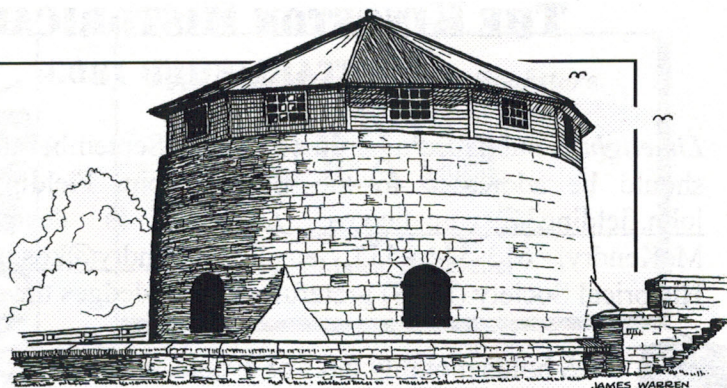


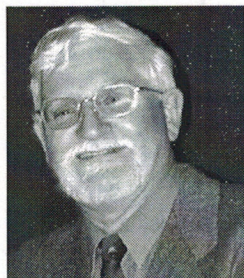
LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

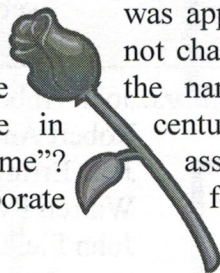
vol 8 no 1 January 2006 ISSN 1488-5565



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The European Union, if it has its way, will no longer recognize Canadian Cheddar Cheese. This name will be reserved for cheese from the Cheddar Gorge in England. One might ask, “what is in a name”? Shakespeare was acutely aware of the corporate



strength of the 16th century Tudors but in his quote, the “smell of a rose smelling as sweet,” he was appealing to their more sensual pleasures — not challenging the powers-that-be. Yet somehow the name, rose, has stayed with us over the centuries. For each of us, it conjures up a host of associations — rose covered cottages, roses for anniversaries, a few roses for a

President's Message continued next page

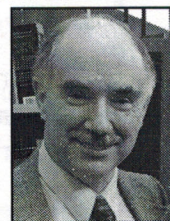
THE 6TH ANNUAL KHS DINNER TO CELEBRATE SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD'S BIRTHDAY

Guest Speaker: **Desmond Morton**, one of Canada's leading historians, on
“*Sir John A. Macdonald and Defence: A Few Unfamiliar Thoughts*”

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

in the Senior Staff Mess of the Royal Military College

Please contact John Abbott, Programme Chair, 1098 Johnson Street, Kingston, ON K7M 2N5, phone 545-0311, *immediately*, if you wish to obtain dinner tickets (\$45 for KHS members, \$55 for non-members)



THIS MONTH'S MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 18 JANUARY, 7:30PM

Maurice D. Smith

“Kingston Shipyards:

Out of Adversity — Ended by Progress”

in the Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library
Johnson at Bagot

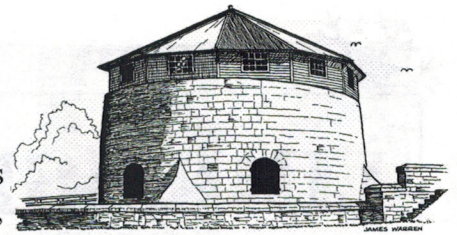
refreshments

all welcome

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- ◆ KHS Awards 2005, 4 - 5
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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

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Brian Osborne, *Past President*
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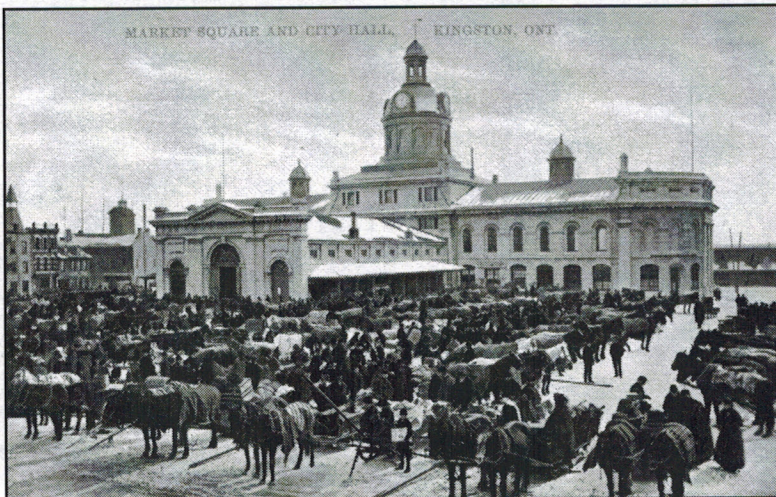
Heather Home
Ted Huber
Marc Létourneau
Douglas Petty
Jack Pike

President's Message continued from p. 1

sweetheart on a first date. You might say that word is intimately, a part of our culture as is the descriptive, Canadian Cheddar cheese. There is no question in my mind, that the word, Kingston as a place, with its many associations, private and corporate is a part of the public culture of Canada as are some of

its constituent parts — Market Square for example. How does a citizen put across the idea that some historic names are important in establishing the provenance of a place? How do we acknowledge generous benefactors while retaining the markers in our city history? Common usage will determine the outcome for the Market Square, but surely in the future we can find a better way to preserve our history while giving to our generous citizens, the recognition they deserve.

Maurice Smith



Market Square and City Hall, Kingston, Ont. Winter scene in the early 20th century, undated postcard, coll. Jennifer McKendry

Steamboats on the Lakes by Maurice D. Smith

Reviewed by John Fielding

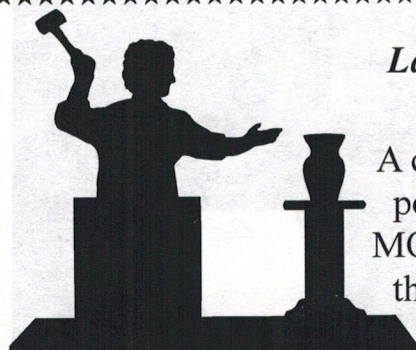
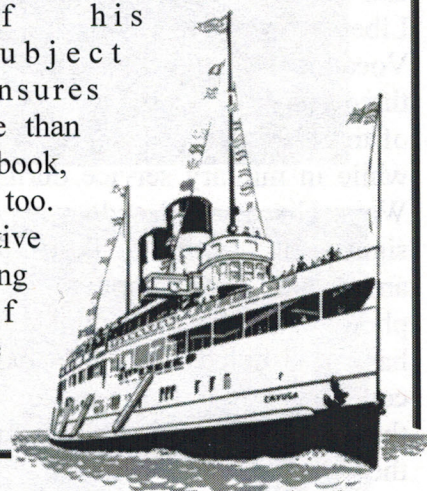
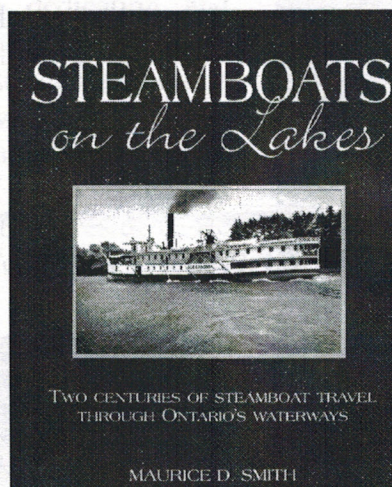
When is a coffee table book not a coffee table book? - when it is written by Maurice Smith. Although *Steamboats on the Lakes* has the high quality feel and look of a coffee table book, with glossy thick paper and lots of splendidly coloured photos, it is much more. It is much better written than any coffee table book I have come across. I particularly liked the story development of interesting characters; for example, in Chapter Eight, "After World War II" Alan Howard is described as "one of those larger-than-life characters who woke up zealous each morning and did not stop at night until his dreams were just right." The many colourful characters who built, owned and manned the steamships are as much the story as the ships themselves.

Maurice also does a very nice job in giving character to the steamboats, from the earlier

wood ships, the *Kingston* and *Magnet*, to steel vessels such as the *Cayuga* and *Noronic*. It was a fire onboard the *Noronic* in 1949 at a dock in Toronto, with 119 lives lost, that caused the beginning of the end for passenger steamships on the Great Lakes.

Kingstonians will also appreciate the detail Maurice provides of Kingston's role as a busy centre of steamboat activity. The author's research and knowledge of his subject ensures

that this is more than just a pretty book, although it is that too. It is an informative and very interesting history of steamboats on the Great Lakes.

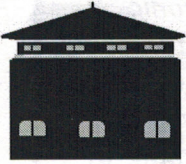


Ladies and Gentlemen! Mark your calendars for the **THIRD ANNUAL KHS AUCTION**

A chance to donate — and an opportunity to purchase! — postcards, linens, marbles, stamps, china, books, toys and MORE. All treasures will add to the excitement and mystery of the evening on Wednesday, **February 15th**, following the **Annual General Meeting**.

Please contact Doug Petty at 546-0422 or Warren Everett or the KHS President Maurice Smith, about the items you are donating to the auction and any requests for pick-up of items. Tax Receipts will be issued for the selling price of your donated item. Full details in next month's *Limelight*.

THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARDS



This Award, created in commemoration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the founding of the Kingston Historical Society in 1893, is presented in recognition of outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of local history. **Maurice Smith**, KHS President, and **Jack Pike**, chair of the Awards Committee, presented this year's awards to **Kevin Reed** and **Robert Cardwell** on 14 December 2005 at a ceremony and party in Fort Frontenac.

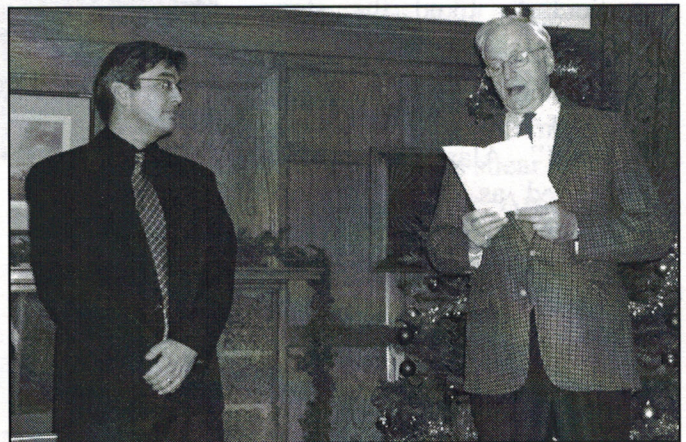
KEVIN EDWARD REED

A teacher of History, English and Economics in the Department of Liberal Arts at Kingston Collegiate and Vocational Institute, Kevin Reed has devoted three years of research to the creation of a record of those former students of the school who died while in military service during the two World Wars. His devoted endeavour has resulted in a significant addition to the military, educational and social historiography of Kingston. Also, the photographs and biographical material which he has assembled, has enabled a memorial commemorating the lives of one hundred and thirty former KCVI students to be established in the school library, where it serves as a challenging reminder to current students of the service and sacrifice of their predecessors.

It is very fitting that the work of Kevin Reed be recognized by this Kingston Historical Society award in this "The Year of the Veteran."

above: Jack Pike (right) reads Kevin Reed's citation

below: Roxanne Saunders, Vice-Principal of KCVI, congratulates Kevin Reed

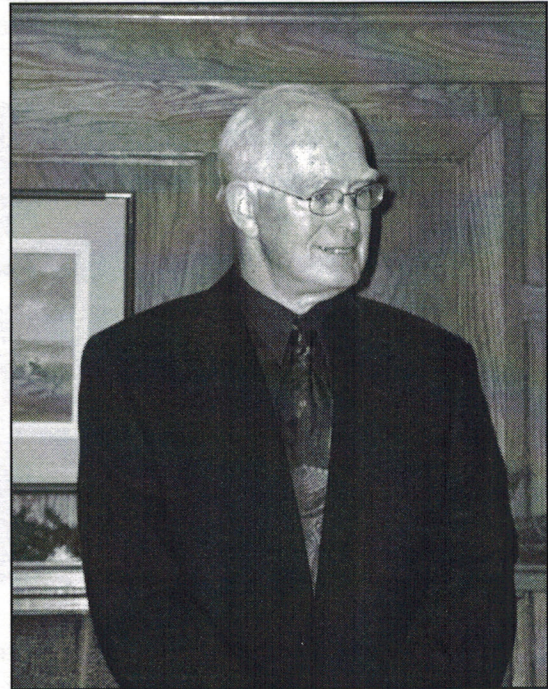


ROBERT CLARKE CARDWELL

Volunteer groups depend for their effectiveness upon the long-term dedication and loyalty of their members. Throughout four decades, Robert Cardwell has provided just such support to many Kingston area heritage activities. Robert was a founding member and is a continuing supporter of the Pittsburgh Historical Society. He has served that body in many roles, including that of President. He was chairman of the Pittsburgh Township LACAC Committee during the important period when the designation of Barriefield Village, as one of the first Heritage Conservation Districts in Ontario, was under review.

The Kingston Historical Society has similarly benefited from Robert's tireless service as Treasurer, Councillor and as member, Curator and, now, Treasurer of the Murney Tower National Historic Site Museum Committee. His skills as a graphics artist and his broad knowledge of heritage matters have been equally and freely applied to heritage related activities as disparate as cemetery conservation, civic anniversary planning and the judging of municipal logo designs.

It is with gratitude and respect that the Kingston Historical Society acknowledges and rewards Robert's long and valuable service to the Kingston heritage community.



Maurice Smith (left) and Robert Cardwell

LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES

AWAY FROM IT ALL

by Shirley Gibson-Langille



Of all my paintings, this one will always be my favourite. I painted it in June 1963 in Algonquin Park. In those days, I did a lot of camping and painting up there as Tom Thompson was “my number two hero”. On this particular trip, I took two friends, Helen and Audrey, to introduce them to the joys of camping and living close to nature. This kept me extremely busy and, after a few days, I decided that I needed to get away by myself and paint. The girls dropped me off along the highway with all my gear and left me the axe for protection.

I walked down from the road and got set up to start my painting. It was a magical spot: so quiet and serene and I enjoyed the perfect peace of being all alone with nature. As I quietly sat painting, two beaver came swimming by. Deer milled all around, not taking any notice of me. Two ravens were flying over the tall pines.

Time passed and I was completely engrossed in my painting when suddenly I heard a twig snap behind me. I looked back and saw a man. It scared me so badly that I fell off my painting-stool and grabbed the axe. Wow! He sure wasn't long getting up that hill and away in his car! Poor guy. He was probably just curious to see my painting. He is probably still talking about meeting this wild woman in the wilderness!

Now, I told you that Tom Thompson was my “my number two hero”. So who was “number one”? It was Grant Macdonald, the renowned Canadian artist. When Mom, Dad, and I lived on the south east corner of Union Street and Collingwood Street in Kingston, Grant Macdonald lived

almost kitty-corner to us on Collingwood. I used to see him coming and going in his convertible, sometimes accompanied by his dog. I was very much aware of his accomplishments as a war artist and was familiar with three of his books: *Sailors*, *HMCS Haiti*, and the *Renown of Stratford*. Also, I was very fortunate to have taken two life drawing courses given by him at Queen's Summer School.

On 15 November 1963, at our Artists' Workshop exhibition that was held at the Official Opening of the new Professional Building on the corner of Princess and Ontario Street, Grant asked to see me. He told me my painting “Away From It All” was sheer poetry. Wow! To me that was the ultimate! And now you know why this is my favourite painting...and why Grant Macdonald was my “number one hero”! ❧



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SPEAKERS' CORNER

with John Abbott.

Photographs by Jennifer McKendry



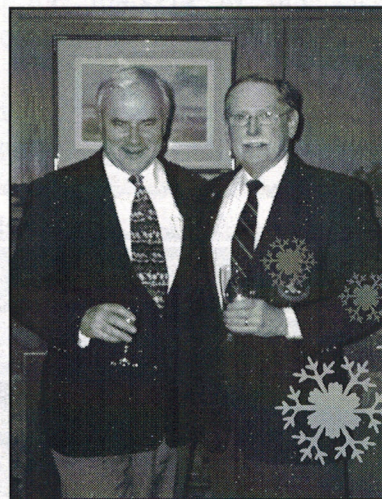
I was bending over the broccoli bin in Loblaw's, evaluating the few mangy specimens on offer, when a friendly voice invited my attention. "Hello, John! What a good time we had at the Historical Society's Christmas Party on Wednesday evening! Don't you think?" There, addressing me across the breadth of that dismal receptacle, was the kindly, wise and avuncular **Bill Fitts** who, though in hot pursuit of the wife he'd lost amongst the aisles, took time to celebrate the success of our party. And of course I agreed. Everything associated with such a gathering conspires to loosen us up, introduce ourselves to people we may have seen before, but do not know, and nurture the bonds of association that constitute the very sinews of any effective organization. The evening's highlight was the presentation of the Society's awards for meritorious service in the cause (see pp. 4-5). This year we honoured, and were honoured by the presence of, Kevin Reed and Robert Cardwell.



On 18 January at 7:30PM in the public library, **Maurice Smith** will explore the intricate, not to say labyrinthine, history of the Kingston Shipyard.



KHS President Maurice Smith proposes a Christmas toast with Jack Pike of the Awards Committee



Political rivals, Peter Milliken and Lou Grimshaw, sharing in the Christmas spirit