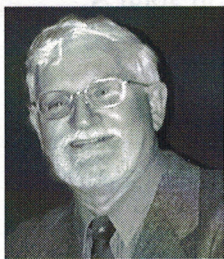
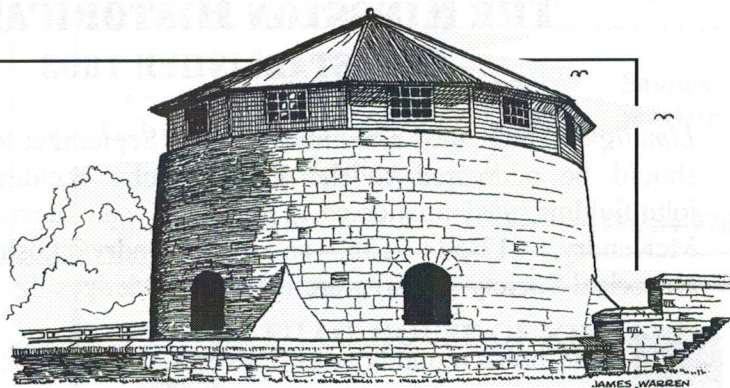


# LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the  
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

vol 9 no 2 February 2007 ISSN 1488-5565



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is called a Nantucket sleigh ride riding before a heavy sea with crests breaking ahead and breakers left behind. And that is what it was like for the past two years as President of the Kingston Historical Society. It is also like a piece of music by Bach. Once it gets going, it does not stop. But, of course, the passage is only as good as the crew and so my sincere appreciation for times well spent with the KHS Council who shared the passage with me. They showed all the right sailor-like characteristics: good cheer, leaving behind the intensity of debate once the meeting adjourned, raising a pint in a variety of locations and, always, a willingness to work hard and put in the hours needed to the benefit of the Society. Now it is your turn, as KHS members, to attend the

Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 21 February, when the Council will give account, not only for the past year, but also speak to plans for the future. It is also a time for hearing from you because, as members, you are ultimately responsible for the success of this fine organization, now in its 114<sup>th</sup> year.

Finally, "a great success" is how we can characterize the annual Sir John A dinner at RMC on 11 January! The speaker, Dr. Nelles, revealed yet another dimension of that remarkable character, Sir. John A, and next year — put it in your appointment book — another speaker will reveal more dimensions to this founder of Canadian Confederation.

*Maurice Smith*

### THIS MONTH'S EVENT

WEDNESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY, 7:30PM

**KHS AGM** (DETAILS BACK COVER)

**& AUCTION!** (SEE P. 2)

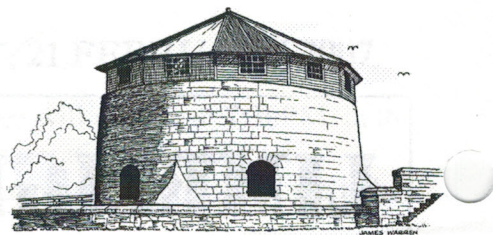
Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library, Johnson @ Bagot  
refreshments all welcome

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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](mailto:john.fielding3@sympatico.ca). *Limelight* is designed by Jennifer McKendry, 613-544-9535, email [mckendry@kos.net](mailto: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](http://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca)

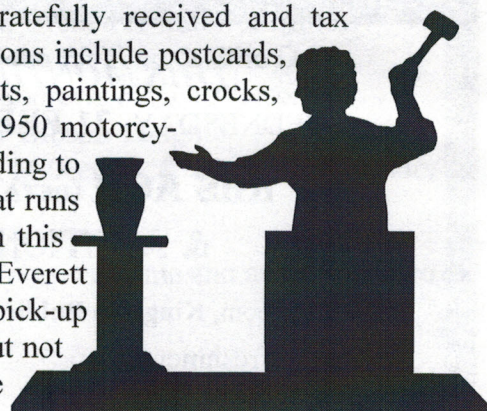
Maurice Smith, *President*  
Brian Osborne, *Past President*  
Ed Grenda, *Vice President*  
Alan MacLachlan, *Secretary*  
Gordon Sinclair, *Treasurer*

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

Heather Home  
Ted Huber  
Marc Létourneau  
Douglas Petty  
Jack Pike

### FOURTH ANNUAL KHS AUCTION

**F**ollowing the AGM (*see back cover*) in the Kingston Public Library on **Wednesday, 21 February**, KHS faithful will once again have the opportunity to savour the thrills of the auctioneer's hammer. All donations for the auction will be gratefully received and tax receipts will be issued for the selling price of the items. Suggestions include postcards, early toys, china, marbles, dolls, early advertising items, prints, paintings, crocks, vases, old bottles, old coins, flags, maps, scrap-books and pre-1950 motorcycles! Give the auctioneer a challenge —surprises are welcome adding to the spontaneity of the evening. Don't forget the silent auction that runs in the background; art and history books do particularly well in this forum. Please contact Doug Petty (613-546-0422) or Warren Everett (613-545-9316) for advice about donations and any requests for pick-up of items. Advance notice of donations helps the auction house, but not essential. Last minute arrivals can often be show stoppers! Income from this event benefits KHS.

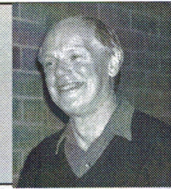




## SPEAKERS' CORNER

with John Abbott

Photograph by Jennifer McKendry



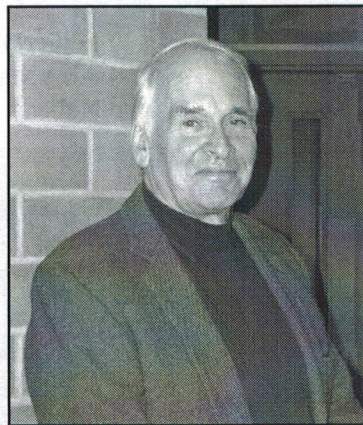
### THE SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD DINNER AT RMC ON 11 JANUARY (photos pp. 4 – 5)

While offering up the nose of Sir John A. Macdonald for examination at a feast to celebrate his birth did not quite match the sensation that surrounded the circulation of John the Baptist's head on an earlier occasion, it did represent a departure from the presentations of previous years. By and large the speaker, Dr. **Vivian Nelles**, Wilson Professor of Canadian History at McMaster University, managed to combine "a light-hearted approach" to his subject with some serious research on the relationship among physiognomy, caricature as art and commentary, and the nature of Canadian politics in the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Professor Nelles illustrated his address with three or four of the very few (perhaps no more than a dozen) photographs taken of John A. during the golden age the camera, and a large number of Bengough cartoons, drawn in a curious combination of obvious condemnation and covert admiration by one of John A.'s strictest moral critics. This entertaining and illuminating lecture concluded another in the KHS's very successful series of dinners in honour of Sir John A. Macdonald's birthday. The address will be published in a future edition of *Historic Kingston*.

### PARKER'S JOURNAL REVEALED AT THE 17 JANUARY MEETING

Nothing stirs an historian's blood quite like the discovery of a diary. When, in addition, the author has an enthusiasm for the life he has chosen, observes the passing scene with a penetrating eye, and presents his findings with dash and conviction, as well as commendable frankness, we are truly blessed. At our regular January meeting the chairman of our publications committee, **Bob Andrews**, presented "A Troublesome Berth, A Journal of Service in the Canadas, 1838-1840, by 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Charles Allan Parker, Royal Marines". He explained the provenance of the journal, revealing the reasons why young Parker maintained the journal in the first place, and how the document came into the Society's purview. Then, in a series of excerpts from the journal, illustrated by glorious historical and contempo-



rary illustrations drawn from a variety of sources, he discussed Parker's youth and domiciles, his enlistment and decision to depart for the Canadas, the voyage, his arrival at Quebec and the opportunity to see service at Kingston. There followed, in quick succession, a description of his adventures occasioned by the "Patriot" Panic and incursion at Prescott, following the Rebellions in the Canadas (including mad dashes into darkest republican territory at Sackets Harbor), service on Lake Erie (including a description of the first Welland Canal), and a passage along the raw and recently completed Rideau Canal. Throughout the journal Parker describes and assesses Kingston events, issues and personalities. After Bob has finished editing and annotating the journal, it will be published by the Society.

*Reminder: The AGM (see back cover) and AUCTION (see p. 2) on Wednesday, 21 February*



# KHS ANNUAL SIR JOHN A. DINNER



The pictures speak for themselves: *a good time was had by all!* at the seventh annual dinner to commemorate the birthday of Sir John A. Macdonald.

1. (L to R) KHS President Maurice D Smith raises a glass to Sir John A with BGen Jocelyn Lacroix, Diane Nelles and MLA John Gerretsen.
2. KHS President Maurice Smith welcomes guest speaker, Dr H.V. Nelles, at the podium.
3. Mayor Harvey Rosen, Sharon Monson, and BGen. Lacroix.
4. The Senior Staff Mess, RMC, provided a gracious

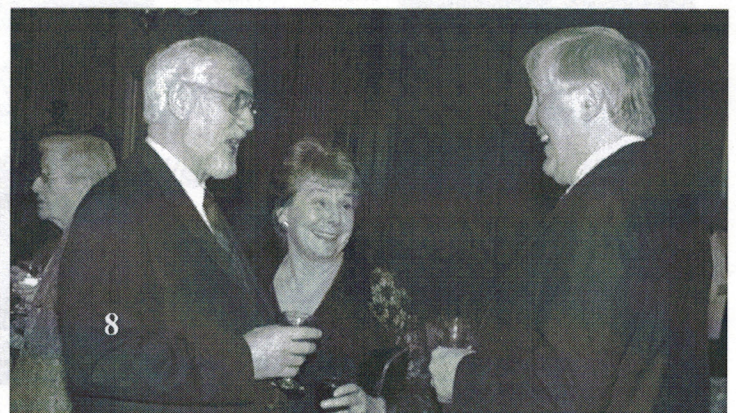
setting for drinks, dinner and the talk.

5. Dinner and good cheer.
6. Jack Pike, the highly appreciated Master of Ceremonies, holds forth.
7. Rosemary Dobbin, Hazel Fotheringham, John Fotheringham, and Bob Cardwell
8. Alan MacLachlan, Patricia McGinniss, and H.V. Nelles



Photographs by Randy Genois





photographs by Randy Genois



# AROUND AND ABOUT US

by Brian S. Osborne

Three splendid publications relating to the Kingston region have been published recently. One is about a local county, another about a neighbouring city, and a third focuses on a local bioregion.

The *Heritage Atlas of Hastings County* (Wallbridge House Publishing: 2006) is edited by the former journalist and well-known writer of local histories, Orland French. This study challenges the traditional definition of "atlas." Yes, there are lots of maps (239 in all!) that help those "looking for old gold mines, railway stations, cheese factories, colourful rocks or your great-granddad's grave." These are supported by some 34 informative essays on such topics as ecology, exploration, settlement, and social development and accompanied by a panoply of historical and contemporary images.

Milly Ristvedt has edited a superb natural and cultural history, *The Salmon River Watershed: Jewel of Eastern Ontario* (Tamworth: 2006). Produced by the Friends of the Salmon River, this lavishly illustrated study presents an array of ecological, historical, and social analyses and closes with a novel collection of artistic reflections on this

distinctive part of eastern Ontario. This is a model study for those wishing to further explore the "essential symbiosis of humans and their environment."

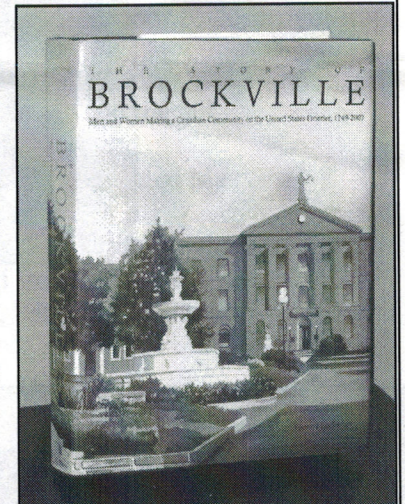
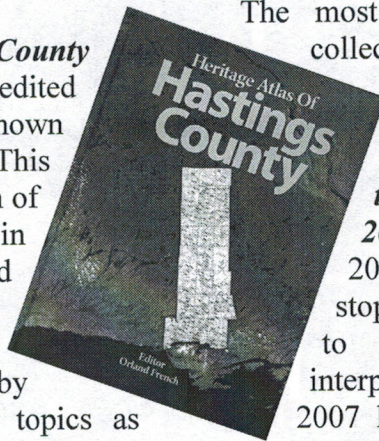
The most recent addition to the growing collection of community portraits is Glenn

T. Lockwood's *The Story of Brockville: Men and Women Making a Canadian Community on the United States Frontier, 1749-2007* (Henderson Printing, Brockville: 2006). At over 660 pages, this is door-

stop of book! But its very size allows it to effect a detailed chronological interpretation of the community's 1749-2007 history in 22 chapters organized in seven sections. Replete with maps, paintings,

and photographs, people and their stories are to the fore as Lockwood presents his story of how Brockville emerged as such an "identifiable community" over two centuries.

All three of these significant contributions may be ordered at our sponsor, Novel Idea, where KHS members also get a discount. ☞



## KINGSTON CITY HALL

**Jennifer McKendry & Brian Osborne** will be speaking at a symposium for City Hall guides on Thursday, **22 February**, 8:45AM to 12PM in Memorial Hall, City Hall. KHS members are invited: \$5 fee (cheque to City of Kingston or cash). Please register by 20 February: phone 613-546-4291, ext. 1407 or e-mail [tourguideworkshop@cityofkingston.ca](mailto:tourguideworkshop@cityofkingston.ca). Inquiries can be directed to Elizabeth Cashman, Office of the Mayor, City Hall, [ecashman@cityofkingston.ca](mailto:ecashman@cityofkingston.ca) 613-546-4291, ext. 1260.

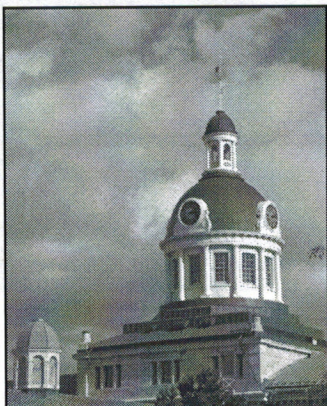


photo Jennifer McKendry



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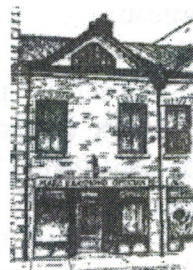
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*Established 1865*



## KHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, WEDNESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2007

At the AGM of the Kingston Historical Society, the Nominating Committee will present at 7:30PM, in the Kingston Public Library, a slate of candidates for the membership's consideration. Please note:

1. Members of the Council, with the exception of the Past-President and the appointed councillors, are to be elected annually by the members of the Society.
2. Members of KHS are eligible for nomination for any of the elected positions on Council.
3. Members of KHS may submit a written nomination of any other member (who has agreed to be nominated) not later than fourteen days prior to the AGM.
4. Nominations should be sent/delivered to Brian Osborne, 25 Lakeland Point Drive, Kingston, K7M 4E8 (613 389 3080).

### EXECUTIVE (4 elected)

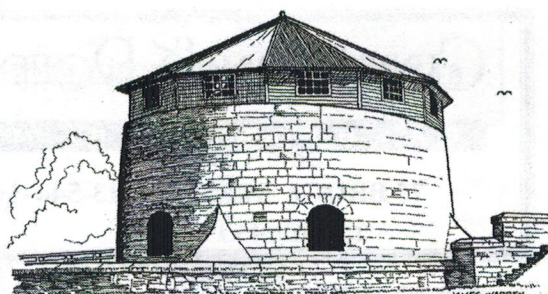
*President:* Edward Grenda  
*Vice-President:* Alan MacLachlan  
*General Secretary:* Marcus Létourneau

*Treasurer:* Gordon Sinclair  
*Past-President:* Maurice Smith (appointed)

### COUNCIL (7 elected)

Robert Andrews  
Ellie Deir  
Heather Home  
Ted Huber

David St. Onge  
Douglas Petty  
Carol White



### APPOINTED

As specified in the KHS Constitution, the newly elected Council will appoint persons to several responsibilities. The Nominations Committee will recommend to Council the following persons who have agreed to serve in the following capacities: Editor of *Historic Kingston*: Paul Banfield; Editor of *Limelight*: John Fielding; Chair of the Murney Tower Committee: Warren Everett

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

The Society's several committees are vital agencies in planning KHS activities. The Nominating Committee recommends the following chairs/co-chairs who have agreed to serve in these capacities:

*Archives:* Maurice Smith & Robert Andrews  
*Awards:* Robert Andrews  
*Finance:* Gord Sinclair & Warren Everett  
*Grants & Reports:* Edward Grenda  
*11 January Event:* Warren Everett  
*6 June Event:* Brian Osborne  
*KHS Archivist:* Jeremy Heil  
*KHS Curator:* Warren Everett  
*Membership:* Ted Huber

*Programme:* Heather Home & John Abbott  
*Projects:* Gordon Sinclair & Brian Osborne  
*Publications:* Robert Andrews & Marcus Létourneau  
*Publicity:* Edward Grenda & Maurice Smith  
*School Liaison:* John Fielding & Ellie Deir  
*Web-Site:* Mark Andrews & Ken Watson  
*Welcome:* Shirley Gibson-Langille  
*Hospitality:* John McKendry & Jennifer McKendry

Members of KHS wishing to serve on any of the above committees are most welcome and are encouraged to apply by contacting the Chair or any member of the Executive.



Please participate in this extremely important AGM!

Respectfully submitted by the KHS Nominating Committee: *Brian Osborne* (Chair);

*Maurice Smith; Edward Grenda; William Fittell* (member at large).