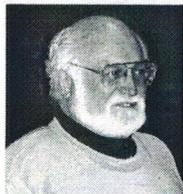
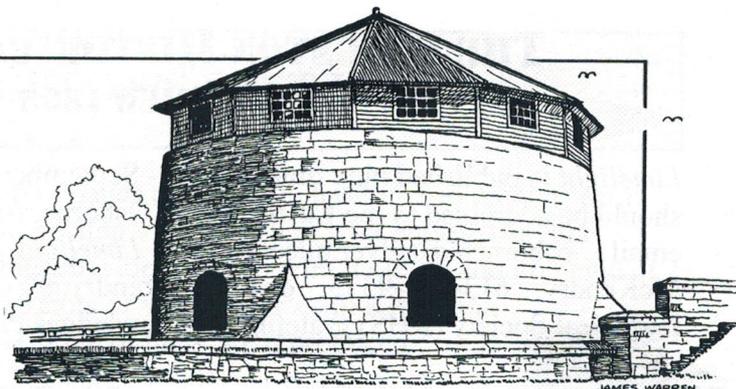


LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

vol 5 no 4 April 2003 ISSN 1488-5565



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Like icebergs, most community institutions have more below the surface than shows above. I've just finished writing letters to the Chairs of our major committees and the individuals who serve us in various important activities and whose work often goes unnoticed.

Just consider what goes on in any given month. Members of the Executive are in formal and informal contact discussing issues that simply pop-up out of the blue. Council meets most months to discuss KHS business and monitor its affairs. The editor of *Limelight* strives to pull together eight pages of interesting news and entertaining stories while the editor of *Historic Kingston* works assiduously at a dozen or so articles and reports. And then there is monthly meeting of the Murney Tower committee that is very aware of its responsibilities in running a museum, National Historic Site, and perhaps our most publicly visible presence in Kingston's landscape.

No less important are those charged with organizing our Sir John A. Macdonald commemorations on 6 June and 11 January, welcoming visitors at meeting, overseeing our publications, ensuring publicity for our activities, providing refreshments at our several gatherings, and adjudicating KHS awards. Perhaps the most important new initiative is our attempt at ensuring better liaison between KHS and local schools.

So, this month's *Limelight* recognizes the score or so people who volunteer their time in these various activities. I formally thank them for all they do on our behalf. But, never satisfied, I want more! Anyone interested in joining any of these committees (including a proposed committee for our web-site) is urged to contact me. And finally, a sincere *cri de coeur* from an over-worked soul: would anyone like to come forward and serve as apprentice-editor for *Limelight*? It's quite easy, really!

Brian S. Osborne



THIS MONTH'S MEETING:

WEDNESDAY, 16 APRIL at 7:30PM
in the Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library

JENNIFER McKENDRY

“In the Camera's Eye: People and Places in Kingston”

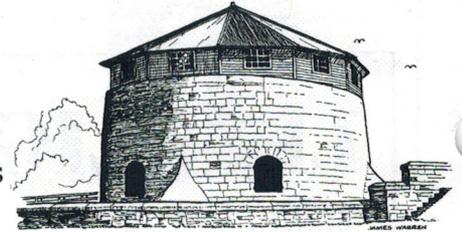
ALL WELCOME! REFRESHMENTS

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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 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.

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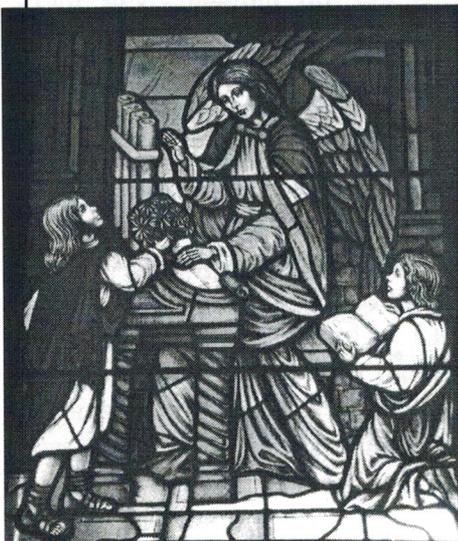
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THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST GEORGE: ART FOR WINDOWS

The 21 stained-glass windows in St George's Cathedral represent the changing fashions of windows in the 20th century. All of the original windows were lost in the fire of 1 January 1899. The first two in the rebuilt cathedral were dedicated in 1902, and are in the style of Louis C. Tiffany. Among the most recent, installed in the RMC Gallery in 1979, is a window of St George, whose banner extends up out of the main window into the lunette above—an unusual arrangement.

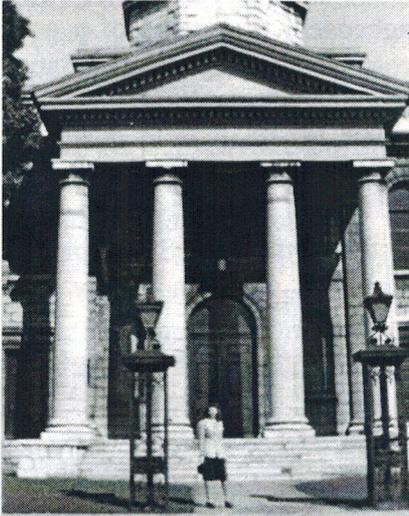


The window restoration campaign is supported by the annual "Art for Windows." The sale will be held at 6:30 to 9:00PM on **Friday 9 May** and will be accompanied by music and a gala reception with refreshments. Visitors entering the Cathedral from the King St entrance will get the full effect of the paintings, sculpture, pottery, and flower arrangements exhibited by local artists, artisans and designers.

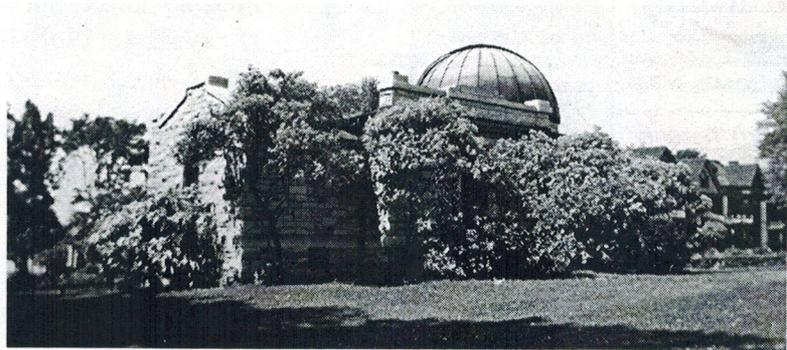
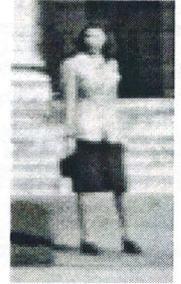
Tickets are \$10, including refreshments, and can be ordered at 548-4617, or may be purchased at the door. The exhibition continues on Saturday, 10 May, 10.00AM to 4.00PM; admission \$2 at the door. Just by being there, you will help preserve a very important part of Kingston's heritage.

SNAPSHOTS OF KINGSTON'S PAST IN 1941

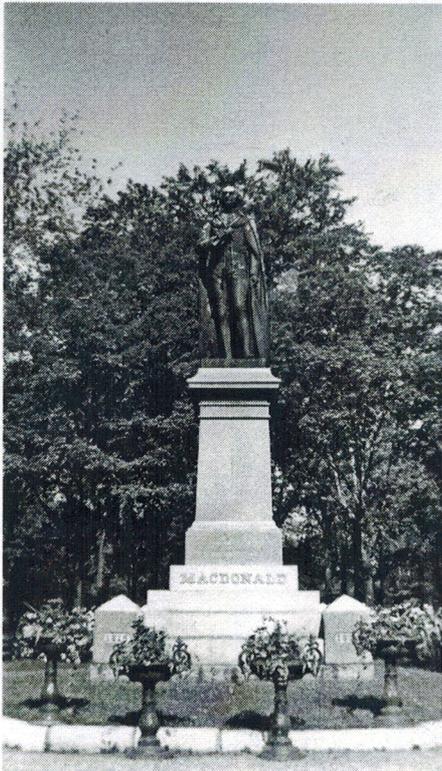
Gordon Smithson's idea for a *Limelight* column on images of Kingston has touched a nerve with several people and we look forward to more interesting views through your lenses. But this month's contribution is really a mystery? A plain white envelope arrived with no letter and no name or address: in fact no identifiers at all. In it were 21 snapshots of various places in Kingston and Napanee in 1941. Five of them are reproduced below.



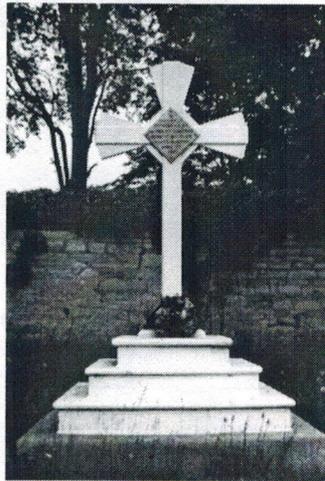
Five of them are reproduced below. The one of St George's (left) teases us with a hand-written comment on the back: "That's me in front, large as life and just as mysterious." A free copy of the KHS "Memorial Book" for anyone who recognizes the "Daughter of Time" (detail right) and a dinner with her at the window table of the Pilot House!



Queen's University Observatory, no longer extant



Sir John with funeral urns,
but no cannons



Can anyone locate this memorial "*In memory of Officers, N.C.O.s And Men 21st Canadian Infantry Battalion Killed in Action April 9th 1917*"?



Original anchor, cairn, and plaque commemorating War of 1812, since removed and modified with a new cairn and plaque



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IMAGES OF KINGSTON:

TRAVELLING BY STAGE

by Stewart Renfrew



Whenever I think of a stagecoach, the image of a coach racing at a full gallop across the Arizona desert comes to mind: Andy Devine is at the lines, while John Wayne holds off the marauding Apaches with his trusty Winchester. For the most part, however, 19th-century stage travel was more prosaic.

For example, take the Kingston-Sydenham Stage pictured below. It had to contend with potholes, mud, and snow banks



The Sydenham Stage

Date and setting of photograph unknown (reproduced *Kingston Whig-Standard*, 1 July 1967, courtesy Queen's University Archives Arch V23 Veh. Wagons -3)

rather than wild Indians. The 1867 city directory listed H. Martin as proprietor of the stage, which departed from Martins Hotel and City Hotel on Princess St at 4 PM. The 1873-4 directory reported the depot as the American Hotel on Princess St—arriving at 10:30 AM and leaving at 4:00 PM. daily. By the 1890s, most lines, including the Sydenham Stage, seem to have settled on the Windsor Hotel on Princess St for their down-town terminus. In 1900, the Sydenham Stage, William Hobbs proprietor, was

leaving daily at 3:00 PM for a modest fare of 40 cents.

Other stages left for Toronto, Montreal, Picton, Napanee, Bath, Battersea, and so on. They generally followed routes that did not have easy access to rail or steamship service. For example, the Bath stage often ran only in the winter months, leaving the summer trade to the many steamships then plying the Bay of Quinte. While the Sydenham district was eventually served by the Kingston and Pembroke RR, the stage continued to ply its trade along the Sydenham Rd, finding customers along in areas not adjacent to the train service. Indeed, the stage probably picked up much of its business along the route, not at the terminals. Another profitable business for stages was carrying the mail to outlying areas.

Stages were also flexible. They could change routes and terminal points very much at will. Perhaps the Sydenham Rd was too close to the "Kick and Push" railway line and so the stage went further east, entering Kingston on Division St. Likely, though, it went no further east, since the Battersea stage would be coming to town along Montreal St. One suspects, from the lack of advertising, that the stage business was a very informal affair: word-of-mouth likely spread the stage schedules. Passengers might have to get out and walk or even to push, should one of those potholes or snowdrifts prove too much for the three-horse hitch. If we had to use such a conveyance today to reach Sydenham, we might well be forgiven we forgot the whole idea -- even if the ride was a bargain at forty cents!



The Bath Stage crossing the bridge at the west side of Collins Bay with the Rankin Mill in the background. (Photographed sometime between 1875 and 1912, courtesy Queen's University Archives Arch V23 Veh. Wagons - 8)

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your society at work

The purpose of this list is three-fold. First, and most importantly, it serves as a general acknowledgement and thanks to all those who serve KHS as committee-members or as individuals. Secondly, it is a record of contact persons if members wish to enquire about any particular matter. Finally, in the spirit of the politically-corrected aphorism, "one volunteer is worth more than ten pressed persons," members may wish to participate in some of these activities. Feel free to enquire of Chairs about their committees' needs, frequency of meetings, work loads, activities, etc. You may find something that interests you.

Awards: Jack Pike (546 9187), Bea Corbett, Bob Andrews, Lou Grimshaw.

Archivist: Stewart Renfrew (545-1953)

Finance: Warren Everett (545 9316), Ted Huber, Desmond O'Meara, Doug Petty, Bob Cardwell, Brian Osborne.

High School Liaison: John Fielding (545 4594), Randy McVety.

Historic Kingston: Jane Errington, editor (544 4569)

Limelight: Brian Osborne, editor (543 6042) and Jennifer McKendry, designer

Murney Tower: Ed Grenda (544 3715), Warren Everett, Doug Petty, Bob Cardwell, Barb Snyder, Brian Osborne, Maurice Smith.

Membership: Barb Snyder (389 1907), Sarah Meharg.

Nominating: Warren Everett (545-9316), Brian Osborne, David Nelson

Plaques: John Grenville (549 0812), Ed Storey, Bill

Patterson, Jennifer McKendry.

Program: Alan MacLachlan (549 8841), Brian Osborne, Jane Errington.

Publications: Bob Andrews (382 0042), Brian Osborne, Jane Errington, Alan MacLachlan, Stewart Renfrew, John Fielding.

Publicity: Margaret O'Meara (546 5439).

Refreshments: Jennifer McKendry (544 9535), John McKendry.

Sir John A. Macdonald, 6 June: Peter Radley (384 4659), Desmond O'Meara, Brian Osborne, Emma Molson, Jack Grenville, Jennifer McKendry, John Coleman, Barbara Bonner, Stewart Renfrew.

Sir John A. Macdonald, 11 January: Jack Pike (546 9187), Alan MacLachlan, Brian Osborne.

Webmaster: Ken Watson

Welcome: Helen Coffey (542 4586), Shirley Gibson-Langille.

So let's thank all those listed above for their efforts on our behalf – and perhaps come and join in the fun!



photo Jennifer McKendry



photo Sarah Meharg

A welcoming smile from Helen Coffey

The Sir John A. Macdonald Committee, hard at work planning for June 6th.

LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES

THE BUCKET OF BLOOD

by Shirley Gibson-Langille



It was a lovely spring-like morning on the 18th of March in 1996 when I left Kingston via Montreal Street to go painting in Storrington Township. I drove to Battersea and passed the Vanluven Cemetery on my left. I stopped briefly in front of the Holiday Manor on the right. It was built by Henry Vanluven in 1840. No wonder it was so large: he and his wife raised twelve children there!

Just ahead was Mill Street. I decided to take a look down there. I turned at the old cheese-factory this side of the bridge. On the same side, I passed a house where I could see the still water of Battersea Creek above the dam. The old Grist Mill had burned down in the 1940s and only a few ruins could be seen sticking up through the grass and snow. Then I looked to the west side of the road and saw a quaint, intact, square, stone building that had once been the office for the Grist Mill.

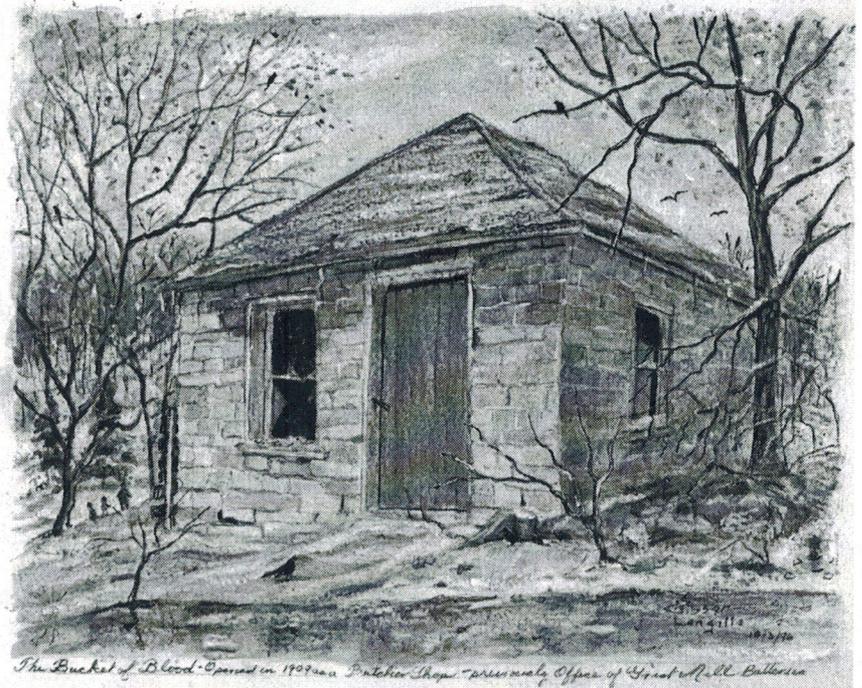
I really became inspired then, and I was not long getting myself situated and ready to paint. I felt even more blessed and delighted when I saw my first robin for the year. I quickly made a wish and put him in the painting. I could hear a redwing blackbird and some children playing nearby.

In the afternoon, my new friend, Beaver, who I had met at Ye Olde Barber Shoppe Hardware on the main street, stopped to chat. He lived up in the old cheese-factory. I learned from him that it had been made into apartments. Later, I met Jim

Graham (the classical guitarist) and his little girl who had just moved into the last house on the street. He told me there was a falls and more ruins beside his house.

It wasn't until I had finished my painting that a man came by and told me that the building was called "The Bucket of Blood." He wasn't sure if they called it that because it had opened in 1909 as a butcher shop or because illegal liquor used to be sold there!

I left there feeling overjoyed! Not only had I got a successful painting, I also had the bonus of discovering a fascinating story as well!



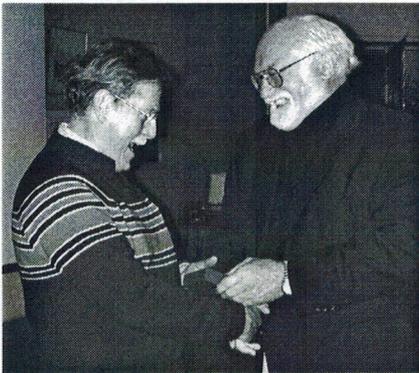
SPEAKERS' CORNER

with Alan MacLachlan



On Wednesday, 19 March, over 75 members and friends of the society were introduced to the nuts and bolts of Lt. Col. Bradstreet's raid on Fort Frontenac in 1758. **Robert Andrews** (right), a recent member of KHS, gave an informative and engrossing background on the personalities of those involved in the conflict. Using detailed maps and views, Bob outlined the challenges of the raid, the strategies, and the events of the short battle. He closed with a description of the pillaging of the fort's stones in the ensuing years.

KHS President Brian Osborne presented retiring councillor **Lou Grimshaw** with a pin in recognition of his long and worthy contribution to the Society.



Our next meeting on Wednesday **16 April** at 7:30PM in the library will showcase "In the Camera's Eye: People and Places in Kingston" by **Jennifer McKendry**, one of last year's KHS award recipients. She will give a fully illustrated talk on her book, *Early Photography in Kingston*, the second edition of which won an award from the Photographic Historical Society of Canada in 1998 (the first edition having won an award from the National Film Board of Canada). Copies will be for sale at \$15 each at the meeting. Among the topics she will cover is how early photographs assist her work as an architectural historian.

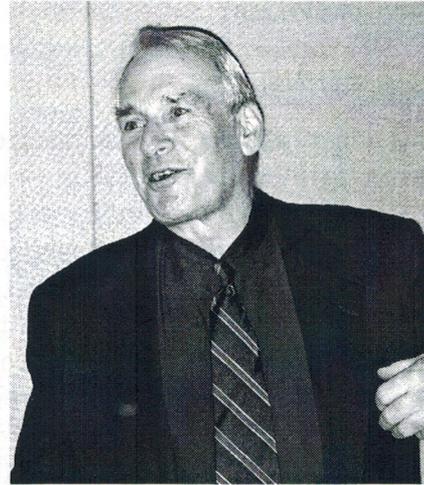


photo: J. McKendry

WE LOOK FORWARD TO THESE COMING EVENTS:

Saturday, 10 May: tours of 110 Rideau Street at 1:30PM and 2:30PM. Please notify Alan MacLachlan at 549-8841 about your choice of tour. Space is limited. This is an early 19th century stone house, once lived in by John A. Macdonald. Our thanks to Norma Kelly and Donna Ivy for this opportunity.

Friday, 6 June: the KHS annual commemoration at the gravesite of Sir John A. Macdonald in Catarqui Cemetery at 1:30PM. Guest speaker, wreath presentations, and refreshments.

Tuesday, 17 June: tour of the bell tower at St. Mary's Cathedral at 5:30PM. Please note that there are many stairs to the top. RSVP Alan MacLachlan 549-8841.

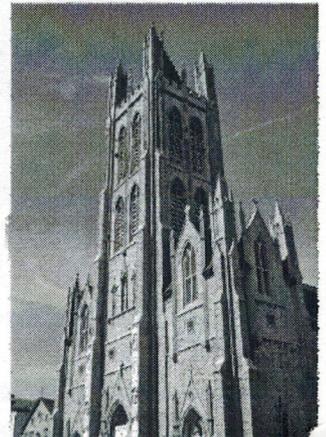


photo: J. McKendry