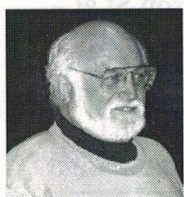
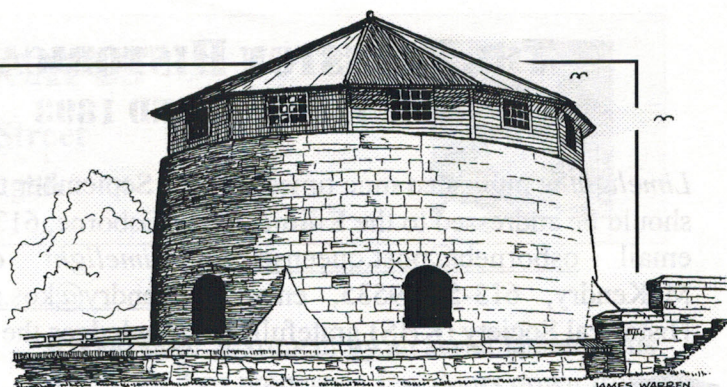


# LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the  
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

vol 6 no 8 November 2004 ISSN 1488-5565



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Academic history with its references, footnotes, and scholarly interpretations is one of the ways we construct the past. Then there is also the matter of shared memories and commemoration. The “co-memorising” of things thought to be important to our social cohesion.

Certainly, ever since 1918, November is the month for the remembrance of sacrifice and service. But it's salutary to think how recent months reveal how initiatives have been taken outside of the officially sanctioned date of Remembrance Day. On 12 September, the dedication and emplacement of the banner of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Battery Canadian Field Artillery, Second Expeditionary Force, 1915, took place in St. George's Cathedral. On 6 October, a reception was held at the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes to celebrate the efforts of those instrumental in establishing the Navy Memorial Park dedicated, on 3 October 2003, “To Those Who Have Gone Before.” On 10 October, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church held a service of dedication of *The Rock and the Sword*, a history

of the church, commissioned by St. Andrew's War Veteran's Association and dedicated to them by the author. On 23 October, the unveiling of the Second World War Memorial Photographs of Queen's men who died in that war, took place in the John Deutsch University Centre (J.U.D.C.).

I am sure, there have been others too. The point is that, if there had been a fear (some years back) that the meaning of duty and personal sacrifice was being forgotten, recent events such as these demonstrate that - in Kingston at least - we do remember. On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, Canadians will share in what one writer has called “a collective heartbeat.” As my colleague, Professor Stewart Webster put it on the occasion of the J.U.D.C. dedication, “They died, we lived, and we have inherited an unpayable debt. But we *can* remember them. Our presence here today testifies that we *do* remember them.”

Well said, Stewart. And, if by remembering together we are better bound together, the sacrifices of the fallen continue to serve us well.

*Brian S. Osborne*

### THIS MONTH'S MEETING:

**WEDNESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER at 7:30PM**

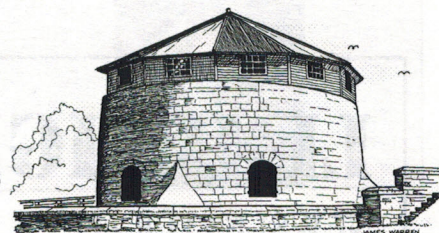
**Anne-Marie Shields**, author of  
*Lost Villages, Found Communities:*  
*The Lost Villages of the St. Lawrence Seaway*  
in the Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library, Johnson St  
all welcome refreshments

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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@post.queensu.ca](mailto:osborneb@post.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.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca)

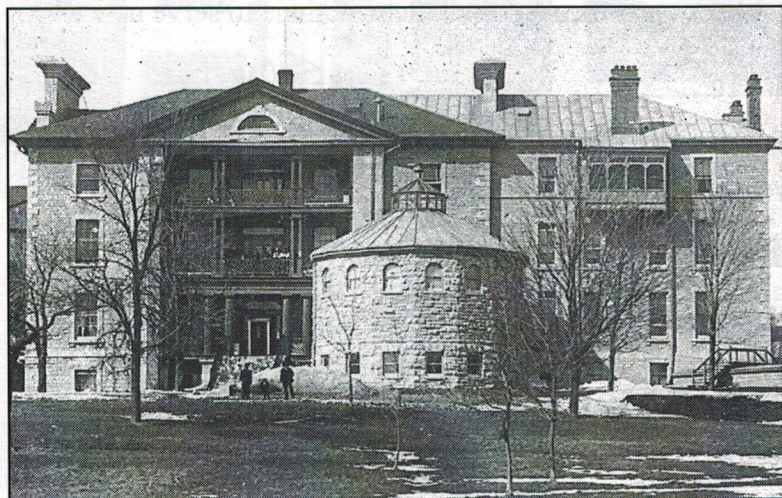
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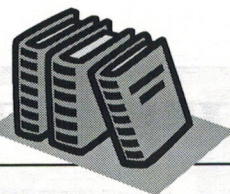
## Secrets of a 19th-Century Operating Theatre Revealed!

**J**oin us Thursday, **11 November** at 7 p.m. to experience a stimulating presentation by Margaret Angus Research Fellow, Jennifer Walker, “‘*A Blessing to the Citizens & Neighborhood at Large*’: Dr K.N. Fenwick and late 19th Century Surgery.” The presentation takes place in the Fenwick Conference Room, Kingston General Hospital (just south of Queen's Campus), the original Fenwick Operating Theatre! Reception to follow at the Museum of Health Care, George Street. Free of charge. Call 548-2419 or email [museum@kgh.kari.net](mailto:museum@kgh.kari.net) for more information.



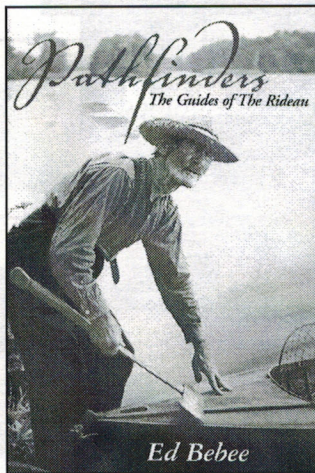


## THE BOOK SHELF



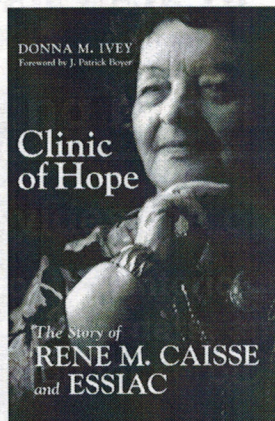
**T**hree new titles with local connections have appeared in recent weeks.

Ed Bebee's *Pathfinders: The Guides of the Rideau* (Smiths Falls: The Friends of the Rideau) tells the story of an important part of our local history: holiday resorts, tourists, and fishing. As a long-time seasonal resident of the Rideau country and Past-President of the "Friends of the Rideau," Ed Bebee is well qualified to introduce us to the economics, psychology, and theatre of guiding. Story-telling seems to go hand in hand with fishing and shore-dinners. But



there is much more. This well illustrated book is also a record of boats and motors, rods and reels, and "how to catch" em!"

Our own indomitable Donna Ivey has found time to produce a fascinating volume, *Clinic of Hope: The Story of Rene M. Caisse and Essiac* (Toronto: Dundurn). More than a biography, Donna Ivey has presented us with a rich social history of the Bracebridge district as well as an insight into the science and politics of the medical world. "Essiac" (Caisse spelt backwards) is a story with connections



to such people as Eva Peron, Mitch Hepburn, Pauline MacGibbon, Frederick Banting, and Queen's Principal R.C. Wallace. Thoroughly researched and well written, *Clinic of Hope* is a fine read.

Brian Osborne's *The Rock and the Sword: A History of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church*, Kingston (Kingston: Heinrich Heine Press) is the most recent contribution to the growing number of local church histories. This dynamic account of two centuries of Presbyterianism in Kingston also links the St. Andrew's Sanctuary and congregation to the society of which they are a part. Ministers and professors, soldiers and politicians, and the constant role of the women of the "parlour" are all part of the rich story of the "church on the hill."



Contact our sponsor, **Novel Idea** (p. 7), for more information on these books.

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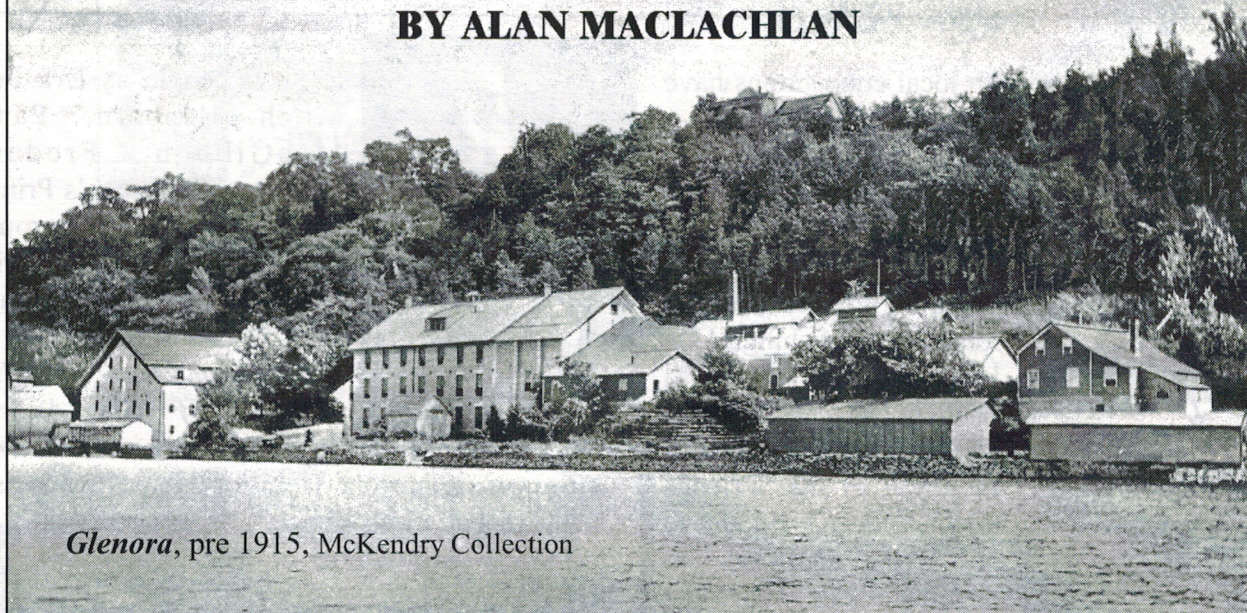
**Making History** Since 1998, the non-profit organization **h'art studio** has provided literacy, computer literacy, and life skills training for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Kingston using a unique curriculum that incorporates the fine arts as a learning tool. We will be mounting our major fundraising event for 2004, "Making History," on Saturday, **4 December**, at Memorial Hall, Kingston City Hall at 6 p.m. It will feature the premiere of our first short film called his/herSTORY resulting from a series of video story-telling workshops that were held in conjunction with our Kingston field trips to historical spaces. There will also be original art for sale based on our "Canadian heroes" and our First International Art Exhibit for Adults with Developmental Disabilities. Tickets are \$30. Call 545-1392 to reserve.

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# KHS VISITS "THE COUNTY"

BY ALAN MACLACHLAN



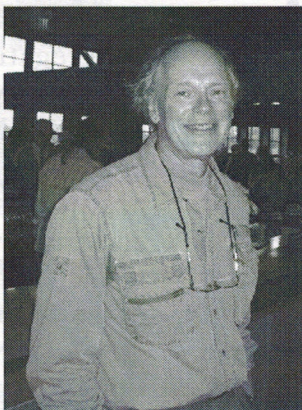
*Glenora, pre 1915, McKendry Collection*

If people are what makes history come alive, our 2 October 2004 wine and history tour of Prince Edward County proved it. Early morning clouds and light rain failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the 54 KHS members and friends who assembled to taste, learn, and socialize.

Undoubtedly, the speakers were the highlight of the tour as Jack Pike, John Abbott (*right*), and Brian Osborne increased our understanding of the dynamic history of Prince Edward County and helped us read the landscape of this place. Also, our palates were tantalized, tickled and teased by wines from the new wineries where Norm Hardie (Carmella, *lower right*), Carolyn Granger (The Grange), Grant Howes (County Cider Company), and Chris Rogers (Waring House) educated us on the challenges of this "new economy." Finally, Dr Nora Rogers of the Waring House enlightened us on the joys and challenges of restoring four historic buildings in the Picton

area. The long day was punctuated by a sumptuous buffet served in the wine cellar at the Carmela Winery and a most elegant dinner at the Waring House in Picton.

Our thanks to all who contributed to make this a delightful and informative outing and perhaps the start of a KHS autumn tradition. As one participant put it, "You couldn't buy a day like to-day!" How true.



Please visit  
[www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca) for  
colour photographs





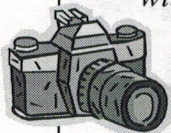


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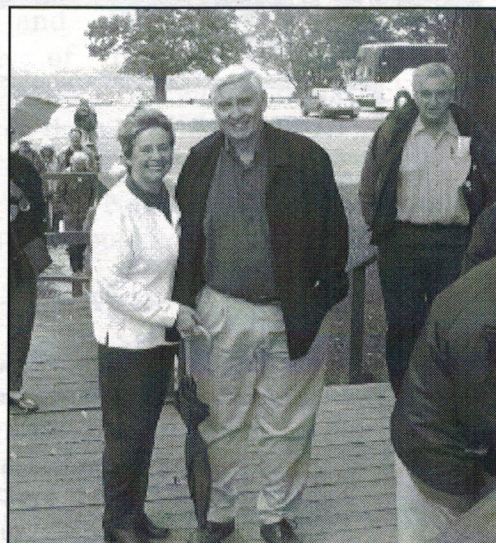
with thanks to all our intrepid  
photographers: Laura  
Cameron, Bill Fittell,  
Jack Hickman, & Ted Snider



C



D




E



F

- A Nora & Chris Rogers, Waring House
- B Grant Howes, County Cider Company
- C Tasting at the Grange
- D Elizabeth Glaser & Ann Osborne
- E Patricia McGinnis & Alan MacLachlan
- F Waring House





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## LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES

### I Remember Brock Street

by Shirley Gibson-Langille



**I**n the early morning of 15 December 1962, a three-alarm fire swept through Hanson and Edgar Printers Ltd. Although firewalls protected Zellers and Steacy's on Princess Street, the fire caused much smoke damage to the Queen's Hotel next door.

The \$200,000 fire started on the second floor storage area. This didn't surprise me as I was very familiar with that area. I was fortunate to have worked one summer at Hanson and Edgar. Upstairs, there were shelves holding several hundred job-bags. One of my duties was filing these bags. It sure wouldn't take much for a fire to start there!

The firm, founded in 1915 by George C. Hanson and Hamilton Edgar, moved to Brock Street in 1927 from 18-20 Market Street. Later, Joseph L. Smith became part owner. At the time of the fire, the firm employed some thirty-five people.

This was the second serious fire in the Wellington - Bagot block in two months. On 16 October, two girls had to be rescued from a

second floor apartment by an aerial ladder. This was in the Los property a few doors down from the printers. I remember there being a restaurant, shoe repair shop, and Chinese Laundry on the block.

On Saturday, 3 August 1963, I was participating in the weekly outdoor exhibit of the Kingston Artists' Workshop at the Kingston Market. I heard that the Brock Street block would be demolished the following Monday. I decided to pack up my display at the market and go home to pick up my painting gear. I set up my easel on Brock Street across from the doomed buildings.

As it was a big job with little time to do it, I stayed there until 2:00 a.m., but I finished it. Wasn't I afraid to sit there after dark? How could I see to paint? But I had no problem with either: the Kingston Police kindly watched over me and shone their lights on my canvas.

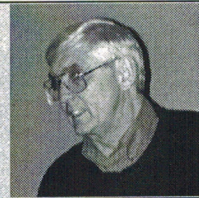
Today, the area is known as the Hanson Memorial Parking Lot.





# SPEAKERS' CORNER

with Alan MacLachlan



On 20 October, over 60 members and friends of KHS were treated at St Lawrence College to a wonderful evening focussed on the life and achievements of a "Pittsburgh boy," Dr Thomas Clarence Cummings. Aided by excellent visuals, the story and accomplishments of "T.C." were presented to us by KHS members, **Douglas Petty** and **Brian Osborne**. Raised on Woodburn Road and a graduate of Gananoque Secondary School, Tom Cummings pursued a celebrated career as a teacher in North Bay. He also became a prolific artist whose techniques and subject matter encompassed not just Ontario and Canada but were international in scope. Our speakers introduced us to Cummings's poetic and literary accomplishments, as well as his educational and military ones. Helen Acton, cousin of "T.C." and the prime mover for this exhibition, graciously thanked the presenters. The assembly then retired to the St Lawrence College Gallery (*below*) to have refreshments and to view and experience the artistic works of T.C. Cummings.

Our speaker for Wednesday, 17 November, at 7:30PM, is **Anne-Marie Shields** who will present a talk based on her recent book, *Lost Villages, Found Communities: A Pictorial History of the Lost Villages of the St. Lawrence Seaway*. Her presentation will highlight the early history of the region, an account of the Seaway and Power project, and its impact on the riverside communities.



above: left to right, Brian Osborne, Helen Acton, Doug Petty, and Ben Darrah (curator of the exhibition)



Photography by J. McKendry



## upcoming events



**SATURDAY, 6 NOVEMBER:** join us at the **writing & publishing workshop** at the Kingston Public Library, 1 to 4PM, reserve with Alan MacLachlan 549-8841, \$10 registration fee



**WEDNESDAY, 8 DECEMBER, 7:30PM:** mark your date-book for the **KHS Christmas Party & Awards Ceremony** at Fort Frontenac