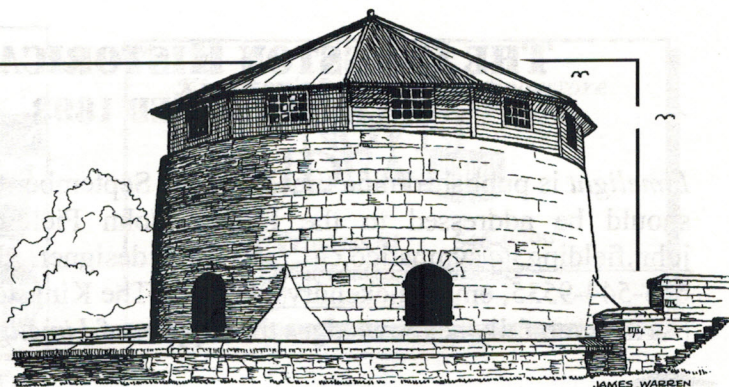


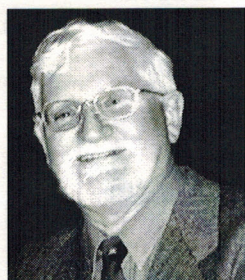
LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

vol 7 no 6 September 2005 ISSN 1488-5565



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



What a busy summer it was for KHS Council members. **John Abbott** organized a strong programme for our regular Wednesday evenings and he will have a few surprises for you in the new year. **Marc Létourneau**

took steps to bring attention to the Society within the community. **Alan MacLachlan** continued to bring his special skills to the task of organizing distinctive fall tours (see p. 6 for 1 October trip). In the background **Gordon Sinclair**, our Treasurer, never stops. And **Ed Grenda** and **Bob Cardwell** supplied information needed by the Ministry to obtain grants.

Don't forget to check out our website, www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca for coming events and colour pictures of our activities, all patiently posted by **Ken Watson**.

A great deal of credit goes to **Peter Radley** for his high involvement in the Sir John A Macdonald commemoration of 6 June 2005. It is our earnest

hope that he will continue his sage involvement in this important Society event. June 6th was well attended with songsters, soldiers, many Society members and the Rt. Hon. Herb Gray, all playing a part to ensure our first Prime Minister is not forgotten.

Society members love a party. Many of you attended the Murney Tower, 80th Birthday as a Society Museum. **Doug Petty** prepared an exhibit that received a lot of attention while **Warren Everett**, Chair of the Tower Committee, and a very competent tower staff handled logistics. The copy of the *Limelight* you are holding is the editorial work of the new editor, **John Fielding** who, like his predecessor, **Brian Osborne** will crack the whip when contributors are a little tardy. There are others but that will have to wait for another day – the editor is very strict. ☺

Maurice Smith

THIS MONTH'S MEETING:

WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER at 7:30PM

Nick Adams presents

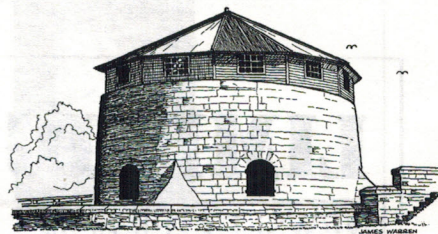
"The Pre-Contact Occupation of the Kingston Area: An Archaeological Consultant's View"

Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library, Johnson at Bagot
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**, John Fielding, 613-545-5944, john.fielding3@sympatico.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.

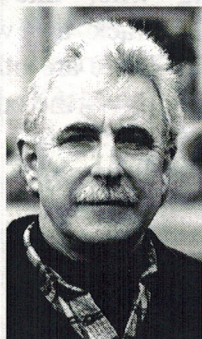
Kingston Historical Society
Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6

website www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca

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A Nervous New Editor

The last time I was an editor was when I was in Grade 12 at Paris District High School. I edited the sports section of the school year book. Before you become too nervous, perhaps more nervous than I am, I am the senior author of 3 Canadian History school textbooks.

I volunteered for this job because I felt the ubiquitous **Brian Osborne** needed a well-earned break. I mean how much can we expect from one person. I am amazed just watching him show up at every history related event in town and beyond – most of which he chairs.

I have always enjoyed reading my *Limelight* ever since Dianne and I joined the

KHS (we have only known Brian as editor). So, until someone has some brilliant ideas on how we should change I will try my best to maintain a very interesting, informative and readable publication. Of course I will need lots of help from **Jennifer McKendry** who does a phenomenal job of the design and layout, and my wife **Dianne Fielding** who proofs most of my writing.

If all goes as planned you can happily look for your favourite columns by **Shirley Gibson-Langille**, **Bill Fittell**, President **Maurice Smith**, the Speakers' Corner by **John Abbott** and more. This doesn't mean we are a closed shop. If you have an article just itching to be written, please do it and send it to me by email at john.fielding3@sympatico.ca ☞

The Sun Shone as Sir John A. is Remembered **The Kingston Historical Society Hosts Memorial**

Once again the sun shone through the trees of Cataraqui Cemetery, and KHS was blessed with another beautiful day for the Sir John A. Macdonald Remembrance. Although June 6th began with some threatening skies, it cleared for the workers to commence preparing the site at 10 AM, and by 12:30 guests began to arrive at the Cemetery. Many took advantage of their early arrival to walk through this beautiful historic site. The area surrounding the gravesite soon became a hub of activity as participants began to arrive for the 1:30 start. The official party, escorting guest speaker The Rt. Honourable **Herb Gray**, and the Mayor, arrived just before starting time to view a large crowd—perhaps the largest in recent time—including representatives from the Fort Henry Guard, the R.C.M.P., and children from both local School Boards. Special thanks must go to **Ron Sharp**, Director of Education, and **David Wyatt**, of the Limestone Board, who provided this important event with enthusiastic students and a choir also from the Limestone District School Board.

The traditional procedures followed: welcoming addresses, laying of wreaths, scripture readings. But the highlight of the day was the address by The Rt. Honourable Herb Gray, who was

introduced by KHS President **Maurice Smith** and thanked by **Peter J. Radley**, Chairperson of the KHS Sir John A. Committee. At the conclusion of the ceremony, all rose and joined the choir in the singing of “God Save The Queen,” followed by the march-off, “A Salute to Sir John A.,” played by the Fort Henry Guard Piper.

Everyone then adjourned to the Open Air Chapel for refreshments provided by the Society and organized by **Jennifer** and **John McKendry** with the assistance of the Kingston Association for Community Living. As usual, they provided an outstanding table of home-made goodies and drinks. The school children (who had to leave immediately after the event because of school bus commitments) were provided with drinks and donuts, courtesy of **K. Brezinski** from Coffee Way.

The Kingston Historical Society invites everyone to come again on Tuesday, 6 June 2006 — and to bring a friend! ☞



Photography by Randy Genois. Colour pictures are on our website www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca



Two Towers Open to Visitors at Doors Open, Kingston

by John Coleman

On June 25th, as a part of Doors Open Kingston, Shoal Tower was opened to the public for the first time in its history. By the end of the day, the staff of Bellevue House had guided 300 people through the tower and had committed themselves to opening the tower again this summer for all those who could not be accommodated during Doors Open 2005.

Shoal Tower, along with Murney Tower, Fort Frederick and Cathcart Tower, is part of the Kingston Fortifications National Historic Site of Canada. The four towers, built in the 1840s, were designed, together with Fort Henry, to defend the British Naval Dockyard, Kingston Harbour and the southern terminus of the Rideau Canal in the event of an American attack. Shoal Tower, the largest of the towers, is intriguing because of its location on a rock shoal in the middle of Kingston Harbour. Made of limestone, it is 20 metres in diameter and rises over 10

metres above the water line. The walls of the tower that face the harbour entrance are more than four metres thick and nearly three metres thick on the land side. It is a two-storey structure topped by a gun platform. The gun platform, or terreplein, was designed to accommodate three medium calibre cannons, and was protected (although not part of the original construction) from the elements by a wide cone-shaped wooden roof. The three cannons on their carriages are still in place.

Although it was accessible only by boat, Shoal, like the other Martello towers, was intended to provide accommodation for British troops. It was

large enough to house 24 soldiers and one officer but, in fact, was usually occupied by soldiers and their families. Given its location in the waters of the harbour, it must have been a very unappealing place to call home.

Kingston's Martello towers were out-of date within a few years of their construction. The thick walls, designed to withstand cannon fire, would have provided inadequate defence against the new artillery shells coming in to use after the mid-century. Although an open-for-viewing Shoal Tower created a major buzz for Doors Open visitors, Murney Tower had its usual standing-room only scene, as over 600 visitors crossed the moat for a tour.

Kingston's Martello towers were out-of date within a few years of their construction. The thick walls, designed to withstand cannon fire, would have provided inadequate defence against the new artillery shells coming in to use after the mid-century.

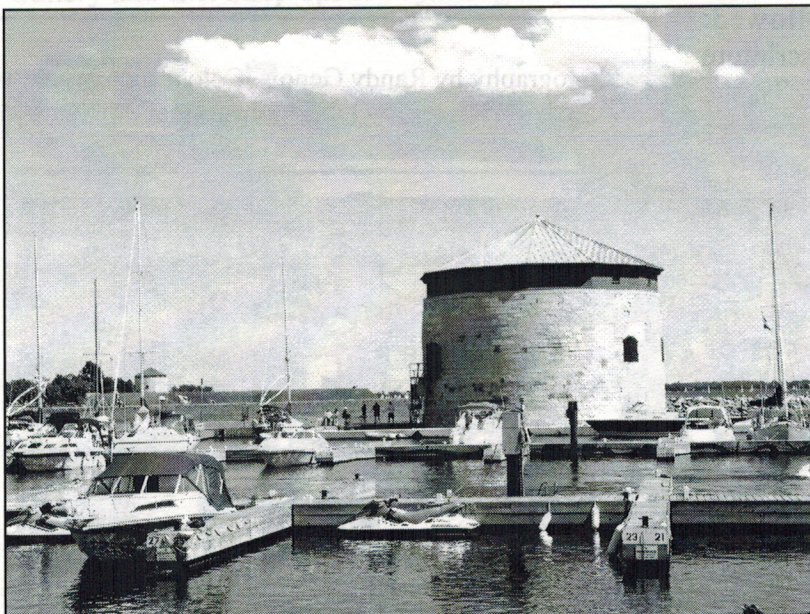
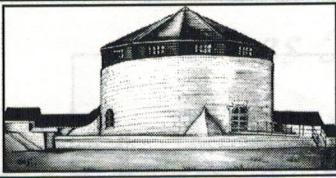


photo: Jennifer McKendry



For more information on Open Doors Kingston and the Murney Tower please visit our website at www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca



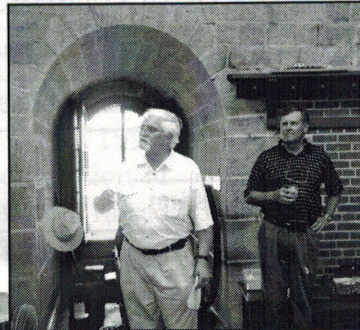
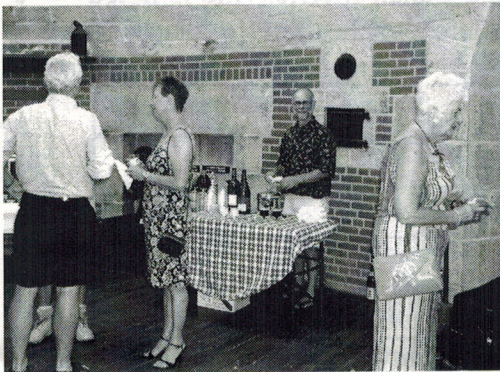
Eighty Years and Counting....

by Warren Everett

photography by Jennifer McKendry

Over 80 years ago, the members of the KHS decided that Kingston was in need of a military museum to highlight the significance of this city to the defence of British North America in the 19th century. Through their efforts, the Murney Tower Museum opened in August 1925. To celebrate the 80th anniversary of this event, the Museum hosted a well attended party for KHS members on 2 August 2005.

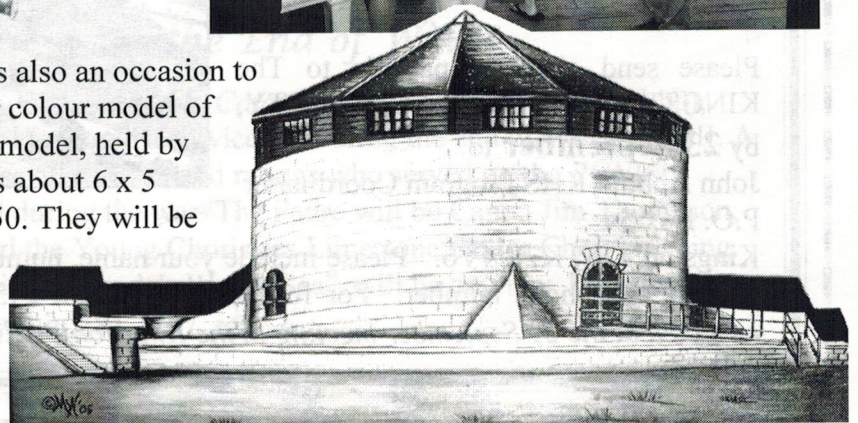
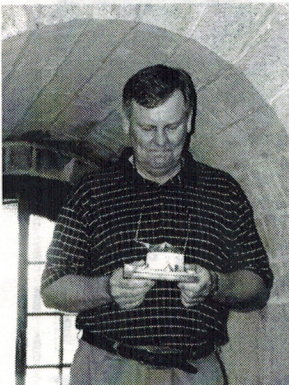
This was also an occasion to say goodbye to our Chief Interpreter, **Matthew Wright**. Matthew leaves the tower to take up a position as an interpreter at the Vimy Ridge Centre in France. **Rina Savage** has been appointed as the new Chief Interpreter, ably assisted by **Natalie Paquin** and **Claire Duncan**.



Colour pictures on our web site under KHS Activities



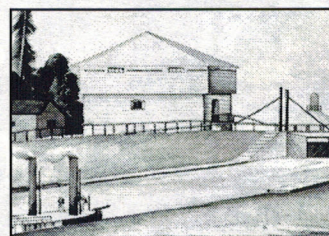
The 80th Anniversary was also an occasion to introduce a new souvenir colour model of the tower. The attractive model, held by **Warren Everett** (left), is about 6 x 5 inches and sells for \$17.50. They will be available through the museum committee, perhaps at the September meeting. 🌀



The Third Annual Kingston Historical Society

OCTOBER DAY TRIP

featuring the new **CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM** in Ottawa
and **HIGH TEA & TOUR** in historic **MERRICKVILLE** on
SATURDAY, 1 OCTOBER



After a comfortable motor-coach ride, we will visit Canada's newest national museum with its stunning architectural design by Raymond Moriyama, innovative exhibitions and leading-edge scholarly content. Following a one-hour guided tour, you are invited to meander through the galleries and then to enjoy lunch (not included in the October Day Trip fee) at your leisure in the museum cafeteria. In the afternoon, we travel to Merrickville, founded in the 1790s, for HIGH TEA (included in the October Day Trip fee) at SAM JAKE'S INN, built in 1861. We will then be treated to a short walking tour of the village's heritage by members of the Merrickville Historical Society. Once the largest industrial centre along the Rideau Canal, Merrickville is noted for its blockhouse of 1832 and stone architecture. After the tour, there will be time to shop and participate in Merrickville's "Annual Studio Tour."

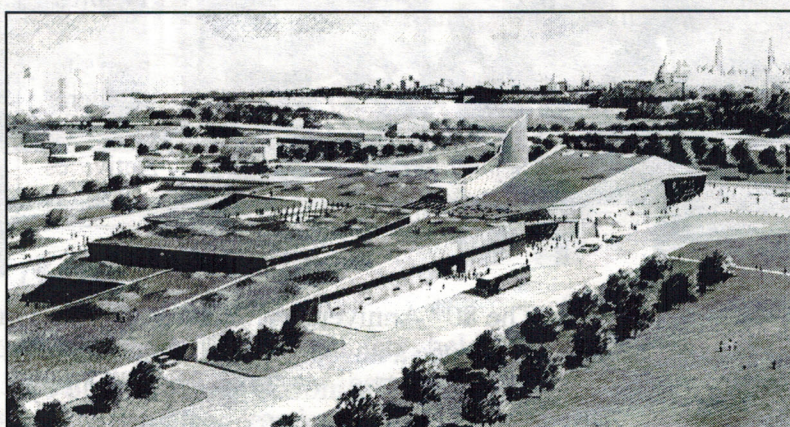
8 AM	Depart main parking lot at Queen's University, Union Street east of Albert St
10:30 AM	Arrive in Ottawa for a guided tour of the Canadian War Museum
11:30 AM – 1:45 PM	Explore the museum and have lunch in the museum cafeteria
1:45 – 2:30 PM	Travel to Merrickville
2:30 – 3:15 PM	Enjoy high tea at Sam Jake's Inn
3:15 – 3:45 PM	Guided tour of Merrickville with members of the Merrickville Historical Society
3:45 – 5 PM	Explore the shops of Merrickville during the Annual Studio Tour
5 PM	Depart Merrickville for Kingston
6:15 PM	Arrive main parking lot at Queen's University

The charge for the KHS October Day Trip includes: coach ride, admission to and tour of the Canadian War Museum (*right*) in Ottawa, high tea at Sam Jake's Inn in Merrickville, a tour of the village and all taxes and gratuities. Just \$60 each for KHS members and \$75 each for non-members.

Please send cheques, payable to The KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, by **23 September** to:

John Abbott, KHS Program Coordinator
P.O. Box 54

Kingston, ON, K7L 4V6. Please include your name, number of participants, mailing address, email address and phone number. For further information: 545-0311 or 549-8841. (*Payments are also accepted at the 21 September meeting in the Kingston Public Library.*)



Does Kingston need another museum?

The question really is "Does Kingston need a Museum of Kingston?" Presently there are no less than 17 recognized museums in greater Kingston but there is not one, strictly speaking, that is dedicated to the history of Kingston. So what do you do with Grand Theatre artefacts that were so ignominiously thrown in the dumpster during the recent renovation?

At the 2005 KHS AGM, a member raised this very question. As a result, at the April KHS Council meeting, a short discussion took place about how we should respond to this significant question. **John Fielding, Ed Grenda and Heather Home** volunteered to meet and review the issue. This happened and here is what we learned.

Thanks to Ed's excellent filing system we were able to review an article written by **James Warren**, "Does Kingston need Another Museum?" published in the KHS newsletter of January 1992. Jim undertook a thorough study of the question of the need for a Museum of Kingston, after he raised the issue at an executive meeting of the KHS in October 1991. While we do not know all the details of what happened to Jim's report, we do know the major outcome - no Kingston Museum.

The opinion was expressed at our sub-committee meeting that City Council would have little - make that zero - interest in such a project. After all they have LVEC and the redesigned Market (Springer) Square to worry about. We also thought that the Kingston Museum Association had enough challenges with the viability of the 17

existing museums and would not welcome another.

There are many pros and cons for a museum of Kingston. Probably the only way to determine if such a project is viable would be to conduct a thorough, professional study of the issue.

In the meantime, the KHS Council can continue to promote the history of Kingston by:

- ★ A request that the City construct and display, in the Tourist Information Building on Ontario Street or in City Hall, a large board that clearly shows where and what aspects of Kingston history can be found in the presently existing 17 Kingston museums. This display should also be available on the website of City of Kingston under Tourist Information.

- ★ KHS continues to support the efforts of the Kingston Museum Association in its efforts on behalf of the 17 existing Kingston and area museums.

- ★ A qualified person be given the responsibility of conducting an exhaustive inventory of the artefacts that should be in a Museum of Kingston including such themes as arts and entertainment, industry, sports and recreation and the lives and times of everyday people.

Finally, we need to continue to ask the question "Do we need a Museum of Kingston?" Perhaps in the future, the time and resources will be right; someone will pick up the ball and such a museum will materialize. ☞

A Service Honouring the End of WWII

On **Saturday, 24 September** at 1PM, onboard *HMCS Cataraqui* (hwy 2, across from RMC), KHS members and friends are invited to attend a service honouring the end of World War II. A memorial will be unveiled honouring those 50 officers and ratings who served on the *RCNVR Kingston/HMCS Cataraqui* and who died during the war. The Padre will be Canon Jim Thompson, CD, a veteran of the jungles of Burma and the Young Choristers Limestone Senior Choir will sing. A reception will follow. Displays honouring "Canada's War at Sea" will be on view. Information: Chris Varley 634-1032 or Commodore Paquin 384-7267. ☞

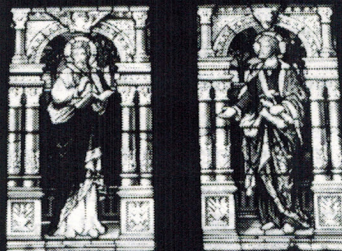
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST GEORGE:

ART FOR WINDOWS

photo by J. McKendry

The 22 stained-glass windows in St George's Cathedral represent the changing fashions of windows in the 20th century. All of the 19th century windows were lost in the fire of January 1, 1899. The earliest two in the rebuilt cathedral were dedicated in 1902, and are in the style of Louis C. Tiffany. Among the most recent, installed in the RMC Gallery in 1979, is a window of St George, whose banner extends out of the main window into the lunette above—an unusual arrangement. The most recent windows, the St. Cecilia window and the St. Margaret window, were installed in 2002 and 2003, respectively.

The window restoration campaign is supported by the



annual "Art for Windows." The sale, accompanied by music and a gala reception, will be held from 6:30 to 9:00 PM on **Friday, 14 October**. Tickets are \$10, including refreshments, and can be ordered at 548-4617, or purchased at the door. The exhibition continues on **Saturday, 15 October**, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Admission at the door is \$2.

Visitors entering the Cathedral from the King St entrance will get the full effect of the paintings and crafts exhibited by local artists, artisans and designers.

Just by being there, you will help preserve a very important part of Kingston's heritage. ♪

We were in the news in 1926:

At a meeting of the directors of the Kingston Horticultural Society, held Tuesday night at the home of the president, Prof. J. MacGillivray, Lower Albert Street, many important matters were discussed. It was decided to solicit the cooperation of the **Kingston Historical Society** and of the civic authorities to have the moat surrounding Murney Tower transferred into a sunken garden. Thus an unsightly mass of weeds, stones and sticks would be turned in to a beauty spot, and add to the pleasure of those visiting the museum. ♪

30 June 1926, *The Whig-Standard*

Kingston Celebrates Another Successful Historica Fair

It was 1995 when Kingston nervously and cautiously presented its first Heritage Fair. Only one of five Heritage Fair sites in the country to launch the concept of a Heritage Fair in that first year, the Fairs programme - now in



its 10th year - has grown to over 100 sites nationally, with 17 alone in Ontario. It is estimated that over 167,000 students actively engage in researching and displaying Canadian History projects at the Fairs. And do those students know their history, just go to a Fair and

ask them about their projects - but don't be in a rush they will want to explain every detail. Another nice point to recognize is that the Kingston Historical Society has had a presence from day one.

The Kingston Fair has established a record of being one the best, if not the biggest and best organized, Historica Fairs in Canada. Again this year, we attracted over 300 student projects with about 450 students involved in their production. Over 600 students attended the 20 different workshops presented by history-minded community groups. We are also impressed with the parental and adult community support. McArthur Hall was packed with students and adults on Friday, 6 May 2005.

This year's winners of the Kingston Historical Society's two awards were: Char McKenna and Sydney Midwood of Loughborough Public School with their project "Voices of the Past," and Laura Douglas of Calvin Park Public School with her project "The One Room School House." These young historians have been asked to present their winning projects at our September 21st meeting. ✍

THE CITY'S SOCIAL HISTORY EXPLORED

in one-hour tours on SATURDAY, 1 OCTOBER, 10AM-5PM

On October 1st, **Queen's University Archives** will present an innovative version of its Annual Archives Lecture - a series of guided, one-hour tours on the city's social history. The trolley tours of the city include the Jewish Experience in Kingston (10-11AM), a Prisoner's Life in Kingston (11:30AM-12:30PM), the Gay and Lesbian History of Kingston (1-2PM), a Black History of Kingston, (2:30-3:30PM) and the Chinese Community of Kingston (3:45-4:45PM). The collections of Queen's Archives provided a rich resource for

designing these tours. This promises to be an exciting community event and is a great opportunity to learn more about Kingston's heritage!

Participants must register for the free tours by phoning 533-2378. More information: <http://archives.queensu.ca> You are limited to two tours, unless there are openings on other tours during the last week before the event. The trolley leaves and arrives at Kathleen Ryan Hall, Queen's University—some tours involve walking (533-2378 for more details). ✍

LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES

LOWER BROCK STREET

by Shirley Gibson-Langille



In 1963, I did this pastel of the west side of lower Brock Street, between King and Wellington Streets. It's worth reflecting on what was there four decades ago.

The property at 66 Brock Street was originally built about 1840 as Neil McNeil's plumbing shop. In 1863, David Hall apprenticed with McNeil and eventually took over the business in 1900 and ran it as Hall's Plumbing and Heating until his death in 1930 and thus started a Mills dynasty: Charles (1930-60); Gordon (1960-78); and Dick (1978-2001). What a heritage! Dick Hall showed me his Waltham pocket watch that had once belonged to his great-grandfather, his grandfather, and his father before him and, in fact, the Hall's business must have been one of the oldest continuing plumbing companies in North America. You can still see today the old fashioned faucet trade-sign put up by David Hall on the front of the building.

Near by, 68 Brock Street was the Domus Gallery and Gift Shop opened by Doug Snyder


in the early 1960s. The first of its kind in Kingston, the upstairs gallery had been designed by Lily Inglis while Jo Snyder produced the artistic window displays. It was there that I held my first solo exhibition, "Kingston Scenes," in 1964. More recently, it was Treasure Cove Antiques.

The property at 70 Brock Street was then Murphy's Seafood with its slogan, "If it's fresher than Murphy's, it's still swimming." Besides selling fresh seafood, they also prepared take-out fish and chips. My mother, Ivy McGregor, hailed from England and every Friday we picked up an order all done up in newspapers for our supper. Murphys was

eventually sold to Atlantic Direct around 1995.

I have always been charmed by lower Brock Street. When I shop at Cooke's Fine Foods and the other unique shops there I feel as if I have travelled back in time. I'm sure that tourists who come to see our historical city do so too! In April 2004, the *Whig-Standard* announced a bold new vision for the block bounded by

Brock, King, Clarence, and Wellington streets. Kincore, a local development company, had bought 68-70 Brock Street and planned dramatic changes encompassing the rest of their property running through to Clarence Street. Fortunately, the Frontenac Heritage Foundation owns 62-66 Brock, which it is in the process of restoring.

But whatever the future brings, I will always prefer to remember it as it is in my painting. 

*"If it's fresher than
Murphy's, it's still
swimming."*



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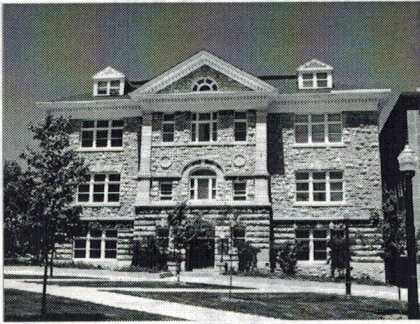
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SPEAKERS' CORNER

with John Abbott
photographs by Jennifer McKendry



If this summer's torrid heat has banished all thoughts except those centered on soft evenings, deck chairs and cool lagers, reflect that September will bring brisk, refreshing temperatures, mental revival and a keen interest in the autumn programme presented by your Historical Society. You will remember

the intriguing insights into the history of Kathleen Ryan Hall offered by **Heather Home** (left) and **Gillian Barlow** at our May meeting, and the mysteries still associated with the building that now houses the Queen's University Archives.




Remember: your Society meets on the third Wednesday of September, October and November, 2005 in the Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library, corner of Johnson and Bagot Streets, at 7:30 PM. Bring your friends and relations. Members of the public are cordially invited. Refreshments follow the presentations.

Wednesday, 21 September

Learn what archaeology can tell us about the Kingston region while Europe was in its Medieval Ages. Listen to **Nick Adams** of Adams Heritage reflect on "The Pre-Contact Occupation of the Kingston Area: An Archaeological Consultant's View."

Saturday, 1 October

 **Special Day Trip** to Ottawa to tour the new Canadian War Museum and then tea and a tour of Merrickville. Please see p. 6 for details.

Wednesday, 19 October

This year Alberta and Saskatchewan celebrate their centenaries as provinces of Canada. 2005 is also the 100th anniversary of Major James Walsh's death. Brian Porter (whom we know best as the "John A. Macdonald" at our celebratory functions) will dress the part and talk about the life of a Brockville man, one of

the nine original members of the N.W.M.P., after whom Fort Walsh is named. Mark your calendars for **Brian Porter**, "Major James Walsh N.W.M.P. – Friend of Sitting Bull."

Wednesday, 16 November

Hard as it is to imagine Kingston without Alcan, that relationship slipped almost silently into the historical record last year. Prepare yourselves for some thought-provoking reflections, as **Eric Van Dalen**, assisted by **Martin Reeve**, present "Alcan and Kingston, 1938-2004: Challenge and Response."



The programme for 2006 is taking shape. Did you know that John A. Macdonald had an antebellum, slave-holding Georgia family connection? Even if you do, you stand to know a great deal more about it before next summer. Stay tuned. 