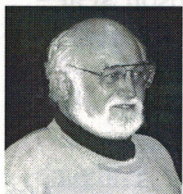
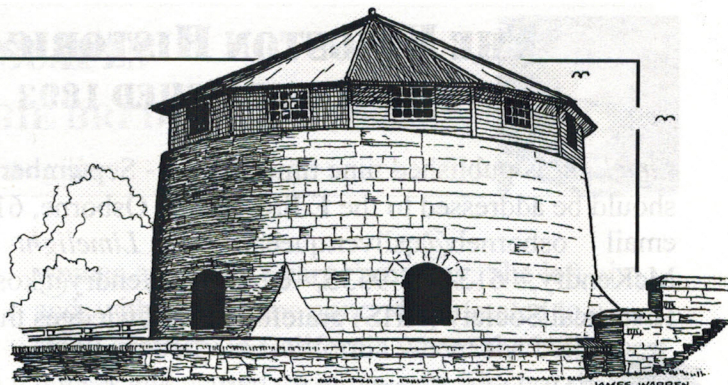


# LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the  
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

vol 5 no 8 November 2003 ISSN 1488-5565



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the October General Meeting, I reported briefly on some of the recent discussions at KHS Council.

Normal procedure calls for reports by the various committees on Finance, Membership, Publications, Programme, etc. Some of last month's deliberations merit a more formal report to the membership at large.

**First**, we regret the loss of soon-to-be "Dr" **Sarah Meharg** from our group. Probably the youngest Councillor to have served KHS, Sarah did her Ph.D. with me on the topic of the post-conflict reconstruction of landscapes of Yugoslavia. She has now moved to Nova Scotia to take up a position with the Research and Program Development section of the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre. Congratulations, Sarah, thanks for your good services on Council, and good luck with your new career.

**Second**, Council discussed a report presented by Jack Pike for the Awards Committee that fine-tuned our annual awards procedure. Two salient points emerged: the need to increase the visibility of the KHS Awards in the community at large; the need to encourage more submissions from KHS members and the Kingston community at large.

**Third**, as with so many other societies and organizations such as ours, attention was directed to increasing costs (especially insurance), uncertainty concerning future government grants, and, therefore, KHS's continued solvency. Accordingly, the Finance Committee is turning its attention to several issues: different sources of funding; increasing membership; new and different membership rates (e.g. a lower rate for those not wishing to receive *Historic Kingston*); revenue generating projects; bequests to KHS by members; partnerships with other Societies; and new initiatives at the Murney Tower.

**Finally**, plans are moving ahead for the celebration of KHS's founding in 1893 by a 110<sup>th</sup> birthday party at the close of the 2003-2004 programme in May 2004. Current plans call for a one-day conference and celebratory lunch to be held at the Senior Officer's Mess at RMC with papers presented by representatives from neighbouring historical societies, including those in Upper New York state. More of this later.

As always, Council welcomes comments and suggestions from the membership at large on these and any other matters relating to the continued vitality of our Society.

Brian S. Osborne

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING:**  
**WEDNESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER at 7:30PM**  
in the Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library

***In Fear of the Barbed Wire Fence: Canada's First  
National Internment Operations and the Ukrainian  
Canadians, 1914-1920***

by **Dr LUBOMYR LUCIUK**

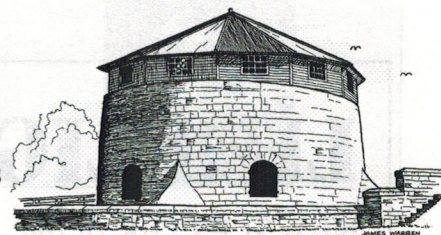
**ALL WELCOME! REFRESHMENTS**

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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](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**  
Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6

website [www.heritagekingston.org](http://www.heritagekingston.org)

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## *The Letter Box*



THE LETTER FROM PETER & DAWNA SELBY (Letter Box, *Limelight* Sept. 2003) referred to a Mrs Dainty and the Gore Street of the 1930s. She was indeed a highly regarded water-colour artist, and I was pleased to see two of her paintings in a show at the Library about ten years ago. She also taught music and two of my friends "took from" Mrs Dainty. Although I do not recall any other family members, I remember her as a gentle lady with a warm smile for anyone she met on Gore Street. She was never out of sorts, brisk but never in a hurry. She carried herself well, dressed in sober attire, usually in a long skirt

and coat. Her well-kept house and tidy yard were in the top block of Gore Street - the respectable block. The lower block (close to the then-disreputable Ontario Street) contained survivors of old families - the Cartwrights and Gildersleeves. The admirable Mayor Craig and family (Michael Grass descendants) also lived there. The middle block, where we lived, was a mixed bag: a retired general; professors; a bank manager who went to jail; a bootlegger; and a lakeboat captain. Mrs Dainty was highly regarded by all Gore Street residents.

*Bea Corbett*



# The Christmas Party

WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER 7:30 PM



MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS DAY IN THE BACKWOODS.

Mrs Traill, *The Canadian Settler's*  
Guide 1857

at the FORT FRONTENAC OFFICERS' MESS,  
Ontario Street

**Susan Bazely**, the resident archaeologist at the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation (CARF), will be our guest speaker at this special occasion. Her presentation,

***A Matter of Time: Five Centuries at Fort Frontenac***, will be an historical and archaeological view of the fort from its construction in 1673 to the present day. The talk will be illustrated by maps, paintings, and photographs of this national historic site. A special invitation is extended to members of CARF and the Frontenac Heritage Foundation.

*Also*, this is the evening when KHS presents its **awards** to those people we wish to honour for their efforts and good services on our behalf.

Do come along and enjoy an evening of intellectual stimulation, conviviality, socializing.... and, of course, **the refreshments**.

Please contact Alan MacLachlan (549-8841) or Brian Osborne (533-6042) if you need a ride.



## A KINGSTON FIRST...

Nehnum Morr, in her article, "Street Railway Conductorettes" in the *Kingston Daily British Whig* of 24 August 1918 records an important first for Kingston and Canada. On 15 October 1917, Miss Maude Chart was added to the payroll of the Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraqui Electric Railway Company and was, thus, "the first conductorette in Canada."

It all started with a newspaper advert for conductors for the KP&CERC. Miss Chart's point was that "Women were doing all kinds of work to win the war, and she was quite willing, therefore, to act as a conductor while the boys were away doing their bit." The manager of KP&CERC, Hugh C. Nickle, accepted the proposition and hired Miss Chart and, soon, others followed her lead.

The "Etties" were provided with material for two uniforms consisting of short skirt, "pongee blouses and khaki middies," Norfolk coat with brass buttons, and brown boots and stockings. The outfit was topped off by a peaked brown straw cap, together with a fisherman's-slicker and rubber boots for rainy weather.

And they did the job: as many as 1100 fares a day had to be entered onto the "automatic recorder";

electric wires had to be replaced when they slipped their connections; and they turned the rail-switches. Always "businesslike," they were adept at repulsing "any of the male passengers who are of a 'flirty' nature, which responds to the attractiveness of the Limestone City's conductorettes." As Mr. Nickle reflected on his "radical departure" during those days of scarce labour, he concluded, "In comparison from every standpoint they are their [men's] equal" ... and all for \$2.25 for a ten-hour day. Well done, Maude Chart!



Queen's University Archives

## ...AND A QUEEN'S SECOND!

But Kingston's Queen's cannot claim the first women graduate in Canada!

This was news to Hugh Mackenzie, General Manager of the 1000 Islands Cruise Line. As the *Island Belle* cruised along the shore in front of Queen's University, its taped commentary declared, *"In 1869, Queen's became the first school in Canada to offer courses to women. For the first nine years, these women were taught in separate classrooms until all were integrated in 1878. Having a strong medical background, the university began to admit female medical students. However, this gesture of equality did not last long. In 1883, women were forced out of the medical school due to the hostility*

*of the male teachers and students."*

When Mary E. Baker heard this, she shot a courteous salvo across the bows of the 1000 Islands Cruise Line! Her well-researched facts were unassailable: the Mount Allison Academy for Females opened in 1854 as the first and only college for women in Canada; Mount Allison University admitted women to its programmes in 1872; in 1875, Grace Annie Lockhart was the first





woman in Canada and the British Empire to receive a BSc degree (Science and English Lit.). In 1882, Harriet Starr Stewart was the first woman in Canada to receive a BA., and she went on to earn her MA at Mount Allison.

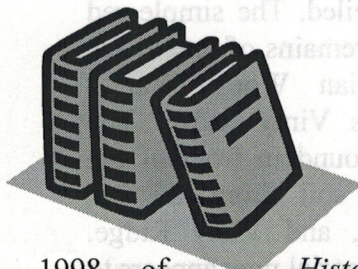
Mary Baker has good reason to know all of this. Her great-great-uncle was Dr James R. Inch who was very much involved in advancing the case for women's access to university learning. He had been president of the Mount Allison Ladies' Academy, had



proposed the resolution to admit women to degree courses at Mount Allison university in 1872, and was President of that institution when Harriet Stewart graduated in 1882.

Hugh Mackenzie of the 1000 Islands Cruise Line graciously acknowledged these facts and, henceforth, the *Island Belle's* tannoid will broadcast the facts that Queen's was the first to admit women to university in Ontario, not Canada. That honour falls to Mount Allison ... and Queen's is second best again!

Thanks to J.L. Granatstein and Norman Hillier, *First Drafts: Eyewitness Accounts from Canada's Past* (Toronto: Thomas Allen, 2002), for the idea for the "conductorette" story and new KHS member, Mary Baker for the Mount Allison connection.

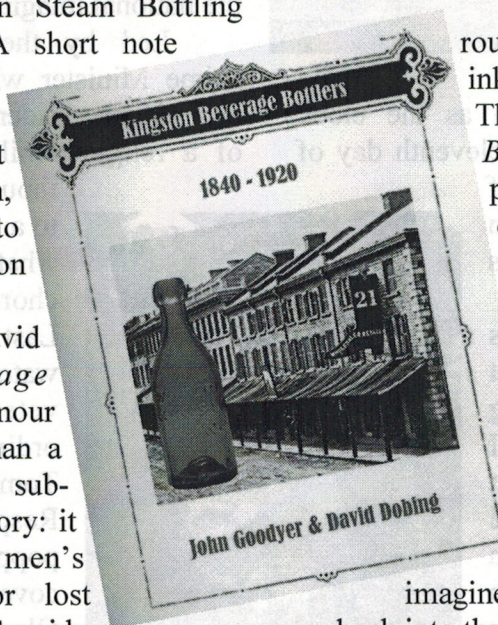


## BOOK CORNER

Do you remember the cover of Vol. 46, 1998, of *Historic Kingston*? It featured four glass bottles manufactured by William Pipe, James Thompson, the American Steam Bottling Works, and Richard Genge. A short note followed in the front pages of the journal. If you are interested in these things and want to find out more about the bottles of Kingston, an attractive new contribution to the growing library of Kingston history will serve you well.

John Goodyer's and David Dobing's *Kingston Beverage Bottlers: 1840-1920* (Ottawa: Gilmour Reproductions, 2003) is more than a specialised account of an arcane sub-section of Canadian material history: it is also a testament to two men's enthusiasm for the search for lost treasures by scuba-diving. Consider David's Foreword account of one find: "Over the next hour and a half we found another thirty bottles including: a pontilled G.W. Merchant in Lockport green; a Kenneth Campbell round bottom; a rare

coloured Canadian medicine; a Canada West Northrop & Lyman medicine; two local blown crown sodas; several small pottery inks; and a number of Canadian patent medicines."



Pontilled? Lockport green? A round bottom? Crown sodas? Pottery inks? What are we talking about here? The answers are all in *Kingston Beverage Bottlers*. This attractively produced study presents the histories of some 38 Kingstonian bottlers. Well-researched and well-illustrated, this volume transcends the enthusiasm of specialists and contributes much to our understanding of the warp and woof of daily life in this part of Canada. Things are tangible expressions of past ways of life. When we hold them in our hands and

imagine how they were used, they transport us back into that lost world. Thanks, John and David, for helping us learn how to use bottles to do this. (*Kingston Beverage Bottlers* may be purchased directly from the authors at 376-6144 or at the Novel Idea, 156 Princess St.)



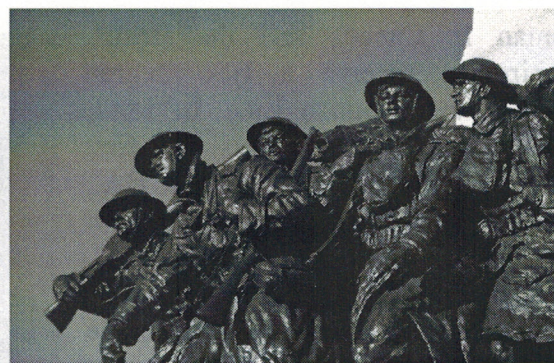
## REMEMBRANCE

On 26 October, I attended a conference in Halifax sponsored by Canadian Heritage on "The Presence of the Past." My paper was on "Commemoration and the National Imagination": that is, how do nation-states come to share memories. One theorist of nationalism has argued that nations strive to ensure that their people occasionally "share the same heartbeat."



Perhaps, this occurs in Canada as the clock strikes the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of November. At that time, many of us are connected with one spot in the nation's capital. How did this come to be?

In 1926, some eight years after the Armistice, the contract for a monument honouring Canada's dead in World War I was awarded to an English sculptor, Vernon March. He died in 1930 and his six brothers and a sister completed the project in 1932. But it was not until 21 May 1939 that over 100,000 people packed Confederation Square for the dedication of the memorial by King George VI and Queen



Elizabeth. Ironically, within months, Canada was at war again. Despite considerable pressure to erect a new memorial for those who fell in World War II, the dates "1939-45" and "1950-53" were eventually added to the pedestal and the Confederation Square monument was rededicated as the National War Memorial in 1982.

On 11 November 2000, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was unveiled. The simple red granite casket contains the remains of one of the many unidentified Canadian World War I soldiers buried at France's Vimy Ridge. The tomb was built into the ground in front of the 1939 monument, set in soil from all ten provinces, three territories, and Vimy Ridge. Canada's National War Memorial now appears to be complete and it has come to be a focal point in the national imagination.

Led by the Governor-General and the Prime Minister who are accompanied by civil and military leaders, the pomp and circumstance of a religious-military ceremony is shared by

thousands at the site and televised to a national audience. But perhaps what is most moving is an unchoreographed popular tribute. Last year, my students and I watched as the bands, soldiers, and veterans marched away, and ordinary Canadians filed by the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Respectfully, they placed their poppies on the casket until it was covered in a mound of red. Clearly, Canadians are still committed to collectively remembering what others have sacrificed for them.





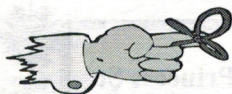
## QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES'S "MYSTERY PHOTOGRAPHS"



Over the years, through the generosity of persons such as readers of *Limelight*, Queen's University Archives has received a large number of photographs documenting the history of Kingston and region. While all are of interest to us and gratefully received, some, unfortunately, are not identified. Consequently, their academic and general value is much reduced and they often remain an enigma to us.

We are hoping that *Limelight* readers may be able to come to our aid and remove the "mystery" from the photograph. If you can assist us by putting names to faces, dates to events, and context to the images that will appear from time to time on this page, please do not hesitate to forward your information to Paul Banfield, Associate University Archivist, at [banfield@post.queensu.ca](mailto:banfield@post.queensu.ca). He can also be reached at Queen's University Archives, Kathleen Ryan Hall, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 3N6; Tel. (613) 533-6000, ext. 74460; FAX(613) 533-6403. Your assistance will be very much appreciated.

Queen's University Archives wishes to thank KHS's *Limelight* for making this initiative possible and, by so doing, aiding in preserving the documentary heritage of Kingston and area.



### BRIEF REMINDERS

Remember....**The St. Andrew's Society Ball**, 6.30 p.m., Saturday 22 November, \$50 p.p. For more information: Douglas Smith (548 3727) or Maureen Bale (546 2825)


...and also the **2003 KHS Award** for "individuals, groups or institutions in recognition of outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of local history." Nominations should be directed to KHS (address p.2) or J.G. Pike, 150 Macdonnell St, Kingston K7L 4B8; deadline **19 November 2003**.



Keep an eye out for a new book on the first fifty years of **GRENVILLE PARK**, published by KHS, and available for sale, perhaps as soon as at the November meeting. It will make an excellent Christmas present.



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



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## LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES

### THE STORY OF MAGGIE BREDEN

by Shirley Gibson-Langille



When I painted the Library on the Main Street of Odessa in 1989 I never dreamed that I would uncover such a remarkably fascinating tale. I learned that the library was the childhood home of Maggie Breden, born in Odessa in 1866. She married George Ira Ham from South Fredericksburg in 1884. They resided in Skibbereen Castle in Odessa and had a son, Henry, born in 1885 and a daughter, Eno, born in 1888. The rest of the story came to me quite by chance through Dorothy Wilson. Her mother, Ada Cooke, was best friends with Maggie's first cousins, the Henzie sisters, who lived on Brock Street in Kingston. Maggie has always kept them and Ada updated on her illustrious life.

It appears that Maggie's husband, George, fell afoul of the law and fled to Mexico. There, he discovered an opal mine, became rich, and sent for his family. They lived in grand style and Maggie became a prominent socialite. But she didn't forget Odessa and donated her family home there to be used as a library and on one visit she gave opals to her family and friends.

In 1914, George left a party at his house, drove over a cliff, and Maggie became a very rich widow. Some years later, she visited her son Harry, who was producing a film in India. A graduate of Kingston's RMC and Yale, in 1929, he went to work for Paramount Studios in Hollywood and was responsible for bringing David Niven to Hollywood for his first film. On route to India, Maggie met Lord Henry Sharpe and they were married in 1923. Lord and Lady Sharpe lived in London in a lavish apartment and Lady Sharpe sponsored young girls to be presented at court. But Sir Henry was too fond of

women and Lady Sharpe's money. She left him and, with her fortune gone, she retreated to a small property in California where she built guest houses and started taking guests. The last that was heard of her was a picture from a California newspaper in which she is serving tea to the Duchess of Windsor!

I knew that Dorothy Wilson had inherited from the Henzies a box of amazing photographs of Maggie and her family. I checked with the



County Museum but they had no information. Thanks to an enquiry in Bill Fitzell's *Kingston Whig-Standard* "People" column, a 'shirt box' of photos was delivered to the Museum. They were then found! It was so exciting!

At my 1990 "To Ernestown With Love" art show, held in Odessa, we brought back the ghost of Maggie Breden. Dorothy Wilson, wearing one of the opals, told Maggie's story, along with another by Joyce Johnson who then lived in Skibbereen Castle. Uncannily, after seeing the photos, we realized that Janet Payne, who played the part of Maggie, looked exactly like her!



## SPEAKERS' CORNER

with Alan MacLachlan

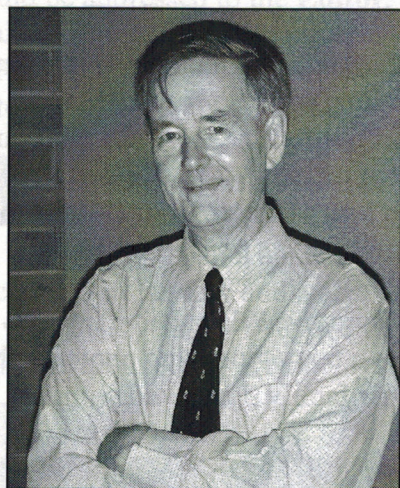
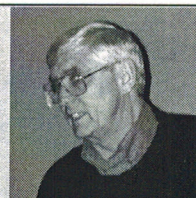
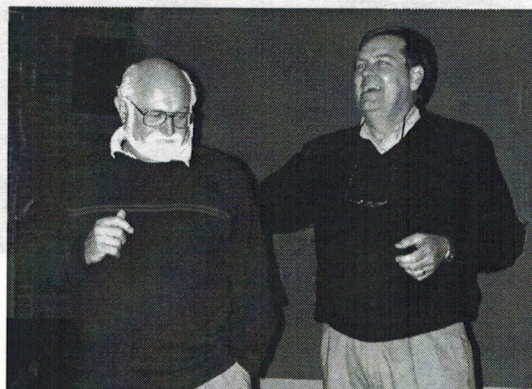


photo J.McKendry

**A**t the 15 October meeting of KHS, **Dr Donald Forsdyke** presented a paper entitled, "Darwin's Kingston Research Associate: George John Romanes." A professor in the Biochemistry Department at Queen's University, Dr Forsdyke introduced a relatively unknown Kingstonian of the last century to over 70 members and friends of the Society. Using overheads, colourful photographs, and excerpts from rare books in a most lucid and enthusiastic manner, Dr Forsdyke made us aware of the scientific importance of George John Romanes, who was born in Kingston in 1848. Romanes went on to become a close friend and research assistant to Charles Darwin and, upon Darwin's death in 1882, took on his mantle, and promoted his views.

Forsdyke also presented an intriguing aspect of Romanes's beliefs in Spiritualism and the debate that ensued between Romanes and A.R. Wallace, who was also a Darwinist. Following an entertaining question period, the society retired for discussion and refreshments. The members should be aware that they can discover more about the controversy as it is discussed in depth on Dr Forsdyke's web page (which includes material used in his presentation):

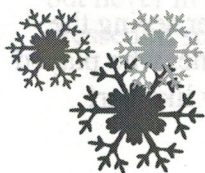
<http://crystal.biochem.queensu.ca/forsdyke/evolutio.htm#SELECTED%20PAPERS>



***Our President Celebrates his 65th in Style!*** At the October meeting, Past President **Warren Everrett** shared a laugh, cake, and outrageous puns over President **Brian Osborne's** birthday, Welsh background and sponsorship of the new goat at Fort Henry. Discretion allows no further details.

photo J.McKendry

We look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting on 19 November at 7:30PM in the library: *In Fear of the Barbed Wire Fence: Canada's First National Internment Operations and the Ukrainian Canadians, 1914-1920* by **Dr Lubomyr Luciuk** of RMC.



**CHRISTMAS COMES TO KHS** on Wednesday, 10 December at 7:30PM in the Fort Frontenac Officers' Mess, Ontario Street. *Please see the details on p. 3.*