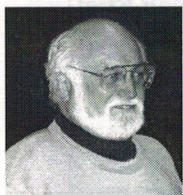
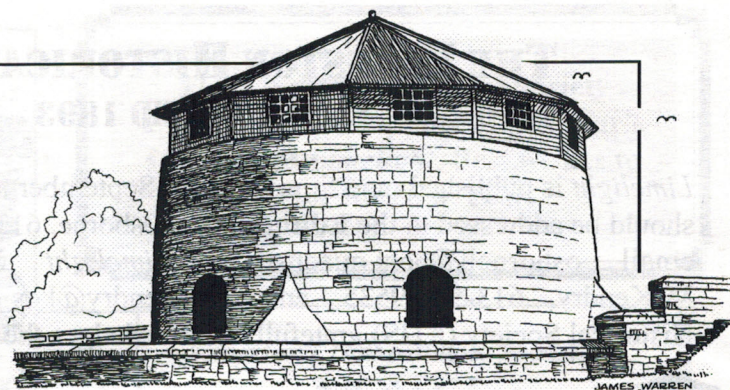


LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

vol 7 no 1 January 2005 ISSN 1488-5565



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

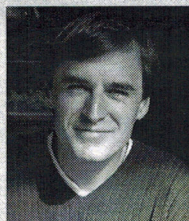
Welcome to 2005!
Certainly, last year was a

full one for KHS: our gala birthday party at Memorial Hall in April; our increasingly well-orchestrated tribute to Sir John on the 6 June; our bibulous excursion into "The County" in the fall; a well-attended Writers' Workshop; and a fine Christmas Party to top off the year. Moreover, in between these extra-curricula activities, we also

managed to fit in a rich programme of lectures. And now we gear up for our recognition of Sir John A. Macdonald's birthday. Indeed, Tuesday, **11 January**, promises to be a full day and I think we should all gird up our loins for an enthusiastic celebration:

★ The day should start with all loyal Canadians jumping out of bed at the crack of dawn and, with their backs firmly to the South, toasting the East,

con't p. 2



THE 5th ANNUAL KHS DINNER TO CELEBRATE SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD'S BIRTHDAY TUESDAY, 11 JANUARY at 6:00PM for 7:00PM

at the Senior Staff Mess, Royal Military College
Rudyard Griffiths, Dominion Institute

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

Members \$45 each. Non-members \$55 each. Please make cheques payable to the Kingston Historical Society and mail* (to arrive no later than 7 January) to:

**Alan MacLachlan, Program Chair
P.O. Box 230, Kingston, ON K7L 4V8**

For further information: **549-8841**

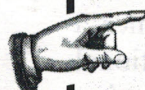
*Please include your name, mailing address and phone.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING:

**WEDNESDAY, 19 JANUARY at 7:30PM
BRIAN JOHNSON**

"Stories of the Wolfe Island Ferry"

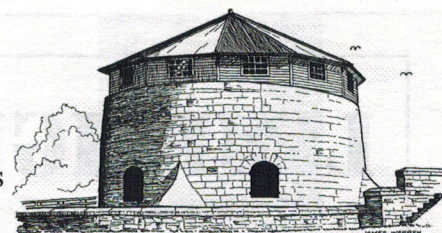
in the Wilson Room, **Kingston Public Library**, Johnson at Bagot
ALL WELCOME ~ REFRESHMENTS



- ◆ President's Message, 1—2
- ◆ The Scribbler, 3
- ◆ KHS Awards 2004, 4-5
- ◆ Speakers' Corner and pictures of the Christmas Party, 6
- ◆ Sponsors, 7
- ◆ Millard & Lumb, 8

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. *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.

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

President's Message con't

West, and North of this great Dominion in memory of the Father of Confederation;

- * At 11AM, we should gather at the foot of Sir John's statue in on King St at West. For the last three years, a spontaneous gathering of JAM aficionados of all political complexions (though all a tad "bluish" because of the cold not ideology!) will show their respects to the great man;
- * From 1PM to 4PM, all are invited to the annual birthday party at Bellevue House, 35 Centre St., for a convivial gathering in a most appropriate setting;
- * At 6PM, we gather at the Senior Officers' Mess at RMC for our



photo: J. McKendry

annual Sir John A. Banquet. Our several guests will toast Sir John "the Scot," "the Kingstonian," "the Canadian," while Sir John himself will toast his beloved Canada. Following dinner, Rudyard Griffiths of the Dominion Institute will address the gathering.

What a day! Where else in Canada will there be such a programme? But while few places can claim a closer tie to Sir John than Kingston, let us hope that the 11 January becomes a prominent date in our national calendar. I look forward to seeing you at the above events and earning a "I survived 11 January 2005" T-shirt!

Brian S. Osborne

THE SCRIBBLER

J.W. (Bill) Fittsell

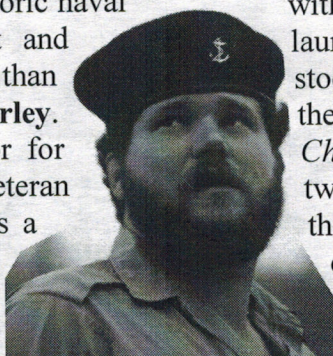


MARKING KINGSTON'S RICH MARINE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

This garrison city is also an historic naval port and few people reflect and nurture this heritage better than Amherstview resident **Chris Varley**. Between duties as building inspector for the City of Belleville, the 18-year veteran of Canada's peacetime navy operates a loss-leader hobby business, Naval Lore. Through HMCS Cataraqui Association, a naval reserve support group that he served as president, Chris has celebrated every local and national naval anniversary through exhibitions and publications.

The former master seaman's latest creation is a calendar (his fifth) marking the warships constructed at Kingston Shipyards. Containing 40 photographs, many from the collection of the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes, the 18-month publication features significant dates and information on the corvettes, minesweepers and other craft launched here between 1917 and 1954.

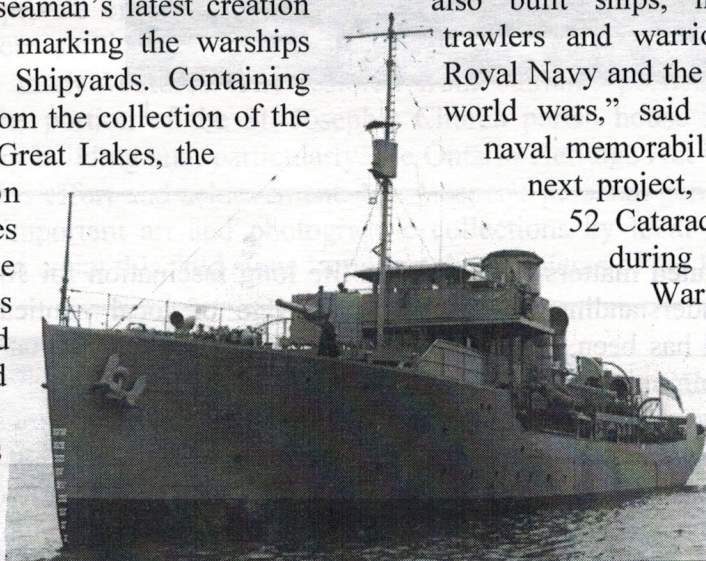
Gracing the cover is an 1940 photo of His Majesty's Canadian Ship *Napanee*, complete



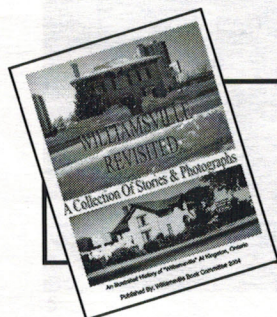
with signal flags, ready for a broadside-launching below the huge crane that once stood at the Ontario Street yard. Among the Kingston-built ships were HMCS *Charlottetown* and HMCS *Trentonian*, two corvettes sunk during the Battle of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Battle of the Atlantic. HMCS *Frontenac*, the ship sponsored and supported by the City of Kingston and area is honoured with a photograph and a roster of the ship's crew, including Doug Orr, father of Hall of Famer, Bobby Orr.

"Few people know that Kingston shipyards also built ships, including battle class trawlers and warrior class tugs for the Royal Navy and the U.S. navy during both world wars," said the avid collector of naval memorabilia, as he turned to his next project, a photo gallery of the 52 Cataraqui veterans who died during the Second World War.

The calendar, priced at \$10, plus \$2 for mailing can be ordered by calling Naval Lore at (613) 634-1032. ☛



The Corvette, HMCS *Napanee* in 1944.
Photo Lennox & Addington County Museum, ref. 14-15



Copies of *Williamsville Revisited. A Collection of Stories & Photographs. An Illustrated History of "Williamsville" at Kingston, Ontario* can be ordered from Lynn Bell 542-1975 for \$30 each.

KHS AWARDS 2004

Photography by Jennifer McKendry



2

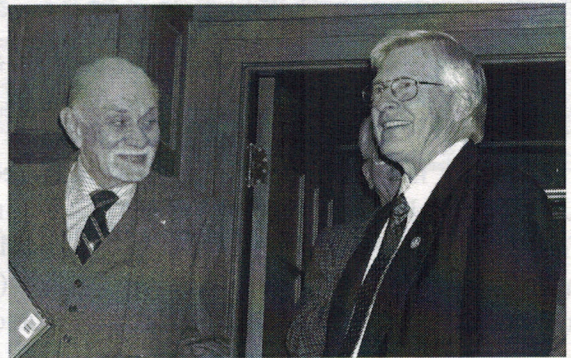
**JOHN
KINNEAR
D'ESTERRE**

1

Marine related matters have posed a life long fascination for John d'Esterre. His keen understanding and broad knowledge of local nautical lore is widely recognized and has been generously shared amongst both individuals and institutions within the community. Serving as a founding director and early chairman of the governing body of the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes at Kingston, he provided enthusiasm and wise guidance during the formative years of that now acclaimed heritage center. His continuing involvement in a variety of committees at the Museum remains highly valued. The Kingston Yacht Club, which through its international regattas exposes sportsmen from all parts of the world to Kingston and its maritime tradition, has similarly benefited from his zeal and selfless commitment of time. It is perhaps in his stewardship of Garden Island, that jewel amongst our many historic sites, and his preservation of both physical and archival records of the D.D. Calvin Company that his major contribution to the understanding of Kingston's heritage lies. It is fitting to note that Mr. d'Esterre has traveled from his home on Garden Island to receive this award in a vessel, one of many, built at his hand on the Island.



3



4

GEORGE WILKINSON VOSPER

Throughout his long record of community service, this third generation Kingstonian, has displayed a deep awareness of the role which knowledge of the past plays in the development and maintenance of civic pride and identity. Mr. Vosper has worked diligently to preserve Kingston history and heritage as a City Alderman, a member of the City Planning Board, Committee of Adjustment and LACAC, as a founding member of the Frontenac Heritage Foundation and as a private citizen. His engineering training and experience, as well as his wartime and subsequent service with the Royal Canadian Navy, have provided a basis of effectiveness in these many ventures. The restored front entrance portico of the City Hall, Confederation Park, the portion of the St. Joseph's Church parish house incorporated in the Kingston Public Library building and, particularly, the Ontario Heritage Act will stand for many years as testimony to his effort and achievement. Mr. Vosper's personal generosity has resulted in the acquisition of important art and photographic collections by local institutions. It is a pleasure and privilege to count this "old stone" amongst the recipients of the KHS Award.



1. Maurice Smith and John d'Esterre
2. Meg and John d'Esterre
3. Maurice Smith, George Vosper, Jack Pike
4. George Vosper and Councillor Floyd Patterson
5. Helen Coffey and Jack Pike

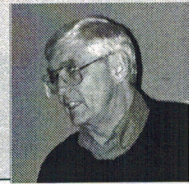
HELEN COFFEY was presented with a special award for her long-standing and outstanding work for the Society, and, in particular, for her many years of service on the Welcoming Committee.

5

SPEAKERS' CORNER

CHRISTMAS CHEER

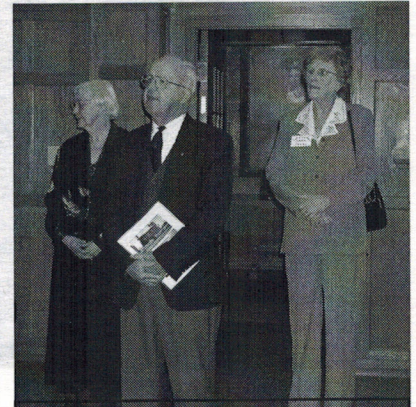
with Alan MacLachlan



Over 70 members of the Society attended the Annual KHS Christmas Party held in the Officers' Mess at Fort Frontenac, on 8 December. Our approach this year was on the lighter side (there was no presentation of an academic paper) and this appears to have been much appreciated! Certainly, many positive comments were made at the time. Apart from the highlight of this festive occasion, the awards ceremony (see pages 4-5), the Society was also introduced to a new book* on Kingston: *Williamsville Revisited: An Illustrated History of "Williamsville"* by Lynn Bell (right), one of the five members of the Williamsville Book Committee (Lynn Bell, Barbara Bonner, Russel Patterson, Marjorie Simmons, and Gord Smithson). The heart

of Williamsville was at Princess and Victoria Streets.

Following the presentations, the members and guests enjoyed socializing, refreshments and Christmas cheer. As one member so aptly put it, "what a wonderful way for the KHS to enter the Holiday Season."



Marjorie Simmons, Lynn Bell, Barbara Bonner



Please remember we have a regular meeting this month, Wednesday, **19 January**, 7:30PM, in the Kingston Public Library. Details on front cover.

*to order book: see p. 3



Helen Coffey & Marjorie Simmons.

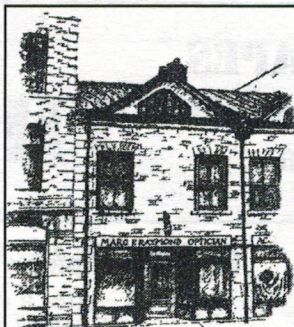
Photos by Jennifer McKendry

Colour photos: www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca

EARTH to SPIRIT
TRADING COMPANY



340 KING ST EAST
536-5252
earth@kingston.net



Marc F. Raymond
OPTICIANS LTD.
324 King St. E. 549-2020

The Kingston Historical Society
appreciates the support of this year's
sponsors of *Limelight*. Best wishes to
all for the New Year.

Kingston's Independent Bookstore

**NOVEL
IDEA**

156 Princess St 546-9799
Oscar Malan, Bookseller

CUNNINGHAM & DOUPORE

F A S H I O N F O R M E N

75 BROCK STREET

**COLDWELL
BANKER**

GRAHAM THOMSON
REAL ESTATE

TERRY STAFFORD
BRIAN STAFFORD
546-3171

for
"ULTIMATE SERVICE"



THE PILOT HOUSE OF KINGSTON

265 King St East 542-0222



61 Brock St
548-7721

www.cookesfinefoods.com

RESTAURANT

68-R Princess St
549-7673



PAN CHANCHO

44 Princess St 544-7790

"The Pig with a Peel"

ROYAL LEPAGE

ProAlliance Realty

INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED, BROKER

Larry Brennan

384-1200

790 Blackburn Mews

larrybrennan@royalpage.ca

www.royalpage.ca

331 King St East

531-0800



"Step up to Tango"
Tapas Bar & Restaurant



81 Princess St

546-4439

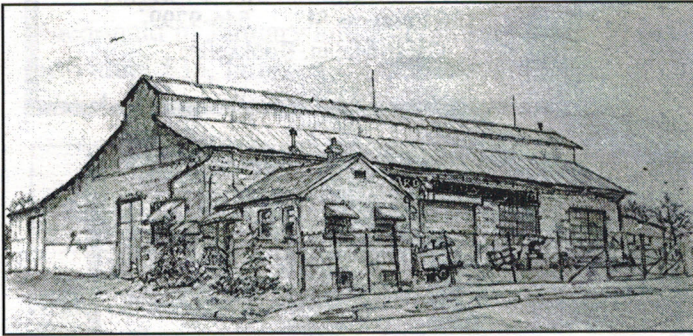
LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES

Millard & Lumb Limited: the End of an Era

by Shirley Gibson-Langille



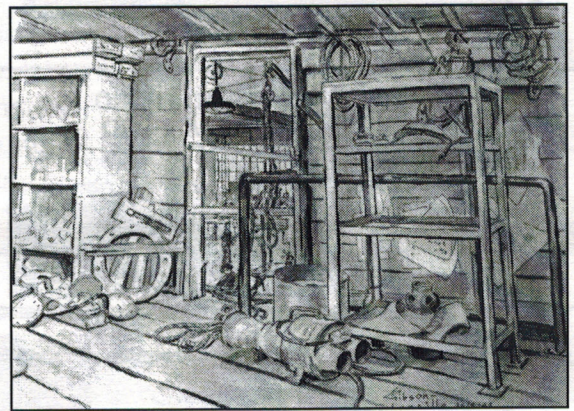
In April 1898, as part of my Kingston Waterfront Series, I spent a number of pleasurable days painting and learning about Millard and Lumb Company at King St East and Place D'Armes.



Richard Lumb and his staff made me feel very welcome. I sketched the outside of the building along with some interesting scenes inside, especially their store-room loft upstairs. The business was started in 1924 by William ("Bill") Millward and Richard's grandfather, Fred Lumb. Both men learned their trades at the Canadian Locomotive Works.

Their first place of business was in the basement of Hanley's Station on the south-east corner of Johnson and Ontario Streets where they were able to take advantage of the new -- 1922-vintage -- technology of electric welding! Prior to this

innovation, pieces of metal had to be joined together by rivets. After a couple of years, they were able to construct their building at Place D'Armes. When Fred's partner, William, died around 1930, his half-share was split between Fred's sons, Melville and Gordon. Throughout the 1930s, '40s, and '50s, the old canal ships were always laid up in Kingston over the winter and the company flourished with some 35 men employed in marine repairs. In 1978, after Both Melville and Gordon retired, Richard took over as president of the business and the company (now down to 20 or so men) focussed on mechanical contracting and steel fabrication.



In July 1988, I got a surprise phone-call from Richard Lumb saying he wanted to buy my paintings of his company. His son wasn't interested in taking over the company so he had decided to close the business. With the Shipyards, Canadian Locomotive Works, and the Canadian Dredge and Dry-dock all gone, he realized that the industry was leaving the waterfront.

But what was left behind near the new OHIP Building, Frontenac Village, and other developments was a very valuable piece of real estate. So, when Millard and Lumb finally closed its doors on 23 December 1988, the city's former industrial waterfront passed into history. Today, as if to symbolically mark this change, 27 Place D'Armes, the former Millard and Lumb building, has been preserved and renovated as two floors of prestigious office-space.

