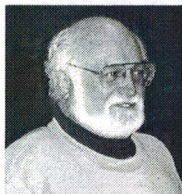
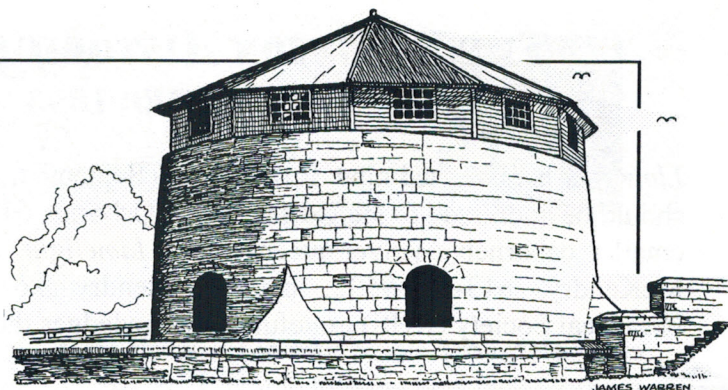


LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

vol 5 no 3 March 2003 ISSN 1488-5565



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

February has come and gone, and so has yet another Heritage Week. As some of you may know, I am also Vice-President of the Ontario Historical Society and, on Monday, 17 February, I attended the OHS reception to kick-off "Heritage Week." The guest of honour was Ontario's Minister of Culture, The Honourable David Tsubouchi, who addressed the theme for Heritage Week 2003, "Heritage of Our Town." In his speech, the Minister applied this issue to his home community, Markham, and chatted informally with several of us about the possibilities for improving the Ontario Heritage Act: more power to local municipalities to manage local heritage; provincial protection of Ontario's heritage properties; and strengthening the province's archaeological provisions. The meeting was held at the OHS heritage property, the John Mackenzie House, which serves as its headquarters. The OHS is rightly proud of its 115 year history, but I must admit the Minister

raised an eye-brow on hearing that KHS is commemorating its own 110th anniversary this year. However, I am unable to report that he came up with special funds for an appropriate historical meeting place for KHS!

But we appear to be doing well without it, if last month's Society AGM is any indication. What more can you want? - a fine turn-out by members, a new set of enthusiastic officers, and an entertaining programme. All of this is due to so many hard workers who ensure that the Society's affairs are in good order. So let me take this opportunity to thank personally two retiring officers, **Carl Bray** and **Lou Grimshaw**, as well as an extensive array of volunteers on our several committees. I will list this committee structure in a future *Limelight*. In the meanwhile, thank you all.

And so we enter into our 110th year as a Society. Keep thinking of ideas for an appropriate celebration and please bring them to my attention.

Brian S. Osborne



THIS MONTH'S MEETING:

WEDNESDAY, 19 MARCH at 7:30PM
in the Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library

ROBERT ANDREWS

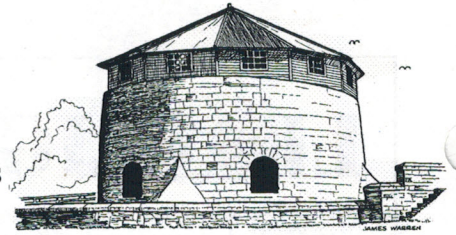
"Colonel Bradstreet and the Battle of Fort Frontenac"

ALL WELCOME! REFRESHMENTS

- ♦ president's message, 1
- ♦ masthead, 2
- ♦ coat of arms, 2-3
- ♦ snapshots of Kingston's past, 3
- ♦ McCulla's store, 4-5
- ♦ short story contest, 6
- ♦ mystery portrait, 6
- ♦ Horning's antiques, 7
- ♦ speakers' corner, 8

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 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
Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6

phone 1-613-544-9925
website www.heritagekingston.org

Brian Osborne, *President*
Warren Everett, *Past President*
Jane Errington, *Vice President*
Douglas Petty, *Secretary*

Desmond O'Meara, *Treasurer*
Councillors:
Robert Andrews
John Fielding
Ted Huber
Sarah Meharg

Alan MacLachlan
Jack Pike
Barbara Snyder

Webmaster: Ken Watson

NEW ARMS FOR AN HISTORIC NEW CITY

by Roland Anthony Laframboise



for colour version of the coat of arms, see
www.city.kingston.on.ca

On 31 March 1998, Kingston City Council established the City of Kingston Coat of Arms Committee to design a new coat of arms, a flag, and a badge for Kingston, soon to be amalgamated with the surrounding areas. Following a preliminary meeting with Robert Douglas Watt, Chief Herald of Canada on 18 May, the committee met nine times between 21 July and 16 November. On 8 December 1998, the new coat of arms was approved by City Council. Following a petition to the Governor General's office, the arms were granted by

warrant on 11 January 1999 and the citizens of Kingston celebrated the unveiling of their new coat of arms on 27 June. It is an interesting exercise in heraldic iconography to decipher the symbols incorporated in it:

♦**SHIELD:** Three gold antique or eastern crowns represent the three former municipalities. The blue and white waves represent the convergence of the St Lawrence River, the Great Cataraqui River/Rideau Canal, and Lake Ontario. The Martello tower represents strength and firmness of resolve as well as indicating the long military connections Kingston has had in its history. The shield itself is red.

♦**BLAZON:** A Martello tower upon waves with three crowns.

♦**CREST:** The crest displays a golden beaver standing on a limestone rock with water flowing beneath it. The crest is a canting of the early name for Kingston - Cataraqui - an aboriginal word meaning "rocks rising from the water."

♦**SUPPORTERS:** The shield is supported on two sides by creatures: a golden griffin commemorating le comte de Frontenac who used two of these mythical beasts in his coat of arms; a golden lion taken from the coat of arms of Canada.

♦**SCROLL:** The gold letters and the border of the scroll represent golden fields of crops, while the blue band running through this gold scroll represents the water symbolizing the shipping, naval, shipbuilding, and water recreation aspects of Kingston.

♦**MOTTO:** "*Antiquitate*" meaning the past or history; "*Civilitate*" meaning citizenry or community; and "*Humanitate*" meaning kindness.

SNAPSHOTS OF KINGSTON'S PAST

photograph submitted by George Dillon

It's about 4:30 p.m. in the summer of 1953. The local mixed train which had arrived at Kingston from Sharbot Lake in the morning, is pulling out of the CPR station (now the tourist bureau), on its return trip. It had entered the station facing south, moved to the by-pass track, backed to the round-house at the foot of North Street, and then turned 180 degrees on the turntable to face north for its return trip. Engine 485, a ten-wheeler, one of several similar engines stationed in Kingston, is hauling a baggage car and a passenger car on its combination freight-passenger-milk run. It will stop at Glendale, Harrowsmith, Hartington, Verona, Godfrey, and Tichborne, on its way to Sharbot Lake. The trip will take two hours. Passenger service between Kingston and Sharbot Lake was terminated by 1957 when the Department of Highways decided to rebuild Highway 38 between Tichborne and Sharbot Lake. The CPR agreed to abandon its track in this section as part of the highway reconstruction. This was the beginning of the end for the "Kick and Push." CPR abandoned its yard and station in front of City Hall about 1966 and it was transformed into Confederation Park.





A Tradition of Hand Craftsmanship
694 McKay St 384-4571

RESTAURANT
68-R Princess St 549-7673

PAN CHANCHO
44 Princess St 544-7790

"The Pig with a Peel"



Dining Room / Bar

Courtyard Terrace

69 Brock St

549-5635

Kingston's Independent Bookstore



156 Princess St 546-9799
Oscar Malan, Bookseller



GRAHAM THOMSON
REAL ESTATE

TERRY STAFFORD
BRIAN STAFFORD
546-3171

for
"ULTIMATE SERVICE"

for a catalogue of our books on
Canadian & Kingston
art & architecture,
please contact Blake McKendry,
9 Baiden St, Kingston K7M 2J7
546-6861, email

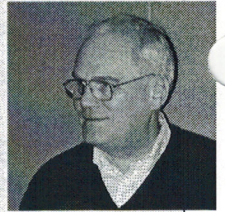
mckendry@mckendry.net
or see our website
www.mckendry.net



IMAGES OF KINGSTON:

MR McCULLA'S GROCERY STORE

by Stewart Renfrew



courtesy Queen's University Archives V23 ComB McCulla-1.1

The photograph of James McCulla's Grocery Store is from *Kingston, the Limestone City*, published in 1909. The business had been established by G.W. Strange in 1879 and was taken over by James McCulla in 1897. It was located at the north-east corner of Bay and Montreal Streets, in what is unofficially known as the "Swamp Ward." The people living in the area were generally individuals of modest means and would have included skilled workers and clerks. Mr McCulla lived at 111 Bay Street in 1896, the year before he acquired the property.

Prior to owning this business, McCulla had worked as a manager in two other Kingston enterprises: J.Y. Parkell, Wholesale Produce; and Thomas H. John's Grocery on Princess Street. He served a long apprenticeship; he was 49 when he took over from Mr Strange. It is likely that his business was more modest than the ones that he had worked for but the picture suggests he had made a success of it. There is a number of staff standing about and the "Belfast Tearoom"

(you can just see the sign in this picture) was also part of his business. Apparently, he specialized in teas and, one expects, he did home-delivery, which accounts for the horse proudly displayed in the foreground. Like many good Irishmen, he seems to have had an eye for horseflesh and, according to the city tax rolls, he also owned a dog. One indication of his growing prosperity was the fact that he eventually moved to 234 Johnson Street, an address often regarded as a more prestigious one. McCulla ran the business until 1912.

His obituary reveals that James McCulla was born in Belfast, Ireland, was married to Mary Jane Anderson, but no children were reported. While keenly interested in civic matters, he was possessed of a retiring nature and turned down several attempts to persuade him to run as alderman. On the other hand, he was active in St. Andrew's Church and a life member of the Oddfellows. He died on 21 April 1935 and was buried in Cataragui Cemetery.

Today, the former store houses the headquarters for Garrison Electric and a shop catering to Catholic cards, books statues, and the like. The owner of the latter also lives at 234 Johnson Street and keeps Mr. McCulla's bible in the store. There is no sign of the old "Belfast TeaRoom" but, all in all, the buildings there are in good shape and should last many more years.



photo by S. Renfrew



MARC F. RAYMOND OPTICIANS LTD

324 KING ST EAST 549-2020

Kinnear d'Estre

JEWELLERS LTD est. 1906

168 Princess St 546-2261



THE PILOT HOUSE OF KINGSTON

265 King St East 542-0222



**61 Brock St
548-7721**

www.cookesfinefoods.com

CUNNINGHAM & POUPORE

FASHION FOR MEN

75 BROCK STREET



81 Princess St

546-4439

331 King St East

531-0800



**"Step up to Tango"
Tapas Bar & Restaurant**

SHORT STORY CONTEST HONOURS CANADA'S FIRST MYSTERY WRITER, GRANT ALLEN

Therese Greenwood

"thief as hero"

Wolfe Island's **Scene of the Crime Festival** is launching a new short story contest to mark the birth date of Canada's first crime writer and as a celebration and promotion of the crime fiction genre in Canada. "Canadian crime writing has a proud history," says contest co-ordinator, Violette Malan. "We want to celebrate that and to encourage more Canadian writers to turn their pens to crime." The contest opens on 24 February 2003, the birth date of Grant Allen, Canada's first crime writer. It is open to writers previously unpublished in mystery or crime. Deadline for entries is **30 April 2003**. For contest rules visit www.sceneofthecrime.ca. Winners

will be announced on 1 August 2003 and will be presented with their prizes at the annual Scene of the Crime Festival on Saturday, 23 August 2003. First prize is \$50 and publication in the event program. Second and third prizes are \$25 gift

certificates from Kingston's Novel Idea bookstore and publication on the Scene of the Crime website. The Scene of the Crime Festival was launched to honour Grant Allen, who was born at his family home on Wolfe Island, the



manor of the Baron de Longueuil family, in 1848. The first Canadian to write crime stories, Allen was a good friend of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes. He went on to become one of the most prolific writers of the Victorian period and invented a plot staple, the thief who is actually the hero of the story. For more information about the short story contest, contact Violette Malan by telephone at 613-272-3591.

Information and tickets for the Scene of the Crime Festival are available by contacting Maureen Lollar at 613-385-2540 or by email at festival@wolfeisland.com.

do you know this man?

Kristian Palda, emeritus professor in the Queen's School of Business (paldak@qsilver.queensu.ca), would appreciate help in identifying a sitter painted by Samuel Palmer in 1844. Palmer, who became a fashionable itinerant painter, appeared in Quebec City in mid-July 1842 and then sojourned in Kingston. (The *Kingston Chronicle and Gazette* noted, however, a letter waiting for Palmer at the Kingston post office on 8 December 1841). Because the Agnes Etherington Art Centre is currently exhibiting a portrait of Queen's chancellor, the Rev. John Cook, Palmer must have visited here in 1844. The subject of the portrait in question here (oil on canvas, 80 x 90 cm, priv. coll.) is a young man in dark clothes, sitting in a red-backed armchair with a reddish-brown curtain in the background. The colours and posture are very similar to the Cook portrait. Palmer, believed now to be an American, disappears from sight in 1845. Close to a dozen of his portraits hang in Quebec and Montreal museums. The most extensive reference to Palmer is in *La peinture au Québec, 1820-1850* (Musée du Québec, 1991). This publication does not mention the Cook portrait, presumably because of its Ontario origins.



LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES

HORNING'S ANTIQUES

by Shirley Gibson-Langille



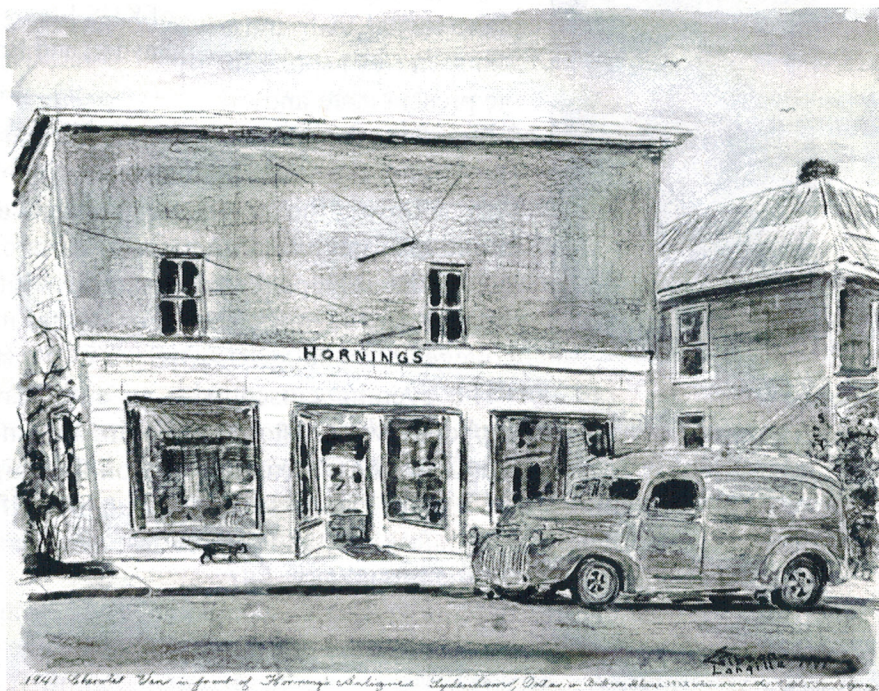
When you set up a still-life to paint and you find out it needs something, you can just pick up an item and add to it! Not so when doing a landscape. However, where there's a will, there's a way, I always say!

In 1991, I was painting Horning's Antiques on Mill Street in Sydenham. I had almost finished the drawing when I realized it needed something to jazz it up. I looked down the street and saw this beautiful, old, yellow van parked in front of the Post Office. I quickly ran down and met the owner, Joe Nordhof, who proudly told me it was a 1941 Chevrolet. I explained what I was doing and how grateful I would be if he could park the van there for a while. "Well, I guess I could," he said, "If you will drive me home and come back and get me when you're finished." I asked him where he lived and he told me, "Just up aways." Well, "Just up aways" turned out to be a long ways. But it was worth it as it sure did the trick!

I later visited Jack Horning and his wife, Dora, who lived close by. They were quite elderly and Jack wasn't very well, which explained why I never found the store open. Jack told me that in 1922, before his dad, Ratus, had his Mechanic Shop there, it had been a Model T Ford Agency.

In 2001, when I decided to write this story, intuition brought me back to Sydenham. The Hornings had passed away and I was curious about what had happened to their store. It felt strange going back and I couldn't find the building. I went into the IDA Drug Store and found out that it had been built over the Horning's store nine years ago! I then walked

down the street to visit Noble Trousdale in his unique store. Noble told me that Jack Horning had been a very energetic, enterprising man. He first had a Battery Factory where he rebuilt and charged batteries. Then he bought equipment from the Firestone Plant so that he could vulcanize tires and started up a Tire Store. He had also had a coal business across the street.

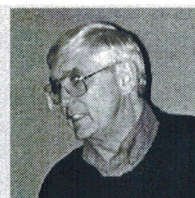


Besides all of this, he had trucks on the road collecting milk for Sydenham's Acme Dairy. Jack love radios and was the first to have one in the community. He used to put up a large loud-speaker outside his store so that when there were ball games and fights aired, the town-folk gathered outside to listen.

Sometimes intuition can be very rewarding. Such was the case with my return to Sydenham. Like the colour used to paint the building, the history behind it was every bit as colourful.

SPEAKERS' CORNER

with Alan MacLachlan



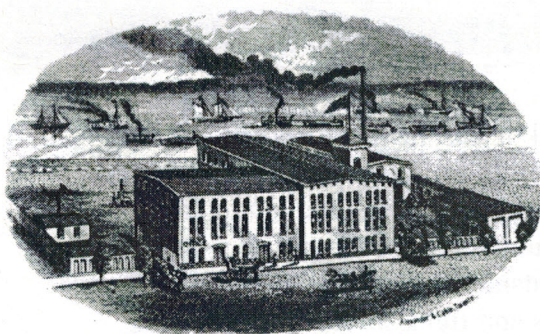
On 19 February, a well-attended Annual General Meeting elected a new slate of officers (listed p. 2). With the presentation of the committee reports and budget completed, attention shifted to a full and varied programme. **John Grenville** introduced members to the various resources available to all on the KHS web-site www.heritagekington.org, paying particular attention to the searchable electronic data-base on Kingston markers and memorials.



Following a mini-piano recital, Adrienne Shannon (*left*) spoke to the present state and

future plans for an exciting local cultural venture, **The Festival on the St. Lawrence**. Current plans call for an opening gala in Kingston City Hall on 16 May, followed the next day by concerts at several "Doors Open" venues. Other initiatives foregrounding the arts, culture, and heritage of the local region include internships for young and emerging artists, a summer school, and visual arts classes and workshops. For further information, contact St Lawrence College, 933-6080 (ext. 1359) or info@stfestival.on.ca.

The evening closed with an enthusiastic "show and tell" and featured **Nan Yeoman** describing scrapbooks with historical clippings from 1973; **Isobel Trumpour**'s imaginative use of family letters; **Lou Grimshaw**'s ruminations on the enigmatic connection between our Princess of Wales Regiment and HRH, Princess Alexandria; **Jennifer McKendry**'s exercise of historical forensics with letterheads (*below left*) and directories; and **Maurice Smith**'s (*below right*) entertaining display of an enigmatic navigational aid.



letterhead showing the Kingston Hosiery Co. on King St W. (present site of Heating Plant). Established in 1882 and demolished 1920. McKendry Coll.



On Wednesday, 19 March, at 7:30 PM, **Robert Andrews** will speak to the Society on the topic of "Colonel Bradstreet and the Battle of Fort Frontenac." He will discuss the Bradstreet incursion during the Seven Years War by using documents and letters from the various participants.