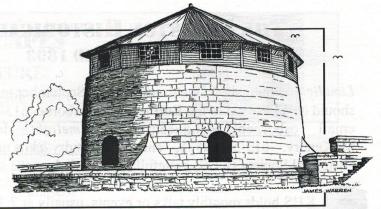


NEWSLETTER of the KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

vol 6 no 9 December 2004 ISSN 1488-5565



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

lections to the south of us (U.S.), elections to the west of us (Alberta), and elections to the east of us (Iraq)! But the most important one for us is that for KHS's next council at the February AGM. And I have a bee in my bonnet. Where are the women?

Why is it that when I gaze out over the assembled throng on Wednesday nights I see an audience in which over half are women? But when I meet with KHS Council once a month they are all males. Why is this? PLEASE, would some women come forward and volunteer to serve in a leadership role in the Society. Your views must be heard. Both Warren Everett (545 9316) and I (389 3080) will welcome nominations from all willing to serve - but especially some from the distaff side of the Society! If no one comes forward, please, no more complaints about the male-dominated hierarchy. We are simply doing our best.

And thanks, to Ed Grenda, your Council has

come to grips with the matter of KHS's image. Who are we? How should we represent ourselves? As Ed pointed out, there is quite a miscellany of martello tower renderings associated with us, let alone the generic skyline that adorns our web-site. After much discussion, we have decided that the image of the Murney Tower designed by Jim Warren (above) will, henceforth, officially adorn our stationery and serve as our Society logo. The rationale is clear. The Murney Tower is the one physical presence in Kingston associated with KHS. More importantly, Jim Warren has done a fine job. So, thanks Ed and Jim for giving us an official image of ourselves.

Of course, KHS is more than the Murney Tower and - for the time being - our web site will continue to sport the more socially eclectic image of Kingston's complex skyline.

Brian S. Osborne

KHS CHRISTMAS PARTY & AWARDS CEREMONY:

WEDNESDAY, 8 DECEMBER at 7PM for 7:30PM

Fort Frontenac

(please see back cover for more details) *********

Macdonald Dinner, 11 January 2005, ticket order form: see insert



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THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY **ESTABLISHED 1893**

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Murney Tower by James Warren

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

Brian Osborne, President Warren Everett, Past President Maurice Smith, Vice President Douglas Petty, Secretary Ted Huber, Treasurer

Councillors: John Abbott Robert Andrews Jane Errington John Fielding Ed Grenda

Alan MacLachlan Desmond O'Meara Jack Pike Gordon Sinclair Edward Snider



PULLING INTO THE PAST

by Brandt Zätterberg, U.E., and Captain, Herkimer's Bateaux Coy

he Bay of Quinte Branch, United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, operates three reproduction American Revolution-era bateaux. Formed as Herkimer's Bateaux Coy, the re-created craft and crew are members of the Canadian Museum of Applied Military and attend re-enactment events

throughout Ontario and eastern United States. While the bateaux were used for troop and artillery movement, they were also the workhorses of the mercantile trade, transporting supplies and correspondence in the Mohawk and Hudson valleys and along the St Lawrence River. Herkimer's Bateaux Coy is hoping to recreate one of those journeys by rowing, poling, pulling, and sailing their 27foot bateau, Black Snake, between Montreal and the Loyalist camps at Johnstown, Cataragui, and Adolphustown. The intended launch date of August 2006 will mark the Bay of Quinte Branch's 50th anniversary.



THE SCRIBBLER

J.W. (Bill) Fitsell



"Christmas changes with the times," chimed The Daily British Whig in its Christmas Eve edition 100 years ago. Its two-section, black and white pages reflected the Edwardian era before radio. TV, and the early days of autos and flying machines. Indeed, the 1904 festive season was different.

Christmas advertising, limited to one, two or three page displays, did not start after Hallowe'en as it does today, but mercifully in the last days of November or early weeks of December. Suggested gifts advertised Princess Street by merchants, ranged from modest items such as fivecent holiday hankies, "silk, linen, embroidered handstitched from The Women's Store [Steacy's] The Biggest, Brightest and Busiest," to Tom Smith's Christmas crackers - "great fun makers" - 20 and 50 cents a box; Handsome,

comfortable slippers and moccasins; vests for 4 and 5 cents, trousers at \$5.50; and umbrellas and \$5 "New York mufflers" from Roney & Co.

Crumley Brothers listed 1,529 dolls "for girls and boys" and 1,276 trombone harmonica mouth

organs. Hiscock's Toyland offered mechanical dogs, cats and monkeys at \$5 and automobiles and fire engines at 25 cents to \$5. James Reid, The Leading

Undertaker, priced children's rockers at 50 cents, while Robert J. Reid, "two doors above the Opera House," extended Merry Christmas greetings to their many friends and patrons.

Between the national ads for silver-mounted

perfume bottles, Red Rose Tea, and Little Liver Pills was the card for the Grand where a touring U.S. company featured Irene Jeavons in "A Divorced Wife," with high class vaudeville, illustrated songs and moving pictures between acts.

The subjects were more serious in the editorial columns. The Whig blatantly pushed its publisher, E.J.B. Pense for election to the Ontario legislature

> Liberal, would win the New Year's Day municipal election by a large margin. (He lost by a small

Craig,

margin.).

editorial Another municipal, addressed provincial, and federal topics and its seasonal greetings were accompanied by a plea for practical benevolence, proclaiming, "Never were people so generally inspired unto good acts." For good

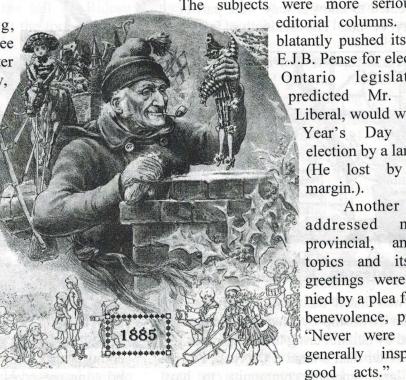
measure, a separate editorial note urged, "Do not forget the poor tonight."

Those of Kingston's less fortunate who could afford to buy a newspaper would have gathered little solace in reading the front page story of how the children of the Royal family would enjoy

Christmas. They would tumble out of their beds at Sandringham and run in their stockings to see what Santa Claus had brought them, "pretty much in the same

manner of children all over Christendom" and be thrilled to see the different courses, including a 130 pound roast, paraded in for dinner, in the custom of Henry VIII and Queen Victoria.

Oh yes, Virginia....

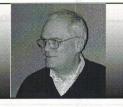


"Do not forget the poor

tonight."

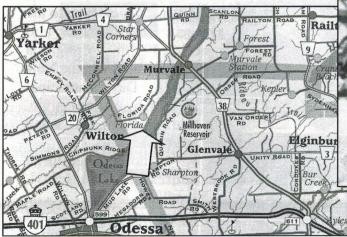
IMAGES OF KINGSTON: FLORIDA

by Stewart Renfrew



hen we think of communities, we think of a distinct geographical area. This is not always the case in the country. For example, the community of Florida grew up along what became known as the "Florida Road" in the "Western Addition of Kingston Township." It is difficult to say just where Florida began and where it ended. People just seemed to know if they were part of the community or not. The distinctive feature

Especially significant were barn-raisings, which were important as much for the construction of social cohesion as they were for the resulting buildings. A barn-raising was a community event like no other! The men of the community collaborated in assembling the lumber for siding and



about Florida was that it was blocked off from the rest of Kingston Township by Mud Lake and could only be reached by neighbouring township roads.

Now little better than a bend it the road, Florida was once a large enough community to have supported several schools, a church, and even

boasted a brickyard. The first school had been established in the home of Harim Walker Sr. UEL, when his children reached school-age. His daughters, Savina and Martha, later become teachers in this section, which was served by a log schooleventually house and two other school buildings, the last of which still exists as a private home. The school was closed in 1939. and the children were sent to Murvale School.

The story of Florida exists in the memories of the people, who lived and farmed there and participated in such community events as school-concerts and threshing-bees.

the great beams that held the structure aloft. Demonstrating great enthusiasm, all were more than willing to offer their special skills. Their tools were axes, adzes, hammers, ropes, and pulleys, with manpower being supplemented, when necessary, by horse-power. The women of the district were just as enthusiastic. They were the project's victuallers, bringing preserves from their larders, baking bread and pies and cakes, and roasting great slabs of meat.

All of this was necessary to provide for a very hungry work-crew on the day of the actual barn raising.

The photograph (above) shows a barn-raising on George Redden's farm on the Florida Road in 1920. The previous day, his neighbour, Alf Compton, had helped Redden lay out the plan for the barn - which brings us to the reason for this whole essay. The image on the left portrays Alf Compton's daughter, Marjory - our own Marjorie Simmons - and her two bovine friends. We will refrain from dating this picture.



KINGSTON'S ROUNDHOUSE

by George Dillon

oundhouses were an invention particular to North America; they were not as common in the rest of the railroad world. This is the story of a little four-stall roundhouse, which existed below the crest of the hill on Rideau Street, near the water's edge, at the foot of North Street on the Cataraqui River. Because it was beyond the end of Wellington Street around a slight bend, and because the roof line was below the level of Rideau Street, most Kingstonians were unaware of it.

In front of each roundhouse was a turn-table designed to reverse the direction of the engine. It was pivoted on a central point and, if the engine



was balanced correctly, it could be turned by two to six men. Larger turn-tables were driven by either steam or electric motors. The turn-table allowed the engine to be moved into a particular stall in the roundhouse - the number of stalls depending on the needs of the railroad at that location.

Roundhouses were essentially used for servicing and basic maintenance of steam locomotives such as oiling, greasing, and minor adjustments to the running gear. Where possible, steam engines were kept inside, particularly in the winter months, to make it easier to keep up steam



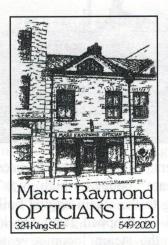
in the boilers. Larger roundhouses had a stationary steam boiler, which was attached through piping to the steam engine boiler so that the fire could be dropped from the locomotive firebox. Once the steam locomotive was "fired up," steam was kept up continuously in the boiler, until it needed a major inspection and pressure test as regulated by the federal government. Frequent heating and cooling of a boiler was considered something to be avoided. expansion and contraction of the boiler tubes weakened all of the joints and seals, and each time the fire was drawn and the boiler cooled was

considered to be equivalent to one month's continuous steaming.

The photographs of the Canadian Pacific Railway trains (CPR took over the Kingston & Pembroke Railway in 1913) at Kingston are dated July 1955. It is remarkable to think that there was enough activity to warrant the use of four engines in the Kingston area. Within ten years, all of these steam engines would be withdrawn

from service, scrapped, and replaced by diesels. By the 1970s, the closure of the locomotive works, the Kingston Shipyards, and the Davis Tannery marked the demise of waterfront rail traffic. The roundhouse was also demolished. If one looks carefully on the site, the outlines of the foundation and turn-table pit can be still seen. In the southeast back corner, the date of its construction, 1917, is stamped in the foundation. As for the turn-table itself, it still survives. The CPR removed it to Wakefield, where it is now used by the Hull/Gatineau Steam Tourist Train operation.

Look for a fuller version of this article on our website, www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca. KHS members are encouraged to contribute stories and images to the site by contacting Brian Osborne, osborneb@post.gueensu.ca)



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LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES

MY GRAVE ADVENTURE

by Shirley Gibson-Langille



ne of my most unusual and frightening experiences while painting happened in Cataraqui Cemetery.

It was 1988. I was just starting my Cataraqui Village series. I wasn't familiar with the Cataraqui Cemetery so I decided to start by drawing a tombstone I had carefully located beforehand.

I parked my car in front of it and proceeded to draw. Then, two men in a small red truck came and parked kitty-corner to me in front of the Columbarium for cremated remains. It was

quite unnerving. They just sat and stared at me. I locked my doors and continued on with my drawing.

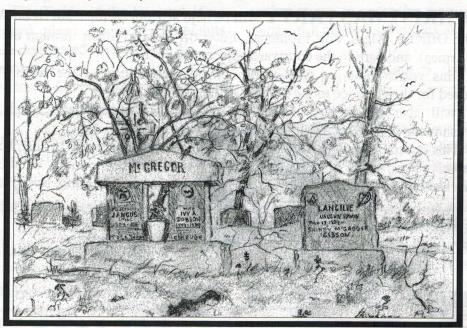
Some hours later, I finished my drawing and noticed the red truck was still there. I drove away only to find the red truck right on my tail. Anyone familiar with Cataragui Cemetery knows it's a maze of roads and even with a map it can be a challenge to find your way out. But

try and find your way out when you're being chased!

I don't know how many times I was up and down, in and out, and around and about those

> roads. I was so scared and flustered. There was no way I could loose that little red truck. But, just when I thought I would never find my way out, I saw the entrance. I put my foot on the gas and escaped. Thankfully, they didn't follow me. I was happy to arrive home safe and sound.

After supper that night, I sat down to read the Whig. I caught sight of an article on the Cataraqui Cemetery. The night before, someone had broken into the Columbarium and stolen some of the urns. All at once I realized why I had been watched and chased. My pursuers in the little red truck had thought I had been the guilty culprit!



I drove away only to find the red

truck right on my tail. Anyone

who knows Cataraqui Cemetery

knows it's a maze of roads and

even with a map it can be a

challenge to find your way out.

But try and find your way out

when you're being chased!

SPEAKERS' CORNER

with Alan MacLachlan



At our November monthly meeting, guest speaker

Anne-Marie Léveillé-Shields (right), an artist and a writer living in the Cornwall area, described her two-year journey in producing - in the form of a wellillustrated book - a heart-warming social history of the Lost Villages, Found Communities: The Lost Villages of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Using slides of her handsome water-colours of buildings and houses - both saved and destroyed -Anne-Marie regaled over 60 members and friends of the Society with personal recollections of those involved and the impacts of the construction of the St Lawrence Seaway in the mid 1950s. Although 530 homes were moved, these communities above and below Cornwall



lost over 2,000 homes, businesses, and farms. Following her presentation, Anne-Marie presented the Society with a print of one of her water-colours.

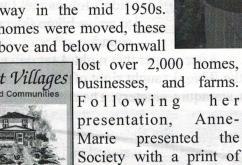
After a lively question period, we retired for

refreshments and conversation.

On 6 November, KHS hosted a successful workshop on "Let's Make History: Publishing Workshop," chaired by Orland French from Friesens Publishing. With registrations at capacity (40 participants), the Society made a modest profit. Guest speakers included archivist Heather Home, who described the fine collection of the Queen's University Archives, and author Jennifer McKendry who offered advice on the pros and cons of being commercially published versus being self-published ("desk-top published"). After a book bazaar (including books from the Ontario

Historical Society) during the refreshment break, Orland explained "The Pearls and Perils of Printing and Publishing: the Friesen program." Once an individual or a group have developed a manuscript and identified appropriate illustrations, Friesen can do the printing and binding of the book. Further

information: www.friesens.com.



The annual KHS CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held at 7:00PM for 7:30PM on Wednesday,

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8 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.

* The focus of this year's gathering will be the annual presentation of the KHS Awards to those

recognised for their service to the Society and the community.

* It will also be an opportunity for conversation, conviviality, and seasonal jollity. Refreshments will be served and there will be a cash bar.

* This special evening will also provide an opportunity for KHS members to acquire the newest addition to the growing number of local community studies, Williamsville Revisited: An Illustrated History of "Williamsville" at Kingston, priced at \$30 each.

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

Also: Alan MacLachlan will be pleased to receive payment for tickets to the Macdonald dinner (11 Jan. 2005—see insert).

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

THE 5™ ANNUAL KHS DINNER TO CELEBRATE

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD'S BIRTHDAY

Guest Speaker: Rudyard Griffiths on

"From John A. Macdonald to Stephen Harper: What a long and strange trip it's been!"

Rudyard Griffiths is the founder and Executive



Phone:

Director of the Dominion Institute. A national charity dedicated to the promotion of Canadian history, citizenship and democratic participation, the Dominion Institute has grown into a flourishing national organization with a full-time staff of ten and 1,600

volunteers across Canada. Its principal activities are operating free educational programs for teachers and community groups, producing television documentaries, publishing books and organizing

large-scale public dialogue campaigns on policy issues. Rudyard Griffiths is also an advisor to the Woodrow Wilson Center and has helped lead the establishment of a new institute for the study of Canada-US relations based out of the Center's Washington, DC, headquarters. Educated at the University of Toronto and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, Rudyard Griffiths writes on themes of Canadian history and politics for the Globe and Mail, Maclean's and the CanWest Newspapers. He is also a regular political commentator on CP 24 and is the editor of two books, The Great Questions of Canada and The Lafontaine-Baldwin Lectures.

TUESDAY, 11 JANUARY 2005 6:00 PM for 7:00 PM

Chef's Salad Scottish Peasant Soup Beef Tenderloin with a creamy peppercorn sauce Potatoes Parisiennes Maitre d'hotel Carrots and Snow Peas Belgian Chocolate Mousse Cake Coffee - Tea

Please send me	tickets at \$45 each for KHS members, total \$	
Please send me	tickets at \$55 each for non-men	mbers, total \$
Alan MacLac P.O. Box 230	chlan, Program Chair), Kingston, ON K7L 4V8	(to arrive no later than 4 January 2005) to: (Or hand in to Alan at the KHS Christmas party on 8 Dec.—please see newsletter back cover for party details)
Information: Name:	549-8841	
Address:		

Please advise us if a vegetarian plate is required