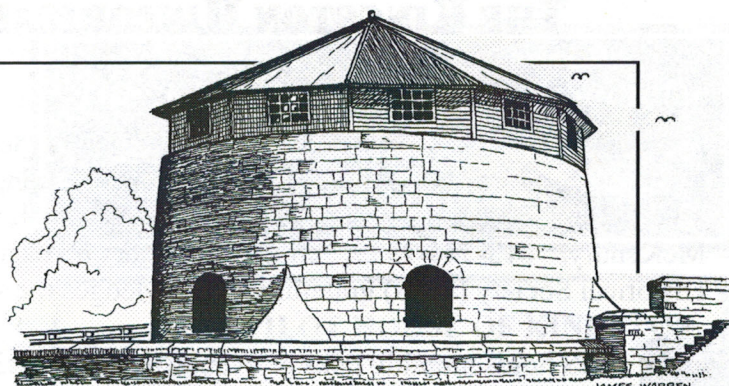


LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A few weeks ago Mr. Michel Cotte made an evaluation visit to Kingston on behalf of the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). Inscription on the World Heritage List is a long process that is now approaching a conclusion. Under consideration are Fort Henry and the four Martello Towers in Kingston, and northward to Ottawa, the Rideau Canal. These sites are the responsibility of Parks Canada and ultimately the



Canadian government. To be included on the World Heritage List, a superb distinction, sites must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one out of ten selection criteria. On the long road to Inscription, there is first the development of a Tentative List, the selection of a Nomination File, evaluation by Advisory Bodies and finally, and once a year, denial or approval of the World Heritage Committee. That decision will be made in 2007.

Along the way there were numerous helpers, many of them KHS members: our own John Grenville with Parks Canada; Warren Everett, Chair of the Murney Tower Committee and other Council Members. They were available to Mr. Cotte during his evaluation visit. Not forgotten is the Society's ongoing, year by year operation of the Murney Tower since 1925, an early recognition of the importance of this site and many others in the city.

Finally to Parks Canada, we congratulate you on achieving the ICOMOS evaluation level. That is hard work and a vivid demonstration of their dedication to the cause of historic and cultural preservation.

Maurice Smith

THIS MONTH'S MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 18 OCTOBER, 7:30PM

Patricia Phenix

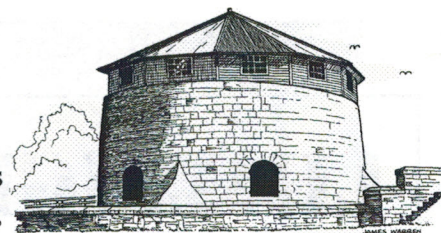
"The Private Demons of John A. Macdonald."

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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THREE EVENTS of INTEREST to KHS MEMBERS:



The Museum of Health Care presents their Annual Margaret Angus Research Evening, **Tuesday, 17 October** at 5:30PM. at the Museum of Health Care, 32 George St in the Ann Baillie building, KGH. Jennifer Lem, this year's Fellow, will present her research into the fascinating history of Dr John G. FitzGerald, an early Canadian pioneer of public vaccination programs in Canada. Admission is free and light refreshments will be served. For more information: 613-548-2419 or email museum@kgh.kari.net



The Museum of Health Care presents *Electricity and the Invisible Ray*, an exhibit opening 26 October and focusing on the exciting influence of electricity on health care in Canada at the turn of the 20th century. The centrepiece of the display will be a rare treasure—a c1910 Waite & Bartlett static generator once used for various electrotherapy treatments. All are welcome to attend the formal opening on **Thursday, 26 October** at 5PM at the Museum. After that date, the exhibit is on view, Tuesday to Friday 10AM to 4PM..



On **Wednesday, 8 November** at 7PM, The Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation presents: "A Search for Prehistoric Archaeological Sites off the Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia," by Jonathan Moore, Underwater Archaeologist with Parks Canada. This illustrated talk will describe an underwater search for evidence of early human habitation and migration along the B.C. shore some 12,000 years ago. Please join us for the Annual Archaeology Lecture, in the Kingston Archaeological Centre, 72 Gilmour Avenue. No admission charge. Information: 613-542-3483. www.carf.info

A LOYAL & DUTIFUL SERVANT

by Bill Fittell

BOGART WILSON TRUMPOUR was a warrior who fought the good fight. Sometimes a crusty curmudgeon, he enunciated his views directly, with great candour and conviction. He never knew the word "waffle."

"Bog," until his passing on 6 September 2006, wore many hats during his 84 productive years, including a navy cap with the King's crown as a wartime corvette gunnery officer. He proudly carried the initials U.E. behind a name that could traced back to the Adolphustown pioneering families, the Bogarts and the Trumpours.

A barrister and solicitor (1948-95) and Queen's Counsel, he acted with distinction for both defence and the crown. Outside the law office, he shared his time, talents and counsel with the Rotary Club of Kingston, the Navy League of Canada, the Cataraqui Cemetery the Anglican Diocese of Ontario and HMCS Cataraqui Association. In fact, he and George Vosper played a vital role working through MP Flora MacDonald, in establishing a \$7-million naval reserve base in Kingston.

At the Loyalist village of Bath, he enjoyed many summers at a modest cottage or retreat that purposely lacked the trappings of most modern summer residences.

He was a rabid fan of the Queen's Golden Gaels, vehemently opposed their switch to blue jerseys and died knowing the football team had returned to the traditional golden hue.

Another major love was history. He was a member of our Society for more than half a century and held nearly every major office for 20 consecutive years. He served as the 27th president of KHS (1974-75) and was followed in this position in 1980-81, and ten years later, by his wife Isobel Duguid Trumpour. In 1998, this devoted couple (*right*, at a KHS meeting in 2002) was honoured with the presentation of the KHS Award for distinguished service. Among many contributions, they were cited for ensuring that Sir John A. Macdonald is remembered and that his graveside is suitably preserved and enhanced.

Bogart, a federal PC candidate in 1968, was responsible for making the annual June 6 service a non-partisan affair. The late Peggy Cohoe wrote: "A casual remark, a complaint really from a non-Conservative, that they would not honour 'that rascal Macdonald' moved Bogart to mention that Washington (the first president of the U.S.A.) is honoured not for his political colours but as a distinguished first minister. Why not honour Macdonald as Canada's first prime minister?"

The Society accepted the idea of "a community and national event across political lines." Bogart organized the event, acted as master of ceremonies and publicized it nationally. Isobel led a fund-raising event that improved the site and eventually gained federal recognition and signage.

Listing the many contributions of the Trumpours, Mrs. Cohoe added a comment worthy of repeating and recording for posterity: "Believe me, the little tasks done faithfully, cheerfully and efficiently are the scaffolding of any society."

"Bog," a loyal, ethical and resolute citizen, leaves a big void and will be sorely missed. We join in extending condolences to Isobel, her three sons and grandchildren.



photo by Sarah Meharg

THE FIRST LAST SPIKE?

Was John A. Macdonald inspired by events in Kingston on 27 October 1856? If he had read Keefer's *Philosophy of Railroads*, he might have been aware of the economic and social benefits of the new technology. But, on that momentous date, the point was driven home by the arrival in Kingston of trains from Montreal and Toronto respectively.

The event was a momentous occasion, as the two trains from the former capitals of Lower Canada and Upper Canada met "at Kingston as the centre of the *United Canada*." At least the *Daily News* had not given up on the capital question! Politics aside, and even though the trains arrived late, and even though the station was three miles outside of town, the availability of daily delivery of Montreal and Toronto newspapers in the Limestone City was "but one of the many advantages which we must derive from the completion of our main line of railway communications."

So how will Kingston mark the 150th anniversary of this landmark event on **Friday, 27 October**?

- According to David Jeans of *Transport 2000*, VIA is orchestrating ceremonies at both Toronto and Montreal as trains leave with representatives from each city on board.

- Ceremonies are planned at various stations *en route*.
- Both trains should arrive at Kingston within a few minutes of each other (!) at about 2.PM.
- At 1:45PM, Deputy Mayor George, accompanied by Sir John A. Macdonald, the Town Crier, and representatives of several historical and railway organizations will address waiting passengers and spectators and then greet the Toronto and Montreal representatives.
- Following the ceremony, railway buffs are invited to board vans to visit Kingston's "old" station, the GTR bridge at Kingston Mills, and stations at Ernestown and Napanee.



Returning to Kingston, it is suggested that people might wish to dine at the former GTR station on Ontario St at Johnson (left, postcard cancelled 1911, coll. J. McKendry), "Frankie Pesto's." (A free drink for ladies and gentlemen in period costume!). Of course, David Jeans assures

us that all are welcome. If you are interested in the post-ceremony van-tour, please contact us by 20 October. George Dillon at 613-542-6519 dillonjg@kingston.net or Brian Osborne at 613-389-3080 osborneb@post.queensu.ca



Annual QUEEN'S ARCHIVES LECTURE, **Wednesday, 11 October** at 7:00 pm. This year's speaker, **Helen Humphrey**, will talk about using archival resources in the writing of prose fiction. For more information or to reserve a spot please call: 613-533-2378.



NEW HOURS ~ Queen's Archives is pleased to announce that the Reading Room will be open and Reference Services will be available until 8:00PM on WEDNESDAYS.

BOOK REVIEW: *The City of Kingston Portrait Collection: Historical Sketches & Portrait Views* by Marjorie Simmons

Reviewed by John Fielding

Photograph by Jennifer McKendry

We are a fortunate people in a fortunate city to have not only a most spectacular City Hall but also an astounding collection of paintings of former mayors, leading city officials and notable politicians. Frequently over the years, while I have guided relatives and friends who come to visit through City Hall, I have thought about the uniqueness of this collection. I have also expressed some concern about their condition and what was being done to preserve them. My questions were answered by this book although I am still concerned about the long term protection and preservation of the portraits.

I learned from a quote, in the introduction, by Professor Douglas Stewart, Art History, Queen's University that "As a collection, the series of some fifty portraits, beginning in 1842 with John Counter, and running down to figures of the period of World War II is outstanding. It is probably unique in Canada in its scope. As a collection of civic

portraits it reflects that tremendous pride in civic life and achievements which was such a distinctive feature of 19th and early 20th century life. It is the same spirit which led to the erection of the City Hall."

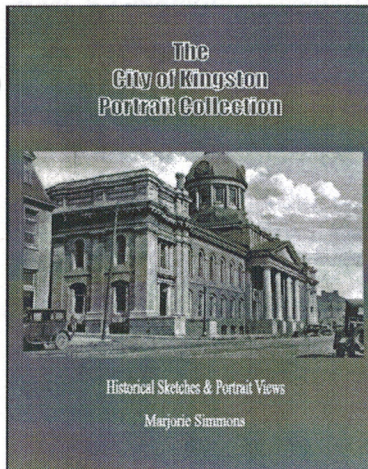
I also learned that the portraits I showed my friends were rescued thanks, in no small measure, to Marjorie Simmons and her 1973 Restoration Project. While cataloguing the collection in 1972, she noted the deterioration of many of the paintings. As a result a Portrait Tercentenary Committee was established under the guidance of

Douglas R. Fluhrer, the City Administrator, who directed that damaged portraits be repaired, cleaned and refurbished by 27 December 1973. The deadline was met although some portraits still in need of repair were rescheduled for completion at a later date. Despite this reassurance I think Kingstonians should still have some concerns about the portraits. As noted in this book on page 128, "All works of art are constantly in danger of damage from three principal sources- 1. Changes of temperature and relative humidity. 2. Contamination by atmospheric pollutants. 3. Neglect including accidental damage."

I am sure *The City of Kingston Portrait Collection* represents a labour of love for Marjorie Simmons and we can all appreciate the wonderful work she has done, as well as Gordon Smithson, the designer, editor and typesetter. We should also thank the Kingston Historical Society for their financial assistance.

My only personal comments, and I do this because a reviewer is obligated to have a few critical thoughts, is that a chronological rather than an alphabetical organization of the portraits of the mayors would seem to me to make more sense and to which it would be easier to relate. Also the research is uneven with three pages for some mayors and a quarter page for others. I don't expect all to be the same length, after all John Counter's story as mayor of Kingston is undoubtedly more significant than most, but John McKane Hughes quarter page left me wondering why he deserved such little space.

For all of you who are interested in the heritage of our wonderful city this book is a very useful addition to your library of local history and a valuable resource for future generations. Thank you Marjorie!



LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES

The Story of a Missing Painting

by Shirley Gibson-Langille



The ominous headline of the City section of the *Kingston Whig Standard* on Monday, 25 September 1989 was, "FAMOUS LOCAL PAINTING GOES MISSING."

The painting in question was my watercolour of the Cataraqui Real Estate office that had appeared on the previous Saturday on the cover of the *Whig-Standard Magazine*. It was advertising my upcoming Exhibition of Cataraqui Village.

The trouble had started on Friday the 22nd, just as the remainder of "Hurricane Hugo" hit town. I had picked up my painting at the *Whig Standard* offices on King Street, fully intending to take it directly to my car that was parked on William Street just below King Street. But, to do this, I had to pass Cards Bakery and my sweet tooth just wouldn't let me. Somehow the painting never made it into my car.

It was very windy and it had started to rain. I think with all the boxes and bags from the bakery, and rushing to get them into the car, I may

have set the painting on the roof of the car and drove away...without the painting! I put an advertisement right away in the *Whig Standard's* "Lost and Found" column and they called me back to do a story on it. Unfortunately, the painting never showed up but it sure did give me great publicity for the show!

The real reason I had painted that building in the first place was because of its historical significance. It had originally been the Methodist-United Church Parsonage that had been built in 1851 on land purchased from Daniel Ferris and donated by William Jackson Jr. Located on the west side of Sydenham Road on town lot 4, at that time, it was a one-storey structure with its kitchen in the basement. All the front lawn was a vegetable garden with a path in the middle up to the door. The building was remodeled and enlarged in 1892.

Ironically, while I was working on this story in January 2005, Cards Bakery was destroyed by fire!



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PAINTING GOES
MISSING"**

*proclaimed the
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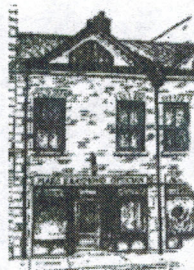
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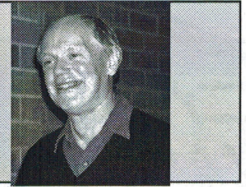
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SPEAKERS' CORNER

with John Abbott
Photograph by Jennifer McKendry



At the KHS September meeting, **Paul Banfield**, Head of Archives at Queen's University, revealed something that few of us had known: that Queen's Law School has experienced three iterations. The present School has existed for only 50 years. The first School, which was the subject of Paul's address, was founded in 1861 and petered out only three years later, in 1864.

It was born of the University's desire to make itself whole. By adding law to theology and medicine Queen's would complete the professional triumvirate. The Kingston legal profession would also enhance its own and the city's stature in an increasingly competitive environment, given that the higher courts and The Law Society of Upper Canada were located in Toronto.

The first Law School failed for a variety of reasons. The Law Society refused to modify its residential requirements for graduates of the Queen's School, on the

ostensible ground that their legal education required them to be present in Toronto when the higher courts were in session. This, of course, rendered the costs of a legal education more than many could entertain and reduced the enrolment potential of the school. The unresolved controversy in the matter of public funding for denominational colleges left Queen's unable to subsidize its law school until it worked out a satisfactory arrangement with the Law Society. Finally, the instructors, drawn from the Kingston legal community, refused to continue to teach in return for the fees paid by students on the ground that this was an initial and temporary arrangement.

We look forward not only to a time in the near future when Paul will examine the second attempt but also to a meeting where some who were present at the creation of the third and present Law School might enlighten us as to its origins.



FORTHCOMING ~ Little more than a week before this month's meeting in the library on 18 October at 7:30PM, McClelland & Stewart will have published the most recent study of Kingston's most famous son, a book entitled *Private Demons: The Tragic Personal Life of John A. Macdonald*. From the Macdonald family journals, diaries and letters emerges the evidence to confirm John A's contention that he had "no boyhood," to portray the springs of ambition that propelled him to the very peak of Canadian political achievement, and to explain many of the contradictions in his behavior. **Patricia Phenix** has agreed to launch her latest book at our meeting and to speak about "The Private Demons of John A. Macdonald." Oscar Malan of Novel Idea will be present with copies of the book, which the author will be pleased to sign.