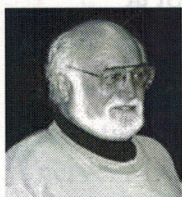
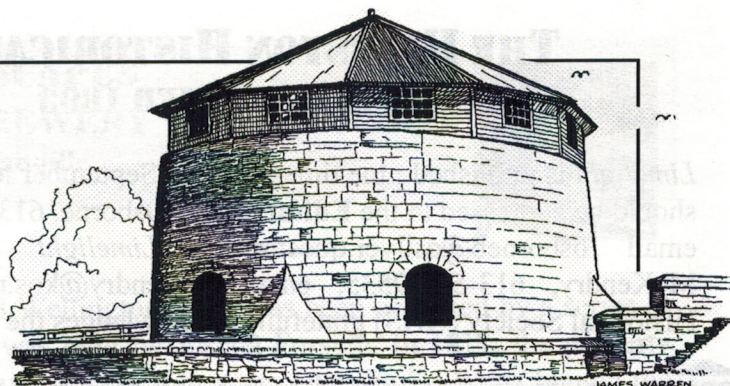


# LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the  
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

vol 5 no 1 January 2003 ISSN 1488-5565



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The newsletter for the New Year should be an optimistic celebration of the future. This one starts with a loss. On 14 December 2002, Zal Yanovsky died.

The KHS has long concerned itself with the physical fabric of Kingston: towers and forts; the domestic architecture of the elite and the edifices of commerce and government. Certainly, they have all contributed to the personality of this place. But cities are more than bricks and mortar. What makes a city a vibrant place are the far-seeing individuals who transform the architecture and material fabric into living-places. This is what Zal did.

Can we now imagine Kingston without "Chez Piggy"? In the 1970s, it was Ted Lloyd who climbed a ladder in an old abandoned stable and who, with Marie Lloyd, had the imagination and courage to embark on a restoration

project. But it was Zal and Rose that created the distinctive ambience of Chez Piggy that has been at the heart of a revitalized downtown. He didn't stop there. Six days before he died, he and Rose were proud recipients of an award from the Frontenac Heritage Foundation for their loving transformation of 44 Princess Street into their new venture, Pan Chanco. And this is the man who gave generously to such causes as literacy, earthquake victims, and who willingly sponsored our *Limelight* for the last four years.

So as KHS embarks on a new year of celebrating Kingston, I think we should all honour Zal Yanovsky as one of the people who enhance the community by turning dead buildings into living institutions and so enrich the quality of our lives. Thanks, Zal: you were much more than a "lovin' spoonful."

*Brian S. Osborne*



Photo: Jennifer McKendry

### SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY DINNER

SUNDAY, 12 JANUARY, 6:30 PM, Officer's Mess, RMC  
Commissionaires will direct guests to the dinner and parking locations. Only 36 tickets (at \$35 each) still available. Please call Alan MacLachlan at 549-8841 for tickets *before* Wed., 8 January.

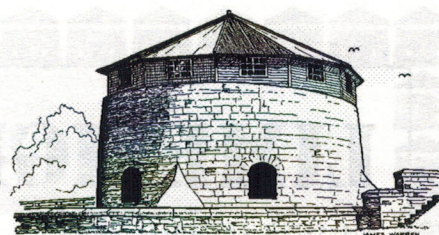
KHS AGM and SHOW & TELL on  
Wed. 19 FEBRUARY at 7:30 PM in the library  
— *please see back cover.*

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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](mailto:osborneb@qsilver.queensu.ca). *Limelight* designer, Jennifer McKendry, 613-544-9535, email [mckendry@kos.net](mailto:mckendry@kos.net). The Kingston Historical Society (KHS) gratefully acknowledges the support of *Limelight's* sponsors.

 KHS holds monthly talks or events, usually at 7:30 PM 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  
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website [www.heritagekingston.org](http://www.heritagekingston.org)

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Laurie North writes—

### Heritage Life Stories: Writing Life Histories

Everyone has a unique story to tell. With our transient society, we often do not have the time to know our family stories. When someone dies, their stories are lost and we have nothing to give our children. Oral histories strengthen bonds between family members giving them an identity, a heritage, helping them to know who they are and where they've come from. Photos are not enough to explain the story behind the picture.

Based on oral history interviews, Heritage Life

Stories will write your life story by weaving your favourite memories, experiences together with family photographs, letters and poetry, art or familiar quotes. The recordings will allow your loved ones to hear you speaking in your own voice. The finished product in hard or soft cover is a priceless treasure to be handed down through generations.

Even if you have partially written memoirs, Heritage Life Stories will transcribe, edit, proofread and polish your work to make it ready for printing. Laurie (613)-549-4053



The Museum of Health Care at Kingston presents a public talk by Research Fellow, Lauren Furness, on "*Confining for Cure: Early Ontario TB Sanatoria, 1896-1918*," Monday, 13 January at 7PM in Room B139, Botterell Hall. Reception to follow at the Museum. All are welcome. Admission free. For more information, 548-2419 or email [museum@kgh.kari.net](mailto:museum@kgh.kari.net).



## Ruth McKendry Textile Collection



Appliqué and embroidered rug with detail from lower left corner. Photo: J. McKendry



items include a hand-drawn sample book for quilt designs and an embroidered early 19th-century vest. The strength of the collection is in hand-woven materials and the groupings of several works by the same weavers.

According to Dr Victor Rabinovitch (*below*), CMC President, "The McKendry

The Canadian Museum of Civilization (CMC) in Hull has acquired an extraordinary collection of handmade textiles collected over a period of some 40 years by Kingston resident Ruth McKendry. Author of the classic *Quilts and Other Bed Coverings in the Canadian Tradition* and of *Classic Quilts*, Mrs McKendry, a well-known expert on Canadian quilts and textiles, has been a researcher and collector of Canadian textiles for over 40 years.

In 1979, the CMC acquired Ruth McKendry's collection of more than 300 early quilts. In the summer of 2002, the Museum purchased the rest of the textiles amassed and documented by Mrs McKendry over many decades. This rich and well-documented collection consists of 1,709 handmade textiles and clothing, including quilts, coverlets, blankets, bookeds rugs, samplers, hand-woven shawls, and clothing. The collection contains both rare and representative samples, the majority produced in Ontario during the 19th century. Rare

Collection is a major addition to the Museum's holdings and helps us to interpret a way of life that has all but disappeared from memory. These items give us invaluable physical information to help us understand the economy, social organization and lives of Canadians over a century ago." Meticulously documented by the donor, these pieces create a fascinating record of the household economy and, in particular, the place of women in the 19th and early 20th centuries as represented by their domestic arts.

Over the next three years, photographs and descriptions of the items will be added to the Museum's online catalogue at [www.civilization.ca](http://www.civilization.ca) under the heading "Treasures."






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# OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY, THE DOMINO AFFAIR, & AWARDS



On 10 December, the Society held its annual Christmas Party and by all accounts it was a wonderful success. The location was the Domino Theatre in the old stone Morton Brewery and Distillery complex. This was most fitting as **Pat Beharriell** (right), co-author with Ken Weston, of *The Domino Affair*, gave a presentation on the fifty-year history of the Domino Theatre. Over 80 members and friends were treated to a marvellous kaleidoscope of events, peppered with humorous anecdotes of the development of the theatre. Pat enthralled us with her account of honours won, disasters averted, and the trails and tribulations - as well as the joy and hilarity - in ensuring that "the show must go on!"



Photo by Jennifer McKendry

After Pat's talk, Jack Pike and Brian Osborne presented the annual KHS awards. The first was given to architectural historian **Jennifer McKendry**, and reads:



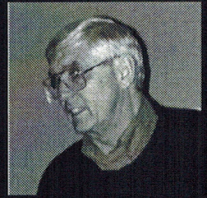
Photo by Robert Lonsdale

The City of Kingston is recognized for the richness of its institutional, commercial and domestic heritage buildings. Equally deserving of acclaim are those individuals who have laboured to establish an informed awareness of the vital role that these structures play in defining the nature and spirit of our community. During more than thirty years, Jennifer McKendry has been a prominent and versatile participant in this process. She pursued formal investigations of Kingston architecture in the course of obtaining three post-graduate degrees. For ten years, citizens of Kingston avidly read her informative weekly newspaper column, which frequently addressed architectural subjects. Her remarkable record of published works and oral presentations on a wide variety of topics linked to the local built heritage has broadcast knowledge of the unique character of the *Limestone City* well beyond its geographical boundaries. It is indeed fitting that this distinguished student and interpreter of Kingston's architectural heritage be recognized by a KHS Award.



## SPEAKERS' CORNER

with Alan MacLachlan



The second award, accepted by **Sue Bazely**, **David Baird** (below) and **Richard Baiden**, was to the **Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation**, and reads:

Since its incorporation in 1983, the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation has become recognized throughout Ontario for its excellence in archaeological investigation. It has been an active proponent of this work and through its public education programs and publications, has raised awareness of both local archaeological heritage and the value of archaeological research. The Kingston Archaeological Centre, which the Foundation opened in 1989, provides an extensive public interpretive exhibit representing over 7000 years of human occupation of the Kingston region. The "Can You Dig It?" summer field school has completed its seventh season and has introduced some 400 students to archaeological research techniques, fieldwork, artifact management and exhibit preparation. The Foundation provides a variety of volunteer and educational programs, including those in co-operation with the Limestone District Board of Education and Queen's University. The Foundation also maintains a research library and archives relating to the history of Eastern Ontario. The Kingston Historical Society is most pleased to reward these outstanding achievements.

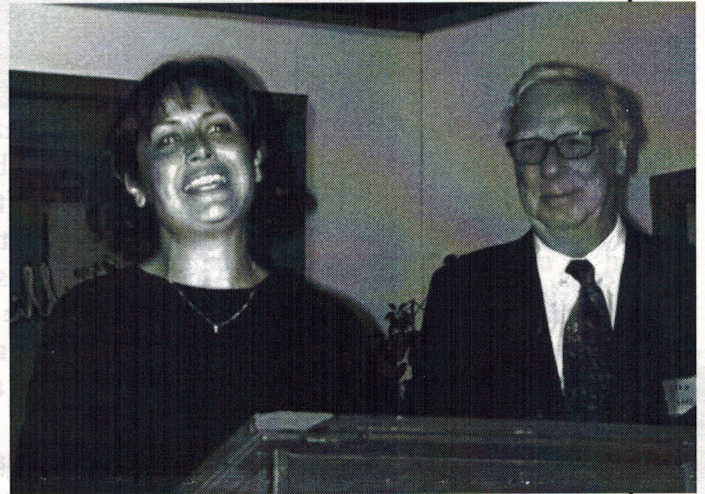


Photo: Jennifer McKendry

Following the presentations, the assembly retired to the lobby for refreshments and conviviality.



Thanks, Doug!

Photos by Jennifer McKendry



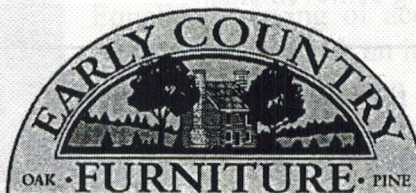
**Jack Pike**, in charge of the official awards, receives an unofficial award from **Brian Osborne** (on the right).



*"In a Foreign Country"*  
*Images of 18th and 19th Century Canada*



Don't forget to check out  
our website for colour  
pictures of KHS events!  
**[www.heritagekington.org](http://www.heritagekington.org)**



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## LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES

### OLD KINGSTON BREWERY

by Shirley Gibson-Langille



The site of the old Kingston Brewery at 308 Wellington Street has been occupied by a series of breweries since 1793, when a frame one was built by Joseph Forsyth. In 1811, the property was sold to James Robbins who erected a new frame brewery four years later. Philip Wenz bought the property in 1826 and, in the 1830s, built a stone brewery, later replaced by the present stone buildings, designed by William Coverdale, from 1857 to 1861. They are also known as the Bajus Brewery, the name deriving from a later owner Jacob Bajus.

Having painted four images of the outside of the Brewery, I was curious to see the inside. I was also fearful that it might not be safe as there had once been a fire in there. Finally, I got up enough nerve. My diary, dated 28 November 1984, reads:

"I got up and packed up my painting gear along with a flashlight, hard hat and boots and set out for the old Brewery. I went up the lane on the left side of the building on Wellington Street and found a door that opened. Venturing in and leaving the door open for light, I saw that it was still plenty dark in there and very unnerving as part of the floor was gone and each step I took could have sent me crashing through to the basement. I made my way through to a room full of rubble and decided to do a small painting there as the roof was gone and there was enough light to see. There were a lot of wheels made out of small pieces of wood lying around and I sat on one of these. It was awful as everything was covered in years of bird droppings. Being there was very nerve-wracking at first, especially when a big cat ran by me. However, once I got to work I was fine. I did enjoy the fifty or more pigeons flying around me and realized it was a great home for anyone flying. I wished I could fly around and explore the rest of the building.

I finished that drawing and decided to eat my lunch and the coffee tasted good. I ate the cheese and threw the crackers for the birds. On my way back through the dark, I spotted this two-wheel cart obviously especially made to hold barrels. I was determined to paint it. Sitting down in a door jam to do it, I figured it would hold my weight and I would be safe. With the help of my flashlight, I completed this painting. I packed up and snuck out the same way I had come in, closing the door behind me."



Thinking back now in 2001, I realized just how foolish I had been that day. I should have let someone know where I was going. It was even more dangerous than I had thought as I learned later that there were three wells in there. If anything had happened to me, no-one would have ever looked in there for sure! Anyway, it all turned out well and I hope the painting will help you visualize my experience! The building has now been made into a condominium.



## KHS NOMINATIONS 2003

**A**t the KHS Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 19 FEBRUARY 2003 at 7:30 PM, in the Kingston Public Library, the Society's Nominating Committee (W. Everett, D. Nelson, and B. Osborne) will present the following slate of candidates to the membership:

### EXECUTIVE

*President* Brian Osborne  
*Vice-President* Jane Errington  
*General Secretary* Doug Petty  
*Treasurer* Desmond O'Meara  
*Past President* Warren Everett

### COUNCIL

Robert Andrews  
Ted Huber  
John Fielding  
Alan MacLachlan  
Sarah Meharg  
Jack Pike  
Barbara Snyder

As specified in the Constitution, the new Council will appoint the following: Editor of *Historic Kingston*, Editor of the newsletter (*Limelight*), and Chair of the Murney Tower Committee. These appointees will also serve as members of Council. Council will also appoint chairs of other Society committees.

Any member of the Society in good standing may nominate any other member of the Society in good standing for any office. Incumbents may be nominated for an additional term, and nominations may be submitted for any or all of the positions to be filled. Volunteers may nominate themselves for any office.

Members wishing to nominate a candidate for any position as a member of the Executive or Council may do so from the floor at the AGM, by submitting written nominations to Warren Everett, 253 Willingdon Avenue, Kingston, K7L 4J2, or by handing them to any member of the present Executive and Council before 5 February 2003. Submission of a nomination carries the assumption that the nominee is willing to stand for election and serve, and that this has been verified by the nominator.

Please participate in this extremely important activity to ensure the continuing health and efficiency of the Society.

Warren Everett, Past President and Chair, Nominating Committee.

Following the AGM there will be a **SHOW & TELL**; members are encouraged to bring historical artifacts. Please describe your artifact to Alan MacLachlan at 549-8841 in advance of the meeting.  
All welcome. Refreshments.