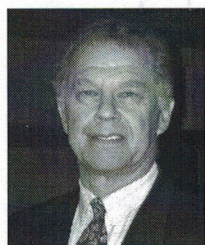
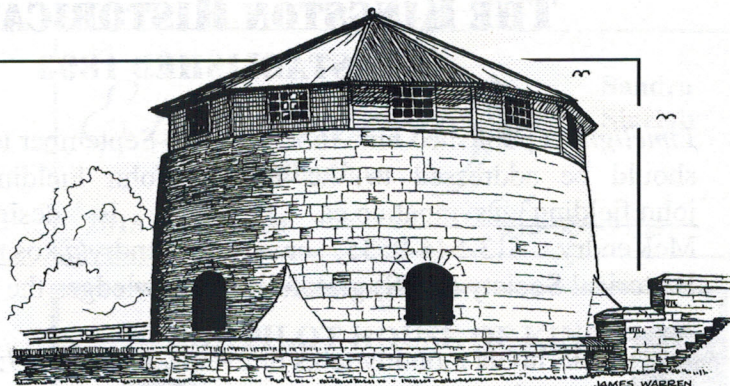


# LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the  
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

vol 9 no 5 May 2007 ISSN 1488-5565



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

For most learned societies, the summer season is largely a period of dormancy and the recharging of intellectual batteries.

Not so for KHS! The summer season is a time of increased activity for its outreach programmes, in spite of the fact that general meetings and lectures are temporarily on hold during July and August.

In the early spring, the Murney Tower National Historic Site Committee begins a complex process of operations. It initially seeks grants, issues job announcements for the positions of interpreters, selects and interviews prospective candidates, and trains the successful candidates. From May to early September, the committee oversees the operation of the Tower's museum. This type of endeavour comes very close to full time work for the committee.

The Sir John A. Macdonald Graveside Ceremony Committee works during the winter and spring meticulously planning the ceremony held annually on 6 June (details on back cover) at

Cataraqui Cemetery. Preparation is extensive, including inviting representatives of many local heritage organizations and political entities to lay wreaths at the Macdonald grave site and arranging for refreshments and the seating of the dignitaries and public. As well, there are plans for publicity, music and the participation of school children — all undertaken well in advance. Because the ceremony takes place outdoors, alternate plans for an indoors venue are developed in the event of very inclement weather.

During the summer, work also takes place on the production of books published by the Society, as well as the planning and organization of an autumn heritage tour for Society members (see pp. 4-5). Material for *Limelight* is collected and prepared for the newsletter's distribution in early September.

Doubtless, the Society is now a 12-month operation with the bulk of the work taking place behind the scenes by committee volunteers.

*Edward Grenda*

### THIS MONTH'S TALK

WEDNESDAY, 16 MAY AT 7:30PM

***"We women found we could run a country":  
Kingston's Factory Women at War, 1939-1945***

**by Geraint Osborne**

Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library, Johnson @ Bagot

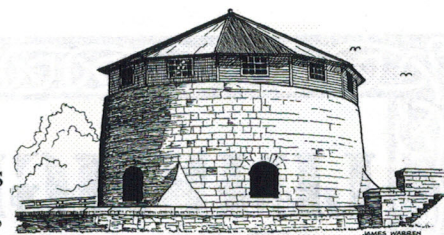
refreshments

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)

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Carol White

**KHS has had a problem with its website.** When the site was first launched, the domain name was [www.heritagekingston.org](http://www.heritagekingston.org) — which has been retained to transfer anyone typing in that name to our site, renamed, appropriately, [www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca). However, [www.heritagekingston.org](http://www.heritagekingston.org) was recently acquired by a commercial enterprise. We ask you, therefore, to *not* use it, to remove it from your bookmarks or favourites list and to refresh (spinning arrows on the top tool bar) the memory of your computer should you pull up the rival site (hopefully our site will appear). Please type *only* the domain name [www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca) and bookmark it. Unfortunately, the now “lost” domain name appears often in the media as the Society’s website address. Your assistance in pointing out this error and citing the correct web address is solicited. The now “lost” address may also appear as a link on other websites and this needs to be corrected. Over time, search engines will direct users to the proper address (currently, one may end up on the rival site). The Society is grateful to those who pointed out this problem and, in particular, for the work in correcting it by **Ken Watson, Mark Andrews and Maurice Smith**. Some web sites you may want to visit this summer:

[www.digitalkingston.ca](http://www.digitalkingston.ca) (early newspapers, etc.)

[www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet) (the national archives, searchable census of 1871, etc.)

[www.kingstonarchitecture.com](http://www.kingstonarchitecture.com) or [www.mckendry.net](http://www.mckendry.net) (articles on antiques & local heritage)

[www.scienceandsociety.co.uk](http://www.scienceandsociety.co.uk) (pictures of cultural objects from the past)

[www.archives.gov.on.ca](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca) (Archives of Ontario—check out their picture collection)

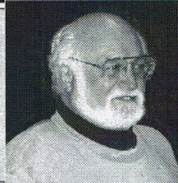
[www.biographi.ca](http://www.biographi.ca) (Dictionary of Canadian Biography)

[www.cityofkingston.ca/residents/recreation/lop/chronology.asp](http://www.cityofkingston.ca/residents/recreation/lop/chronology.asp) (history of Lake Ontario park)

[canada-architecture.org](http://canada-architecture.org) (Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada)

[www.carf.info](http://www.carf.info) (Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation)

[www.heritagekingston.com](http://www.heritagekingston.com) (note the “.com” ending—the Frontenac Heritage Foundation)



## AROUND AND ABOUT US

by Brian S. Osborne

Early in 1874, Methodists in the Brewers Mills area of Pittsburgh Township met to consider building a new church. People moved quickly in those days! David See donated the land and, in just over a year, the project was completed. The doors of the "Pine Grove Methodist Church" were opened on Sunday, 21 February 1875. There were three inaugural services that day, the morning one being taken by Rev. James Elliot, President of the Montreal Conference, and for the next fifty years, the countryside around Pine Grove was enriched by the enthusiastic singing of the hymns of the Wesley brothers.

Described at the time as "a frame building with tower and spire, stained windows, richly carpeted and hot air heated," the new church could accommodate some 300 worshippers. And all for a cost of a little over \$2,000 — and, no doubt, a lot of local labour! But there was an outstanding debt of some \$1,000 to be addressed, with "the Anglin family assisting nobly." But if debt and taxes were as prevalent then as now, another ubiquitous and perennial scourge of Canadian society was fire. In 1926, soon after celebrating its 50th anniversary, the church burned to the ground, only some pews, the piano, and a few pieces of furniture were saved.

Thomas Anglin was the church custodian at that time and, in 1948, he took it upon himself to erect a memorial cairn at the site of the steps of the old church. Some sixty years later, the cairn was in a state of disrepair. Accordingly, Thomas Anglin's grand-son, Lawrence Oscar Lloyd, and great-grandson, Peter Thomas Lloyd were the driving force to remedy this. They motivated other descendants of Thomas Anglin to get to work in the spirit of their Brewers Mills' ancestors. In the summer of

2006, they contacted several of us for advice. By October, with assistance from the City of Kingston's Robin Etherington and Marc Létourneau regarding restoration, the work got started. Stonemason Geoff McKay, ably assisted by Peter Lloyd, disassembled, restored, and located the cairn near the cemetery on Brewers Mills Road, about 1.2 kilometers east off of Highway 15.

With the restoration accomplished, plans call for the rededication of the cairn at 11.00 a.m. on **SATURDAY 7 JULY**. The event will take place at the Brewer's Mills Cemetery. Don Servage, son of the Pine Grove Minister at the time of the fire, will deliver the Benediction, and Susan Kenny (great-granddaughter of Thomas Anglin), will sing some Irish ballads.

Congratulations to the descendants of Thomas Anglin for a job well-done. For more on this enterprising family, see their web-site: [www.billanglin.com](http://www.billanglin.com)



# THE KHS 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

## SATURDAY, 29

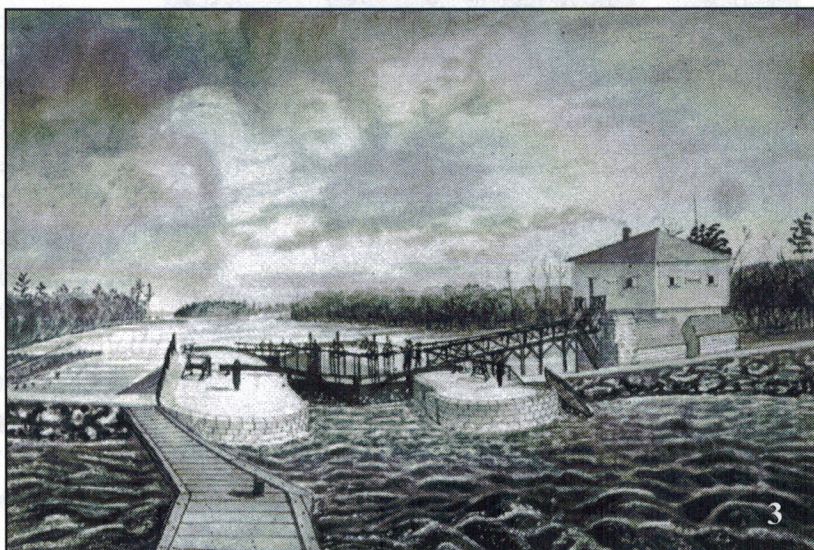
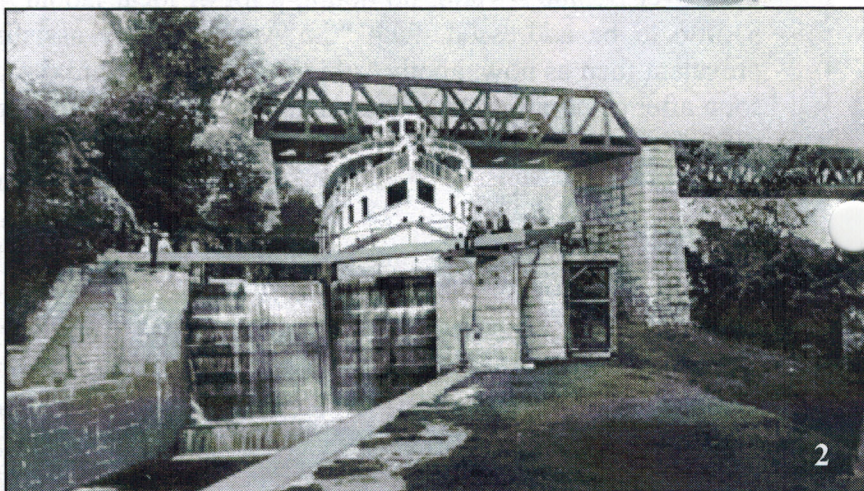
**J** OIN IN as we cruise the historic **Rideau Canal** & celebrate the Rideau Canal's 175th Anniversary:

- ☞ *relive* that bygone era of genteel river and canal cruising amidst the ever-changing landscapes and waterscapes of the historic Rideau Waterway
- ☞ *marvel* at the ingenious engineering and skilled craftsmanship employed in the dam and lock constructions
- ☞ *discover* Mr. Oliver's secret; the Mythconceptions of Malaria along the Rideau; the tribute to Human Sweat, Toil and Death; 19<sup>th</sup> Century Creative Engineering



### HIGHLIGHTS

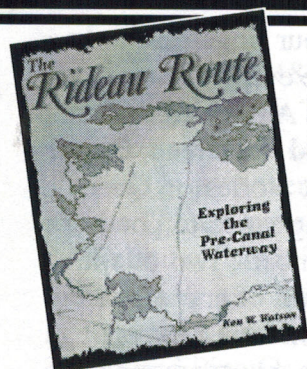
- ✿ Tour of the Stone Arch Dam at Jones Falls
- ✿ Colonel By's residence at Davis Lock
- ✿ The Opinicon at Chaffey's Lock
- ✿ The Newboro Cut
- ✿ Passing through Westport
- ✿ The Narrows and the creation of the Upper Rideau Lake
- ✿ The Rocky Narrows (geological formation: conglomerate)
- ✿ Rideau Ferry
- ✿ The Tay Canal
- ✿ Poonamalie
- ✿ Smith's Falls — Parks Canada has arranged a special tour of the shops where the lock gates are made



1. *Colonel By*
2. *Kingston Mills*, undated postcard, McKendry Collection
3. *The Narrows, Rideau Lake*, 1841, Thomas Burrowes, Ontario Archives
4. *Opinicon Lake, the Steamer Hunter*, 1840, Thomas Burrowes, Ontario Archives

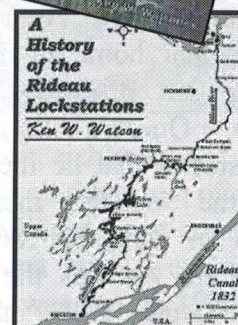
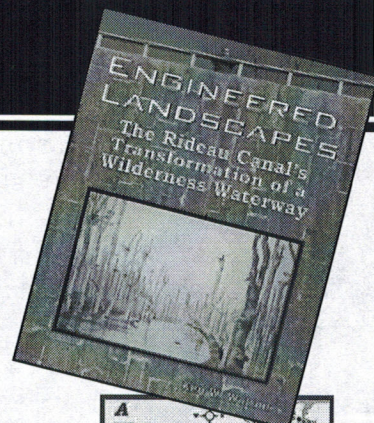
# AUTUMN EXCURSION

## SEPTEMBER 2007



### PRESENTATIONS BY

- ✿ **Dr. Brian Osborne**, Professor Emeritus of Geography at Queen's University
- ✿ **Ken Watson**, author of three books on the Rideau Canal and a website on the Rideau [www.rideau-info.com](http://www.rideau-info.com)
- ✿ **Parks Canada Staff**



\$95 for KHS members and \$110 for non-members including: motor coach to and from the cruise, 5 to 6 hour Rideau Canal cruise, tours of and talks on the Rideau Canal, lunch aboard, all taxes and gratuities

Please make cheques payable to the Kingston Historical Society and send to:

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Please include your phone number (and email address if available) for confirmation purposes.

For further information: 613-549-8841 or [www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca) or in September's *Limelight*



### *A heritage event for the attention of KHS members:*

St. George's Cathedral presents their second annual **SPRING ANTIQUES FAIR** at the Portsmouth Olympic Harbour on Friday, **11 May** (6:00 to 9:00 pm) and Saturday, **12 May** (9:00 am to 4:00 pm). Friday admission (includes re-entry on Saturday) \$10; Saturday admission \$5. Proceeds support the restoration of St George's Cathedral Heritage Site. For more information: [www.stgeorgescathedral.on.ca](http://www.stgeorgescathedral.on.ca)

# SPEAKERS' CORNER

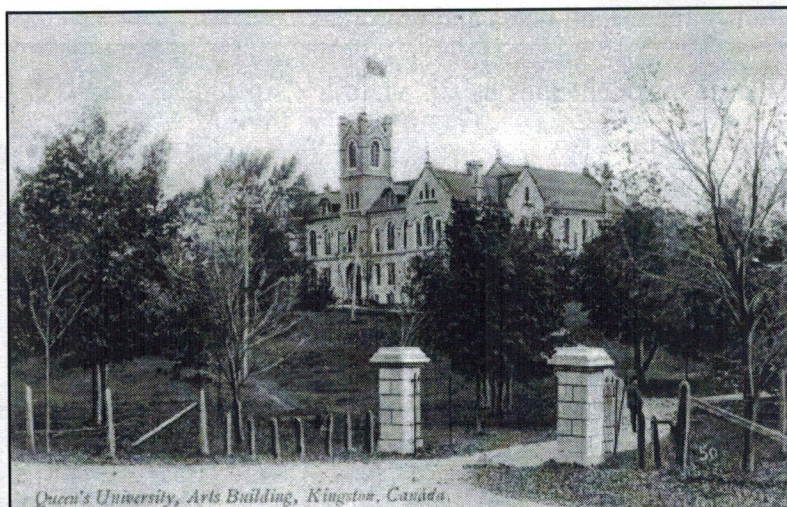
with Heather Home



This month's gathering was a welcome format change from the Society's regular meetings, as the audience was treated to a rare piece of theatre courtesy of Reverend **Bruce Cossar**. In the 1950s, Bruce and his future wife, Audrey, visited her father at a retirement home in Toronto. It was during these visits that Bruce became acquainted with Angus Bain, a Queen's Arts graduate from 1888, and heard the stories that he then related and expanded upon for the Society's members. Angus Bain was born in June of 1868, the youngest of ten children. As was the tradition then – and to some degree still – many members of Angus' family attended Queen's, including his father William who had enrolled in 1842. Angus had a close and personal tie with his alma mater, and when Bruce and Audrey visited with him many years after his time at Queen's, it was not unusual to find him tuned in to the Queen's football game being broadcast on the radio. With the addition of a cane, a set of bifocals and a newspaper, Reverend Cossar assumed the character of Angus Bain and Society members were taken back to Queen's College in the 1880s.

In his reminiscences, "Angus" recounted the names of professors and principals as well as the courses they taught. The likes of Watty and Nate (Professor John Watson and Nathan Dupuis to you and me) were touted as men who gave much to their students, the University and their fields. One particular recollection of a physics professor (Professor Marshall) and his wife having students over for tea, brought to mind the importance of the professors in exposing students to new ideas and work. Angus recalled that the Marshalls had a fine collection of Japanese art. This would have been one of the few occasions that these young students would have had to experience and examine objects so foreign to everyday life in Canada. Today we take

for granted that the world is at our fingertips, only a "click" away, but at that time the event was regarded as something so outstanding that Angus remembered it, 70 years later. Not only did Reverend Cossar entertain the audience with past stories of Queen's University, he also put his strong voice to good use singing a variety of musical numbers; two of which brought about an immediate round of applause from the audience. **George Henderson** was kind enough to bring the evening to a close by expressing the thanks of the Society to Reverend Cossar for such an imaginative and educational evening.



Old Arts Building of 1879, postcard cancelled 1907, McKendry Coll.

- ✿ Wednesday, 16 May is our final talk of the season at which **Geraint Osborne** will enlighten the membership on the role of Kingston women during the Second World War (details p. 1).
- ✿ Also, please remember the Sir John A. Macdonald Graveside Ceremony on 6 June with guest speaker **Jennifer McKendry** (details on back cover).
- ✿ **Dorothy Farr** will be our presenter in September. The topic of her talk will be the painter Daniel Fowler who has a special relationship with the Kingston area, having been a local farmer on Amherst Island for a large part of his life. This promises to be a most interesting talk.

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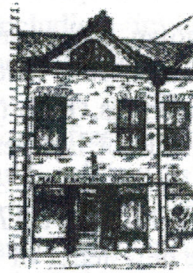
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**T**HE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY invites you to remember Sir John A. Macdonald in an event on 6 June 2007 that combines commemoration, history, and conviviality in a special outdoor setting.

Please join us on **WEDNESDAY, 6 JUNE at 1:30 p.m.** in Kingston's CATARAQUI CEMETERY to remember Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, who died on 6 June 1891.

This annual commemorative ceremony features members of the Fort Henry Guard, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, local schools, Bellevue House staff in period dress, as well as many dignitaries and representatives of local organizations who will be laying wreaths at the grave. The guest speaker for this, the 116<sup>th</sup> grave-side ceremony commemorating the death of Sir John A. Macdonald, will be **DR. JENNIFER MCKENDRY**.

Dr. McKendry is a well known author and scholar of the history and architecture of Kingston and its surrounding region. Author of numerous books, reports, and articles on historical aspects of Ontario, one of her best known volumes is *With Our Past before Us: 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Architecture in the Kingston Area* and *Portsmouth Village: an Illustrated History*. She has been the editor of the newsletter of the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada (who presented her with an award in 1989), is the editor of the newsletter of the Frontenac Heritage Foundation (who presented her with an award in 1984) and is the designer of the newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society (who presented her with an award in 2002). Currently, she is undertaking contract research and design for the Cataraqui Archeological Research Foundation, as well as other organizations. She has an M.A. in Art History from Queen's, an M.Phil. from the University of Toronto, and a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto (1991).



Two of her books, *"Weep not for me": An Illustrated History of Cataraqui Cemetery, Kingston*, and *Into the Silent Land: Historic Cemeteries & Graveyards in Ontario*, provide an appropriate historical, iconographic, and social context for her talk on this occasion:

***"Beneath the green and flowery sod, beneath the waving and weeping foliage": Sir John A. Macdonald & Cataraqui Cemetery***

Before and after the ceremony, all visitors are welcome to tour the historic and picturesque Cataraqui Cemetery (927 Purdy Mills Road, off Counter Street). Refreshments will be served in the outdoors chapel following the ceremony. We look forward to seeing you, your family, and your organization or group.

**Note:** in the case of *severe* weather conditions, the event will take place in Christ Church Parish Centre, 990 Sydenham Road (parking available).

Brian S. Osborne, Chair,  
Sir John A. Macdonald Commemoration Committee