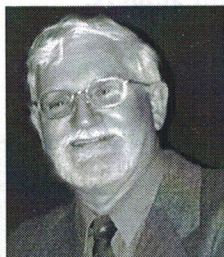
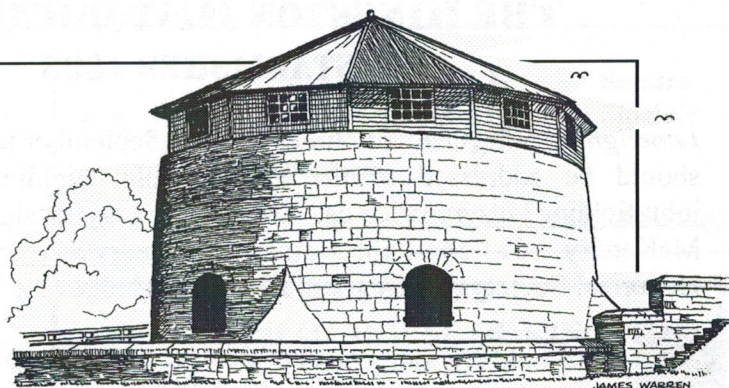


LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

vol 9 no 1 January 2007 ISSN 1488-5565



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The very first article to appear in *Historic Kingston* was by the late R.A. Preston in 1952. Since then the transactions of the KHS have appeared regularly. For over 50 years, the editors have kept before them a high standard of historical truth.

Perhaps in Canada and, shall I say Kingston as well, we are a little more fortunate than most nations, in that we do not readily buy into a 'nationalist' agenda that requires a high order of mythology to sustain it. Does one of our national characteristics — an unwillingness to lay on too much boosterism — bring us closer to an historical truth or are we like many, using a national

mythology as a kind of blinker to avoid other stories? One circumstance is certain. We cannot escape the lens of the culture we live in.

It's a complex world where it is difficult to marry the physical world of action with that of written policies and institutional agendas that are generally found in archival collections. Historians are sometimes like Scrooge who attributed the ghosts he saw before him, the consequence of ill digested cheese while others soar with insight, the result of a life earnestly lived. The only tools we really have to do the job are a fit mind and the historical method that brings us as close as we can get to an historical truth. Each issue of *Historic Kingston* moves us closer to understanding where we live.

Maurice Smith

KHS DINNER TO CELEBRATE SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD'S BIRTHDAY

Guest Speaker: H.V. NELLES, one of Canada's leading historians

Thursday, 11 JANUARY, 6:00 PM for 7:00 PM in the Senior Staff Mess, RMC

Please contact John Abbott, Programme Chair, 1098 Johnson Street, Kingston, ON K7M 2N5, phone 613-545-0311, *immediately*, if you wish to obtain dinner tickets (\$40 for KHS members, \$50 for non-members)

THIS MONTH'S EVENT

WEDNESDAY, 17 JANUARY, 7:30PM

ROBERT J. ANDREWS

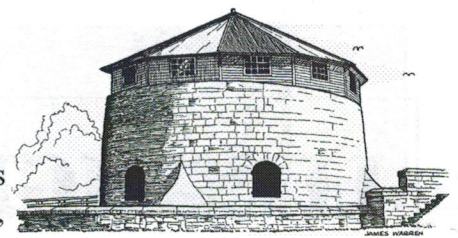
*"A Glimpse into the Journal of
1st Lt Charles Allan Parker, Royal Marine"*

Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library, Johnson @ Bagot
refreshments all welcome

President's Message, 1
Masthead, 2
Fitsell book launch, 2
Tribute to R. Preston, 3
Forthcoming KHS Auction, 3
KHS Awards, 4—5
Landscapes/Inscapes/Escapes, 6
Sponsors, 7
Speakers' Corner, 8

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

Launch of *How Hockey Happened*

Members of the KHS were out in good numbers to support our friend, writer and historian, J.W. Bill Fitsell (left) on 7 December 2006 for the official launch of Bill's book *How Hockey Happened*. Our own Ed Grenda (right) was Master of Ceremonies at this warm and friendly event in the beautiful Memorial Hall of City Hall. *How Hockey Happened* completes the trilogy of hockey histories for Bill and, it seems to me, brings to a close the perpetual debate of the question, where hockey started. Bill presents a thoroughly researched and authoritative answer to this nagging question as he traces the interesting roots of our most popular national game — ice hockey.

John Fielding

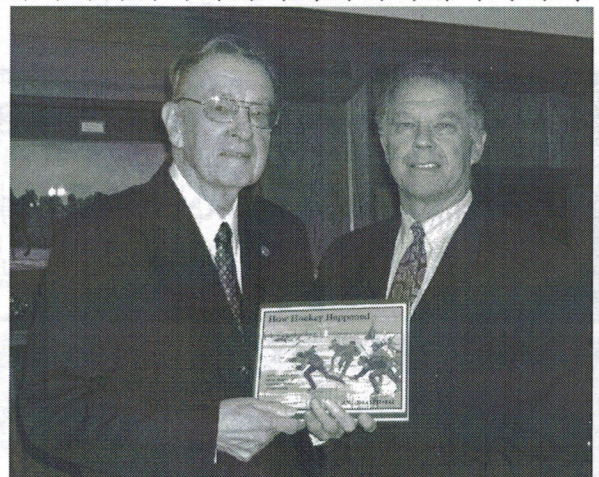


photo by Jennifer McKendry

The Marine Museum of the Great Lakes, 55 Ontario St., presents **Pam Buell** of Parks Canada, "2007: Celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the Completion of the Rideau Canal" on Sunday, **28 JANUARY** at 2PM All are welcome. Admission by donation.

RICHARD ARTHUR PRESTON

All members of the Kingston Historical Society and especially his former students and colleagues regret the death, in early November, of Richard Preston, a respected and generous friend. During his residency in Kingston, Dick was an ardent supporter of the Society and served as its Secretary. He was the first editor of *Historic Kingston*, laying the firm foundation upon which it continues to flourish. In 1994, Dick received a KHS Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the study and recording of local history.

Dick was born in Middlesborough, England and studied at the University of Leeds. He received his Ph.D. degree from Yale in 1936. Following wartime service with the Royal Air Force, he immigrated to Canada and joined the staff of the University of Toronto. The Preston family came to Kingston in 1948 when Dick was appointed Professor of History at the newly reopened Royal Military College of Canada.

He immediately became engrossed in the study of Kingston's military heritage. Two of his books, *Royal Fort Frontenac* (with Leo Lamontagne) and *Kingston before 1812*, both published by The Champlain Society, have become classic reference works. His two-volume history of RMC provides a sound study of that important Kingston and Canadian institution, which he served faithfully for

seventeen years. A fifth book published during his Kingston years, *Men in Arms* (with S.F. Wise et al), is still in print fifty years after its initial publication. The combination of history and sport, he was a strong swimmer and water polo player, stimulated Dick to investigate the hulks of 1812 warships that lie scuttled in Kingston waters. The reports of his findings are regarded as pioneering works of local marine archeology.

In 1965 Dick was appointed the W. K. Boyd Professor of History in the British Commonwealth Studies Program at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina where he enjoyed a distinguished and productive career. He established the Centre for Canadian Studies at Duke and was the first President of the Association of Canadian Studies in the United States. However, he and his family maintained close links with their Kingston friends and for many years summered at their cottage near Gananoque.

Dick's wife, Marjorie, well remembered for her activity with Kingston theatre groups, passed away in October of this year. A daughter, Carol, predeceased them. Our sincere condolences go out to their surviving sons, David and Peter, and to their families.

Jack Pike

Ladies and Gentlemen! Mark your calendars for the

Fourth Annual KHS Auction

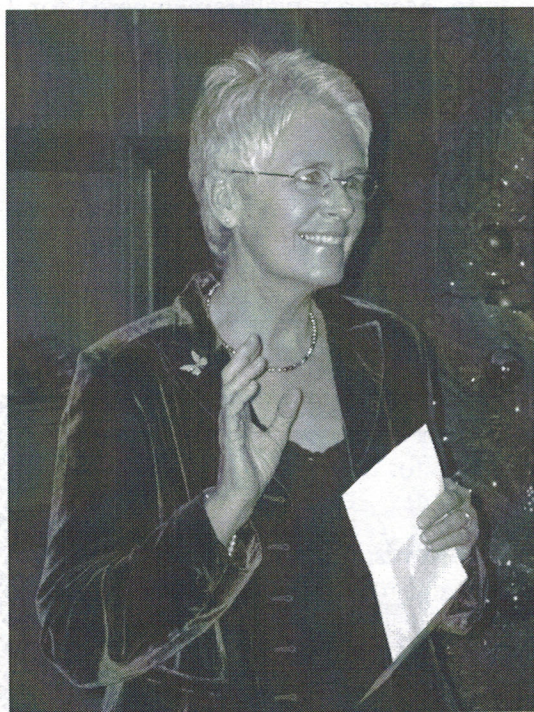
A chance to donate — and an opportunity to purchase! — postcards, linens, marbles, china, books, toys and MORE. All treasures will add to the excitement and mystery of the evening on Wednesday, **February 21st**, following the **Annual General Meeting**. Please contact Doug Petty at 613-546-0422 or Warren 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*.

KHS ANNUAL AWARDS 2006



THE KINGSTON WHIG-STANDARD

A local newspaper inevitably reflects the character of the region that it serves. The residents of the Kingston area are particularly fortunate that this condition was realized in respect to the appreciation for the rich historical and human heritage of our community exhibited by *The Kingston Whig-Standard* in the publication of its 2006 Canada Day Special Editorial Section "The People Who Built Kingston". No reader of this stimulating work could fail to have gained insight into the remarkable variety of people and events that have contributed to the unique mosaic that is Kingston. The Kingston Historical Society is pleased to recognize this achievement and sincerely hopes that this "sampler" will be followed by additional and similarly valuable special publications. (Accepted by Christina Spencer, Editor)



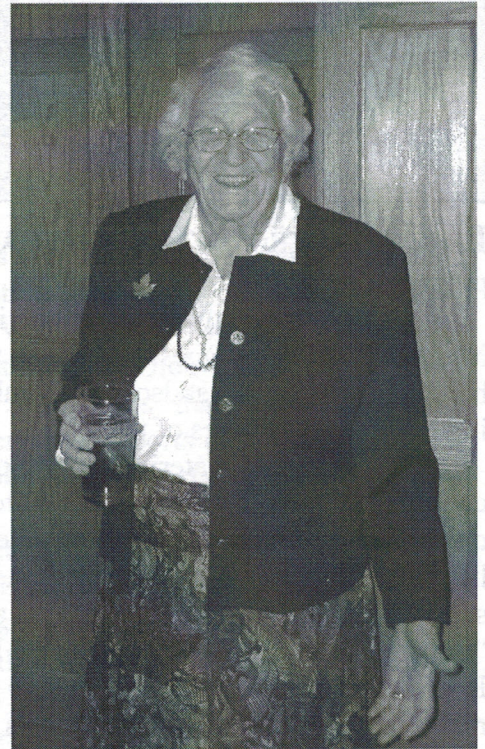
ANN LUKITS

Most undertakings depend upon the dedication and labour of an individual for their completion and success. Ann Lukits' role as senior reporter was fundamental to the widely acclaimed Special Editorial Section, "The People Who Built Kingston", published by *The Kingston Whig-Standard* for Canada Day 2006. Her sensitive and thoughtful selection of subjects, her writing skill, her willingness to seek guidance from the community and her provision of leadership and encouragement to her confreres have provided us with an inspiring record of those many individuals who in both private and professional roles have contributed and continue to add benefit to the identity of Kingston. It is an honour for the Kingston Historical Society to acknowledge this significant contribution to the recording and presentation of local history.

Photographs by Jennifer McKendry

PATRICIA FLEMING

Patsy Fleming's writing has served to bring the social and unusual aspects of local history to a wide audience. Her work is a valuable source for future historians. Nearly one hundred of her "My Kingston" articles have appeared in *The Kingston Whig-Standard*. Patsy collected and presented an additional twenty-five articles, entitled "Spring Walks", written by Dr. Edward John Barker, the first editor of *The British Whig*. These make fascinating reading for those trying to capture the essence of Kingston a century and half ago. Patsy has presented a number of historical papers to the Kingston Historical Society as well as to other groups and has been involved in the writing of two books, one about early Canadian decoys and the other about her beloved Thousand Islands. The Kingston Historical Society is proud to present this Award in recognition of outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of Kingston area history.

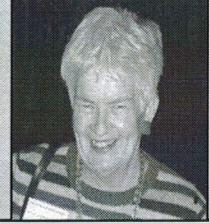


KHS President Maurice Smith presented the awards, which were read by Jack Pike, Chair of the Awards Committee.

photographs by J. McKendry

LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES/ESCAPES

by Shirley Gibson-Langille



LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES/ESCAPES: what a progression this has been!

It all started exactly six years ago in 2000 when Margaret O'Meara suggested to Brian that Shirley's historically-minded "landscapes" would be of interest to the members of the KHS.

Anxious to find material for the Society's new concept, "Limelight," Brian (new-editor-in-crisis!) quickly got in touch with Shirley. After exploring her philosophy of art and history with her, he suggested that she was really playing around with "Inscapes": that rich term that Gerard Manley-Hopkins used to explain how creative people are really representing their imagination's internal images of their external worlds. And the first "Landscape/Inscape" appeared in Vol. 2 No. 9, December 2000.

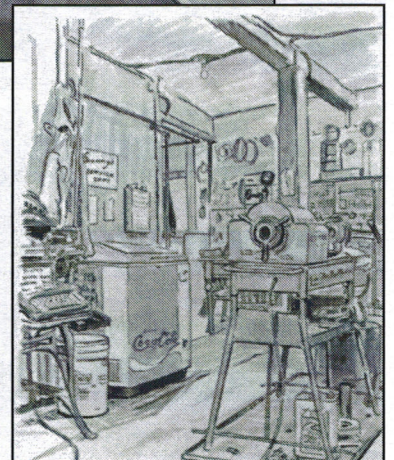
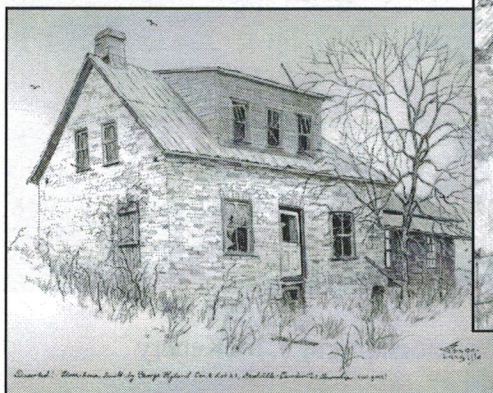
We think the concept has worked well. As

Shirley recalls it, the whole venture turned into an opportunity to explore a new extension of her art and to share some of her paintings together with the unique experiences that were so much a part of them. Anyway, we, at least, have enjoyed ourselves immensely: perhaps it's because we both like exclamation marks in our texts and life. Ah!

But now it's time to "Escape"! Well, not entirely as our idea is to publish the past Landscapes / Inscapes in a volume that brings them together, with several new ones too. To that end, the images below are intended to be provocative. What are they about? What are their titles? What do you think we have to say about them?

Ah well, you'll have to be patient and buy the book!

Toodoloo for now! *Shirley and Brian*



EARTH to SPIRIT
FAIR TRADE COMPANY
 340 KING ST. EAST TEL: 536-5252
Explore the Extraordinary!

Kingston's Independent Bookstore

156 Princess Street

613-546-9799

Oscar Malan, Bookseller

**NOVEL
IDEA** 

CUNNINGHAM & DOUPORE

FASHION FOR MEN

75 BROCK STREET 613-544-1400

**COLDWELL
BANKER**

**GRAHAM THOMSON
REAL ESTATE**

TERRY STAFFORD
BRIAN STAFFORD
613-546-3171

for
"ULTIMATE SERVICE"

RESTAURANT

68-R Princess St
613-549-7673

PAN CHANCHO

44 Princess St 613-544-7790

*"The Pig
with
a Peel"*



81 Princess Street

613-546-4439

*Professional Real Estate Service
with a Personal Touch
790 Blackburn Mews*

ROYAL LEPAGE

larrybrennan@royallepage.ca

613-384-1200 cell 613-329-7222



Larry Brennan

Expressions 
Fashion Boutique

2815 Princess St

Sandra
Sinclair

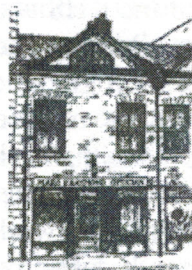
613-384-9763

THE PILOT HOUSE OF KINGSTON



265 KING ST EAST

613-542-0222



Marc F. Raymond
OPTICIANS LTD

324 King St E. 613-549-2020

SANTORINI RESTAURANT 613-548-4654

248 Ontario St

& MINOS RESTAURANT

613-384-2021 2762 Princess St

www.minos1.com
Papadakis Family



Dining Room / Bar

Courtyard Terrace

69 Brock Street

613-549-5635

331 King St East

613-531-0800



"Step up to Tango" Tapas Bar & Restaurant

* 61 Brock St

* 613-548-7721

* www.cookesfinefoods.com

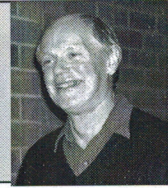
Established 1865



SPEAKERS' CORNER

with John Abbott

Photographs by Jennifer McKendry



Warmth and good fellowship infused the very air as the members of the KHS welcomed their associates, friends and honoured guests to celebrate the season at their annual Christmas Party on 13 December. We have much to be thankful for, and many to thank. The Fort Frontenac Mess, with its paneled walls, old leather and soft lighting enfolded us. Thanks to Brian Osborne, Past President of the KHS and a member of the Fort Frontenac Mess, who arranged for us to meet there. Programme arrangements were worked out by an *ad hoc* committee consisting of Maurice Smith, Jack Pike, Gordon Sinclair and John Abbott, who met with Karen Pardy, the Mess Manager, to work out the details. Karen carried through superbly: the mess was cozy, all the rooms were open, bar service was impeccable; the food was delicious, abundant and artfully presented. Maurice and Ruth Smith, Ed Grenda and Shirley Gibson-Langille formed the reception line. Gordon Sinclair arranged for the musical reception. He, Sarah Gibson-Bray, Carl Bray and Carl's sister, Lucinda Bray, treated us to several *acappella*

renditions of traditional Christmas carols. Jack Pike and the Award's Committee made some inspired appointments, and the recipients responded with wit and grace (see pp. 4-5). So comfortably had everyone settled into sofas and conversation that, at 9.30 — when we had scheduled a session of carols around Sandra Sinclair at the piano — we decided to postpone that event until next year, same time, same place.



Following the 11 January celebration of John A. Macdonald's birthday, we will convene as usual in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Frontenac Public Library for our regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, **17 January** at 7:30PM. That evening **Bob Andrews** will offer us "A Glimpse into the Journal of 1st Lt Charles Allan Parker, Royal Marine". Parker, a Royal Marine officer who served at Kingston from 1838 to 1840, fought at the Battle of the Windmill on 12 November 1838 and, two years later, was here during the fire of 17 April. He remarked upon a number of Kingston's citizens and managed to become part of town life. His travels took him all over Lake Ontario and Lake Erie via portions of the first Welland Canal. Bob Andrews is annotating the journal, prior to its publication by KHS.