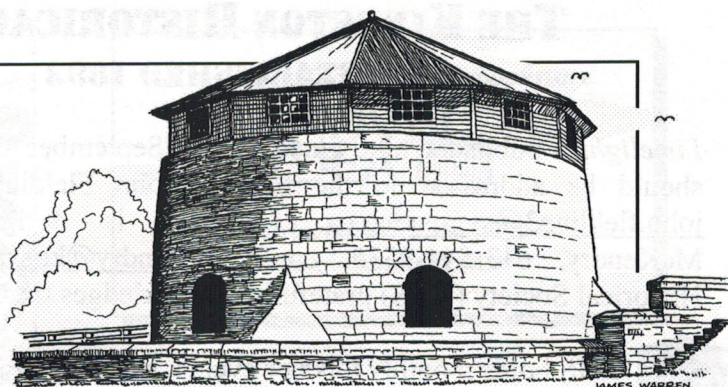


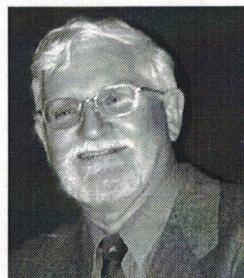
LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

vol 7 no 9 December 2005 ISSN 1488-5565



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



There are many in KHS who of give of their time without restraint. They make possible many of the benefits we all enjoy at our meetings and special events. Seven names were submitted by the Volunteer

Awards Committee, chaired by **Jack Pike**, to be recipients of Ontario Volunteer Service Awards 2005. On 7 November, several hundred people, all in a festive mood, were present for the gala at the Ambassador Hotel, where our provincial Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration made us all proud to witness this event. The recipients are (*please see pictures, p. 4*):

- ***Helen Coffey**, 10 years, faithful and longtime greeter providing words of welcome and information to new members and visitors at our meetings; author of a local genealogical study
- ***Warren Everett**, 5 years, for his outstanding service with the Murney Tower National Historic Site Committee; KHS President 2000-02
- ***Randolph Genois**, 5 years, for recording many KHS events in photographs and video

***Shirley Gibson-Langille**, 10 years, regular newsletter contributor of stories and artwork about the local scene

***Louis Grimshaw**, 15 years, former Vice-President and a Councillor; former programme coordinator; author and presenter of papers on military history

***Jennifer McKendry**, 25 years, including the web site committee; one of the authors of our book on plaques; author and presenter of papers on architectural history; tour advisor on heritage architecture; photographer of KHS events and articles for this newsletter; and coordinator of KHS refreshment committee

***John McKendry**, 4 years, assisting with refreshments at monthly meetings and on June 6th.

On behalf of the Council,
a very Merry Christmas.

Maurice Smith

CHRISTMAS PARTY & AWARD CEREMONY

WEDNESDAY, 14 DECEMBER, 7PM

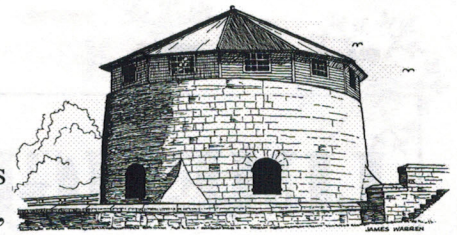
Officers' Mess, Fort Frontenac

*PLEASE SEE DETAILS ON THE BACK
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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* is designed by 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

Maurice Smith, *President*
Brian Osborne, *Past President*
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Robert Andrews
Jane Errington
Warren Everett
John Fielding

Heather Home
Ted Huber
Marc Létourneau
Douglas Petty
Jack Pike

IN MEMORIAM: EMMA MILDRED (SULLIVAN) MOLSON (1922-2005)

Emma Molson arrived in 1953 at the *Whig-Standard*, where she was soon put in charge of the "dummy." This was a quarter size mock-up of the paper, with advertisements judiciously assigned to pages within the approved ad-news ratio. It was a demanding and important role and Bill Fittell remembers that "In her warm and caring way, she was adept at keeping ad salesmen and editors happy."

Emma encountered new challenges and opportunities through her contacts at the *Whig*. Neil Patterson, former national advertising manager, recalls that, when he became KHS President in 1978, he persuaded Emma to join as KHS Secretary, a position she filled efficiently for many years, as well as Vice-President (1982-83) and Treasurer (1986). During these years, Emma loved projects, large or small. Consequently, she was to the fore in hosting, among other events,



the Ontario Historical Society's AGM in Kingston and the staging of the re-enactment of "Frontenac's Landing" in 1973. Bill Fittell remembers Emma as being "a booster," someone who "rarely attended a meeting without bringing along one or two friends." Brian Osborne fondly remembers Emma as the "rose lady." Emma contributed much to the planning of the annual Sir John A. graveside ceremony at Cataract Cemetery. In latter years, however, her primary function was ensuring that we all had "red roses," a link back to Kingston's "Red Rose League".

A remarkable woman, Emma Molson contributed much to her family, friends, colleagues, and the community at large. Indeed, one of the hymns sung at her standing-room-only funeral service, "Amazing Grace," could well have been re-titled, "Exemplary Emma."



REMEMBERING KINGSTON'S CAPTAIN

In the Year of the Veteran, as the last notes of the Last Post and the skirl of the piper's lament reverberate in collective minds, hardly a week goes by without noting the passing of a notable general, air vice-marshal or admiral with Kingston connections. On 1 November, esteemed destroyer captain and former RMC commandant, Rear Admiral Desmond Piers passed away at 92 years of age.

One Kingstonian, who retained his army rank throughout the last half of his 85 years, was quietly remembered on a typical autumn day last month. Four amateur historians, one each from Toronto and Ottawa and two from Kingston, after gathering at the gravesite of Sir John A. Macdonald, turned to one a slapshot away, the burial site of **James Thomas Sutherland**. At the top of an impressive red granite marker, and just below the engraved laurel wreaths and crossed hockey sticks was the word, "Captain".

Cap'n Jim, as he was affectionately known, was the founder of the International Hockey Hall of Fame, Canada's first sporting shrine. It was through his concerted efforts and deep passion for the game that the Hall of Fame was awarded to the city in 1943. He played in the early games on the Kingston harbour ice, coached and managed championship teams, refereed games and rose to the highest offices in the sport's leading organizations, the Ontario Hockey Association and the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association. (See "Captain Sutherland and His Dream," *Historic Kingston*, Vol. 30, 1982.)



He gained his Captain's title during the First World War, surviving bombings in London and Hastings and service with a casualty clearing battalion in France and a marine collision in the Atlantic Ocean. He was so moved by the wartime deaths of two of his championship Kingston Frontenac players and future Hall of Famers, Corporal Alan (Scotty) Davidson and Capt. George T. Richardson that he launched a plea that led to the inauguration of the OHA Memorial Cup, emblematic of the junior championship of Canada.

Capt. Sutherland publicly supported the postwar fund-raising campaign for the erection of a living memorial, the Kingston Community

Memorial Health and Recreation Centre, even as his beloved Hall of Fame was attempting to raise building funds. A staunch supporter of the British honours' system, in 1919 while still serving in England, he was recommended for the Order of the British Empire. Ironically, it was rejected because of a resolution by fellow Kingstonian, William Folger Nickle, MP, who had requested King George to refrain from conferring any title of honour on Canadian citizens. (See *Historic Kingston*, Vol. 32, 1984)

In 1948, after Ottawa reviewed the honours system, Capt. Sutherland re-applied, but Defence Minister Brooke Claxton advised him that nothing could be done.

Jim Sutherland had to be content with one further honour - election as a builder by his beloved International Hockey Hall of Fame. Eight years later, on 15 September 1955, he died—still retaining his 40-year-old honour—the rank of Captain.



volunteers build communities: **ONTARIO VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2005: The Kingston Historical Society's Recipients**

Please see story p. 1

photo: Robert Cardwell



Warren Everett (5 years) and Jennifer McKendry (25 years) with presenter John Gerretsen, M.P.P.



photo: Robert Cardwell

keynote speaker Vicki Keith with Randy Geno (5 years) and John Gerretsen

photo: J. McKendry



John McKendry (4 years)

right: Shirley Gibson-Langille (10 years) is congratulated by Vicki Keith



photo: Robert Cardwell

photo: Robert Cardwell



Lou Grimshaw (15 years) with Vicki Keith and John Gerretsen

right: Helen Coffey (10 years)



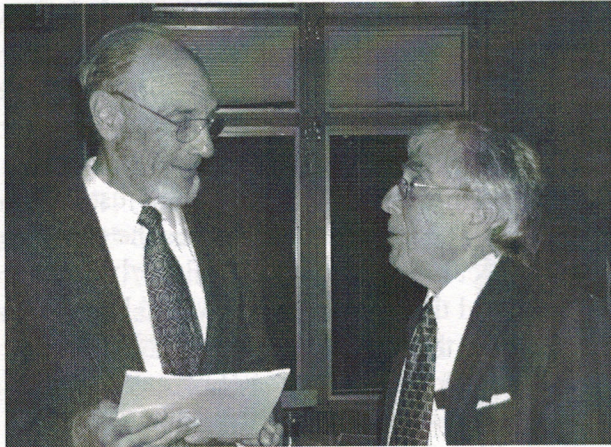
photo: Sarah McHarg

SPEAKERS' CORNER

with John Abbott



All who attended the Society's November meeting enjoyed a double portion, as **Eric VanDalen** (left) and **Martin Reeve** (right) presented a fascinating examination of the evolving relationship between Alcan and the



Jennifer McKendry

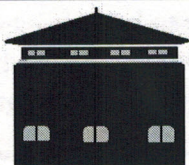
City of Kingston. Most of us came to understand that the dynamics in a partnership between a major industry and its urban host may be as tense and complex as that between "town and gown". Alcan Kingston was born of wartime Britain's need for airplane-grade aluminum from a secure location and the enthusiasm of a Queen's graduate, who became its first president, to site the plant in Kingston. Controversy was generated by the nature of the processes. Round-the-clock forging generated vibrations that rattled windows and shook pictures from walls. Rolling and extruding required vast amounts of water and energy, coupled with the reality of a monopoly supplier. A workforce that peaked at about 5000 appeared suddenly on the Kingston scene, earning wages well above average, but putting

tremendous pressure on land, housing, social stability, political flexibility and a community comfortable in its institutional mentality and amenities.

On the Alcan site, facilities were shut down and opened up; visions were promoted (a mile-long rolling mill, for example) that turned out to be pipe dreams; hopes were raised and dashed. One reality was unchanging, the relentless substitution of capital for labour increased the output of product as efficiently as it reduced the need for workers. We learned how new technology, new products and the need to run the facility round the clock altered the culture of work and brought capital and labour into confrontation. The Society thanks Dr. VanDalen and Mr. Reeve for their address, which they presented with wonderful clarity and enthusiasm. We also thank Irene VanDalen who — on short notice — operated the overhead projector.

Our Christmas party is imminent (*please see back cover*) on **14 December**, and our annual dinner and speaker celebration of Sir John A. Macdonald's birthday (*please see insert*) is little more than a month away on **11 January 2006**.

On **18 January**, our President, Maurice Smith, will explore the mysteries associated with the Kingston Shipyards. Circle **15 February** as the date of our AGM, and another auction conducted by that inimitable duo, Douglas Petty and Warren Everett. Members and supporters are encouraged to donate a choice item or two in support of the important work of the Society.



Membership in KHS—and we value every member—runs from 1 January to 31 December 2006. Renewal forms were included with last month's *Limelight*. Membership categories and the KHS mailing address are on page 2.

LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES

THE GHOST OF TRICKY M'DERMOTT

by Shirley Gibson-Langille



In 2002, I was working on my art show, "Frontenac Islands: This Is Your Life," that celebrated Wolfe, Howe and Simcoe Islands. I was also on the lookout for a ghost in the area as I always bring back a notable character from the past at the opening of all of my shows.

Fortunately, I met two key people: Richard Fawcett (retired captain of the *Wolfe Islander*) and the Wolfe Island historian, John O'Shea. They both agreed that the ghost should be Orville "Tricky" McDermott, 1900-1975. McDermott was a likeable, unique, Robin Hood-type- character known for his rum running and smuggling. In winter, he made makeshift bridges over the snow-road across the ice charging 10 cents for islanders and 25 cents for others to cross.

Fawcett and O'Shea offered to tell some fascinating stories about "Tricky" at my opening and, while they didn't have any suggestions as to who could play his part, Richard loaned me a photo of him to help. Later, I called my singer friend, Bill McDonald, from Sydenham to line him up as part of the entertainment. He wanted to know who my ghost would be. I told him and was amazed when he told me he remembered "Tricky" when he lived in Sydenham at Izobel Brawley's Old Feed Mill!

But by this time, I was getting nervous. I still hadn't found anyone to play the part of



"Tricky." Then, at a reception after a funeral, I sat down at a long table and a man sat down opposite me. He introduced himself saying he was from Sydenham and lived where Izobel Brawley's Feed Mill had been! I asked him if he knew "Tricky." While he was telling me about him, the table filled up with people. I looked at the man sitting on my left and could hardly believe my eyes: he looked just like "Tricky" and, at 6 feet 2 inches, he was the perfect height for the part. Eagerly, I asked this stranger if he would like to play the part of the ghost of "Tricky" McDermott. I was flabbergasted by his response. Not only did he agree to do so but declared that his name was Art Warmington and he was "Tricky's" nephew." Wow! Considering "Tricky" was never married or had any children, Art was his closest relative!

The next day at breakfast in Ernie's Café on Wolfe Island, I received a tip to go down the road to visit Whites Carriage Rides as they had photos of "Tricky" and, when they heard what I was up to, they offered to bring "Tricky" back in a horse and carriage, much like the one he had used. By this time, I realized it had to be "Tricky's" ghost orchestrating all this! Why wasn't I surprised when I did his portrait so easily, or when John O'Shea said it looked exactly like him!

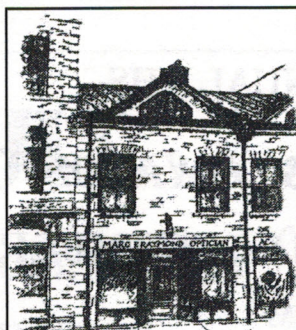
At the opening of the show, "Tricky" was a real sensation and when Richard, John, and others shared their incredible stories there was loads of laughter and tears.

Yes, "Tricky," you are gone never to be forgotten and your Ghost's mission is accomplished! ❧

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THE ANNUAL KHS

CHRISTMAS PARTY & AWARDS CEREMONY

WEDNESDAY, 14 DECEMBER

7:00 PM

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!*

*Refresh-
ments will
be served and
there will be a
cash bar.*



*Copies
of Maurice D.
Smith's new book,
Steamboats on the
Lakes, will be for sale
at \$24.95 each.*

75 Lower Union Street;
photo by Jennifer McKendry

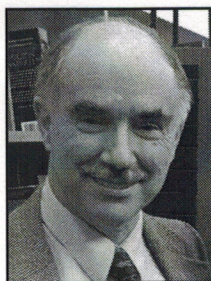
Please note: As guests of the Officers' Mess, gentlemen are required to conform to the Mess dress-code of jacket and tie.

Also: John Abbott will be pleased to receive payment for tickets to the Macdonald dinner (11 Jan. 2006—see insert).

THE 6TH ANNUAL KHS DINNER TO CELEBRATE
SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD'S BIRTHDAY

Guest Speaker: Desmond Morton on
“*Sir John A. Macdonald and Defence: A Few Unfamiliar Thoughts*”

The principal address will be presented by Dr. **Desmond Morton**, the Hiram Mills Professor of History at McGill University. Dr. Morton is one of Canada's leading historians. His areas of expertise encompass Canadian political and industrial relations, and military history. In *A Military History of Canada* (1985 and subsequent editions), he demonstrated, perhaps to the discomfort of many Canadians, that Canada was born in war and has ever since been significantly shaped by it. His *Understanding*



Canadian Defence (2003) and *Canada and Two World Wars* (with Jack Granatstein, 2003), together constitute a major reconnaissance of the military's role in Canadian society and culture. It is appropriate, therefore, that his Sir John A. Macdonald address, “Sir John A. Macdonald and Defence: A Few Unfamiliar Thoughts,” reconnoitres the ground between the military and civilian spheres in the last half of the nineteenth century.

WEDNESDAY, 11 JANUARY 2006 6:00 PM for 7:00 PM

in the Senior Staff Mess of the Royal Military College

Cucumber Salad on Romaine
Cream of Potato and Curry Soup
Pork Tenderloin with Vermouth
(or Eggplant Parmigiana)

Oven Baked Stuffed Potatoes
Baby Carrots & Snow Peas
Maple Blondie Bombshell Cake
Coffee - Tea