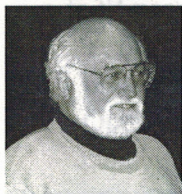
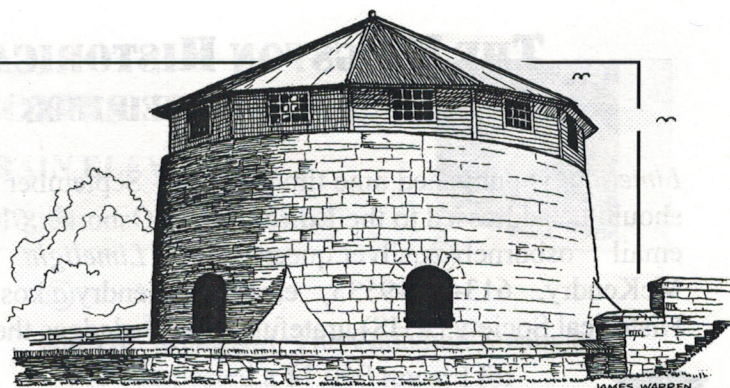


LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

vol 6 no 2 February 2004 ISSN 1488-5565



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have three things on my mind this month.

First, if our 11 January tribute to Sir John A. Macdonald was yet again a success, it was due to the efforts of particular people: Jack Pike, Susan Everett, Warren Everett, and Alan MacLachlan. Thank you all.

Second, on Saturday, 17 January, I attended the hearings called to consider Queen's "preliminary" plans for its new Queen's Student Centre in the University/Earl/Clergy block. Amongst the several excellent presentations arguing the case for heritage and community, that of the Frontenac Heritage Foundation was superb. Rather than a mere critique, it presented an alternative that recognised other Queen's developments (Goodes Hall), the importance of the threatened architectural stock, the possible use of renovated existing structures, and the availability of land on the West Campus. Well done FHF!

Finally, in past years, one of the worst attended KHS meetings is the AGM in February and yet it is, perhaps, the most important one. It is the time to elect a new Executive and Council and to review, albeit briefly, the challenges and accomplishments of the previous year. Do try and join us on 18 February.

This year, we thought we'd try something different: **an auction**. The idea is simple:

- ✱ members are asked to donate items to the KHS auction
- ✱ these donated items (anonymously, if you wish) will be auctioned off
- ✱ once purchased, the donor will be given a tax-receipt for the value of the auctioned item

There will be a three-option auction: a silent auction; a standard bidding for some items; and a "Dutch Auction." These will be explained at the opening of the session.

Who knows what treasures are around? What an opportunity to clear out those knick-knacks cluttering up our lives. What an incentive to assist KHS in a fun way! If interested, please come early and register your items with our guest-auctioneer, Doug Petty.

Brian S. Osborne



THIS MONTH'S MEETING:
WEDNESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY at 7:30PM
in the Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library

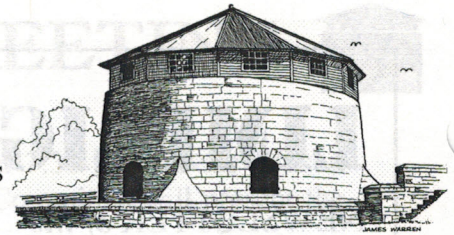
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
& AUCTION**

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.

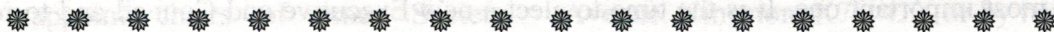
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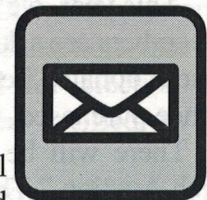
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LETTER BOX



Letters of enquiry from beyond continue to prompt us to dig into our local history. Thus, a J. Th. J. Krijff, of the Netherlands asked KHS if we could locate information about the visit by Duke Bernard Saksen-Weimar-Eisenach and A.E. Tromp in 1825. A brief report was, indeed, found in the *Kingston Chronicle* of Friday, 2 September 1825:

On Sunday evening last, arrived in town in the Frontenac from Niagara, His Serene Highness the Duke of Saxe Weimar. The Duke was received with a Royal Salute by the garrison, and proceeded to the lower province on Monday morning on board the Dalhousie. He returns to the United States via Lake Champlain, and will, it is said, spend the ensuing winter in the Southern States. His Serene Highness is married to a sister of the Duchess of Clarence, and is represented as remarkably courteous and agreeable in his deportment. He was in service of the King of Saxony at the battle of Wagram, in 1809; and held a distinguished rank at the battle of Waterloo – that being his 5th campaign.



In a future *Limelight*, we'll report on an enquiry by Ralph H. Hunter of The Longboat Key Historical Society, Florida, regarding one, Colonel George Hunter of Kingston.

GEORGE LILLEY

1918 - 2003

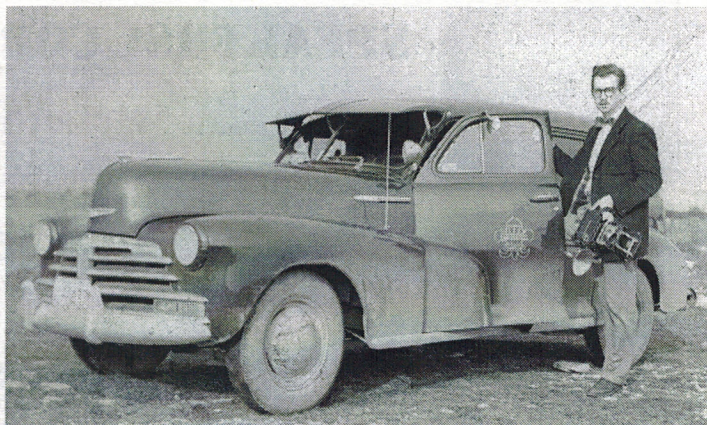
by Stewart Renfrew

MANY OF TODAY'S KHS MEMBERS will not remember George Edwin Osborne Lilley. George had not been at all well in recent years and gave up his annual trips to town to act as photographer for the 6 June Macdonald memorial service. For those who knew him, George is remembered with great affection. He left behind him a legacy of good friends and a collection of photographs that will live long after him as a wonderful record of Kingston in the last half of the 20th century.

George was very much a Kingstonian. He often enjoyed telling stories of his father taking him to see the firemen drill their horses at the old Brock Street fire hall, or of a time when he was something of a musical prodigy and gave organ recitals at St. George's Cathedral. He knew and remembered so much about a Kingston that is now past.

During WWII, George served in the Royal Canadian Air Force and, after the war, he worked at the National Film Board of Canada. He had been interested in photography from an early age and, after leaving the NFB, he became a freelance photographer in Kingston. His work included news photography, insurance work, documentaries, advertising, and promotional work. During those years, he was under contract to the *Kingston Whig-Standard*, *Toronto Telegram*, and the *Globe and Mail*, as well as to news services and a number of foreign and domestic journals. He also served as public information officer with the Canadian armed services and, at the end of his career, was a Public Affairs Officer with the Canadian Coast Guard, stationed in Toronto.

Photography was not only a profession for George Lilley, it was an addiction. His topics were varied and various. While he specialized in news pictures and what he called 'scenics,' there are also portraits in his collection. At one time, a CBC documentary crew complained that it could not find a decent portrait of Senator Rupert Davies, Robertson Davies's father. That was no problem for George Lilley. He was a convivial fellow and a



Lilley, camera in hand, stands at the van he used while on photography business. Note the stylized lily on the van door.

Coll. Queen's University Archives

favourite of the Senator and, in the course of his many visits with the Senator, he had taken several very good portraits of the gentleman.

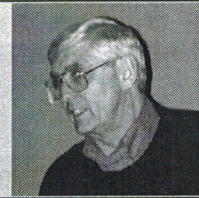
George took pictures of Kingston and its people throughout his career. There are tens of thousands of images in his photographic collection, and the vast majority of these are about Kingston and Kingston happenings. Since much of his work in the late-1940s to the 1970s was for the *Kingston Whig-Standard*, there are many photographs of news events in the area. The collection includes pictures of local beverage rooms, members of the Royal Family, Santa Claus parades, murder-scenes, deer that somehow strayed into a Princess Street store, new equipment for the city, and photographs taken of various phases of the construction of now prominent local buildings. Not all of George's efforts were expended on commercial work. He knew and loved the city so well that he often took pictures of vanishing landmarks for his own satisfaction. One series depicts the demise of a row of lovely stone store-fronts that once occupied what is now the S & R parking lot on Princess Street.

In 1980, George began to turn over his wonderful collection of photographs to Queen's University Archives. In 1999, QUA was able to find funding to index the collection online. Today, George's legacy to Kingstonians is available, with very few restrictions, for all to enjoy.

George is survived by his much-loved wife, Jean (McBrien).

SPEAKERS' CORNER

with Alan MacLachlan



THE FOURTH ANNUAL MACDONALD ANNIVERSARY DINNER

On a frigid 11 January, over 110 friends and members of the Society gathered at the RMC Senior Staff Mess to celebrate the anniversary of Sir John A. Macdonald's birthday. After the high-table guests were piped into dinner, **Dean Alex Hewitt** of St George's Cathedral recited grace, after which KHS president, **Brian Osborne**, read greetings from Prime Minister Paul Martin and Peter Milliken, MP. **BGen. J. Leclerc**, RMC Commandant, gave the toast honouring the Queen.

Other toasts followed: **Gordon Sinclair**, President of St Andrew's Society, to Sir John, the "Scot";

Harvey Rosen, Mayor of Kingston, to Sir John, the "Kingstonian"; and **John Gerretsen**, MPP for Kingston and the Islands, to Sir John, "the Canadian." The spirit of Sir John then descended upon the gathering in the form of Macdonald himself, rendered by our own **Brian Porter**. Garbed in period costume and with superb panache, style, and humour, Sir John proposed the toast to Canada. Following dinner, the society was treated to an engaging talk by **Peter MacKay**, MP, who spoke on "John A. Macdonald and the Future of Conservatism in Canada." All enjoyed a grand evening in a superb setting.



1



2

B. Osborne



B. Osborne

3





B. Osborne

5



1. Sandra Sinclair and Mayor Rosen
2. "Sir John" and Peter MacKay
3. Dean Taylor and friend
4. Assunta Gerretsen, Peter MacKay, and Brian Osborne
5. Brian Porter and alter ego
6. John Gerretsen


Photos by Jennifer McKendry, except where noted. For colour images, see www.heritagekingston.org



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TAKE HOME A BIT OF KINGSTON'S HISTORY

Come to the second **St George's Cathedral Rooftop Auction** on **26 February** in Memorial Hall, City Hall, and you may leave with a work of art on a historical slate roof tile or musical instrument. Among the many well-known local artists providing works will be Rob Baker of Kingston's Tragically Hip. Admission includes a glass of champagne, hors d'oeuvres, and punch. Viewing and refreshments at 7:00PM and the auction at 7:30PM. Tickets \$15, available at the Church Bookroom, 90 Johnson St, 544-1013 and the Cathedral Office, 548-4617.



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LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES

PART ONE: THE KINGSTON GRAIN ELEVATOR

by Shirley Gibson-Langille



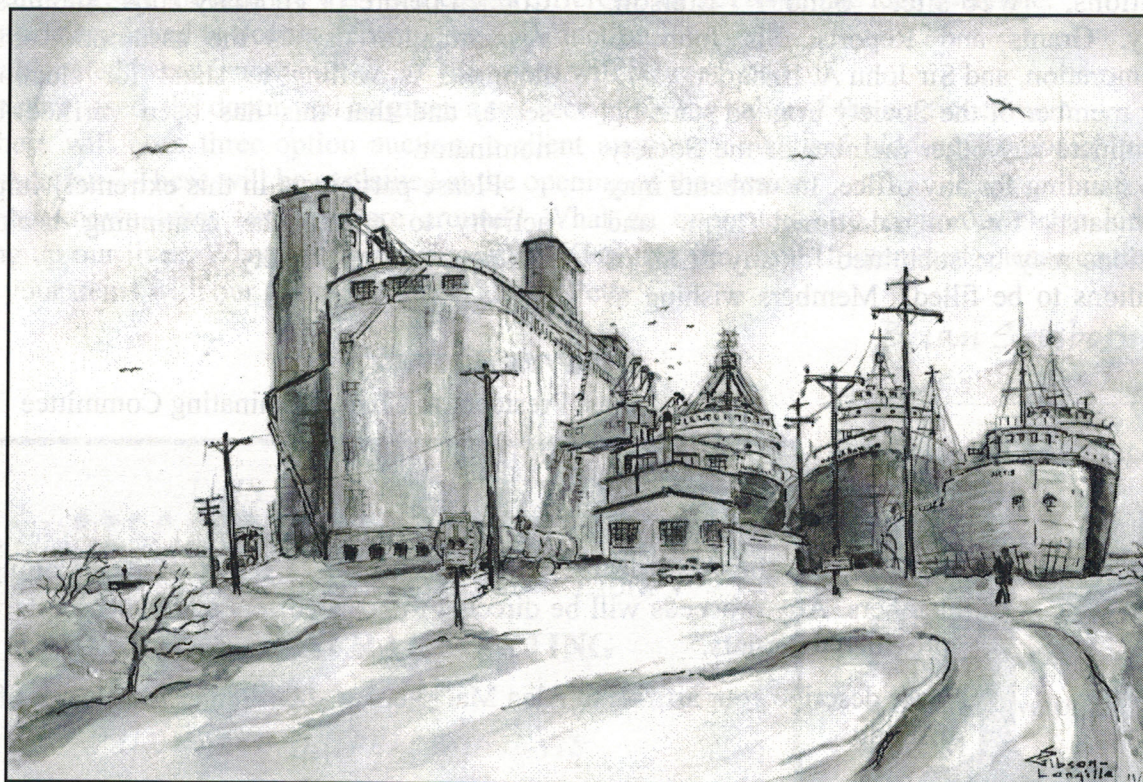
It was October, 1986 when I started painting the Kingston Grain Elevator as part of my "Waterfront Series." By this date, so much of Kingston's mercantile heritage was disappearing as wharves were replaced by hotels, condominiums, and marinas. Opened in 1930, the 2.5 million-bushel capacity grain-elevator was also destined to go soon. It had served the Canadian Steamship Lines lakers and canallers for over fifty years when I decided to add it to my collection.

I first painted the *Mapleheath* that was tied-up on the east side of the elevator. But I knew I would need to get permission to get to the vessels on the west side. This was going to be a problem. Someone had started a fire that caused \$5,000-worth of damage on the *Nipigon Bay* that was alongside the *Metis*

and *T.R. McLagan*. The Canadian Steamship Lines had posted a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of the culprit and had hired extra men to guard the ships. To add to the problem, a young man had committed suicide there, leaving a car with a note saying, "Thanks for the car. The keys are in my pocket."

Nevertheless, I eventually got permission from the guards to enter the property and I painted three paintings outside, including this view.

But the towering structure of the Elevator also intrigued me with its flaking paint and broken windows. I longed to get inside and explore it and, hopefully, paint it. Of course, I eventually did so and that will be the subject of next month's tale!





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



At the KHS AGM on Wednesday, **18 FEBRUARY** 2004 at 7:30 PM, in the Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library, the Society's Nominating Committee will present the following slate of candidates to the membership:

EXECUTIVE

<i>President</i>	Brian Osborne
<i>Vice-President</i>	Maurice Smith
<i>General Secretary</i>	Doug Petty
<i>Treasurer</i>	Ted Huber
<i>Past President</i>	Warren Everett



COUNCIL

John Abbott
Robert Andrews
Jane Errington
John Fielding
Ed Grenda
Desmond O'Meara
Alan MacLachlan
Jack Pike
Gordon Sinclair
Edward Snider

As specified in the Constitution, the new Council will appoint the following: Editor of *Historic Kingston*, Editor of the newsletter (*Limelight*), and Chair of the Murney Tower Committee and will also appoint chairs of other Society committees (Finance, Membership, Programme, Publications, Web-site, School Liaison, Publicity, Grants and Reports, Sir John A. Commemoration, and Sir John A. Banquet).

Any member of the Society in good standing may nominate any other member of the Society in good standing for any office. Incumbents may be nominated for an additional term, and nominations may be submitted for any or all of the positions to be filled. Members wishing to

nominate a candidate for any position as a member of the Executive or Council may do so from the floor at the AGM, by submitting written nominations to Warren Everett, 253 Willingdon Avenue, Kingston, K7L 4J2, or by handing them to any member of the present Executive and Council before 11 February 2004. Submission of a nomination carries the assumption that the nominee is willing to stand for election and serve, and that this has been verified by the nominator.

Please participate in this extremely important activity to ensure the continuing health and efficiency of the Society.

Warren Everett

Past President & Chair, Nominating Committee

N.B. Following the AGM, there will be an **AUCTION** of items brought by members. Any proceeds will be directed to KHS coffers and tax-receipts will be provided to donors.

Please describe your artifact to Alan MacLachlan at 549-8841 in advance of the meeting.

