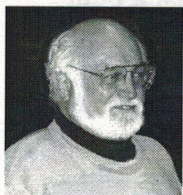
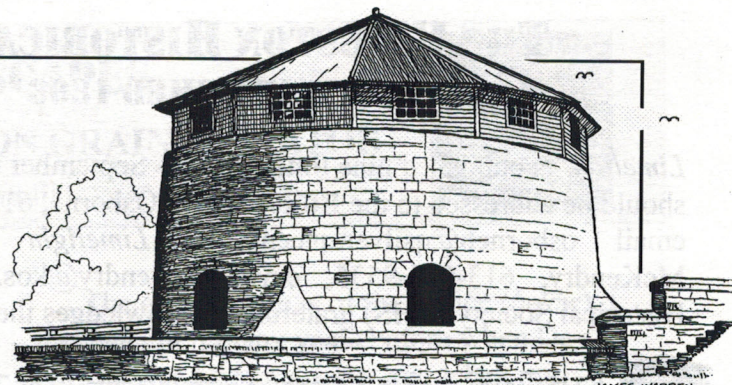


LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

vol 6 no 3 March 2004 ISSN 1488-5565



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Memory, remembering, and commemoration are all important words for those of us interested in history and heritage. Certainly, I am prompted to think about them by the truly tragic loss experienced by the Kingston heritage community in the so-untimely death of **Don Richan** (*right*), the Queen's University Archivist. After all, as an archivist, he was in the business of memory: that is, building archives as the memory-machines of society. And in a different vein, I think it's important we remember him as a valuable member of our community.

A "prairie boy" with roots in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Don came to Queen's from the Saskatchewan Provincial Archives and the City of Regina Archives. As Chair of the Queen's Archives Advisory Board, I interacted closely with him on furthering the QUA's mission as both a regional and local archives, and yet one regarded by scholars everywhere as a national treasure. If you don't believe me, pick up any volume on Canadian prime-ministers or major literary figures and count the acknowledgements to the collections and staff of the Queen's

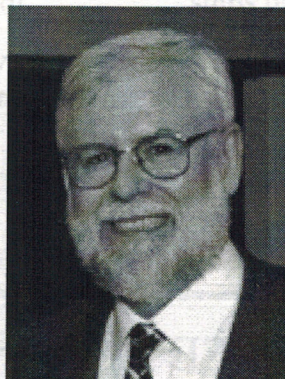
Archives.

That necessitated constant attention to the development of our holdings. It required the instincts of a hunter and the business acumen of a wheeler-dealer. This came to the fore in the meetings of the Chancellor Richardson Memorial Fund, where Don was diligent in pursuing the further enhancement of our rich collections, but not at the expense of other constituencies. His counsel was wise, and his judgments respected.

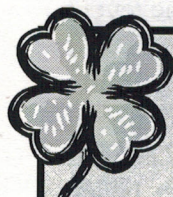
Nor did he neglect the wider community. While he was a loyal member of the KHS, I associate him more with the planning of, and participation in, the enthusiastic but brain-numbing exuberance of the high-schools' Heritage Fairs. Not only did we judge together, but we once dressed up in costumes together and Don made a fine monk. He was fun to be around.

Of course, Don will be greatly missed by his family and many friends, but he is also leaving a profound gap in the university and the broader community in which he played such an active and vital role. And that is why he must be remembered.

Photo by Bernard Clark



Brian S. Osborne



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

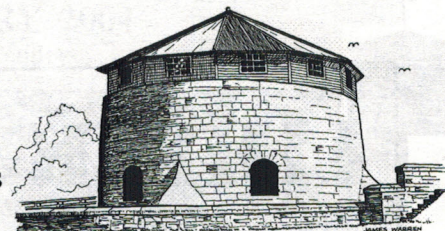
JONATHAN MOORE
"Underwater Archaeology in the Rideau Canal"

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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Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6

website www.heritagekingston.org

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GRANT ALLEN, WOLFE ISLAND, AND MYSTERY

Therese Greenwood contacted us early in February about the forthcoming adjudication of the Wolfe Island short story contest: "Since last year's contest winner heard about it in *Limelight*, I thought I had better send the release to you again! Thanks for all of your support, the KHS is SO well connected." To prove that flattery gets you everything, here it is again! Wolfe Island's **Scene of the Crime Festival** is launching its 2004 short story contest. It opens on 24 February, the birth date of Grant Allen, Canada's first crime writer, born on Wolfe Island in 1848. It is open to writers who are previously unpublished in the mystery or crime genre. First introduced last year, the contest has

seen entries from the Maritimes to British Columbia. Deadline for entries is **15 May**. For contest rules visit www.sceneofthecrime.ca. Winners will be announced on 15 June and will be presented with their prizes at the annual Scene of the Crime Festival on Saturday, 14 August. First prize is \$50 and publication in the event program. Second and third prizes are \$25 gift certificates from Novel Idea bookstore. For more information, contact Violette Malan at contest@sceneofthecrime.ca or phone 272-3591. Information and tickets for the Wolfe Island Scene of the Crime Festival are available at info@sceneofthecrime.ca or phone Maureen Lollar 385-2540.



LETTER BOX

Ray Ann Farington-Alt of northern Ohio is researching the Farington family history -- one branch is related to Sir Robert Barrie. On 20 November 1974, T.L. Brock presented a paper, "Commodore Robert Barrie and his Family in Kingston, 1819-1834" to the KHS in the St George's Parish Hall (Barrie's portrait on the left is from the front cover of vol. 23 *Historic Kingston*). Having located a manuscript copy of this paper that refers to a list of slides, she wishes to contact any of T.L. Brock's family to try and locate these slides or prints. Can any one help?

Steven Maillie of Edmonton writes: "I am trying to find some information about my great-grandfather, William Pollitt, who owned, and then sold, "Doyle's Bread" in Kingston during the 1940s. This information was passed on to me by my father, William Maillie, and he was a little fuzzy on trying to remember over 50 years ago. He does remember his grand-dad working there after selling it and that he may have sold it to his wife's (Jenny) family. We are not too sure if Doyle was her family name. By what my Dad said, it was a fairly big place and supplied baking-goods to different food stores in Kingston. Any help you can give would be appreciated."

advertisement from Coronation booklet 1937, coll. J. McKendry

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ST GEORGE'S & THE FLAG of 22ND BATTERY RCFA, CEF

St George's Cathedral is the repository of the flag of the 22nd Battery, Canadian Field Artillery, Canadian Expeditionary Force. It was presented to the Battery in the Kingston Armouries in February 1915, and was deposited in Westminster Abbey "for the duration of the war" in April 1915. There are photographs and a painting of it on the altar of Henry VII's chapel, and later on Wolfe's Monument. The 21st Battalion (later the Princess of Wales Own Regiment) brought the flag back to Kingston in May 1919. A four foot square Union Jack with an embroidered centre-piece, the embroidery is in excellent condition, and St George's will soon be undertaking the restoration of the flag. This will be paid for by the family of the original



embroideress, whose 91-year-old daughter is living in Rochester, Kent, England.

The flag will then be put on permanent display in the Artillery Gallery in the north transept of St George's. It is a special part of Canadian history as it is the only flag carried by an artillery battery in the C.E.F. St George's is asking for contributions towards the purchase of a display-case similar to those which now display a flag from Point Frederick, and the Regimental and the King's Colours of the Royal Military College which were laid up in June 1942.

Those wishing to make a donation to this project should contact Peter Gower, Deputy Warden, St George's (549-5685).

Canada's Home Children

Between 1869 and the late 1940s, approximately 100,000 children were sent to Canada under the auspices of a number of British charities. The latter included Barnardo's (who sent some 30,000 - about a third of the total), Quarriers, Fegans, Middlemore, Church of England, National Children's Homes, Annie Macpherson, and Maria Rye. With the blessing of the British Government, these philanthropic organisations were encouraged to remove children from orphanages, workhouses, and other institutions and settle them in Canada. Such schemes were seen as a way of 'saving' children from the 'immorality' of city life, of dealing with child poverty in the newly industrialised cities of Britain, and of providing a source of cheap labour in the Dominion. By the 1920s, however, there were increasing concerns about the ethics of the child migration programmes, with accounts of physical and sexual abuse abounding

in the British and Canadian press. As a consequence, the popularity of the practice waned. However, it did continue on a smaller scale until 1949.

Today, it is estimated that ten per cent of Canadians are descendants of these 'Home Children'. Many engage in genealogical research as they attempt to trace their family roots and discover why their ancestors were removed from Britain and placed in Canada. If you are a descendant and would like to discuss your family background, then please contact Andrew Morrison, a doctoral student from Scotland carrying out research on the Home Children at Queen's University. He is particularly interested in learning about descendants' searches for roots and about how they have been affected by their family backgrounds. More information about his research can be found at <http://www.canadiandescendants.com>.

Alternatively, he can be contacted by email at canadiandescendants@hotmail.com or by phone on 613-533-6000 Ext. 78541.

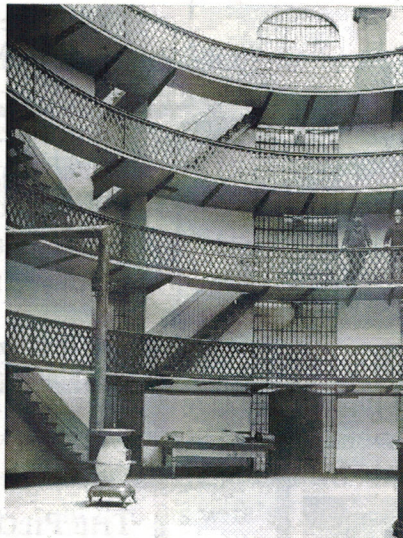


IMAGES OF KINGSTON: INTERIOR VIEWS

by Stewart Renfrew



Some of the most interesting photographs in the collection held by Queen's University Archives (QUA) are interiors. As Jennifer McKendry points out in *Early Photography in Kingston*, photography, as we know it, began its existence in the late 1830s and came to Kingston a few years later. Many early images were, of course, fairly primitive and heavily dependent on natural sunlight until photographers learned to use artificial light with equipment that was difficult, cumbersome, and even



V23 PUB - Pen -41-1

dangerous. Not surprisingly, there are few early pictures of interiors. This is unfortunate: interior pictures provide valuable evidence of the lived-in worlds of any period. A case-in-point is illustrated by the three interior shots taken from the QUA collection.

The first is of the interior of Kingston Penitentiary's rotunda (capped by a dome removed in 1955). There are some wonderful shots of the exteriors of the penitentiary buildings that show the striking architecture at its best. This interior picture, though, has always

left me wondering. Surely, they did not plan to heat the whole dome with one stove? How then did they heat the rest of the building? Is this stove the kind of heating used for the rest of the prison? If so, one can well imagine some poor half-frozen prisoner huddled in his cell at mid-winter hoping that, as many would have believed at the time, his fate would soon lead him to an eternity amidst the fires of hell.

The second picture is much more domestic in nature. While we are not certain of its provenance or subject matter, it depicts a Victorian parlour in all its glory, complete with its clutter and gas mantel. It allows us to look into a slice of life from the late Victorian or early Edwardian era. But who is the couple in the picture? Perhaps one of the Society's members might know and even recognize the house!

The third photograph purports to be the interior of O'Conner's Lady's Wear Store at 260 Princess Street, as it appeared in the 1920s. But is that date correct? If those are gaslights hanging from the ceiling, surely it is an older picture? Moreover, I would think that the ladies' dresses are a little old-fashioned for the 1920s. But I could be wrong. Perhaps the hats could date the picture. Were they the fashion in the 1920s? What do you think?



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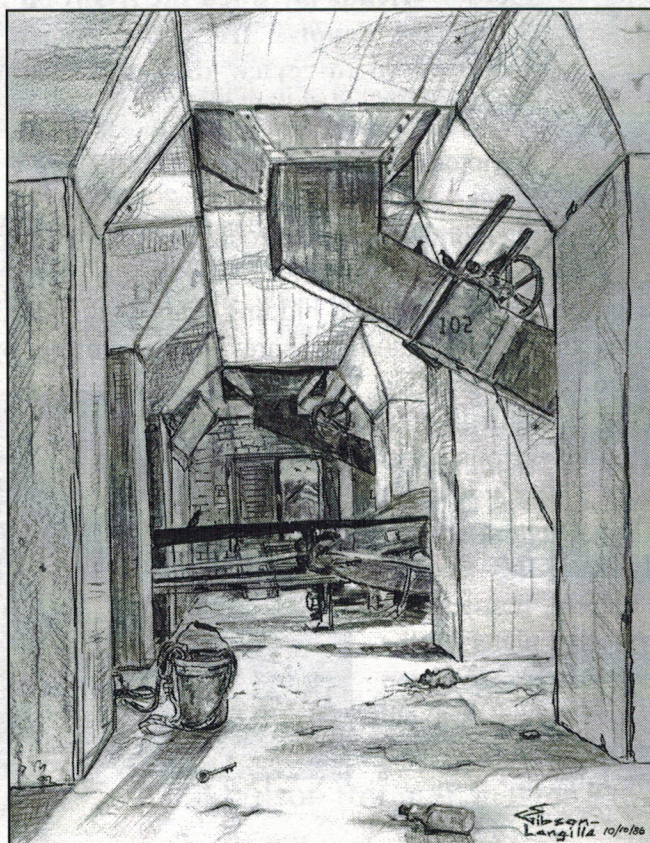
LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES

PART TWO: INSIDE THE KINGSTON GRAIN ELEVATOR

by Shirley Gibson-Langille



Last month, I wrote about my exploration of the Kingston Grain Elevator and my attempt to get inside it. Eventually, I found two open doors, one on the east side and the other on the south side. I spent a few days inside and painted four scenes. One of them shows the interior of the elevator itself. I was alone in there except for rats, mice, and birds. It was very spooky! One day, I got a real scare when both doors slammed shut. I thought someone had locked me in. Boy, did I run, hollering my head off, only to find that it had been the wind!



The other image is of the Office (*below*). I had been in it many years before when Dev Gibson was Commissioner and when my uncle, Captain Joe Beaudoin, came into dock on either the *Franquelin* or the *Herron Bay*. Uncle Joe would call us and my Dad, Mom and I would visit him on board his ship. It was really scary climbing up and even worse coming down. I remember the big reception area and guest quarters on the *Herron Bay*.

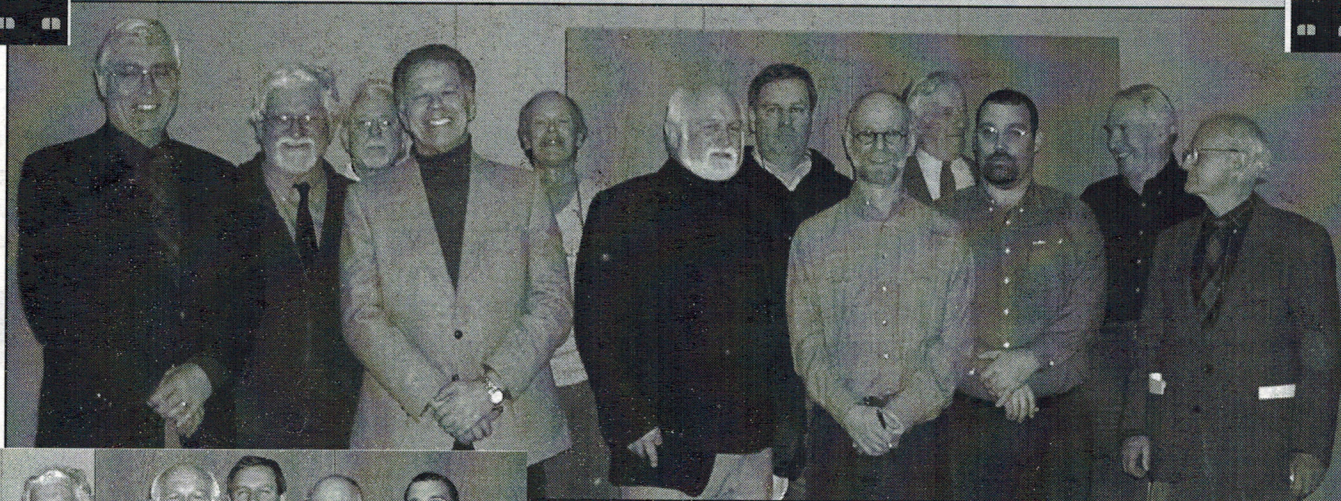
But the closing of the Grain Elevator marked the end of an era. It, together with its ships tied up alongside, had come to be such a distinctive part of the waterfront landscape. It had also been an important economic operation and had once employed as many as thirty-five workers there.

By the way, do you remember the fire on the *Nipigon Bay* I referred to last month? They found the four teenagers who had set it!

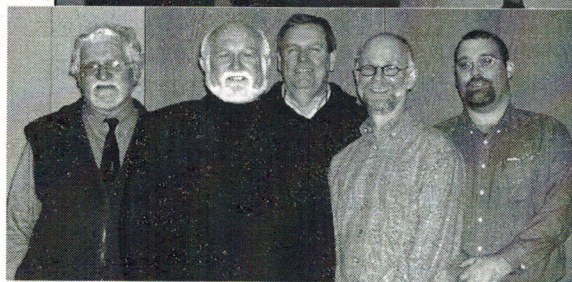


KHS AGM & AUCTION 18 FEBRUARY 2004

Story by Alan MacLachlan; photos by Jennifer McKendry



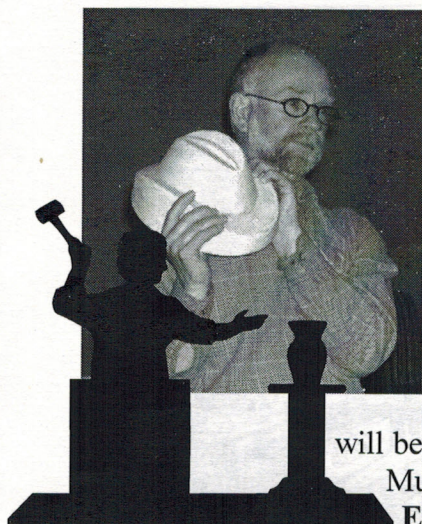
Our new executive and council: left to right Alan MacLachlan, Maurice Smith, John Fielding, Ed Grenda, John Abbott, Brian Osborne, Warren Everett, Doug Petty, Jack Pike, Ted Huber, Robert Andrews, Ted Snider (missing: Jane Errington, Des O'Meara, Gordon Sinclair)



Our new executive: left to right Maurice Smith, Vice-President; Brian Osborne, President; Warren Everett, Past President; Doug Petty, General Secretary; Ted Huber, Treasurer

Over 60 members & friends attended the AGM on 18 February to receive reports from the Society's officers and committees and to review the current state and future prospects.

See also colour photos on www.architecturekingston.org



Following the AGM, the Society celebrated the generosity of its members with an innovative, humorous, and lively venture. Under **Doug Petty's** convivial direction, we were guided through festive bidding wars of standard, "silent," and "Dutch" auctions of such donated treasures as a painting by Shirley Gibson-Langille, a large Union Jack flag and an Ontario provincial flag, a lamp lighter, books, engravings, glassware and various other items judged to be "collectibles." The bidding at times became intense as Doug tugged at our purse strings so effectively that the Society added close to \$1000 to its coffers, monies that will be directed to enhancing the interpretive plans for the Murney Tower. Special thanks go to Messrs. **Warren Everett** and **Douglas Petty** for the efficient organization and execution of the event, and to our members for their generous donations – and purchases. Perhaps we should do it again!



At the next meeting, Wednesday, 17 March at 7:30PM, **Jonathan Moore** will discuss "Underwater Archaeology along the Rideau Canal" by using slides and videos to examine various sites including engineering works, shipwrecks, wharves, and submerged landscapes, with particular attention to the survey at Jones Falls.