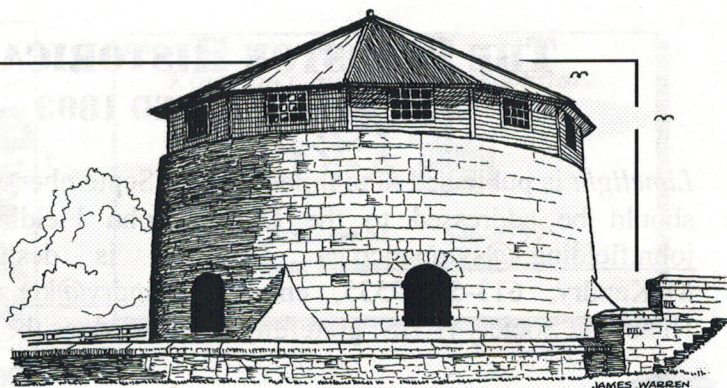


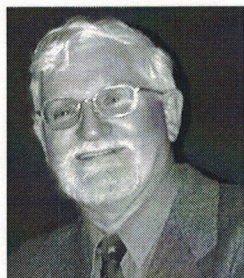
# LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the  
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

vol 7 no 7 October 2005 ISSN 1488-5565



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



**T**he words in our national anthem, “we stand on guard for thee” are particularly relevant in the new world we now live in, a world when compared to only thirty years ago, is as different as is chalk and cheese. Our first lecturer, the archaeologist **Nick Adams** was especially critical when comparing much of today’s archaeology, which is driven by land developers, to an earlier archaeology that had more government support and a more scholarly approach. **Neil Reynolds**, known to many of us with long memories as the brilliant editor of *The Whig Standard*, now writes in the business section of the *Globe & Mail*. His column of 14 September 2005 discusses free trade and softwood lumber but one phrase stands out that has meaning to all of us, “We can forget history but we can’t escape it”.

If Neil Reynolds is correct, then the willful forgetting, or perhaps ignoring of history can only be described as a contemporary folly. It is why nearly all forms of history now have greater value - use it or lose it. We need everything we can promote. The heavily footnoted history of high scholarship is important, as is our next speaker **Brian Porter** who will use his special techniques on October 19<sup>th</sup> to tell a story, and so is the exploratory and tentative work of a student displayed on panels. It will also be interesting to hear from those of you who will visit the new Canadian War Museum during the special, October 1st, day trip to Ottawa and how that museum handles history. ✍

*Maurice Smith*

### THIS MONTH'S MEETING:

WEDNESDAY, 19 OCTOBER at 7:30PM

**BRIAN PORTER**

*“Major James Walsh N.W.M.P. –  
Friend of Sitting Bull.”*

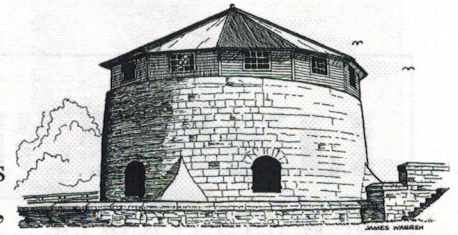
Wilson Room, **Kingston Public Library**, Johnson at Bagot  
ALL WELCOME ~ REFRESHMENTS

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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](mailto:john.fielding3@sympatico.ca). *Limelight* is designed by 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.

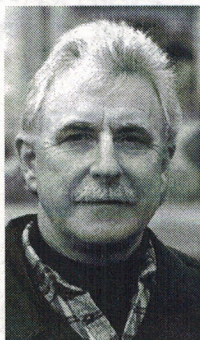
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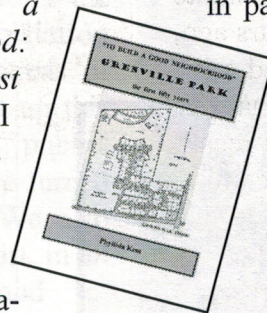
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## Publications of the Kingston Historical Society

Recently your editor received a phone call inquiring how one could obtain a copy of *To Build a Good Neighbourhood: Grenville Park - the first fifty years*. I said I didn't know but I would find out. This caller also suggested that we should let our members know what publications are available and from whom. **Robert Andrews**, chairperson, of the Publications Committee did the legwork and provided this list.



★ *To Build a Good Neighbourhood: Grenville Park - the first fifty years* by Phyllida Kent was produced by the Grenville Park Cooperative Housing Association Limited in partnership with the Kingston Historical Society. It is available through Novel Idea bookstore.

★ The Kingston Historical Society published *Williamsville Revisited: An Illustrated History of Williamsville at Kingston*. Copies may be obtained from John Lynn Bell at 269 Kingscourt Ave. Kingston, Ont. K7K 4P9. (613) 542-1975.

★ *An Illustrated Guide to Monuments Memorials & Markers in the Kingston Area* is available at Novel Idea (see p. 7) and at Bellevue House.

*John Fielding*



# THE SCRIBBLER with J.W. (Bill) Fittell

## MARKING TIME WITH MEANING



**P**eter H. Aykroyd, who along with his wife, Lorraine and family, grace the social scene in the Kingston area, authored *The Anniversary Compulsion*, a 1992 book that entertainingly recorded Canada's memorable Centennial Year activities. Most of us can recall Expo 67, as a landmark event, one that still evokes warm feelings of pride and happiness.

The former Privy Council officer was public relations' director for the Centennial Commission during the mega-anniversary celebrations of 1967 and came out in praise of marking events, whether small, personal ones or dramatic, national festivities. "An anniversary..." he wrote, "is a time to celebrate, not a sociology class."

Kingston Historical Society, in successfully marking the Centennial of the organization in 1993 and the recent 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Murney Tower Museum has a fair record of following Peter's Principles, the key element for success: "The celebration should fit the audience, as well as the occasion."


So what anniversaries should KHS initiate and support in the years ahead? A few years ago, past-president **Isobel Trumpour** compiled a list of historic Kingston-related happenings that she suggested should not pass unnoticed. As I recall, after the millennium, there were few upcoming events on the schedule. However, in this community, where history hovers around every corner, there should be no difficulty in selecting and celebrating a worthy anniversary to brighten and enlighten our futures.

The Sesquicentennial of Canada is due in 2017. For "long-in-the-toothers," who don't dare buy green bananas, we probably should not wait that long to celebrate again. How about marking the 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society in 2008? If

*How about marking the 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society in 2008? If so, how should we mark it?*

so, how should we mark it? Turn to Aykroyd's Anniversary Axiomatique--a set of ten rules for anniversary planners. The lucid laird of Loughborough advocates in No. 7: "Build monuments and memorials: these are tangible statements of achievement and strong elements of a sense of continuity."

We could build a paper monument—a Kingston History Handbook—a Colombo style reference from Dollar Bill, Don Cherry and Jock Harty to Flora

MacDonald, John A. and the Stone Frigate. What's your idea? 




Kingston Girl Guides and Boy Scouts commemorated Canada's centennial by placing the dates 1867 and 1967 and forming with stones a pattern of a maple leaf. The Murney Tower is in the background. Photo by Jennifer McKendry



# Kingston Historical Society Awards

**D**o you know someone who is not only very interested in local history but actually works to preserve and interpret it? If you do, then we would like to encourage you to nominate that person by filling out the insert in this month's *Limelight* and returning it by **18 November**.

This award was created 12 years ago to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Kingston Historical Society in 1893. It is presented from time to time to worthy individuals, groups or institutions in recognition of outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of local history. 



## Letter to the Editor: THE OLD ICE HOUSE ON KING STREET WEST


*Used Lumber— Having just wrecked the old ice house on King Street West, we are able to offer some very attractive prices on used lumber, especially one-inch sheathing boards. S Anglin Ltd..*  
10 May 1929, *The Whig*, Kingston

Ice cutting was quite popular on the Kingston waterfront, especially in the area of King Street West near Centre and Collingwood Streets. This is the first occurrence that I have found regarding the demolition of one of the old ice houses, and my curiosity has been aroused. Can anyone add more information in hopes that we can identify the ice house's owner and pin down its location?

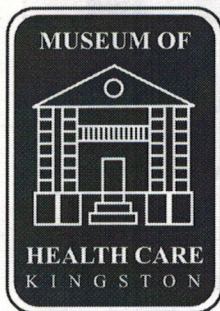
*Gordon Smithson*

## HISTORY ALIVE! OLD SOURCES, NEW TECHNOLOGY

**O**n Friday, **25 November**, the Teaching of History Research Group of Queen's University, Queen's University Archives and Library and Archives of Canada present "History Alive! Old Sources, New Technology," a symposium to support the teaching of history from grades 4 to 12. The keynote speaker is Dr. **Stéphane Lévesque** on "(Un)covering the past: Engaging Canadian students in virtual history."

Dr. Lévesque is assistant professor of history education at the J.G. Althouse, Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario. The day-long symposium will be held in McArthur Hall, Faculty of Education, Queen's University. More information: [www.educ.queensu.ca](http://www.educ.queensu.ca) or email John Fielding at [john.fielding3@sympatico.ca](mailto:john.fielding3@sympatico.ca). 





## Celebrate the Restoration of the Museum of Health Care on October 12<sup>th</sup>

On Wednesday, 12 October, a Kingston landmark celebrates a significant turning point - the completion of Phase 1 of the restoration and renovation of the Ann Baillie Building.



Postcard cancelled in 1912.  
Collection Jennifer McKendry

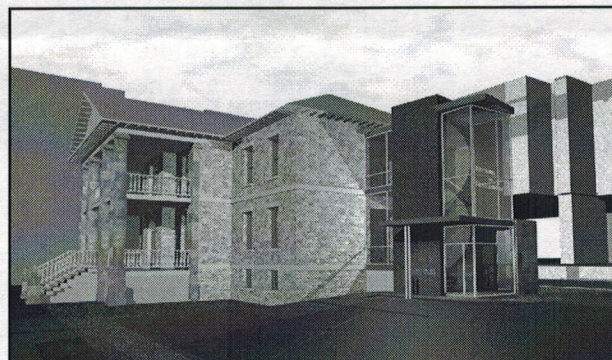
The Anne Baillie Building of 1904, one of the first Nurses' Homes constructed in Canada, has been recognized as a National Historic Site as part of Kingston General Hospital. It was also recognized individually to commemorate the contribution the nursing profession has made to medicine and to the role of women as health care professionals. Now, the Anne Baillie Building houses the Museum of Health Care at Kingston, which acquires, conserves, researches, displays, and interprets artifacts that help to tell the health care story with its collection of over 30,000 objects.

The recent foundation restoration work will ensure the long-term integrity of the building. Renovation work, including the construction of a second stairwell and elevator tower, and the renovation of level 0 storerooms (including high-density storage and environmental controls) will vastly improve the management and care of the rapidly expanding collection. It will also increase

public programming space, visibility and accessibility.

Please visit the Museum of Health Care at Kingston on Wednesday, 12 October between 3:00 and 6:00 PM for an open house and reception. Behind-the-scenes tours will allow visitors a peek at newly renovated storage rooms, along with parts of the collection not usually on display. Visitors will also be welcome to view current exhibits, including a traveling exhibit from the Archives of Ontario on the history of medical records. This event also allows the Museum to thank the Federal, and Provincial Governments and private donors who have contributed funds towards this project.

For more information about the event or the Museum, please give us a call at 548-2419, email [museum@kgh.kari.net](mailto:museum@kgh.kari.net) or visit [www.museumofhealthcare.ca](http://www.museumofhealthcare.ca).



Renovation of the Museum of Health Care,  
courtesy Mill & Ross Architects, Inc.



Please join us on Thursday, 10 November for a bus trip to the Museum of Civilization, Gatineau (Hull), for a tour of "A Caring Profession: Centuries of Nursing in Canada." Cost is \$35 for Museum members and \$45 for non-members, including round-trip transportation, admission, and a guided tour of the nursing exhibit by curator Tina Bates. To register, please see our website, email or phone (information cited above).



## LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES

### GONE WITH THE WIND

by Shirley Gibson-Langille



**I**t was October 31st 1965, when I picked up fellow artists David Holmes and Judy Quinton. We were headed for Amherst Island for a day of painting. When we got on the ferry we realized that it was somewhat windy and that it was going to be even worse on the Island. We were lucky to find a deserted house to get into to get out of the weather.

We had a great time painting inside all day. We knew the wind was getting stronger as the windows were blowing in on us. Glass was everywhere. I did a large oil painting of the interior with an old gas lantern in it. It was unique, as a robin had made a nest there. When

we got ready to leave, I was about to put my painting in the car when the wind took it and me with it. I held on for dear life, as I didn't want to lose my masterpiece. But I finally had to let go or else get blown into the lake. I watched helplessly, as it flew out of sight. Gone with the wind! I decided that at

*As to what its condition is like now, "Frankly, I don't give a damn!"*

least I could take the old lamp home so that I could do a drawing of it.

On our way back on the ferry, we were situated in the bow. The waves were so huge that every time the ferry went down, we

wondered if it would come back up again. Some of the waves went right over the top of the car and two men in the one next to us had their bibles out. I think it was only Judy's experience as an airline

stewardess that helped David and I from getting into a real panic. It was horrifying and it went on and on. It seemed like forever before we finally were able to get ashore. We later found out how lucky we had been as it was a record 80 mile-an-hour storm, and the Wolfe Islander didn't get to shore until 4:00 am the next morning.

In 2002, while working on my pictorial history of the Township of Frontenac Islands, I heard that a mysterious painting had been found on the shore of Wolfe Island around the time of that incident! If this is true and someone still has this painting, I sure would love to get to see it again.

As to what its condition is like now, "Frankly, I don't give a damn!" ❧

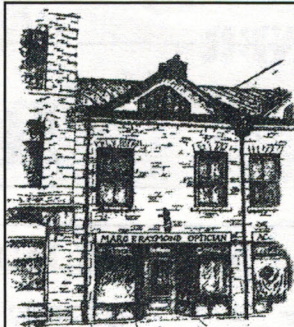




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## SPEAKERS' CORNER

with John Abbott  
photographs by Jennifer McKendry



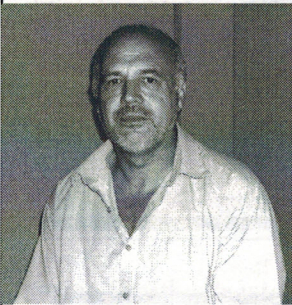
**O**n Wednesday, 21 September, **Nick Adams** swept members and guests of the Kingston Historical Society through ten thousand years of Kingston's human history. In

the process, he demonstrated in words and images how archaeologists extract information and infer patterns of human movement and evolution from fragments and shapes of weapons, tools and pottery. While the

native footprint rested lightly on the land, archaeologists have been able to trace and record changes in patterns of location, gathering and hunting, triggered by the challenge of evolving natural environments, and facilitated by appropriate technological innovation. He made the important point that European migrants occupied a continent already explored and successfully exploited for several thousand years. Toward the end of his address he reviewed his life and work as an archaeological consultant, working within the framework of contemporary legislation governing economic development in areas of archaeological sensitivity. He summed up this part of his career in terms of personal, public, and professional outcomes, which have turned out to be the good, bad, and ugly. We also discovered that grubbing about in the dirt, in all kinds of weather, disassembling and re-

assembling human remains, tormented by every variety of vermin, does not necessary extinguish an archaeologist's sense of humour. At the end of his slide show, Nick showed us what the sartorially correct archaeologist wears at work.

On Wednesday, 19 October, at 7.30 in the Kingston Public Library, **Brian Porter** will appear in the uniform of a North-West Mounted Police officer, authentic both in detailing and material. He will talk about the life and work of a Brockville man with Kingston connections. Don't miss "Major James Walsh N.W.M.P. – Friend of Sitting Bull." Make it a date. Bring *your* friends. ☞



At the September meeting, **John Fielding** explained the "Voices from the Past" student project, winner of the KHS award at this year's Historica Fair.



The Kingston Historical Society is delighted to welcome three new members: **Walter Tedman, Carol Croy and Anne Croy.**



# Award

## NOMINATION FORM

The Kingston Historical Society Award, created in commemoration of the One-Hundredth Anniversary of the founding of the Kingston Historical Society in 1893, is presented from time to time to worthy individuals, groups or institutions in recognition of outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of local history.

During the next several weeks the Awards Committee will be preparing its recommendations to the KHS Council concerning awards for 2005. In keeping with normal practice, members of the Society are again asked to participate in these deliberations by nominating individuals or organizations who are worthy candidates. Nominations should be put forward using this form. Completed forms may be mailed to the Awards Committee, Kingston Historical Society, Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V8 or passed directly to the Chair of the Committee, Dr J.G. Pike, 150 Macdonnell Street, Kingston ON K7L 4B8, deadline for receipt **18 November 2005**. It is requested that as much information as possible be presented in support of each nomination (detail which may appear obvious to the nominator may not be so to members of the Awards Committee).

Name, Address & Phone Number of Nominator:

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Name, Address & Phone Number of Nominee:

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Please add your specific comments in support of your nomination:

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*Continue overleaf if necessary*