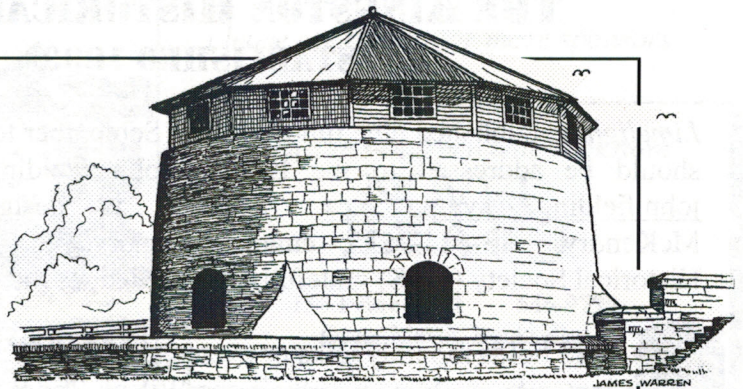


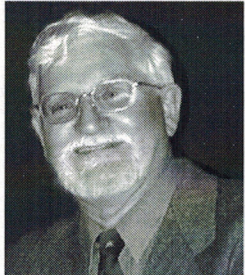
LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Annual General Meetings are the closing and opening acts of the official year - at least the year defined by the corporations act where we must, by law, give to our members a full accounting of what the Society has done during the preceding year. As a non-profit corporation with charitable status we have many privileges but the accounting has to be verified by an auditor in order to maintain those privileges. It does not stop there. Our programs and other activities must conform to our stated purpose in the Letters Patent. Believe it or not, there are bureaucrats who keep an eye on such things. Lapses can be forgiven but it is not a good idea to count on mercy from Customs and Revenue too long.

Most of all, the AGM is a time for giving thanks to the many individuals and organizations

who have helped us during the year. *Limelight* is supported by a generous group of sponsors whose advertisements appear in each issue. There are many dedicated members, 15 of whom are Society Councillors. **John Fielding**, the editor of *Limelight* is a good example. Very cleverly, he managed to acquire a laptop computer, so that when he traveled west for a month he could maintain contact with his stable of writers and assistants. **Robert Andrews** has had some striking success in publications, and **Marc Létourneau** is tireless in publicity. The never-let-up champions are **Alan MacLachlan**, Secretary; **John Abbott**, Programme Chair; and **Gordon Sinclair**, Treasurer.

There are important others but that will have to wait for editorial space another month.

Maurice Smith

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 15 MARCH, 7:30PM

KEITH JOHNSON

*"John A. Macdonald's Forgotten Uncle James
Shaw, the Clark Sisters,
and the Georgia Connection"*

Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library, Johnson at Bagot

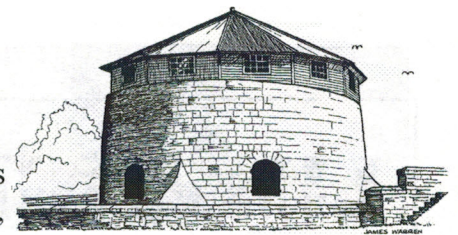
refreshments

all welcome

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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*
Ed Grenda, *Vice President*
Alan MacLachlan, *Secretary*
Gordon Sinclair, *Treasurer*

Councillors: John Abbott
Robert Andrews
Jane Errington
Warren Everett
John Fielding

Heather Home
Ted Huber
Marc Létourneau
Douglas Petty
Jack Pike

FOCUS ON MEMBERSHIP by Ted Huber

The membership of the Kingston Historical Society is varied, extremely supportive, and active. For those members who were unable to attend the society's annual general meeting, it was reported that the membership is sub-divided into four categories: individual (123), family (89), institutional (14), and student (4). The society also recognizes the long term support that our Life members (32) have provided. On behalf of the Executive and the Council of the society, we thank you for your continued support.

There is a category of supporters who deserve special recognition - our corporate sponsors. In each edition of *Limelight*, we dedicate a whole page to profile the businesses that have provided funds to offset the cost of *Limelight*. This is not a one shot deal; each year the KHS seeks their support so that we can

continue to publish our newsletter. In these times, when requests for contributions are ever increasing, our sponsors continue to come through for all of us without complaint or hesitation.

We urge our membership to support our sponsors with their patronage. Please say you belong to KHS when visiting the Pilot House, Novel Idea, Tara Foods, Marc F. Raymond Opticians, Cunningham and Poupore, Chez Piggy, Pan Chanco, Tango, Cooke's Old World, Chien Noir Bistro, Minos Restaurants and Earth to Spirit. For real estate needs seek out the advice of Larry Brennan at Royal LePage or Terry Stafford or Brian Stafford at Coldwell Bankers.

Thank you to each and every one of our sponsors for their continued support.

CALL TO ACTION!

Friends of the Tett Creativity Centre

If you wish to:

- * Appreciate and help to preserve and enhance the Tett Creativity Centre as a vital centre of cultural and community activity, essential to the quality of life and welfare of Kingstonians
- * Support the many opportunities for learning, creating and participating in programs and performances for all ages offered by the Centre to the community
- * Promote access to the parkland and waterfront for the public good
- * Seek preservation and enhancement of the heritage buildings as a valuable social, cultural and economic resource



Join the "Friends of the Tett Creativity Centre." For more information, please contact Ruth George, Membership Secretary, at 389-3829 (ruthgeorge@king.igs.net).



drawing & photograph by Jennifer McKendry



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THE SCRIBBLER with J.W. (Bill) Fittell

FOR MEN ONLY?



A matronly member, with one eye on our silver-haired, learned leaders at a recent meeting, paused and, emphatically declared, "The Kingston Historical Society is becoming an old man's club!"

To which another anonymous woman of younger years retorted with just a whiff of sarcasm, "Becoming?"

One glance at the make-up of the new KHS executive and council, composed of 15 persons but only two women, and we can only return a verdict of "guilty as charged." The male-female ratio does not reflect the make-up of our membership.

Unfortunately, it has been ever thus. Males dominate the Society's decision-making positions despite their appeal, from time to time, for more female executive and council members. A few women step forward to offer their expertise, but most seem quite content to let the men make the decisions and to serve in special ways.

And yet, where would our society be without the contribution of the distaff side? This point was brought into focus with the recent passing of the indomitable **Emma Molson**. She made a major contribution to KHS as membership secretary, treasurer, vice-president and facilitator of the Sir John A. Macdonald memorial service.

And who can forget the solid efforts of the late **Margaret (Peggy) Cohoe**? She presented numerous papers, promoted the red rose adornments for the first PM's graveside service each June 6th, and was a constant contributor and prodder for everything historic. Her work was continued by **Isobel Trumpour**, who twice served as president (1980-81 and 1990-91) and to this day keeps an eye on Sir John's gravesite.

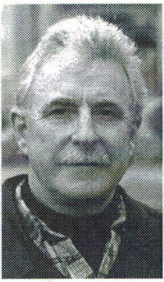
And we must salute the dean of KHS women, Dr **Margaret (Peggy) Angus**, now in

her 90s, who became the first woman president (1972-73) after 85 years of clergymen, doctors, professors, colonels, magistrates and barristers holding the top office. The only other woman to lead the society was **Anne Macdermaid**, (1984-85), who as chief archivist of Queen's University led off a string of archivists from that valuable resource centre.

For the women's specialized contribution to KHS, one has to look no further than these newsletter pages, so professionally designed and graphically illustrated by historian-writer-photographer **Jennifer McKendry**. She also contributes by co-ordinating the refreshments that make the post meetings such a sweet social success. And what *Limelight* reader doesn't delight in the articles by artist-writer **Shirley Gibson-Langille**, who for many months, along with **Helen Coffey**, headed the greeting committee.

There is no project or task that can't be improved or made more effective by the inclusion of women on the organizing committee. Take for example, the Christmas party which was short on food and the festive touch of yuletide decorations. A mere male, noticed that oversight – after prompting from his wife!

So how do we encourage more women to enter "the halls of power"—the executive boardroom and endure the daunting spectacle of a chorus of male voices? Short of rewriting our "charter of rights" (without a not-withstanding clause) to guarantee a set number of council positions for women, what can we do? Women, I gather, want to be there on their own merits and because they can contribute to the welfare of the Society. KHS males, being gentlemen, would not dare say "Put up or sign off"! So it's over to you ladies - this space is yours for rebuttal!



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

You may notice that this year's photograph of the KHS Council looks the same as last year's (*below*). Well it is the same because the Council membership is the same. As editor, I could have said let's not bother but then I thought that we should recognize and that you should know who the hardworking folks are that attend all those extra meetings. These include not only the regular Council meeting each month but also the gatherings to prepare *Limelight* and *Historic Kingston* for mailing, meetings of the Murney Tower Committee, the Sir John A. Dinner and June 6th Memorial Service Committees and probably many other meetings of which I am not even aware. All of these hours of preparation allow the KHS to function efficiently so that we, the members, can indulge our passion for the history of Kingston and Canada.

You will also read in this edition the Scribbler's call to KHS women to increase their representation on Council. As a more recent silver or white-haired addition to the Council and one who also noticed the gender make-up, I asked about this recently of a younger and "not silver-haired" member of Council, **Ted Huber**. He informed me that **Brian Osborne** recruited him to join the Council and of Brian's many efforts to recruit new, younger, and female members to Council. The health of any organization depends on regular infusion of new blood which should bring new energy and new ideas. And yes the make up of the executive should represent the group. Is that what we need? Does it really matter if it comes in a male or female form as long as we respect one another and are not in any way exclusive and limiting?



photo by Jennifer McKendry 2005

front, left to right: Jack Pike (Councillor 2006), Marc Létourneau (Councillor 2006), John Fielding (editor, *Limelight* 2006), Heather Home (Councillor 2006), Ted Huber (Councillor 2006), Doug Petty (Councillor 2006), Bob Andrews (Councillor 2006), John Abbott (Councillor 2006).

back, left to right: Maurice Smith (President 2006), Ed Grenda (Vice President 2006), Warren Everett (chair, Murney Tower Committee 2006), Brian Osborne (Past President 2006), Gordon Sinclair (Treasurer 2006), Alan MacLachlan (General Secretary 2006)
Missing: Jane Errington (editor, *Historic Kingston* 2006)

LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES

CITY PARK

by Shirley Gibson-Langille



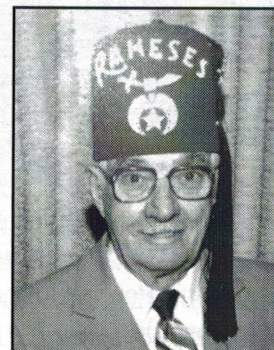
I did this oil painting in 1965 while attending the Summer School of Fine Arts at Queens University. It was a beautiful sunny day in July when our instructors took us out on location to the City Park. I set up my easel at the west side of the park at Barrie and Stuart Streets. Looking down the path to the east side of the park on West and Wellington Streets, you can see the 1914-1918 war memorial to the Twenty-First Canadian Infantry Battalion.

On 7 June 1993, my dear Dad, Angus McGregor, passed away. I was heartbroken and I wanted to do something in his memory. My father was very proud of being a Shriner. He had been a Master Mason in the Freemasonry Fraternity and then became a member of the Scottish Rite before becoming a Noble of the Shrine. Not only did he enjoy the deep friendships and good fellowship he shared with his fellow Shriners, he also enjoyed supporting their many functions such as the Shrine Circus. It helped fund 22 Shriner Hospitals for Children, 18



orthopaedic hospitals, three burn hospitals, and one hospital that provides orthopaedic, burn, and spinal-cord injury care. These hospitals have cured or helped more than 650,000 children at no cost to parent or child since the first Shriner Hospital opened in 1922. The Kingston District Shrine Club has functioned since 1921.

Because of this, I decided to donate one of my paintings to the Kingston District Shrine Club in memory of my Dad. Looking through my paintings, I came across this one of the City Park and decided it was the perfect choice. Today, it proudly hangs in the Kingston District Shrine Club's lounge with a plaque on it reading, *"In memory of Noble Angus McGregor."*



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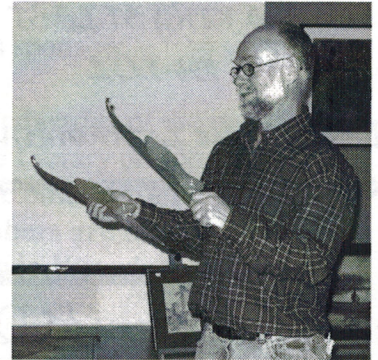
SPEAKERS' CORNER

with John Abbott

Photographs by Jennifer McKendry



Thanks to the generosity of donors and KHS members who were prepared to venture out into the murk of a dark and dank February evening to attend an AGM and auction, **Douglas Petty** (right) and **Warren Everett** were able, once again, to work their magic and generate \$1198.00 for the support of the Murney Tower Museum. Auctions, of course, are dynamic and unpredictable events, though a shrewd auctioneer may choreograph the dance of opportunities in such a way as to ignite a bidding war, if the tinder for such exists in the audience. Doug and Warren obviously recognized that potential in a tiny watercolour painting of the Penny Bridge from the east side of the river (right), and made it the last offering of the evening. At that point, Doug surrendered the gavel to a volunteer so that he might bid on the item himself. Then serendipity played its elegant hand. The challenge to auction this choice item of local interest was accepted, not by an amateur, but by a mere novice. Maurice Smith, humbly and eloquently, spun his web of words. Doug Petty, the keen bidder, several times peered closely at the painting, scrutinizing it carefully and, by the way, breathed warm jets on the flickering fires of interest abroad in the audience. The kindling took, the competitive fires blazed, the little painting brought close to \$400.00, and the members of the Society spilled out onto Johnson Street all agog at the wonders the gods had wrought.



Another watercolor causing a bidding war was this view of Fort Henry from Cedar Island

Please mark Wednesday, March 15th on your calendar!

Our next monthly meeting, in the library at 7:30PM, sounds intriguing. Sir John A. Macdonald's long life, his multifarious interests and connections, and his presence at the creation have made his career the life's work of many an historian. One would have thought that every morsel of information had long since been winkled out of the archival

shell. **Professor Keith Johnson's** discovery of John A's connection with one of the most prominent slavery states in the ante-bellum American south suggests otherwise. Come and bring your friends to hear Keith Johnson present "John A. Macdonald's Forgotten Uncle James Shaw, the Clark Sisters, and the Georgia Connection."