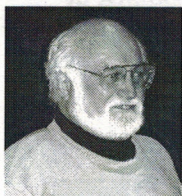
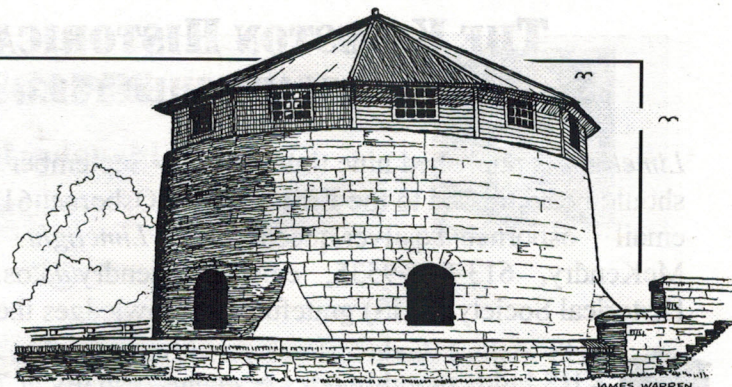


# LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the  
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

vol 6 no 4 April 2004 ISSN 1488-5565



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**A**t last month's meeting of KHS, **Jennifer McKendry** reported on a new service available to members through our web-site\*: she has prepared a complete list of the contents of all 52 volumes of *Historic Kingston* from the first volume in 1952 with its report of the 1951-52 papers up to those in 2003, the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the founding of KHS in 1893-94.

Thus, by a simple search routine, I was assisted in preparing this message. In Vol. 11, Louis J. Flynn published a very useful article: "The Early Years of the Kingston Historical Society." In it, he documented the organizational meeting held on 27 October 1893 in the Senate Room of Queen's University and the first substantive meeting on 10 November 1893.

And some things never change. The business discussed at the 4 January 1894 meeting would not have been out of place in 2004. First, the newly elected executive established an array of committees, although the titles "Military History," "Ecclesiastical History," and "Civil History" are more appealing than the prosaic ones we have in 2004!

At the second meeting on 2 February 1894, the issue was KHS's cooperation with the City in

establishing a museum and protecting "the old landmarks of the City." Noting that many had disappeared, Mr. W. Neish proposed a "photographic record" of those that remained while Mr. R.M. Horsey argued for the placing of "marks" where "the old forts and buildings stood so that visitors might have the opportunity of seeing 'somewhat' of our City in the early days." It appears that **John Grenville's** "plaque committee" has a long pedigree – as does the "Anglican connection"! On 2 March (one day after St. David's Day), the executive council recommended that KHS meetings be shifted from City Hall's Council Chamber to St. George's Hall.

But the link with City Hall continued and, as KHS's first year came to an end, in April 1894 the museum-committee met in the Mayor's Office. As our 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary year draws to a close, here we are again, holding our birthday party (see back cover) on 21 April 2004 in Memorial Hall: *plus ça change, plus la même chose*.

Happy Birthday, KHS, and thanks, Jennifer, for a fine birthday present.

*Brian S. Osborne*

\* [www.heritagekingston.org/khs/hk-contents.html](http://www.heritagekingston.org/khs/hk-contents.html)

*THIS MONTH'S MEETING:*  
WEDNESDAY, 21 APRIL at 7:30PM

**BIRTHDAY PARTY & CONCERT**  
*for KHS - 110 years old!*

in Memorial Hall, Kingston City Hall

*Please see back cover for details*

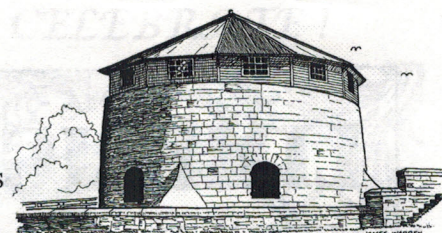


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# THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## 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.

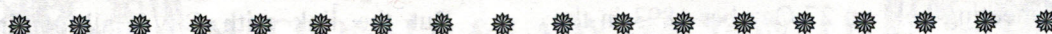
**Kingston Historical Society**  
Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6

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

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Warren Everett, *Past President*  
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Ed Grenda

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Jack Pike  
Gordon Sinclair  
Edward Snider



### IN MEMORIAM: DIANA MARGARET MCGILL 1930-2004

In 1997, Diana McGill (née Johnston) and her husband, David, moved to Kingston. It was a return home as Diana had strong Kingston connections: she had been born here in 1930 in KGH; her father, Colin Johnston, was a graduate of Queen's Engineering and had played football for the Golden Gaels. Subsequently, Diana moved on to life in Northern Ontario, Quebec, and Toronto, an impressive career in nursing, and a rich family life with David, four children, and five grandchildren. Diana was an avid traveller, visiting no less than 53 countries.



The account of Diana's full and joy-filled life was recognized at the Service of Thanksgiving at Chalmer's United Church and it concluded with this statement: "Di spent her last few years doing volunteer work, meeting new friends, enjoying Cartwright Point, collecting family history and attending lectures." Of course, she was a regular presence at the meetings of KHS and we all endorse the final sentiment of the tribute: "She is missed by everyone who ever met her."



## SPEAKERS' CORNER

with Alan MacLachlan

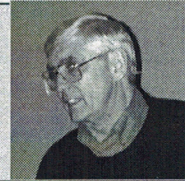


Photo J. McKendry



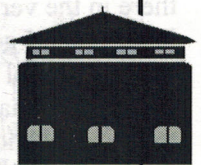
Jonathan Moore chatting after his presentation at the March meeting.

**J**onathan Moore, a Parks Canada archaeologist, treated almost 100 members and friends to a talk on "Underwater Archaeology in the Rideau Canal" on St. Patrick's Day. Using sophisticated media with video seamlessly introduced into still shots, Jonathan showed us a new and uncharted part of our past in the waters of the canal. An active question period and refreshments followed the presentation.

🔑 Please see back cover for information about our 110<sup>th</sup> **Birthday Celebration** in April. Note the change in venue!

## YOUR SOCIETY AT WORK

Below is the list of committees and chairs appointed by Council at their last meeting. If you are interested in supporting the work of a committee, please contact the chair to see if there is an opening for an additional member or if there is a particular task that you could undertake. Your participation ensures the growth and well-being of our organization.



<b>Awards</b>	Jack Pike	546 9187
<b>External Liaison</b>	John Abbott	545 0311
<b>Finance</b>	Warren Everett	545 9316
<b>Grants</b>	Ed Grenda	544 3715
<b>11 January</b> (Macdonald birthday commemoration)	Jack Pike	546 9187
<b>6 June</b> (Macdonald graveside ceremony)	Peter Radley	544 5901
<b>KHS Archivist</b>	Stewart Renfrew	545 1953
<b>Murney Tower National Historic Site</b>	Warren Everett	545 9316
<b>Membership</b>	Ed Snider	545 1536
<b>Nominating</b>	Warren Everett	545 9316
<b>Plaques</b>	John Grenville	548 8666 ext 102
<b>Programme</b>	Alan MacLachlan	549 8841
<b>Publications</b>	Robert Andrews	382 0042
<b>Publicity</b>	Stewart Renfrew	545 1953
<b>Refreshments</b>	Jennifer McKendry	544 9535
<b>School Outreach</b>	John Fielding	545 5944
<b>Web Site</b>	Mark Andrews	531 8971
<b>Welcome</b>	Helen Coffey	542 4586



## LETTER BOX: letters in & letters out

Sometimes people respond to our "Letter Box" queries and wonder why we want to publish them. The answer is simple: to provide information for the enquirer; to engage KHS members in the process; and, as in this month's case, to share members' rich and textured memories of our community as it used to be. Here is **Barbara Monk's** response to Steven Maillie's recent query about **Doyle's Bakery**:

"I received my copy of *Limelight* yesterday and read it with interest (as always). I was caught by the *Letter Box* note about Doyle's Bakery. I lived at 247 Mack St when just a wee child in the 1940s and, every now and then, I could smell the wonderful aroma of fresh-baked bread. The wind must have been from the east those times. It haunts me still whenever I smell it! I never knew where it came from except that it was a bakery. I was at least 2 to 4 years old. I do know the Bakery was there in the very early 1950s, because we had moved to Park St and I got lost one day coming home from Rideau School (I must have been 5 or 6 years old) and could smell that yeasty smell and knew I wasn't far from our old home.

Today, while in town, I drove along Mack St to find that Bakery location: 48 Mack St is where Victoria

Park is now. How old are those trees anyway? I wonder if Norm Pollitt of Pollitt's demolition is related to this person. I don't know if a city directory of that time could shed some light on the various owners and employees.

I know this isn't helpful really, but just wanted to let you know that these articles do stir up memories and interest."

A few days later, Barbara followed up her own advice and consulted the Kingston Directories for that period in Kingston Public Library: in 1941, the bakery was at 48 Mack St with James V. Doyle as manager; by 1943 it was at 96 Mack St with Harold G. Doyle as manager. In 1946, William P. Pollitt lived at 304 Albert St, which is just around the corner and down a block from the bakery, although the Directories have no information about any connection. The other Pollitts all lived in the Bay St area. Barbara concludes: "I drove by 96 Mack St on the way home and the bakery building is in behind the residence and is quite large. It now houses Fourway Imaging."

Thank you, Barbara, for sharing your insights and industry with us. We'll pass this information on to William Pollitt's great-grandson, Steven Maillie.

Dear *Limelight* Readers:

Throughout 2004, the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul are marking the 100th anniversary of the death of **Catherine McKinley** (right), foundress of their congregation, with a year-long celebration of prayer and thanksgiving. As we rejoice in the remarkable life of this pioneering woman, we are also seeking further genealogical information about the McKinley family and its history in the Kingston community.

Although Kingston was a thriving port in the mid-19th century, life here was especially difficult for the poor. Many suffered without care in their homes; others were forced to beg in the streets. It was into this society that Catherine McKinley was born on 14 August 1837, to ship owner John McKinley and his wife, the former Sarah McCaffrey.

Little is known about Catherine McKinley's early life in Kingston or her work as a young adult,



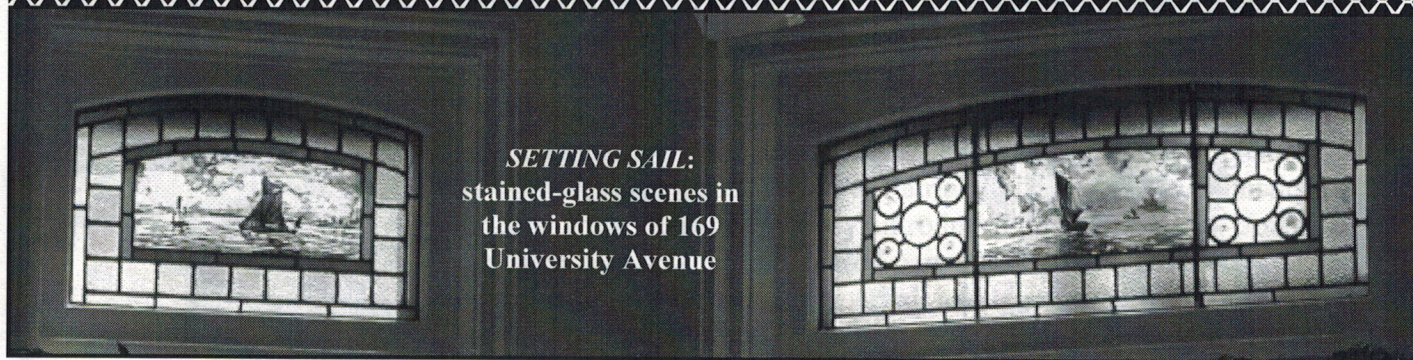
when she became a skilled dressmaker. In 1862, at the age of 25, she became the first member of our religious community, then being established at the urging of Bishop E.J. Horan. Four years later, Catherine, now known as Mother Mary Edward, became the first Superior General. Her charisma was to guide the only religious congregation founded in Kingston from its humble beginnings and into the 20th century.

Anyone with genealogical information about Catherine McKinley and her family can contact us, c/o Sister Mary Joan LaFleur, Providence Motherhouse, Box 427, 1200 Princess St, Kingston, ON, K7L 4W4, by phone at 531-0607, or by email at [archives@providence.ca](mailto:archives@providence.ca).

*Sister Mary Joan LaFleur, Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul*



# Registry of Stained Glass Windows in Canada



*SETTING SAIL:*  
stained-glass scenes in  
the windows of 169  
University Avenue

**J**oyce Waddell-Townsend wishes to bring to the attention of KHS members an interesting local heritage project: an encouragement for all 102 diocesan churches to photograph and document their stained glass windows and register them with the **Registry of Stained Glass Windows in Canada** located at York University. To date, few have done so. Accordingly, priests and wardens are being urged to ask their Vestry for volunteers who will undertake the task of documenting their churches.

To this end, a learning session is planned for **17 April** from 10:00AM to 3:00PM, when Rachel Tennant, Doug Bickerton and others will be photographing and recording the 31 windows of St. James, Kemptville. Interested visitors are invited to attend at a cost of \$5, which includes lunch, resource materials, and hands-on instruction. Interested persons should contact Joyce at 549-1688, Anne Thomas at 547-1306, or Doug Bickerton at 382-5187 as soon as possible.

For those who cannot attend on 17 April, a table will be set up on **7 & 8 May** at St.

George's Cathedral, as part of "Art for Windows," to provide information on how to document your church.



*a table will be set up on 7 & 8  
May at St. George's Cathedral,  
as part of "Art for Windows,"  
to provide information on how  
to document your church*

Other contacts are Peter Gower at St. George's Cathedral (548-4617), George Inrig at St. Mary Magdalene (476-3303), or Doug Bickerton, as they have already completed the documentation of their church's windows.

Joyce points out that there are a lot of churches in the Diocese to be recorded! And one is prompted to suggest that other denominations should follow the lead of their Anglican cohorts in revering their stained glass. What about the wonderful windows in St. Andrew's, Chalmer's, and St. Mary's? And for the secular minded, there are those inspiring ones in Memorial Hall or the charming examples in the houses under threat of demolition for a new Queen's student centre.

Submitted by Joyce Waddell-Townsend, Chair of Diocesan RSGC Committee; photographs of 169 University Ave. (site of proposed Queen's student centre) by Jennifer McKendry



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## LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES

### "The Happening": Sir John A. Macdonald's Grave

by Shirley Gibson-Langille



**I**t was my dear friend, Peggy Cohoe, who first taught me that there is no such thing as a coincidence and to always look for the meaning behind a "Happening" and to be ready to act upon it!

On 17 May 1988, I spent the whole day painting Christ Church in Cataraqui Village. The next day, I was painting Sir John A. Macdonald's grave in Cataraqui Cemetery. At noon, I stopped to eat my lunch under a tree close by. I watched this lady come along with a camera and stop and take a picture of Sir John's grave. When she was finished, she came over and

*always look for the  
meaning behind a  
"Happening" and to be  
ready to act upon it!*

introduced herself as Elizabeth Luther. She was a writer for the *Toronto Star* and had come to Kingston especially to take two pictures: Christ Church and Sir John A.'s grave!

Wow! We both realized this was *more* than a coincidence. I asked her if there was anything else she needed. Yes, she was also

looking for information about the Cataraqui Cemetery Chapel window. I told her I needed someone to write a history of Cataraqui and present it at my upcoming art-show. We exchanged business cards and promised to be in touch. I immediately called Peggy to share this unique experience. She was very excited and offered to send Elizabeth all the facts on the Chapel window. As Peggy put it, "The reason for the happening might not be for you, this time, Shirley."

I later received a letter from Elizabeth offering to do the Cataraqui history for me. However, I had already asked Gordon Smithson to do it. She also sent me a clipping of an article she wrote for the *Toronto Star* on 3 September 1987 on the Witch of Plum Hollow headlined, "EVEN SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD SOUGHT HER ADVICE." Peggy had sent Elizabeth all the information she needed on the Chapel window, so I had to assume that "The Happening" had been for her.

Not so! Recently, I have learned something new. Never assume anything! See the next episode in May's *Limelight* for an account of what happened fourteen years later!



Sir John A. Macdonald's Monument



*KHS IS 110 YEARS OLD & LET'S CELEBRATE!*

all welcome!

**WEDNESDAY  
7:30 PM**



**APRIL 21**



**GRAND CONCERT  
& BIRTHDAY PARTY**  
*HONOURING the FOUNDING of KHS*  
*in 1893-94 with MUSIC WRITTEN in*  
*HONOUR of SIR JOHN A.*  
**MACDONALD & LADY MACDONALD**



in **MEMORIAL  
HALL,**  
**KINGSTON CITY  
HALL**

Ontario Street



concert of 1912

in Memorial Hall

*featuring*  
Diane Bootsma,  
Carl Bray,  
Sarah Gibson-Bray,  
Avanti Dey, Donna  
Ivey, Larissa Kiyashko,  
Christopher Mayell,  
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