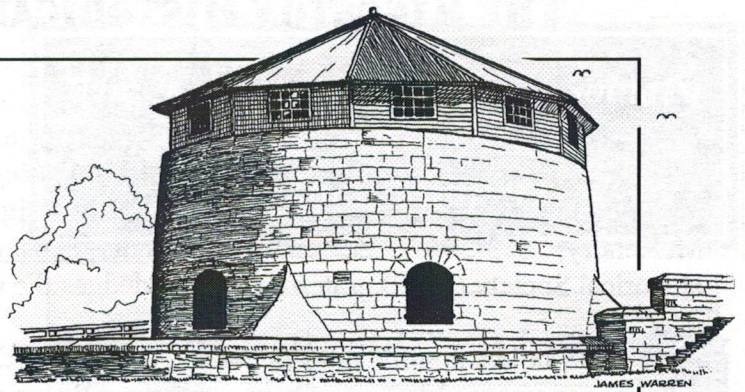


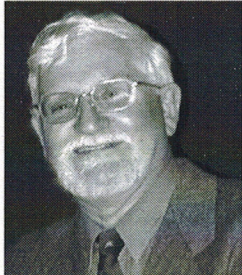
LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The symbols marking the origins of Canada, and Kingston are everywhere across England, France, China, the world. How pleasant it is then to encounter one of these symbols atop a hill overlooking the

Thames River downriver from London. Below, at the bottom of the hill, the old Naval College and National Maritime Museum at Greenwich while across the river, Canary Wharf, a massive development, known to a few of us, as a massive symbol of Canadian enterprise. A lady, one of three, identified herself as Russian. She asked me, "Who is this person?" She, like me, had read the inscription below the statue that looks north toward Scotland. "James Wolfe, 1727 - 1859, Victor of Quebec. This Monument a Gift of the Canadian People was Unveiled on the Fifth of June 1930 by Le Marquis De Montcalm.". The lady was in age, a post 1989 Russian, familiar with lost empires. "You are?" she inquired.

"Canadian", I said and told her about September 1759 and the Plains of Abraham. She knew immediately, the Canadian French - English situation, holding up her hand and tipping it gently with the usual quizzical expression on her face. From this she drew upon a relationship shared by her Russia and my Canada, between us and what she called, "Uncle Sam." The arc of the conversation had jumped into arcane territory, easy for strangers in a benign location where each of us was straddling the line at Greenwich that divides the east and western hemispheres. Symbols are complex as are words; particularly to a third generation removed from a statue erected June 1930.

All of this commentary is to congratulate the Founding Members of The Wolfe Island Historical Society in their new enterprise and adventures in history ahead of them.

Maurice Smith

THIS MONTH'S MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 17 MAY, 7:30PM

"The Core of the Matter"
a panel discussion about Kingston's downtown

Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library, Johnson @ Bagot

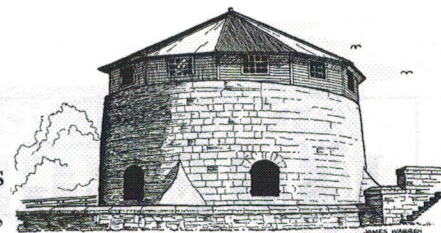
refreshments

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.

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Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6

website www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca

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WILLIAM JAMES SUTCLIFFE died on April 7, aged 91. He joined the KHS executive in 1970 and served as treasurer from 1971 to 1974 and was soon followed into important KHS offices by fellow *Whig-Standard* employees Emma Molson and Neil Patterson.

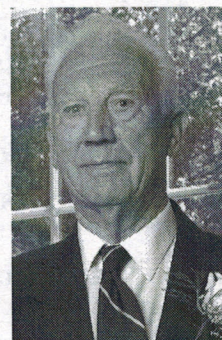


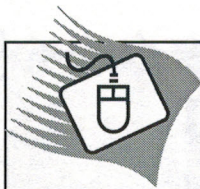
Although not a rabid history buff, "Jim" Sutcliffe and his wife, Margaret FitzGerald, made history when their only daughter, Helen, became the first female mayor of Kingston in 1988. Helen remembers him as a modest, self-effacing

gentleman who rarely spoke of his Second World War service in the Australian army and found joy in retirement as a carpenter refinishing antique furniture. For their part, *Whig* retirees remember "Mr. Sutcliffe" as a

kindly, considerate executive whose quiet counsel was eagerly sought and respected.

BERNARD HENRY BURDSALL died on April 23 at the age of 85. A retired Bell Canada employee and former RAF officer (WWIT 40 Squadron), "Bernie" was active in several local organisations, including KHS and the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes. For many of us, he was the loyal assistant to our industrious Life Member, his wife, Margaret Burdsall. It was clear to all that whatever task she undertook, be it membership lists or the distribution and invoicing of *Historic Kingston*, Bernie was her loyal co-worker. We benefited much from his years of quiet service on our behalf.





Cyberspace & the Parker Journal

Bob Andrews



One of the most useful aspects of cyberspace is that one may find answers to questions. Recently, while annotating the Parker Journal, I read through a chapter which described circumstances in May of 1838, when Parker and his colleagues were on their way to Quebec aboard the *HMS Pique*. The ship spent 17 days ice-bound in the Canso Strait between Cape Breton Island and the Nova Scotia mainland. They took shelter in a bay on the south side of Isle Madame near the small community of Arichat [Arrichat as spelled by Parker]. In his description of the village, the Royal Marine subaltern wrote:

In the village is one Protestant and two Romish Churches. The largest, a Romish, is built of wood, painted white, and has a high spire, and has in the landscape a very remarkable appearance, being isolated and so majestic in comparison to the puny buildings around.

Always happy to find a footnote, I wondered what these churches might be, so I explored the internet for some information. Relatively quickly, I discovered that the "Protestant Church" was St. John's [Anglican] and one of the "Romish Churches" was probably Notre

Dame de l'Assomption but I couldn't be sure of that as the one picture I found of a large Roman Catholic church on Isle Madame showed a substantial building with two towers, and not the "high spire" of which Parker wrote. However, the Isle Madame Historical Society has a website and an e-mail address. About 3PM, I sent off a query to the Society, expecting to hear from them within a month.

At 5:30, the same day, the phone rang and a woman's voice at the other end asked to speak to me. When I assured her that I was indeed the person asked for, she said, "this is Donna Boudrot from the Isle Madame Historical Society responding to your request." After I recovered from my surprise, we had a delightful chat about the Parker Journal and churches and Isle Madame in general. I discovered that the high spire was removed from Notre Dame and the twin towers were added when the church became a cathedral [albeit short-lived] later in the 19th century. The Anglican church is used only once a month and the other Romish Church must have been the one at West Arichat a couple of miles away.

The Isle Madame Historical Society has given new meaning to the biblical admonition, "Seek and ye shall find", and prove that Cape Bretoners are among the world's friendliest folk.

ST GEORGE'S SPRING ANTIQUES FAIR

Thanks to the generosity and vision of antiques specialist, John Ford, a revived St George's Spring Antiques Fair, with 30 booths, will happen on **Friday, 19 May** and **Saturday, 20 May** at the Portsmouth Olympic Harbour Building. The Friday Gala Opening is 6 to 9PM while Saturday's hours are 10 to 4. Admission to Friday's Opening is by passport, available at the Cathedral Office and Church Bookroom (90

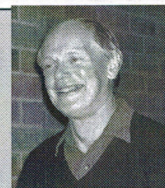
Johnson St.) for \$15 each or \$25 for two. Enjoy the ceremonial opening by Queen Elizabeth II (a.k.a. Rita McGrattan). Passport holders are invited to the Friday evening reception, as well as re-admission on Saturday. Saturday costs \$5 at the door. Refreshments will be on sale all day.

For more information, and to reserve passports, call Sarah Pugh at St. George's Cathedral, 548-4617 ext. 24.

SPEAKERS' CORNER

with John Abbott

Photographs by Jennifer McKendry



On Wednesday, 19 April, the members of the Kingston Historical Society were guests of the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation, in their new facility at 72 Gilmour Avenue. Fifty-six members and friends listened with rapt attention as **Sue Bazely** guided us through the thicket of legislation determining the role of archaeological investigation in the development and redevelopment of land in Ontario. Of particular interest was her careful correlation of the stages required by legislation, with the excavation and documentation of Kingston's Market Square. We were impressed by the importance of archival research in determining test pits and trenches. Skilful

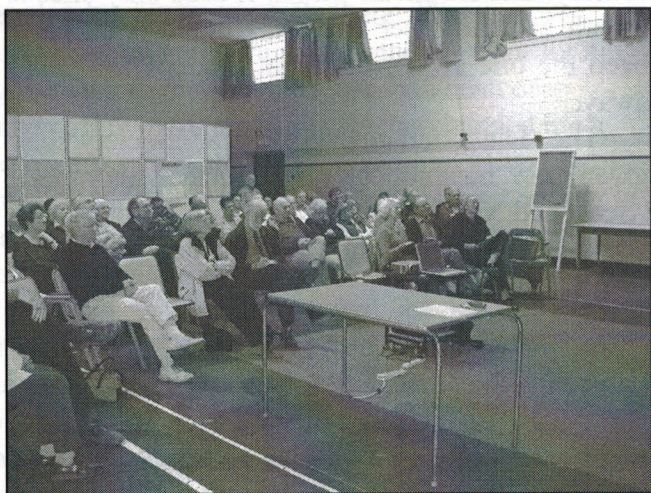


detective work enabled the archaeologists to work efficiently, to tight time lines, in uncovering evidence of the original market building, an earlier market shambles, a guard house and an earthen berm associated with earlier fortifications. The excavations did make a difference. The contractor was able to locate the pads for the ice surface among the walls and piers located by the investigators, thus preserving rather than destroying valuable artifacts. We were also impressed by

the hardiness of the archaeological crew, who worked through the rigours of two Novembers.

May Meeting in the Kingston Public Library

Only a few small cities in North America have managed to retain vital and varied commercial life in their central business districts. Kingston is one of the few where, even in winter, retail streets such as Princess, King, Brock and Ontario may be thronged with shoppers. Three retailers with long experience in the trade have agreed to join in a panel on Wednesday, 17 May at 7:30PM to present their views and discuss the past, present and future of retailing with members and visitors. Join **Marc Raymond** of Marc F. Raymond, Opticians; **John Berry** of Berry and Petersen, Book Dealers, Used and Rare; and **Karl Kragland** of the Block and Cleaver, as they get to "The Core of the Matter" in our last meeting of the 2005/6 winter/spring series



OPEN HOUSE

Parks Canada will be holding a public open house as part of its public consultation on the long-term plans for the Kingston Fortifications National Historic Site of Canada (Shoal Tower, Murney Tower, Cathcart Tower and Fort Frederick) in Memorial Hall, City Hall, on **Thursday, 25 May, 3 – 8 PM**. For a copy of the public consultation newsletter or for additional information: John Grenville, NHS Program Manager, at 545-8666, ext. 102, or e-mail John.Grenville@pc.gc.ca

Please join us on **Saturday, 30 September** for the fourth annual

KHS Autumn Excursion

The OLD & NEW in HISTORIC JEFFERSON COUNTY

- * explore the historic and contemporary architecture of Watertown Square in Watertown
- * tour the 1860s Paddock House, now home to Jefferson County Historical Society
- * enjoy a sumptuous buffet at the Partridge Berry Inn
- * followed by a tour of the 1801 Burrville Cider Mill (the oldest building in Jefferson County)
- * tour the Madison Barracks and the Sackets Harbour Battlefield
- * end the day with a stop at Tibbetts Point and its lighthouse in Cape Vincent and a refreshing stop at the Thousand Islands Winery

The cost, including travel by motor-coach, lunch, wine tasting, all admissions and tours, is \$75 per person for KHS members and \$90 for non-members. Please send a cheque made out to the Kingston Historical Society to:

The KHS Autumn Excursion c/o Alan MacLachlan
P.O. Box 230, Kingston ON K7L 4V8

CALL FOR HELP! *Historic Kingston* Out of Print Volumes

Here is your chance to preserve the legacy of the Kingston Historical Society. *Historic Kingston*, the annual journal of papers, has been so popular with researchers and collectors since its first issue in 1952 that 30 volumes are now out of print. We have one file copy of each but we are missing extra copies for many. We would like to re-do the indexes and complete the index for volumes 45 to 55. We would also like to begin to computerize the

text for all editions. We need at least two copies of each of Volumes 1 through 20, 24, 30, 31, 33, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, and 54. If you wish to contribute to this KHS project please help us locate at least three copies of each volume for the period 1952 thru 1995. Your donations would assure their future use by the KHS. Please call **Donna Ivey**, who has kindly volunteered to begin the Indexing project, at 385-2696 for pick-up or information.

ART, HISTORY & MUSIC FEST *If Walls Could Talk*

Featuring 75 paintings of Kingston Wall Scenes by **Shirley Gibson-Langille** from Saturday, **19 August** to Friday, **25 August**, 10am-4pm, except Sunday, 11am-4 pm, in the Bethel Church Gym, 314 Johnson Street. Free admission. The official show opening on Saturday, 19 August at 11am, features a history talk by Dr Brian Osborne, as well as wall poems by Iva Spears and Judy Serson and the

appearance of Theresa's ghost (played by Barbara Monk). Join us for a walking tour of the walls of Kingston by Vivian Stone on Sunday, 20 August at 1pm. Enjoy historical displays, a ghost board and other games. The artist will be in attendance daily from 10am to 4pm. Updates: 549-8360 or email shirley.gibson-langille@sympatico.ca website shirleygibsonlangille.homestead.com

LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES

IF WALLS COULD TALK

by Shirley Gibson-Langille



What a joy it has been recording images of the old walls of Kingston in the area in which I grew up. It has been so nostalgic for me. Do you remember my story of "The Secret Garden" at 223 King Street East? Well, Vivian and Howard Stone are now living there and I had the opportunity to look behind the door into the garden again. What a surprise. Instead of the tangled weeds and deadly nightshade, I found a brilliant coloured garden of gorgeous, tall hollyhocks growing along the limestone wall. It was wonderful being able to paint it as I had dreamed it as a child, together with the butterflies.

On leaving 223 King, I ventured into the backyard of 232 King Street, the house where we had once lived. I sneaked halfway up the driveway and then lost my nerve. Besides, I didn't remember there having been any walls there. That very evening, an amazing thing happened. I went for a regular visit to the Renauds who had been dear friends of my parents. Wava Renaud handed me a photograph of me she had found when I lived at 232 King. Would you believe it? There I was standing in that very yard in front of a limestone wall!

Another "happening" started last summer when I was painting an image of the walls beside the Toucan off Princess Street. It was then that I renewed an old friendship with John McCullough who had been a schoolmate of mine at Sydenham Public School. After reminiscing about our shared schooldays, John invited me to drop around sometime and meet his wife Lois. I tried to do so, but I had mistaken where they lived. Later, my friend Lisa Russell told me of a

wall she remembered at the back of a house on the west side of Gore Street, but I couldn't find it. Nor did a lady standing in her yard at the corner of Wellington know of any walls there either. But we got chatting about her garden and the next thing I knew I was invited into her house. I walked inside and I could hardly believe my eyes. There, in her kitchen, was a magnificent stone wall with an alcove going into the rest of the house and I knew I had to paint it. It was then I found out her name: Lois McCullough, John's wife! Later, John recounted the exciting history of the house. The main part was built in 1828 as a Christian Brothers elementary school. In 1867, it was sold to the Brophy family who turned it into a house and added the kitchen in 1919. Interestingly, it was said to have been haunted during the Brophy years. Mona Mulligan bought it about 1978 and then the McCullough's bought it in 1999.

At my August show "If Walls Could Talk" (please see details bottom p. 5), you will find more experiences. If the walls won't talk to you, hopefully, my paintings will!



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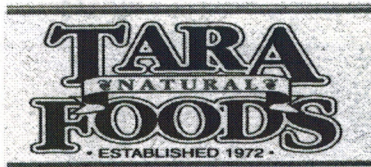
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KHS invites you to remember Sir John A. Macdonald in an event on 6 June that combines pageantry and history in a special outdoor setting.

Please join us on **Tuesday, 6 June** at **1:30PM** in Kingston's **Catarqui Cemetery** to remember Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, who died on 6 June 1891. This annual commemorative ceremony features members of the Fort Henry Guard, local schools, Bellevue House staff in period dress, city officials, as well as many dignitaries and representatives of local organizations who will be laying wreaths at the grave. The guest speaker for this, the 115th graveside ceremony commemorating the death of Sir John A. Macdonald, will be **SEAN CONWAY**, former MPP and now Director of the Institute of Intergovernmental Relations at Queen's University.

Before accepting his appointment at Queen's University, Sean Conway served as a member of the Ontario Legislative Assembly from 1975 until 2003. Among his other responsibilities, during the Liberal Government of Premier David Peterson, he served

as Minister of Education, Minister of Mines, and as Government House Leader. He is a regular panelist on the TVO public affairs program, Studio 2. Mr. Conway holds a graduate degree in history from Queen's University and has taught at both Queen's and Wilfrid Laurier universities. While not cut from the same political cloth as Sir John, Sean Conway has long admired the political flexibility and personal savvy of the "Old Chieftain" and hence the title of his somewhat partisan address on this occasion: "*William Lyon Mackenzie King's Sir John A. Macdonald.*"



Before and after the ceremony, all visitors are welcome to tour the historic and picturesque Catarqui Cemetery (927 Purdy Mills Road, off Counter Street).

Refreshments will be served in the outdoors chapel following the ceremony.

We look forward to seeing you, your family, and your organization or group.