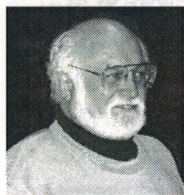
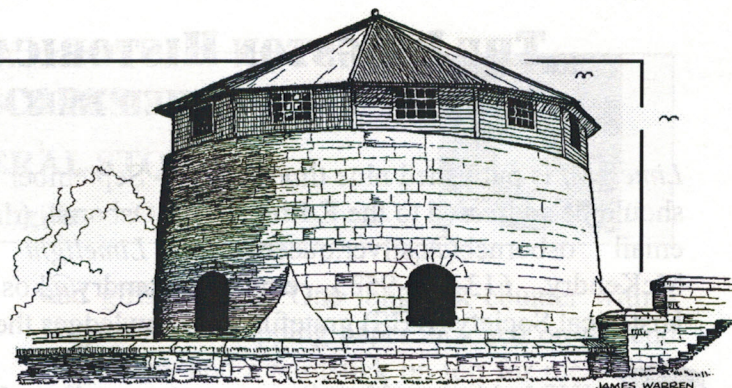


LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

vol 5 no 8 December 2003 ISSN 1488-5565



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As reported at the November meeting, our most recent KHS publication, *"To Build a Good Neighbourhood" Grenville Park*, is now available for sale. Members may recall that the Society's Publication Committee supports projects that further our understanding of the history of Kingston & region. *Grenville Park* is an interesting vignette, documenting the origins and evolution of a fascinating post-World War II experiment in planning in accordance with Ebenezer Howard's "Garden City" philosophy. Members are encouraged to purchase *Grenville Park* (flier enclosed) as a valuable addition to our personal Kingston collections -- and also as we want to replenish the Publication Committee's coffers for other publication projects.

And while on the subject of money, the Finance Committee is in the midst of a review of KHS's financial strategy. The problem is a simple one. Our revenues are derived from four sources: memberships, grants, sponsors, and donations -- with a modest amount from investment income. Our major expenditures are the publication of *Historic Kingston* and *Limelight*, the operation of the Murney Tower National Historical Site, and the costs of our monthly meetings, several commemorations, special events, and out-reach programmes. As we all appreciate, these costs have escalated in recent years.

Several strategies are being considered. While we are pleased that our numbers have grown in recent months, the cost of our many activities suggests that we should increase the price of membership. Another alternative would be to offer memberships at a reduced rate for those not wishing to receive *Historic Kingston*: while this would benefit KHS by reducing the cost of printing and mailing, members would also benefit as they **may** be eligible for a tax receipt. Also, how many members would prefer to read *Limelight* on our website and thus, again, save us printing and mailing costs? Anyone wishing to decrease the amount of paper in their lives should contact me at osborneb@qsilver.queensu.ca. Of course, as editor of *Limelight*, I hope that you are all cherishing those monthly epistles! And, as ever, we are always willing to receive donations and bequests. But more of this later when the Finance Committee has prepared a formal set of proposals for us. In the meanwhile, please contact me with any ideas you have for ensuring the continued vitality of KHS and balancing the books at the same time.

But don't panic. All is well. These are the ruminations of a responsible committee ensuring that we are well-positioned to react effectively to any fiscal eventuality. Even historical societies have to plan for the future!

Brian S. Osborne

THIS MONTH'S MEETING (note date & time):
WEDNESDAY, 10 DECEMBER at 7:00PM for 7:30PM
at the Fort Frontenac Officers' Mess, Ontario Street

Susan Bazely

"A Matter of Time: Five Centuries at Fort Frontenac"

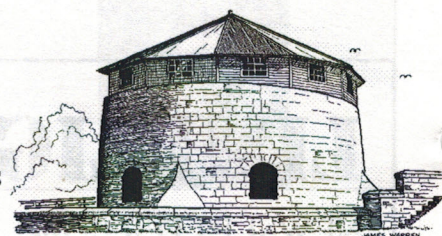
KHS AWARDS! SPECIAL CHRISTMAS REFRESHMENTS

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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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R. DOUGLAS PETTY FILLS IN THE PICTURE ON JANE DAINTY

Prompted by **Bea Corbett's** piece on Jane Dainty (see last *Limelight*, p. 2), I too wish to comment on this interesting woman, who was one of the most prolific amateur watercolourists in Kingston during the early 1920s to mid-1950s.

Her charming views captured the ambiance of many local Kingston scenes: Kingston Mills (where she had a cottage), the Market Square, the harbour-front, the Martello Towers, the Penny Bridge (below), and Barriefield as well as recording many long-forgotten everyday activities. A few of her Christmas cards, depicting early views of Kingston from RMC, have been discovered. Invariably, Jane Dainty's paintings are warm, colourful, and charmingly naïve, reminding us of a much gentler time and place.

Signing her work in pencil

in a very quiet and unassuming way, Mrs. Dainty appears to have preferred water-colours and, to date, no works in oils have been found. I believe Mrs. Dainty, who taught art classes from her home on Earl St., must have influenced many young artists. Many questions remain: is there more to learn about her art studio? what are her dates of activity? and who were her mentors and contemporaries?

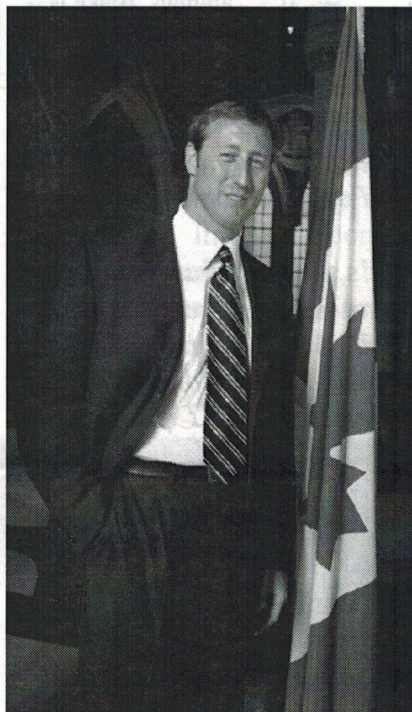
Jane Dainty is an important Kingston figure. Each time we discover one of her paintings, we are given another 'window' into a small piece of our history.



Private Collection

THE 4TH ANNUAL KHS DINNER
TO CELEBRATE
SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD'S BIRTHDAY

Guest Speaker: Peter MacKay on
"John A. Macdonald and the Future of Conservatism in Canada"



Born in Nova Scotia, **Peter MacKay** is a graduate of Acadia University (1987) and Dalhousie Law School (1990). Following a career in law and an active involvement in community institutions, Mr MacKay was elected Member of Parliament for Pictou-Antigonish-Guysborough on 2 June 1997 and was subsequently named House Leader for the Progressive Conservative Party and critic for the Departments of Justice and Solicitor General. Mr. MacKay presently serves as a member of the Board of Internal Economy and the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights. He is also an associate member of the Standing Committees on Canadian Heritage and Finance, in addition to being a member of the Sub-Committee on the Study of Sport in Canada. Mr. MacKay resides in New Glasgow, NS.

SUNDAY, 11 JANUARY 2004

6:00PM for 7:00PM

in the Senior Staff Mess of the Royal Military College

Members \$40 each. Non-Members \$50 each. Please make cheques payable to the Kingston Historical Society and mail (to arrive no later than **7 January 2004**) to:

Alan MacLachlan, Program Chair
P.O. Box 230, Kingston, ON K7L 4V8

Please advise us if vegetarian plate required.

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Please include your name, mailing address and phone.

Chef's Salad
Creamy Garden Cauliflower Soup
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Carrots
Snow Peas
Almond Amaretto Mousse Cake
Coffee - Tea

IN MEMORIAM: BLAKE McKENDRY, 1919-2003

On 30 October 2003, **Blake Ault McKendry**, a loyal member and benefactor of KHS, passed away at Trillium Ridge Centre at the age of 84. Born 4 July 1919 in South Gower, Grenville County, he was the second son of Edward McKendry and Blanche Ault McKendry. After acquiring his B.Sc. at Queen's University in 1941, Blake worked at RCA Victor (1941-46) and then Smart & Biggar & Fetherstonhaugh & Co. in Ottawa (1946-61).

In the mid 1950s, he and his wife, Ruth, became interested in art, rare books, and antiques, both as sellers and collectors. During this period - at a time when Canada's decorative arts were only beginning to be appreciated - the McKendrys owned and operated *The Pioneer Shop* in Ottawa (see below, 1957).



In the 1970s, they restored the Snook House, a stone-farmhouse of 1820 near Elginburg where they lived until moving to Kingston in 1994.

Author, scholar, and photographer, Blake McKendry leaves a significant cultural legacy, particularly in his books on Canadian art and folk art. He assisted museums and art galleries in acquiring historic Canadian paintings and sculptures, and was a recognized appraiser and consultant on Canadian art and antiques.

Moreover, he and Ruth assembled an impressive private collection of Canadian folk art, antiques, and reference books. As a photographer, Blake executed the photography for some 13 books and journals, such as Ruth McKendry's *Quilts and Other Bed Coverings in the Canadian Tradition* (1979), Ralph and Patricia Price's *'Twas Ever Thus* (1979), Gerald Stevens's *Glass in Canada* (1982) and Edith Fowke's *The Penguin Book of Canadian Folk Songs* (1986).

Blake McKendry's own publications include several articles in professional journals, as well as such books as *Folk Art: Primitive and Naïve Art in Canada* (1983), *A Dictionary of Folk Artists in Canada from the 17th Century to the Present* (1988), *A to Z of Canadian Art, Artists & Art Terms* (1997), *An Illustrated Companion to Canadian Folk Art* (1999), *The New A to Z of Canadian Art* (2001), and *Key Dates in Canadian Art* (with Jennifer McKendry, 2001). He continued to write into his eighties.

Always open to fresh ideas and interested in new technologies such as computers, Blake had a lively mind and was a source of inspiration to a younger generation of antique and art collectors. Blake and Ruth's collection of early Ontario furnishings was dispersed by auction on 21 and 22 November. He would have been pleased by the close attention paid by bidders to the artifacts' provenances and original finishes and by the zeal with which his beloved books - numbering more than 2000 - were acquired.

Blake McKendry is survived by his wife, Ruth, his children, Jennifer of Kingston and David of Ottawa, daughter-in-law, Nancy, and grandsons, John, Ian, and Martin. The Kingston Historical Society extends sincere condolences to the McKendry family for their loss.

Brian S. Osborne

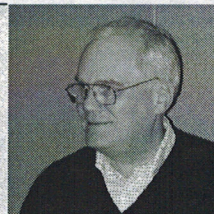


Always a friend to animals, Blake is pictured here with Buddy in 1958

IMAGES OF KINGSTON:

THREE WOLFE ISLANDERS

by Stewart Renfrew



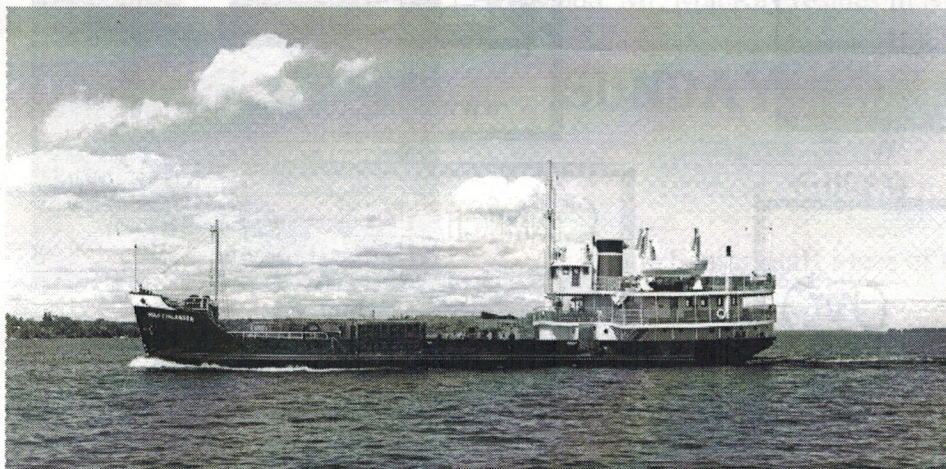
One of the things that make a city special is the continuity of its institutions. Kingston's history has been coloured by its role as a garrison town. Its universities have long defined the essence and street-life of the town. Kingston market is still an active and popular part of city life. Another local institution of note is the Wolfe Island Ferry.

There have been ferries connecting Wolfe Island with the mainland – albeit sporadically – since 1804 and regularly scheduled runs began in 1857. Initially commercial operations operating under license, the Islanders tired of disruptions in their ferry-service while the boat pursued other more lucrative runs. In 1904, the Wolfe Island council took over the service with

boat's last days. In the same volume, Dr. John Tweddle relates the problems of reaching the islands served by the ferry when the ice was treacherous and the ferry unable to operate.

In 1947, the second *Wolfe Islander* came into service. Originally designed as a Chinese coastal vessel, she was modified for the service. Able to make the crossing to the islands through more difficult ice conditions, nevertheless, she was forced to tie up for part of each winter. Moreover, she was underpowered and could be blown off course by heavy winds. On one such occasion, the *Whig Standard* reported her to be presumed lost, only to have her arrive at her Kingston dock, a little worse for wear, several hours late!

At the end of her career, the ferry was owned and operated by the Ontario Government. Queen's Park money purchased her replacement, the much larger *Wolfe Islander III*, together with a "bubble system" which was installed just before the new boat came into service. With this in place, the new ferry was able to keep to its schedule virtually all year round. On the other hand, the larger boat can no longer call at Garden



George Lilley, Queen's University Archives, neg.10-44

their own boat.

This boat was the first of the three vessels to be called the *Wolfe Islander*. A steam-powered paddle-wheeler, her activities were reported both by the local press and, increasingly, in the writings of various individuals. Elizabeth Harrison talks about her in some detail in her book *High Street Canada*. In *Kingston 300 - A Social Snapshot*, Lorne MacDougal tells of the

and Simcoe Islands and the old controversies go on. Will the islander return to charging fares as it did while the Island Council ran it? Will there ever be a bridge? For the moment, a bridge is most unlikely so we can be assured that the ferry will keep running, adding its own special personality to that of Kingston - and surprising U.S. tourists who can't believe it's free!

P.S. - See also www.megspace.com

The Kingston Historical Society appreciates the support of this year's sponsors of *Limelight*.



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LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES

THE TROUSDALE GENERAL STORE

by Shirley Gibson-Langille



When it comes to painting, the saying "starting is half done" is true. However, starting is not my problem. For me, it's knowing when to stop!

Sometimes I get a sign! Such was the case on 1 March 1991. I was in Sydenham, Ontario, drawing the Trousdale General Store. I was sitting in my car parked in front of the bank across the street. I had finished the drawing and was about to add colour when the local policeman came and told me that I had to move. I pleaded with him to let me stay and finish. He was not sympathetic and told me if I was not gone in five minutes he would give me a ticket. Well, there was my sign, or should I say, "order," to STOP! I knew then it was to be a pen and ink drawing.



I left and parked around the corner and walked back with my gear to look inside the store. It was so unique: like going back into another era. It still had the old wooden shelves, counter scales, coffee grinders, slicers, etc. They had everything from groceries, tools, building materials, and paint. You name it, they had it.

Upstairs, all the top shelves were full of colourful, picturesque, old fashioned packages, tins, and bottles of items sold in the past. Under the shelves, there were many household items

and gifts for sale. One long oak counter with a large roll of wrapping paper attached on the end had shears and a yardstick on top for measuring and cutting from the variety of bolts of material on the shelves behind. In another room, there were shoes and lots of rubber-boots. A stained glass door caught my eye. I sat down and did a small painting of it with the rubber boots in front.

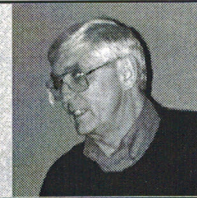
While painting, I enjoyed listening to Noble Trousdale serving his customers. Nothing was too much trouble: he bent over backwards to please. Besides that, it was the friendly chit-chat that is so rare in today's rush-rush world. Going down the stairs on my way out, I saw old framed photographs of the Union Hotel and other old landmarks of Sydenham.

It is now 2003. Looking back, I am so glad the officer made me stop. I might not have ever gone inside that store. I went back to paint again and again and enjoyed every minute of it! The store is still going strong, run by Noble and his son, John. May it live on happily every after!



SPEAKERS' CORNER

with Alan MacLachlan



At the KHS November meeting, Dr **Lubomyr Luciuk**, a professor at the Royal Military College, addressed us on the topic, *"In Fear of The Barbed-Wire Fence: Canada's First National Internment"*



Internees in Fort Henry courtyard

Internees celebrating Ukrainian Christmas, Fort Henry, 1916

Operations and the Ukrainian Canadians from 1914-1920." Almost 90 members and friends of the Society became engrossed in the revelations of the little-known history of Canada's internment of Ukrainian-Canadians and other "aliens" from the former Austro-Hungarian Empire from 1914 to 1922. Using photographs, documents, oral history, and letters, Dr Luciuk discussed passionately the 24 internment camps that were put into operation in 1914, including Fort Henry. He also discussed the ongoing negotiations concerning the possible compensation of the Ukrainian community for the loss of property that had been confiscated. It is also being argued that the sites of the former internment camps become National Historic Sites. An extremely lively question and answer period; refreshments followed the formal presentation.

The annual **KHS CHRISTMAS PARTY** will be held at 7:00PM for 7:30PM on Wednesday, 10 December, at the Officers' Mess, Fort Frontenac. Enter off Ontario Street through the main stone arch (opposite Place d'Armes), and park in the courtyard adjacent to the Mess.

Appropriately, given the significant role of this historic site in Kingston's history, **Susan Bazely** will speak to the Society on *"A Matter of Time: Five Centuries at Fort Frontenac."* Apart from being a long-standing member of KHS, Sue Bazely is the Resident Archaeologist at the Cataraqui Archaeology Research Foundation.

The evening's events will include the annual presentation of KHS Awards. Refreshments will be served and there will be a cash bar available.

As guests of the Officers' Mess, gentlemen are required to conform to the Mess dress-code of jacket and tie.

Please join us in this celebration of the beginning of the festive season.