was very overgrown and desolate. We walked to the first aqueduct and scared out a flock of pheasants. A lone blue heron was standing in the middle of the second one. Flocks of birds were feeding on the seeds in the weeds. A chipmunk ran over my foot.

I found a fascinating tunnel, and I decided to paint here. Basil laughed and said it was a good thing I hadn't been sitting there yesterday as I might have been arrested. The RCMP had spotted a large patch of marijuana plants from a helicopter growing right behind where I sat. he noted that they had left two rows

probably to see if someone would come back!

Before starting my painting, I took a photo of an old horse-drawn rake that was intertwined with a tree that had been growing there for forty years or more. I thought to myself it would stay there now for good. NOT SO! The next thing I knew a man appeared from nowhere and started hacking away at it. He said he was going to take the rake out. I tried to be friendly even though he kept upsetting my paints and water.



"Doesn't it seem strange that two people should want to work in the same spot at the same time?", I asked. He just ignored me and kept hacking away. I felt that he was hoping I would leave. I, on the other hand, was determined to finish my painting. Besides, I was there before him! But, finally, I gave in when he upset the last of my water.

Thinking back now, I have to wonder if the rake is still there and if it was the rake he was really after!

SPEAKERS' CORNER with Alan MacLachlan

This year's array of dynamic speakers and topics promises to be an exciting one!

The KHS fall programme opens on Wednesday **18 September** with a presentation by Peter H. Aykroyd and Judy Harvie on **"Constructing a Family History."** The authors of the recently published *A Sense of Place* (copies for sale at meeting) will explore the particulars of reconstructing one family's history and its connection to one specific place on Loughborough Lake. More than this, however, a more universal question of interest to all of us permeates their work: "Where do I come from?"

Subsequent meetings will address other exciting topics: Colonel Bradstreet's foray into Cataraqui; Norman Rodgers; early photography of Kingston; Kingston's connection with the WW II defence of the Pacific coast; the history of the Domino Theatre; health care in Kingston at the Kingston General Hospital. And of course, our calendar now includes other regular items: the Christmas party in an interesting location; the Sir John A. birthday banquet at RMC on 11 January; and the AGM and "show and tell" meeting early in 2003.

As we did last year, we are also adding other activities to our programme. Accordingly, on a date to be announced, we will be visiting 110 Rideau Street,

one of the former residences of Sir John A. Macdonald. The new owners and KHS members, Norma Kelly and Donna Ivey, are continuing the restoration of this historic property that was started by the Frontenac Heritage Foundation and they have graciously offered us an opportunity to visit their home. Details will be announced in the next *Limelight*.

More immediately, KHS has arranged a visit to **Earnscliffe**, once the Ottawa home of Sir John A. Macdonald and now the official residence of the British

High Commissioner. This will be followed by lunch and self-guided tours at the **National Gallery of Canada**, and a visit to **Rideau Hall**, the official residence of our Governor General.

Date: **Saturday, October 5**

Departure: 8:00 a.m., the Queen's parking lot at Mac-Corby Hall, Union Street.

Return to Kingston: 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$30 per person.

Call **549-8841** for reservations. Payment by cheque made out to KHS and sent to Alan MacLachlan, Program Chairman, P.O. Box 231, Kingston, ON K7L 4V8 (or handed to Alan at the 18 September KHS meeting).

***KHS field trip
on October 5th
to Ottawa***



Rideau Hall from Ottawa: *Canada's Beauty Spot* (early 20th century), collection Jennifer McKendry