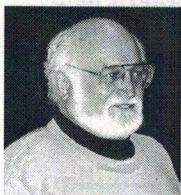
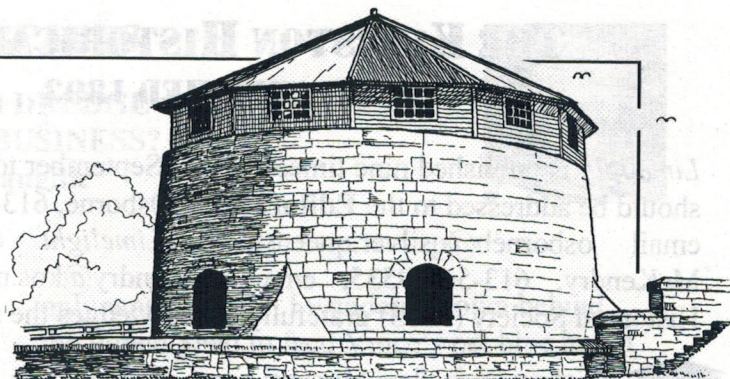


LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

vol 5 no 6 September 2003 ISSN 1488-5565



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome back for what promises to be another wonderful year for KHS. Certainly, we have had an active summer and much of what follows is devoted to reports of a full calendar of "historical" events. But, apart from the fun of these festivities and commemorations, there has also been a lot of work going on behind the scenes. Consider the following agenda of heritage activities that called upon KHS for its input.

- ✳ KHS participated in two Planning Forums organized by the Parks Canada's "National Historic Sites of Canada Management Planning Program" to discuss the future of Fort Henry.
- ✳ KHS was one of the several interested parties called upon to comment on RMC's plans for a new cadet-dormitory on Point Frederick.
- ✳ KHS submitted a letter of support for the "Navy Memorial Park" proposed by the WRCNS (WREN) Association of Kingston in memory of, as **Beatrice Corbett** put it, "those who gave their lives...and those who served and have died subsequently."
- ✳ KHS was consulted about the sale by auction of the historic former home of Agnes Maule Machar (formerly Hospice Kingston) and **Jennifer McKendry** was interviewed extensively by the

Whig-Standard on the architectural features of this impressive building at 169 Earl Street.

- ✳ KHS members **Bob Cardwell** and **Maurice Smith** alerted us to the proposed site for the new sewer at the bottom of James Street, Barriefield, which has a very rich history: possible aboriginal fishing site; an early 19th century settlement; an early sawmill; bootlegging; boat-building (see **Bill Patterson's** *Lilacs and Limestone*, page 200, for early images).
- ✳ KHS participated in a meeting in Elgin, where a group of concerned citizens are attempting to preserve the Elgin Public school (1887) and sought out advice on forming a Heritage Society.
- ✳ The KHS web-site committee under the chair of **Mark Andrews** has been redesigning our web-site as a dynamic forum for Society news and outreach to the greater community.

And this is how it should be. Rather than an inward-looking bunch of history-buffs, we should be seen to be an important voice in the heritage discourses of this community. After all, our constitution proclaims our mission to be to "create, foster, and maintain interest in the history of Kingston and its environs."

Brian S. Osborne

THIS MONTH'S MEETING:
WEDNESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER at 7:30PM
in the Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library

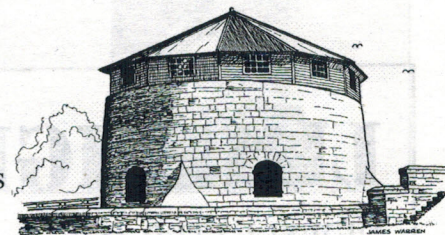
Harvey Medland
"The Antarctic Adventures of
Kingston's Tom MacLeod"

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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website www.heritagekingston.org

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LETTER BOX

Welcome to new members, **Peter and Dawna Selby**, of Kanata. Dawna writes:

"My husband's grandfather, Charles Selby, emigrated from England to Kingston in about 1912-13. Grandfather Charles's uncle, Charles Selby, had settled in Kingston in September of 1881. I believe that (uncle) Charles Selby was a prominent resident. In the early 1900s he and Henry Youlden were the proprietors of the Kingston Foundry...I do not know if the building still exists. Uncle Charles Selby's only son, Charles (there are so many Charles in the Selby family) died when the steamer, *The Bannockburn*, disappeared in Lake Superior in November 1902. A news clipping mentions 'Eleven Kingstonians Formed More Than Half the Crew of the *Bannockburn*.' These

These must have been anxious and sad times for the families in Kingston.

must have been anxious and sad times for the families in Kingston. Uncle Charles Selby had a daughter, Sarah Jane (Jinny) Dainty. She was a well known water-colour artist in Kingston. Some of her paintings still exist and many of them are landscape scenes in Kingston."

Welcome, Peter and Dawna. Any comments on this from fellow KHS members?



A second letter of enquiry was received from **Nancy Irvine** of St. Thomas concerning an interesting Sir John A. connection: a deed, handwritten by John A. Macdonald

in 1853:

"My aunt, now aged 88, grew up in the house that I live in. She told me years ago that this deed was somewhere in our attic, (along with many other letters, documents, and diaries belonging to my

ancestors dating back to the mid-1800s). I was rather skeptical that this deed would still exist, so when I actually stumbled upon it (in a cardboard box, unprotected, with numerous other papers), I was very, very surprised to say the least. Now that I have it, I value it as a remarkable part of my family history...

"A little history behind this deed: My family on my grandmother's side were Dingmans, of Dutch descent, who settled in New York State and later came to the Bay of Quinte areas as UELs. Absolom Dingman, my great grandfather, was born in Tyendinaga Township... The family moved to the

Somra area where they purchased this farm in 1853. I gather that at that time, John A. Macdonald did a bit of land speculating, something he did to supplement his income as a less than prosperous lawyer. It is unlikely that he ever saw this property, since the property was turned over in a very short period of time...and was a long distance from Kingston. At that time, Mr. Macdonald had a law practice in Kingston and was working without a partner which would explain why the deed was handwritten by him..."

*Thank you, Mrs Irvine, for another insight into Sir John. **

HONOURING DR "JACK" PIKE

After our May *Limelight* went to press, one of our members, John Gibson Pike (*below, on the right, with Peter Milliken*), was honoured by the Royal Military College by the award of the degree of Doctor of Engineering, *Honoris Causa*. A native of Hamilton, "Jack" Pike entered RMC in 1948 as a member of the "New One Hundred" following the re-opening of the college after World War II. Following his graduation from RMC in 1952, he moved on to complete a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering from the "other" university in Kingston, Queen's, an M.Sc. (Birmingham), and Ph.D. (McGill). Jack's subsequent academic career included responsible administrative positions in addition to a productive research career in the area of fluid dynamics, aerodynamics, and thermodynamics.

Perhaps what is best known to us, however, is his good services to the local community. As the official RMC citation puts it, "A keen student of history, he has served as Chair of the RMC Museum Committee since 1973 and has been active in the Kingston community as Vice-President and President of the Organization of Military Museums in Canada, member of the Kingston Historical Society, funding member of the Greater Kingston Civil War Round Table, and has held senior positions in support of the Anglican Diocese." Also, I have it on the best authority that Jack Pike is a first rate sailor, competent to be skipper or crew on any sailing ship on Lake Ontario.

But we in KHS could be even more specific. Jack has served well as a member of the Society's Council, Chair of our Awards Committee, and organizer of our successful Sir John A. Macdonald birthday banquet.

Congratulations, Dr. "Jack" Pike, for a deserved recognition and honour for good works well done!

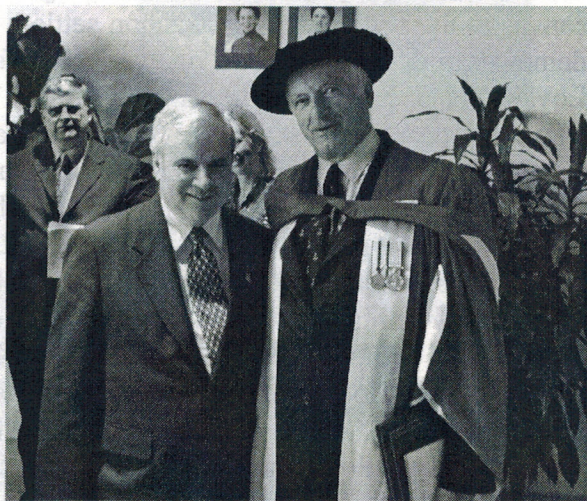


photo by Sarah Meharg

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: SUMMER, 2003

9-10 May: Upper Canada Trade Faire Brings History To Life

story and photo by Barbara Monk



The Upper Canada Trade Faire was held again this year on the second weekend of May near Odessa. There were over 40 camps and exhibits and nearly 80 re-enactors living under canvas in the style of early Canadian settlers and demonstrating many aspects of everyday life of Loyalists and the early 19th century settlers. The clang of the blacksmiths provided the background beat of numerous musicians who played throughout the days and evenings of the three day encampment. Period sutlers opened their shops full of fascinating items, and Lynn Bell set up a display of his photographic collages of local architectural artifacts and UEL information. Bob Miller of Sharbot Lake portrayed a gunsmith shop with his own creations of beautiful handcrafted flintlock guns and quality guitars, while Phil Healy of Kingston had one of his 19C. Irish coffins set up for all of us to check out. Several Kingston Historic Society members, as well as of other local historical groups, scouted out the array of displays and the pleasant location with the view of being future exhibitors.

10 May: Open House, 110 Rideau Street

by Donna Ivey

Some 35 members of KHS toured the 19th-century-style home on Rideau Street, once inhabited by young lawyer John A. Macdonald, his parents Hugh and Helen, and his sisters Margaret and Louisa, during 1835-1839. The 2 ½ storey, limestone house, most likely built in 1810 by John Cumming, is now enjoyed by owners Norma Kelly and Donna Ivey (*see below with Brian Porter*). Apart from rolled-oats biscuits and assorted Scottish treats, KHS guests enjoyed the charming garden, photos of the former



photo by Alice De la Plante

residents and other interesting visuals.

A highlight of the day was a trip to the third floor. During the restoration of the house by the Frontenac Historic Foundation in 1975-76, the former two small rooms were re-set as one with an additional dormer on the east wall for additional light. Sandy McLaughlan's volunteers cleaned the beaded wall-boards that curve over the room and today it reveals nearly 200 years of sometimes hard weather attacks and a lot of living. Still obvious are the initials "L.M." that are carved in one of the old boards which

Margaret Angus identifies as evidence of visits by John A's lawyer-cousin, Lowther (Pennington) Macpherson, who died in 1836 during the family's residence in the house.

16 May: Festival of the St Lawrence

by Donna Ivey



photo by Alice De la Plante

Four members of the Kingston Historical Society took part in the "Overture to the Festival on the St. Lawrence" on 16 May at the historic Memorial Room of Kingston's City Hall. The new international festival of music, art and heritage featured fine music performed by Canadian and U.S. artists and the invited audience delighted in hearing music written during 1871-1894 in honour of Sir John A. Macdonald and Lady Macdonald that probably had not been performed in over a century.

Donna Ivey introduced four selections to Sir John A. (Brian Porter) and Lady Agnes (Rene Porter) who were seated on stage and looking very pleased. Professional pianists, Joy Innis and Adrienne Shannon, the dynamic Palenai Piano Duo who are the Project Directors of the Festival on the St. Lawrence, played "L'Aurore" and "The Joint High Commission Galop" four hands on one keyboard. They also accompanied soprano Carol-Lynn Reifel in a plaintive "Faithful Sir John" and baritone Bruce Kelly who sang a robust "Our Premier" composed by two Kingstonians, George F. Cameron and Oscar F. Telgmann. It was a charming evening.

17 May: Doors Open, Kingston

by Warren Everett

Doors Open originated in Glasgow in 1990 and quickly expanded nationwide under the overall coordination of the Scottish Civic Trust, evolving into Scotland's contribution to European Heritage Days in 1991. By 1998, 19 million people had visited some 28,000 sites in 44 countries throughout Europe. *Doors Open* arrived in Canada three years ago when the City of Toronto's Culture Division, with the support of Heritage Toronto, launched *Doors Open Toronto*. The aim of *Doors Open Canada* is to facilitate people's understanding, enjoyment, and awareness of their local architectural heritage.

In May, the Murney Tower Museum, a National Historic Site, participated in the second *Doors Open Kingston*. As in our first year, it was a resounding success with over 800 people visiting the Tower. The vast majority was comprised of Kingstonians and the most common comment was: "I've lived here most of, or all of my life and this is my first visit!" This is particularly satisfying as the purpose of *Doors Open* is to bring out the local community to see first hand their built heritage and do it at no cost.

6 June: The Sir John A.

Macdonald Graveside Ceremony

In one of the best attended gatherings in recent years, Sir John A. Macdonald was honoured by members of KHS, representatives of several local institutions, and - perhaps most pleasing of all - an attentive group of students from the Limestone District School Board and the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District



photo by Randy Genois

School Board. The Calvin Park Public School Choir provided excellent renditions of the



photo by Randy Genois

anthems and other appropriate music. The Piper, Bugler, and officers of the Fort Henry Guard contributed much to the sense of occasion, as did the costumed members of the staff of Bellevue House.

The guest speaker, Ian E. Wilson, National Archivist of Canada, spoke on "Sir John A. Macdonald and the Cultural Life of the New Dominion." Dr Wilson first paid tribute to the Kingston Historical Society's 110 year record, as well as the 50 year record of its journal, *Historic Kingston*. He then turned to Kingston's role in



photo by Randy Genois

the history of Canada and, particularly, its association with Sir John A. Macdonald's successive contributions as local lawyer, city alderman, member of the Legislative Assembly, member of Parliament, and Prime-minister. But the main focus of Dr Wilson's tribute to Sir. John was his contribution to the cultural life of the

country from Confederation to his death in 1891. His main thesis was that Macdonald was aware that creating a new nation would take more than railways, canals, and economic policies; he did much to nurture a "new nationality" and to foster an emerging Canadian culture. As a nation-builder, Sir John took steps to ensure that the new nation also had a vibrant intellectual life with writers of history, literature, poetry, and science, a legacy from which we all benefit to this day.

Thanks are due to the KHS committee charged with the responsibility of organizing this important event and, in particular, the chair, Peter Radley.

6 June: Fort Henry's New Goat

by Ron Ridley, Curator, Fort Henry National Historic Site

On 6 June 2003, Fort Henry National Historic Site marked a half-century milestone. It was exactly fifty years to the day that Fort Henry's first goat mascot arrived. This year, the date was celebrated by the retirement of the outgoing mascot, David VIII, and the presentation of his successor, David IX.

The goat mascot tradition of the Fort Henry Guard was originally conceived to commemorate the service of the 23rd Regiment of Foot, now known as the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, who garrisoned Kingston and Fort Henry in 1842-43. The origin of the custom of the Royal Welsh



Fusiliers being led on parade by a goat is lost in time, but the tradition was considered ancient by the time of the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775.

Fort Henry's first goat mascot was presented in 1954 by the St David's Society of Toronto and this year, the Society was represented by their president, Mrs. Myfanwy Bajaj. Accompanying Mrs Bajaj was Dr Malcolm Williams of the Kingston Welsh Society. His impromptu rendition of "Oes gafr eto?" (Are there any goats there?), a traditional Welsh folk song, provided a symbolic touch of Welsh culture to the event. Both Societies graciously presented donations that will assist in preserving this long-running tradition. Honoured guests also included several former Captains and Goat Majors of the Fort Henry Guard, who helped to make the day a memorable one.

15 June: First Capital Day

by Ian R. Milne, Founder of First Capital Project

On 15 June 1841, elected representatives of the former Upper Canada and Lower Canada gathered together in the newly renovated hospital building. At 2PM, Governor General Sydenham declared open the first parliament of the new entity, the United Canadas of Canada West and Canada East. Kingston was the first capital of this exciting development. The 162nd anniversary of these

events was celebrated in grand style on 15 June 2003: a First Capital Father's Day Picnic in Confederation Park; singing led by David Archibald; an historical vignette performed by the First Capital Players;

a performance by the Frontenac Community Concert Band; display of Heritage Fair projects in City Hall's Memorial Hall; tours of St George's Cathedral. To further mark the



occasion, the Canadian flag flying above Ottawa's Parliament Buildings was lowered and was subsequently presented to Kingston on Canada Day 2003. Possible future developments include the naming of the King Street to Shoal Tower district as "First Capital Place" and naming Highway 15 from Kingston to Ottawa as "Capital Way."

17 June: The Ascent of St. Mary's

by Alan MacLachlan

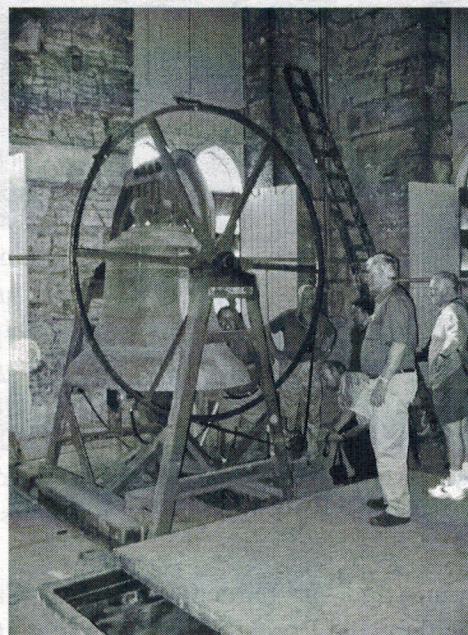


photo by David Cliff

Some 25 KHS members and friends were challenged by a climb to the top of the St Mary's Cathedral bell-tower. Joe Nielissen, the Maintenance Chief of St. Mary's, guided us through the various levels including the side towers, attic, the bell floor, and on to the top floor from which vantage-point a marvellous view of Kingston was enjoyed. Our guide expounded on the tower's structure, interspersed with such interesting vignettes as the fact that 5 to 6 tons of pigeon manure had to be removed from the tower during the renovation in the early 1990s! After a safe return to ground-level, Mr. Nielissen was presented with a KHS pin in gratitude for a most enjoyable excursion into our history.

25 June: Dedication of Garrison Hospital Plaque

by Sue Bazely and Earl Moorhead

Three years of excavation at Fort Henry's old Garrison Hospital culminated on Wednesday, 25 June with the ceremonial public unveiling of a commemorative plaque and interpretive signage. As Earl Moorhead, Urban



Leeches, anyone? Dr Duffey demonstrates traditional leeching on Earl Moorhead

Historian and a Director of the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation (CARF), pointed out, the "large introductory sign and three smaller signs for the hospital, the deadhouse and the guard house help to fulfil that part of the Foundation's mandate which is the dissemination of archaeological information to the public." CARF's Executive Director, Susan Bazely, reported that the three-year hospital "dig" by Kingston and area students is "a prime example of our collaboration with other cultural and educational agencies – in this case, Fort Henry and Parks Canada – in which both we and our partners share the work and the costs and from which all parties and the public benefit." The ceremony was part of the "Archaeology Week," 23-27 June declared by Mayor Turner to mark CARF's 20th anniversary "as a unique institution in this Province."

25 June: Murney Tower Museum Open House

by Warren Everett

A frequent comment from KHS members and guests who attended this year's annual Murney Tower open-house and wine and cheese reception was, "I hadn't realized how large this is!" But things have changed over the last year. At the beginning of the 2003 season, the Tower staff undertook to refresh the exhibits, eliminate much duplication, and remove items considered not appropriate to its history. This has resulted in much brighter and spacious interpretation centre on the main floor. This is the beginning of an undertaking to revamp the displays and artifacts to update and modernize the museum's interpretive function. Perhaps one indication of a positive reception by the general public are the attendance figures. While the media have been full of references to reduced tourist attendance at other heritage sites, visitor statistics and revenue for 2003 at the Murney Tower are slightly ahead of last year's figures.



Watercolour c1905, attrib. A.C. Power, collection Jennifer McKendry

12 July: Rededication of Fort Frontenac Plaque



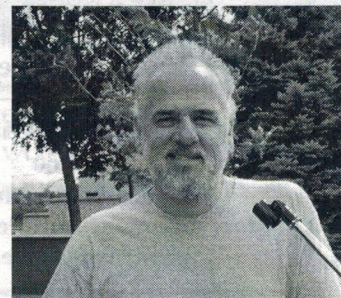
On the 12 July, the original KHS commemorative plaque, first erected in 1957, was relocated to a site more central to the recent archaeological excavations in Place d'Armes. On a blustery day, a small but enthusiastic crowd witnessed the unveiling of the plaque and greetings from several interested parties: Chief R.D. Maracle (Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte); David Mowat (Mississauga of Alderville First Nations); C-I Caron (Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario); Mayor Isabel Turner (City of Kingston); Col. J. Ferron (Commandant Fort Frontenac). This successful event was coordinated by John Grenville. Following the ceremony, the gathering adjourned to a fine reception hosted by Fort Frontenac.

David Baird and Brian Osborne unveiling the plaque, photo by Jennifer McKendry

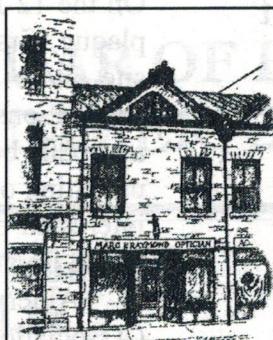
The year 2003 marks the 330th anniversary of the establishment of a French fortification at the mouth of the Cataraqui River, a site that was eventually developed into Fort Frontenac. 2003 is also the 20th anniversary of the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation and the 110th anniversary of the Kingston Historical Society.



Greetings included those from CARF (left), Fort Frontenac (upper), and the Mississauga of Alderville First Nations (lower). Photos by J. McKendry



The Kingston Historical Society extends a warm welcome to this year's sponsors of *Limelight*.



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LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES

THE CLOSING OF THE CANADIAN DREDGE AND DOCK: BAD LUCK OR GOOD BUSINESS?

by Shirley Gibson-Langille



This image of a broken mirror next to a bolt-threading machine was one of twenty paintings I did at the Canadian Dredge and Dock Co. Ltd during 1985 and 1986. At that time, there was no clue that it might close as they were busy refitting the tall ship, *St Lawrence II*. They had also submitted a bid on a \$2.5 million federal contract to build a tug-boat. They would learn later, however, that the job went to a Manitoba boat-works, even though Kingston's bid was \$15,000 less.

In those years, John McNaul was manager, Bea Nicholas was office manager and her husband, Nick, was storekeeper and purchasing agent. They had met there in 1943 and got married in 1950. Reg Charleton, chief carpenter, came the same year, 43 years ago. Earl Pople, the welding supervisor, was there 44 years. Vince Pople was the steel working foreman. Gerald Lees was a fitter and Al Pelon was a welder. I liked all these people including their mascot 'Dock', a 14 year-old cat.

Everyone was shocked when the *Whig Standard* reported that, after 119 years of ship building and repair, that the Canadian Dredge and Dock Co. would be closing and all the staff would be out of a job. A campaign was started by Ronald Fuller to save the shipyard to no avail. On 11 April 1986, they launched the *St. Lawrence II* marking the end of a shipbuilding era. Saying goodbye that day was very hard for everyone. I know I left in tears. Reg had taken 'Dock' home but he wasn't happy there and had to be put down. On 25 September there was the big auction. I was the

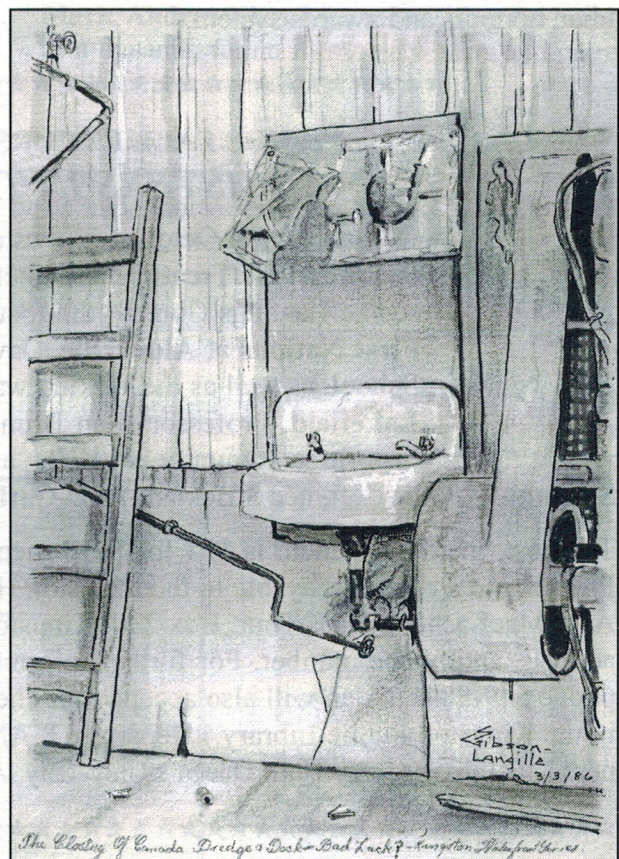
only woman there. I wandered down behind the Punch Shed to feed Vince's pet blue heron that was so tame it would walk right up to you.

Looking back at this painting, I guess that in a way it was bad luck. But without work, the enterprise couldn't go on.

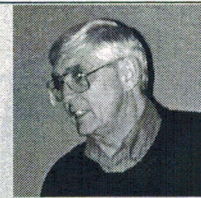
Times had changed a lot since the Second World War when there were 300 men working there. Now, it's a marina. The office and store

building are gone. The boat-repair shops are rented and there was a fire recently outside the Punch-Shed. But what's this I hear? A boat builder is there with a government grant, building aluminium boats! The tradition lives on!

I wandered down behind the Punch Shed to feed Vince's pet blue heron that was so tame it would walk right up to you.



with Alan MacLachlan



➡ We look forward to seeing our members and friends in the Kingston Public Library at our first presentation this fall on Wednesday, 17 September at 7:30PM, when our speaker, **Harvey Medland**, will present, "The Antarctic Adventures of Kingston's Tom MacLeod." Kingstonian MacLeod spent several years in the Antarctic and, with the aid of photographs garnered from five different countries, Harvey Medland will discuss Tom MacLeod's 38 years aboard tall ships as an able seaman. Particular attention will be focused on two famous expeditions: "Mac's" adventures on the journey when Robert Scott lost his life after reaching the South Pole; and his experience as one of the crew of Shackleton's ship, *Endurance*, stranded on, and later rescued from, Elephant Island. MacLeod's last 37 years were spent in Kingston and he is buried in Cataraqui Cemetery. Harvey Medland is the author of several books on Ontario history, including *Tombstone Tales from Ontario's Cemeteries*.



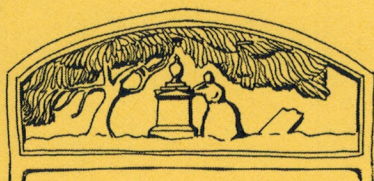
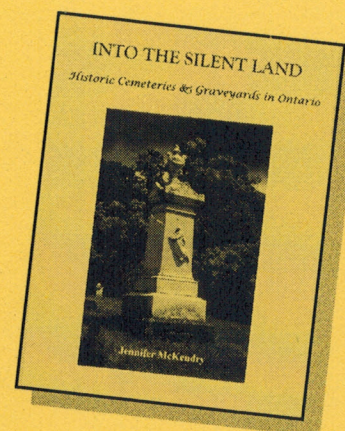
The cost, including lunch, is \$55 for KHS members and \$65 for non-members. Please send a cheque, payable to the Kingston Historical Society, **by 19 Sept.**, to Alan MacLachlan, KHS Tour, Box 230, Kingston ON K7L 4V8 with your name, address, and phone number. For further information: email alantour@kos.net or phone 549-8841. (Alan will also accept your cheque at the 17 Sept. KHS meeting in the Kingston Public Library.) Departure 8 AM in the parking lot off Union St near MacIntosh-Corry Hall, Queen's University. Arrival back at 6:30 PM.



A careful, fully illustrated, examination of graveyard and cemetery design, furnishings, architecture, & grave markers found in selected historic "cities of the dead."

INTO THE SILENT LAND Historic Cemeteries & Graveyards in Ontario

by Jennifer McKendry

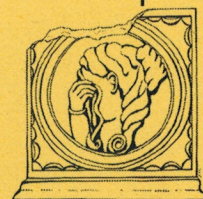


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4. GRAVE MARKERS: History and Meaning, Materials, Beds to Tables: Shapes of Grave Markers,

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