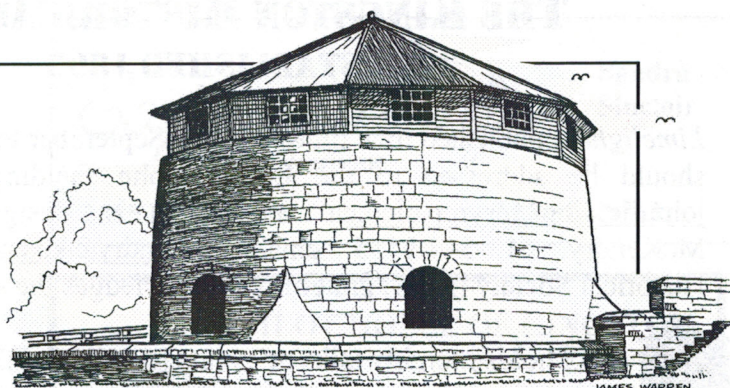


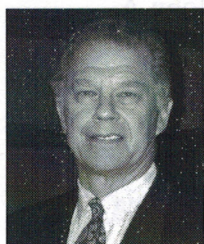
LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It is, indeed, a pleasure and a privilege become the president of the KHS, an organization which has a long pedigree and an unparalleled record of intellectual achievement and measured community involvement. I am very conscious of this Society's accomplishments and will do everything in my power to maintain the continuity of this impressive record.

I would like to thank Past President, **Maurice Smith**, for his accomplishments and the time and energy he devoted to the Society during his term of office. I truly appreciated the manner in which he handled issues and worked with his colleagues on the Council and the membership. I wish to proffer my profound thanks to **Brian Osborne** (Past President) for his years of service providing superb intellectual and administrative contributions. Our thanks also extend to **Jack Pike** who leaves the Council after 12 years of service and intensive involvement as the guardian of the Society's constitution and chair of the Awards Committee. As well, I wish to proffer my thanks to **John Abbott**, past chair of the Program

Committee. The work involved in this area is never ending and sensitive and he carried out his duties in a pleasant and professional manner. His reports in *Limelight* were a joy to read; they were expressed with eloquence and tact. I wish to welcome the following individuals to the Council: **Ellie Deir**, **David St. Onge** and **Carol White**. They bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the Council as a result of their involvement in heritage matters.

At Council's first meeting this month, the following will be appointed to serve with specific sets of responsibilities: **John Fielding**, *Limelight* editor; **Warren Everett**, chair of the Murney Tower NHS Committee; and **Paul Banfield**, editor of *Historic Kingston*. Paul's background as an archivist and connections with the heritage community will add a valuable dimension to the Council's deliberations.

I look forward to the Society's activities during the coming year and, of course, meeting as many members as I can.

Edward Grenda

THIS MONTH'S EVENT

WEDNESDAY, 21 MARCH, 7:30PM

FACE TO FACE WITH KINGSTON'S PORTRAIT COLLECTION

details on back cover ~ note change in location!!

IN KINGSTON CITY HALL

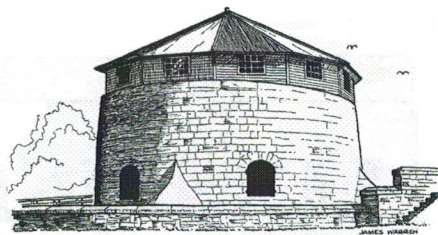
refreshments

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

Ed Grenda, *President*
Maurice Smith, *Past President*
Alan MacLachlan, *Vice President*
Marc Létourneau, *Secretary*
Gordon Sinclair, *Treasurer*

Councillors: Robert Andrews
Paul Banfield
Ellie Deir
Warren Everett
John Fielding

Heather Home
Ted Huber
Douglas Petty
David St Onge
Carol White



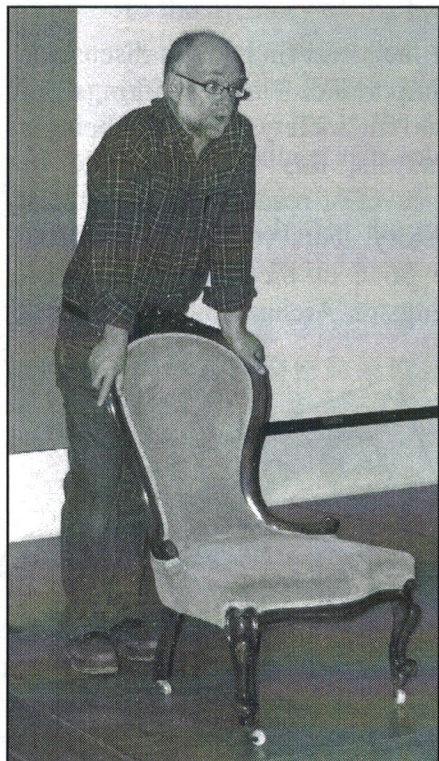
photo: J. McKendry

The New Council: front row, left to right: Ed Grenda, Gordon Sinclair, Doug Petty, Dave St Onge, Carol White
back row, left to right: Marc Létourneau, Warren Everett, Alan MacLachlan, Maurice Smith
absent: Heather Home, Ellie Deir, Ted Huber

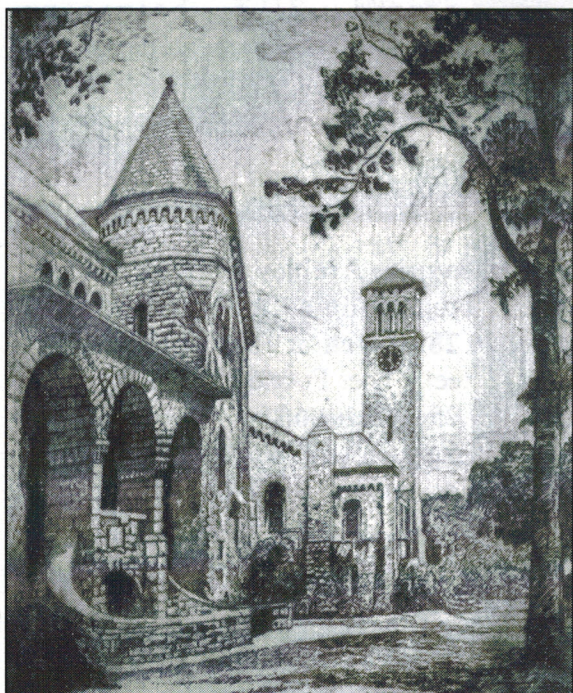
FOURTH ANNUAL KHS AUCTION



Once again, as if the lure of reports and motions at the AGM was not enough to draw the KHS faithful out on the evening of 21 February, members were offered the annual KHS auction with its cornucopia of bargains in the realm of the rare, the beautiful and the bizarre. Goods ranged from the Secret Recipe for the favourite KHS sweet (score one for Skor) to special



books to erotic plant holders to an antique slipper chair. This year, one service was "up for bids" — a walking tour with Jennifer McKendry (winner: Maurice Smith). Auctioneer **Doug Petty** (*left*) whipped the crowd into a bidding frenzy over a delicate watercolour (*immediately below*) showing boats at the foot of West Street by an unidentified artist and a handsome etching (*below left*) of Ontario and Grants Halls by well known artist Owen Staples (1866-1949), who studied with Horatio Walker and George Reid. In addition to Doug, the Society offers thanks to **Warren and Susan Everett**, along with **Gordon and Sandra Sinclair**, for organizing this event. Especially deserving of our gratitude are the donors of the auction goods and services.



Photography by
Jennifer McKendry

left: Anonymous
watercolour

ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGY

Fields of Fire: Fortified Works of Kingston Harbour

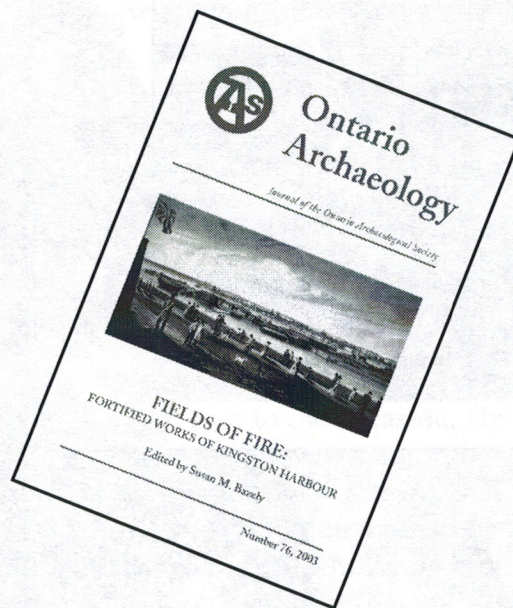
Edited by Susan M. Bazely
Journal of the Ontario Archaeological Society
Number 76, 2003.

Reviewed by Heather Home

Although dated 2003, this issue of Ontario Archaeology was recently published in 2006 and provides insight into the archaeological work that has been taking place in our own backyard over the past ten years. The individual papers in this volume were each presented at the 2004 Annual Conference of the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology and address issues, discoveries and explorations of many nationally recognized sites situated in the Kingston area. Up for closer inspection are Fort Henry (in its many incarnations), Fort Frederick, the Naval Cottages and the Fort Henry Garrison Hospital. This issue gives the reader new ways of seeing those historical sites that we routinely take for granted on the landscape. Who knew that the problem of water infiltration has been an ongoing issue at Fort Henry for over 100 years, or that the design for the "second" Fort Henry was very likely based on that of Fort Cunningham in Bermuda and thought to be decades ahead of its time regarding its situation on, or more specifically, in the landscape? In addition to looking at the remnants of built heritage, the papers draw conclusions about the social and cultural experiences that can be inferred through the archaeological enterprise.

This volume makes the reader aware of the richness of the history that surrounds us in Kingston. That an entire volume of the journal can be dedicated to Kingston is testament not only to the city's history but also to the hard work of the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation (CARF) and Sue Bazely, in particular. It is indeed through Bazely's editorial skill and effort that this volume was brought together. The volume is not merely a recounting

of archaeological facts and finds but a discussion of the role, importance and workings of archaeology in current society. Far from being a dry textbook analysis, this volume would be engaging for any level of reader with an interest in Kingston's history. This volume is available for a reasonable price at the Novel Idea, Fort Henry and the Kingston Archaeological Centre at 72 Gilmour Street.



The Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation's AGM is Wednesday, **28 March** at 7PM at 72 Gilmore Street. The Foundation is celebrating 25 Years of Archaeology in Kingston. For more information: 613-542-3483



Peter Gower has sent an interesting item from the 10 June 1919 *Kingston Daily Standard* about **A PROPOSAL TO BUILD A WAR MEMORIAL IN PORTSMOUTH VILLAGE**—likely in Aberdeen Park (north of King Street West between Gardiner and Yonge Streets), judging from the reference to a request for two guns “for the park.” He would like to know if any of our readers know whether this memorial was actually built. Please contact *Limelight*’s editor, John Fielding, at john.fielding3@sympatico.ca or 613-545-5944.

The Portsmouth Council practically decided on the nature of a memorial to be erected to the memory of the boys from Portsmouth who have fallen in battle. The memorial will take the form of a steel flagpole, erected on a handsome base, on which will be inscribed the names of the Portsmouth boys who fell in action overseas. Nine of the village boys made the supreme sacrifice on the field. Incidentally, the war record of the little village is a splendid one. Over ten per cent of the population of the village enlisted for war service. The Government will be asked to give two guns for the park, and it is felt that the memorial to be erected will be a credit to the village, and a lasting one to the memory of the Portsmouth boys who died for their country.

Students and Sir John A.

Aficionados of the increasingly popular tribute to Sir John A Macdonald held in the shadow of his statue at midday on 11 January would have enjoyed the presence of some new faces and voices: students from Kingston’s **Mother Teresa School**. Organised by their dynamic teacher, Alison Bogle, this was but one part of her plans for commemorating Sir John’s life and achievement. Students were also prompted to prepare essays and posters on this theme and, on 23 January, some KHS members attended an enthusiastic prize-giving ceremony at the school. Beatrice Corbett, Ed Grenda, and Brian Osborne, accompanied by our own Sir John (Brian Porter), presented KHS Junior memberships to the following winners:

Essays:

1. Samantha Pho
2. Caitlin Kinsella
3. Kathryn Doyle.

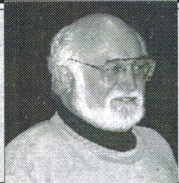
Poster & Art:

1. Jenna Young
2. Niveana Garrah
3. Francesca Amarante & Madison Roy.

Alison wishes to work with KHS to nurture a stronger relationship with the local schools. Thanks, Alison!

Brian S. Osborne





AROUND AND ABOUT US

by Brian S. Osborne

Sir John A. Macdonald is not the only “John” we should celebrate in 2007. What about that other John, **JOHN BY**, the master-mind behind the Rideau Canal, the lynch-pin in the British plans for the defence of Upper Canada? Castigated by his superiors for cost over-runs, he was lionized by others who recognized the technological innovation and geopolitical import of his work. Writing in 1842, Sir Richard Bonnycastle declared that,

If ever a man deserved to be immortalized in this utilitarian age, it was Lieutenant Colonel By. In an unexplored part of the country, where the only mode of progress was the frail Indian canoe, with a department to be organized, workmen to be instructed and many difficulties to be overcome, he constructed a truly remarkable work.

Certainly, Kingstonians concurred. On 13 March 1832, some 70 “persons of distinction” assembled in Kingston’s Carminos Inn to pay tribute to Colonel John By. Geopolitics aside, Kingstonians were particularly impressed by his masterminding of the completion of the link between tidewater at Montreal and the Great Lakes at Kingston. No doubt, this admiration was well-oiled by the “copious Champagne libations” that helped make “many a tongue loquacious” in their praise of “John By and his great accomplishment.”

But 175 years later, what are Kingstonians planning to do on 24 May to mark the occasion of the formal opening of the Rideau and John By’s role in it?

Others have made their plans. Starting on Sunday, **18 March**, the Merrickville & District Historical Society has the first of a nine-lecture

series running until 18 November (I’m giving the first one!). For details, please see Coming Events www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca On **22 May**, Parks Canada will be hosting a grand celebration of the opening of the Rideau Canal. On Labour Day, **1 September**, a “Tribute to Labour” festival will be held at Jones Falls.

But what about Kingston? After all, did we not honour him on 13 March 1832? Did not the inaugural voyage start at Kingston on 24 May 1832?

Perhaps our forebears had a better sense of the import of these events. The rhetoric on the occasion of that March 1832 tribute was that the event would “be remembered as long as the waters of Lake Ontario and the Rideau are united.” As the opening day of 24 May approached, it was discovered (typical military planning?) that there was no suitable steam vessel available to traverse the system. Not to be deterred, an imaginative Kingstonian, Robert Drummond, rose to the occasion. He renamed his construction vessel, the *Pumper*, the *Rideau*, and outfitted it for that ceremonial first voyage from Kingston to Bytown.

So, what to do in 1832? The “Commemorate John By Day” is easy. At 6PM on Tuesday, **13 March**, one of our sponsors, The Pilot House of Kingston, has invited us to toast the man with a specially concocted John By “bumper”.

As for 24 May, surely we can arrange a ceremonial commemorative departure from downtown at noon that day. We know we can get a John By look-alike! How about a *Pumper-cum-Rideau* stand-in? If Kingstonians rose to the occasion 175 years ago, surely, we can do something!

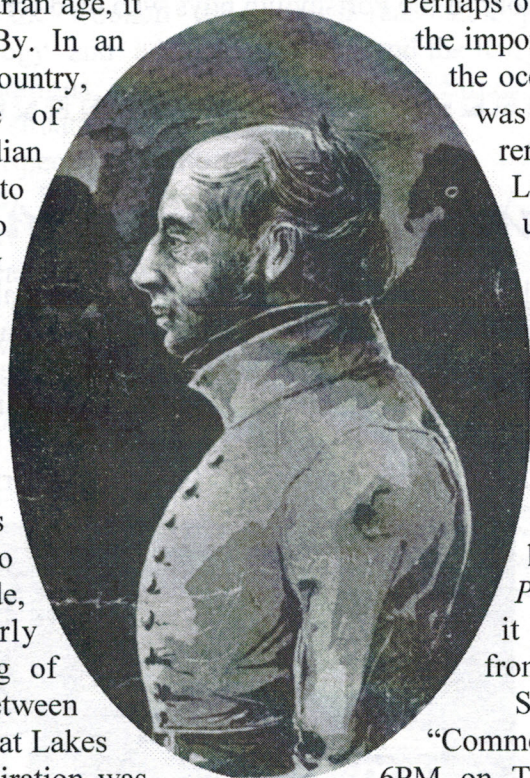


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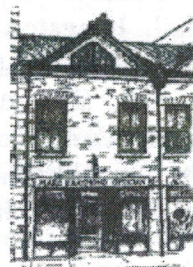
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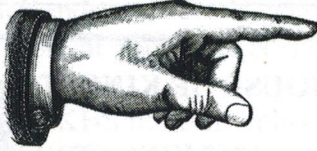
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SPEAKERS' CORNER

with Heather Home



change in venue for the March meeting!

"Face to Face with Kingston's Portrait Collection"



The Kingston Arts Council and the Kingston Historical Society join in a special event on Wednesday, **21 March** at 7:30PM in Memorial Hall, **Kingston City Hall**, in support of The Kingston Prize for Portraiture and the Publication Programme of the Kingston Historical Society. (No business meeting will be held.) Donations and pledges for the Portraiture Prize will be welcomed. KHS will have a full range of its publications available for sale with the proceeds directed towards its publications. Two individual talks will be given:

Setting the Seen: Focusing the Gaze by Brian S. Osborne, Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography, Queen's University, and *Lifting Time's Veil: The Conservation of City Hall Portraits* by Amanda Gray, art conservator and sessional/adjunct in the Art Conservation Program at Queen's University

Overton S. Gildersleeve, Mayor 1855-6, 1861-2, photo: J. McKendry

MEMBERSHIP FEE ADJUSTMENT FOR 2008

At the Annual General Meeting on 21 February -- after some discussion reflecting various points of view -- members approved a motion, which will increase membership dues from the current \$35 for an individual to \$40, and from \$40 to \$50 for family and institutional memberships. The increases will take effect when members renew for 2008. This renewal process typically begins in September but continues well into the winter months.

KHS Treasurer, **Gordon Sinclair**, explained that the dues had not been increased in at least 15 years, and, in that time, costs for such things as printing and postage have increased considerably. Services to members, including nine issues of the *Limelight* newsletter, and the annual *Historic Kingston* journal depend upon revenue from membership fees to pay the costs of printing and mailing, but there has been a revenue shortfall for at least the last couple of years.

Members who have not yet renewed for 2007, may still do so at the old rates.