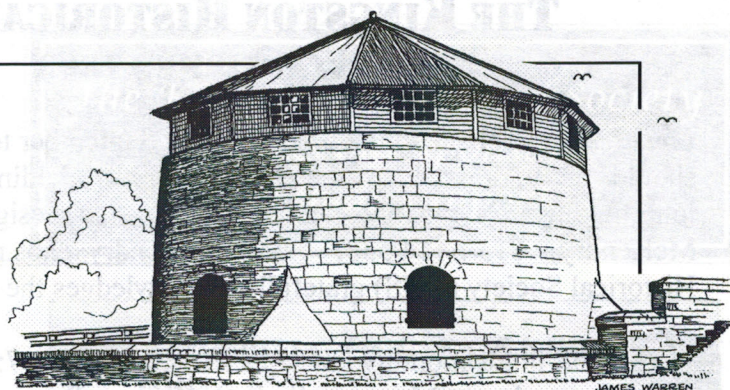


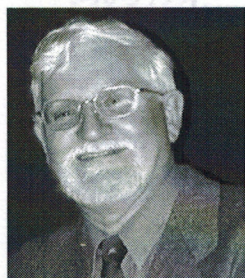
LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome back!

There is a municipal election with the vote taking place on 13 November. This is an opportunity to challenge, question and ask your aspiring Council representatives what they will do, when elected, about preserving our city's heritage. Many tourists, as well as those who call this home, are attracted and fascinated by the architecture, the market square project, heritage-based events and the historic ambiance. Heritage is an integral part of the lifeblood of this city.

On another subject, we need to be a bit theatrical, because our 'impresarios' have arranged a full programme of talks on Wednesday evenings, a KHS fall tour and a Christmas party.

Our sympathy to the family of Marion Wallace who died in July. She took a strong interest in our Society and was an authority on family history and the photographs and paintings

of her grandfather, William Sawyer (1820-89).

A new walking-tour guide, written by Brian Osborne and Jennifer McKendry (who also did the photography), has been published by KEDCO. Murney Tower is featured and the KHS web address is included in the references. It is this kind of publication, at a reasonable \$2, that will communicate with thousands of individuals who might otherwise not have the opportunity to find out about us. A recent KHS publication, *The City of Kingston Portrait Collection* by Marjorie Simmons, seems to be doing well.

We hope you make regular use of our web site at www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca and remember your Society discount when you make purchases at Novel Idea bookstore.

Your membership and support makes what we do possible. What better time to bring a new member to a Society meeting than the beginning of the fall season?

Maurice Smith

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER, 7:30PM

Paul Banfield, Queen's University Archivist, on

**"In the Beginning If You Don't Succeed . . .
The First Faculty of Law At Queen's University"**

Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library, Johnson @ Bagot

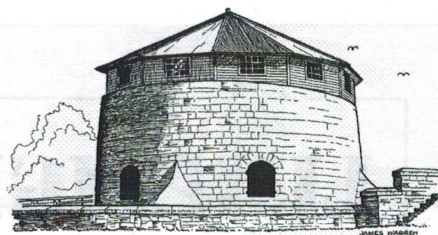
refreshments

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.

Kingston Historical Society
Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6

website www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca

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Douglas Petty
Jack Pike



Bill Patterson, Brian Osborne, Sue Bazely, Maurice Smith, Ron Ridley and Jennifer McKendry were among the many KHS members who contributed background information for the Whig-Standard's special insert to celebrate July 1st: *The People Who Built Kingston. Portraits of Progress: a Canada Day journey into our city's past.*

Photograph by Michael Lea, courtesy of the Kingston Whig-Standard

WALKING HISTORIC KINGSTON

By John Fielding

WHEN IT COMES TO HISTORIC WALKS, Kingston has something for everyone now that *Exploring Downtown Kingston: Interesting Places & Spaces* is available!

Scenario One

You have lived in Kingston for 17 years and have always enjoyed the historic core of this wonderful city. It seems every time you walk around downtown or drive along King Street or Sydenham Ward, you notice different, interesting buildings. You are fascinated by the eclectic architecture of homes, commercial and institution buildings but you have never taken the time to investigate the history of these structures. Now there is a walking tour for you – *Exploring Downtown Kingston*. Researched and written by **Jennifer McKendry & Brian Osborne**, this 36-page booklet, selling for \$2, is a steal. It has detailed descriptions for both the heritage and architectural features of about 3 dozen buildings and spaces. The narrative is friendly and engaging while not being condescending. Salubrious, as in “salubrious environs of the lake-shore and urban park.” you understood. Transmogrified as in “The date-stone transmogrified “Murray” into the hybrid “Murnay.” you correctly guessed at the meaning. But bruited as in “...its solid symmetry and harmony bruited abroad Classicism’s declaration of order and authority.” sent you to your dictionary.

Scenario Two

You made the decision to visit Kingston because you have heard so much about Kingston’s historic core

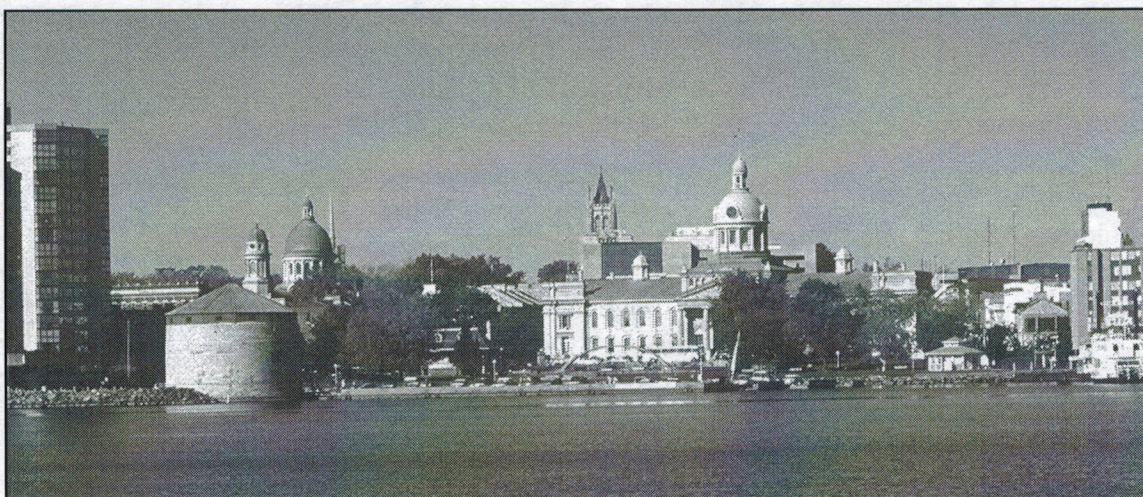
and how “so much of the community’s former material fabric has survived to remind residents and visitors alike of this rich history.” (from *Exploring Downtown Kingston*). You have enjoyed detailed and enlightening historical walks in the past in other communities and you can’t think of a better way to learn about Kingston’s past and present. This guide book at \$2 is perfect. Oh yes it is also an excellent review of the differences between Doric, Ionic and Corinthian columns.

Scenario Three

It is early in the day and you have booked in at Confederation Basin for the evening before heading up the Rideau Canal. The historic buildings fascinate you so you inquire about a walking tour of Kingston at the Tourist Information. They offer three clear choices: a brochure introducing *The Haunted Walk* that is available most evenings during the summer (www.hauntedwalk.com); *The Key to Kingston* (August 2006) which contains a section called “historic kingston: an illustrated tour”, an eight page insert with colourful maps, names, dates and enough detail to satisfy most tourists (including 65 significant structures); finally, KEDCO’s newest publication *Exploring Downtown Kingston: Interesting Places & Spaces* by McKendry & Osborne.



Which scenario are you? The decision is yours but all walks lead to learning more about the history of Kingston.



Kingston’s downtown skyline by Jennifer McKendry who was the photographer for *Exploring Downtown Kingston: Interesting Places & Spaces*

AN HISTORICAL SERENDIPITY
a KHS outing to Sacket's Harbor on 5 June 1976
and a KHS tour on 30 September 2006
~ please join us on this great trip ~

While cataloguing in the KHS Room at the Queen's University Archives, Donna Ivey discovered a 1976 KHS Outing folder, labelled "The Sackett's Harbour Outing." This event, priced at the amazing rate of \$8 per person, included a tour of the Pickering Beach Museum, tea, and a Wagar motor coach ride. (Would that we could do it for that rate today!) A full bus of 47 KHS members went on the outing with a waiting list of six. It is interesting to note that the Pickering Beach Museum is located in the 1817 home of August Pickering, a shipbuilder who built the first commercial ship which sailed into Chicago harbour. Also of interest: the Wagar Coach charged the Society only \$129 for the day, which is 12% of the 2006 tour. (If any of the KHS members who went on that 1976 outing, want to recount some of their experiences, the editor would be pleased to receive them.)

Now, 30 years later, we are returning to **Sacket's Harbor** and also to **Watertown** but this time with a different itinerary. In Watertown, we will tour the 1860s Paddock House, built by Loveland Paddock and home of the Jefferson County Historical Society. We will then take a walking tour of the Watertown Square, including a visit to the Flower Memorial Library (erected in 1904 by Emma Flower Taylor in memory of her father, ex-governor Roswell P. Flower). This will be followed by a tour of the 1851 Paddock Arcade, which was the first "indoor mall" in the United States. Following the architectural tour, we will dine at the Partridge Berry Inn with a sumptuous luncheon buffet. The 1801 Burrville Cider Mill, the oldest building in Jefferson County, will be the first stop on the afternoon itinerary and includes tasting and explanations of the process.

In Sacket's Harbor, we will have the good

fortune to hear a short talk by CDR Tyrone G. Martin USN (Ret.) who is the leading expert on the *USS Constitution* (a frigate), under his command for three years. His talk will compare the *USS Constitution* frigate with another, the *USS Superior*, built in Sacket's Harbor during the War of 1812. Following the talk, we will explore the Battlefield Houses and have a tour of the Madison Barracks by Bob Brennan, the resident historian of Sacket's Harbor. Our day will end magnificently with a visit to a new winery in Jefferson County.

NOTE: You will NOT be allowed on the motor coach unless you have a PASSPORT or BIRTH CERTIFICATE. *It is better to have a passport.* Also, be sure to have picture identification, if you do not have a passport.

DEPARTURE TIME & PLACE:

SATURDAY

30 SEPTEMBER at 7:45AM

in the parking lot behind MacIntosh-Corry Hall at Queen's University on Union Street. **DEADLINE** for registration is Thursday, 21 September. For further information: 613-549-8841. The cost, including travel by motor coach, lunch, wine tasting all admissions and tours is **\$75 CAD** per person for KHS members and \$90 for non-members. Please include your phone number and 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

(Alan will also accept registrations at the KHS monthly meeting on Wed., 20 Sept., 7:30PM, in the library.)

Sir John A. Macdonald Remembered on 6 June 2006

On 6 June 2006, the Kingston Historical Society commemorated the 115th anniversary of the death of Canada's first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of all levels of government, Queen's University, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, and an array of professional and fraternal organisations of which Sir John was a member. No doubt, he would have been particularly proud of the presence of Sgt. Sandy Fraser of the RCMP who laid the wreath on behalf of the Government of Canada. And, certainly, Sir John would have been most interested in the programme insert, a sensitive essay on Macdonald's "Invisible Lady," his first wife, Isabella, prepared by John Coleman and his colleagues at Bellevue House.

As the invited speaker this year, **Sean Conway** presented an imaginative and scholarly address on the theme of "William Lyon Mackenzie King's Sir John A. Macdonald." Himself no stranger to partisan politics, Mr. Conway effected a nuanced and witty engagement with WLMK's preoccupation with Sir John, his lifetime career, and his post-life communications.

In conclusion, in assessing the outcome of this special day for the Society, Kingston, and Canada, it was a mixed performance. As in the past, the well manicured grounds of this beautiful setting provided a most appropriate backdrop for the ceremony

performed on the slopes leading to Sir John's grave. Surely the Anglicans in the Society's June 6th committee had used their contacts to arrange good weather! The ceremony was most ably choreographed by Peter Radley who kept a watchful eye over the Fort Henry Guard whose piper, bugler, and guardsmen provided a colourful and most

appropriate accompaniment to this historical event. We should also be pleased at the 150 students who attended and participated in the musical accompaniments. But, if there is a disappointment, it is that this grand event is not better attended. To be sure, it is well supported by the loyal core of the Society, but where are our fellow Kingstonians? Where are our fellow Canadians? Like the graves of the other Canadian prime-ministers, Sir John's is

a National Historical Site. But this is the grave of Canada's "first" prime minister and, as such, should be better recognized by us all. We will strive to do better to pursue this cause.

As chair of the Committee for the Memorial Service, I wish to thank my fellow members who each undertook particular responsibilities: Mark Bennett, Barbara Bonner, John Coleman, Jack Grenville, Ted Huber, Marcus Létourneau, Jennifer McKendry, Alan MacLachlan, and Peter Radley.

by Brian Osborne



Shirley Gibson-Langille Captures Flavour of Local Walls!

by Gord Smithson with photography by Randy Genois

Combining the past with the present is what **Shirley Gibson-Langille** (below on the right) does best. Using imagination, creativity with colours on her canvas, and spending countless hours these past two years visiting with the owners of residential, commercial, and rural properties, Shirley has portrayed a large number of Kingston and area locations that contain walls of all sorts and sizes. In her recent presentation, "IF WALLS COULD TALK - Art, History, and Music Festival,"

Shirley has achieved her highest degree of success to date in the visual presentation of her artistic talent!

Shirley admits that the help and guidance of **Marjorie Simmons** were major factors in bringing about the successful completion of this project. Marjorie provided the inspiration, acted as advisor and consultant, and was always available as Shirley's support team. Marjorie did report, however, that Shirley recently said to her, "If I get in trouble with this project, you're in trouble".

The highlights of the Opening Ceremonies on 19 August in the gym of Bethel Church included the piping in of the guests of honour by **Stan Bendle** the "Moscow Piper" and then a presentation by **Brian Osborne** (top on the left) who provided the audience with an historical overview of the chronology of walls in the



Kingston area. Next was **Iva Speers** who recited one of her poems, as well as one by Judy Serson.

The climax was the appearance of the ghost of Theresa Beam (left), played by a young Kingston actress **Justine Furster**, recipient of a 2006 Domino Theatre Drama Award. Theresa Beam who died in the early 1800s, is rumoured to be a ghost that haunts the limestone corridors of Rochleau Court. Dressed in a drab 19th century costume, Justine effectively projected the ghost's inner soul seeking help from the future by repeating again and again, "Help me, I'm lost." Justine will be well remembered for her excellent rendition of this most difficult acting challenge.



Congratulations, Shirley, on another successful Art Show!

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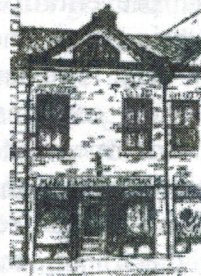
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SPEAKERS' CORNER

with John Abbott

Photographs by Jennifer McKendry



Last spring's May meeting brought together **Heather Home** (below), a Queen's University archivist specializing in local records; *left to right* **Marc Raymond**, of Marc F. Raymond Opticians; **Bill Dalton**, proprietor of Vandervoort's Hardware; and **John Berry** of Berry & Peterson, Books Used and Rare. The panelists focused on the history and future of retailing on lower Princess Street & King Street East.



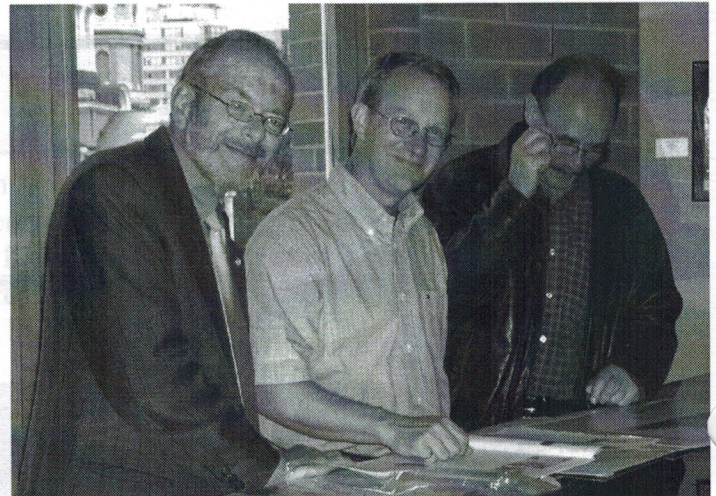
Heather's presentation consisted of historic maps, and photographs of the relevant businesses and their environs, along with an informed and fascinating commentary on the occupants' activities. This set the stage for each of the businessmen to reflect on his vocation, location and the environments, which existed when he began his career, the

changes that have marked its evolution, and the implications for small business of event tourism and the infrastructure designed to support it.

John Berry recalled the rather impoverished condition of the bookish community when he returned from London, England, in the mid 1970s, the dilapidated condition of the block of buildings he was to occupy on King Street, its renovation, and the emergence of a prosperous community of restaurants, artisans' and readers' shops whose future is threatened, he believes, by the crushing weight of event tourism.

Bill Dalton traced the recent history of Vandervoorts from a traditional hardware establishment, sustained by reasonable margins on the sale of hardware items to tradesmen, farmers and

homeowners, to one arranged to attract the adventure shopper at the front of the store, the hardware buyer in the middle, and the boater in the back. This retail revolution was a response to suburbanization and the advent of big-box home-improvement stores. Bill accepts the changes likely to be generated by the LVEC as something inevitable in the small business community, and expects to adapt to those as he has adapted to the arrival of Home Depot and Rona.



Marc Raymond also emphasized the adaptability required of small retailers, most of whom work for wages and love of the life. Like Bill Dalton, the arrival of mass marketers in the optical trade put a premium on a strategy to counter their strengths by emphasizing one's own. Marc submitted that the LVEC, had it been sited at Anglin Bay, would have drawn an extended and prosperous retail district all the way to its doors. Small businessmen, he contended, thrive in an environment of growth and competition.

The audience was impressed by the panel's professionalism and presentation skills.

for further information on the following KHS events, please see www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca

20 SEPT. at 7:30 in the library ~ **Paul Banfield** on the First Faculty of Law at Queen's University

30 SEPT. ~ KHS day bus trip to Watertown & Sackets Harbour (details on p. 4)

18 OCT. ~ **Patricia Phenix** speaks on & launches, *Private Demons: The Tragic Personal Life of John A. Macdonald* (copies for sale)

15 NOV. ~ **Donna Ivey** on R.C. Wallace, Principal of Queen's University, 1936-1951

DEC. ~ KHS Annual Christmas Party