

LIMELIGHT

Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

vol 9 no 6 September 2007 ISSN 1488-5565



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Invariably, summer is a fallow period of a learned organization such as the Kingston Historical Society. However, this summer has been one of notable accomplishment and also organizational activity for the society's Executive.

On June 28th, UNESCO announced the designation of the Rideau Canal and the Kingston Fortifications as a World Heritage Site. This means the Murney Tower which the Society has operated as a museum since 1925 is now part of a World Heritage Site.

One of the principal figures in Canada's application to UNESCO for the World Heritage designation was past president Brian Osborne, to whom the Society owes a debt of gratitude. Congratulations, Brian, for an important job well done.

On June 30th, Kingston was appropriately represented at the commemorative ceremony for the 175th Anniversary of the Rideau Canal and its designation as a World Heritage Site. The sizable Kingston contingent consisted of Mayor Harvey Rosen, our Society's President, Vice President, Brian Osborne, officials from Fort Henry Parks Canada and KEDCO.

The World Heritage designation is especially propitious for the Society. The Murney Tower adds another distinction to its heritage credentials. It is a National Historic Site of Canada in its own right, a part of another National Historic Site (that is, Kingston Fortifications comprising the four Martello Towers and Fort Henry), and now a part of a World Heritage Site (Rideau Canal

and Kingston Fortifications). Very few historical societies, if any, can claim to operate a museum in a heritage site with the aforementioned honours! The Society's Executive has been engaged in other outreach initiatives. The Society is a partner with the Ontario Jewish Archives which is organizing an oral history workshop in Kingston in early October. The precise date will be announced at the Society's September meeting and the October newsletter. The Society is to be involved in a partnership with a group called Kingston 19th Century Fall Festival which will focus on the talents of arts and heritage groups using Kingston's colonial history as the unifying theme. A series of activities and events centering on Market Square is planned for October 6-8, 2007. Details will be forthcoming in the October newsletter. The Executive is also considering partnerships with other local organizations in which some unexpected elements of local history will be examined.

Thus, a busy and memorable summer concludes and in the same vein a busy fall schedule of presentations and events for the Society's membership soon begins.



Edward Grenda

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Wednesday, 19 SEPTEMBER, 7:30PM

"An Artist after all": Daniel Fowler in Canada

Dorothy Farr, Associate Director and Curator of
Historical Art at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre

Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library, Johnson St. at Bagot

Refreshments All Welcome

CONTENTS

President's Message, 1
Masthead, 2
From the Editor, 2
A Visit to John By's home, 3
Around and About Us, 4
Harry Traill Remembered, 6
Our sponsors, 7
Speakers' Corner, 8

The Kingston Historical Society

established 1893

Limelight is published nine times a year - September to May. Submissions should be addressed to the Editor, John Fielding at 613-545-5944 or john.fielding3@sympatico.ca *Limelight* is designed by Versus Business Forms (613-353-7667 or versus@kingston.net) The Kingston Historical Society (KHS) gratefully acknowledges the support of our sponsors in the production of *Limelight*.



Murney Tower by James Warren

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 Street at Bagot Street. 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! Membership rates are \$35 individual, \$40 family, \$40 institutional or \$25 student. Memberships include *Historic Kingston*, published annually by The Kingston Historical Society.

Kingston Historical Society

Box 54, Kingston, ON K7L 4V6
www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca

Executive

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

Councillors

Robert Andrews	Heather Home
Paul Banfield	Ted Huber
Ellie Deir	Douglas Petty
Warren Everett	David St Onge
John Fielding	Carol White



From the Editor

Jennifer McKendry who has been our *Limelight* designer for over 10 years has decided to concentrate on her many other interests and projects. We thank her for making the job of the editor so much easier and for developing such a readable newsletter for the members of the Kingston Historical Society. She has indicated that she will be around to help us out and for that we are all grateful.

We look forward to working with our new designer, Blair Fearon of Versus Business Forms who will also do the printing.

John Fielding

What an opportunity - Free Queen's course!

Free Queen's is an initiative that was developed by the Kingston branch of the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) to offer free, non-credit courses taught by volunteer instructors that are open to all adults in the Kingston and area community. This fall's course is all about the social history of Kingston and is being overseen and developed by Queen's University Archives with many Kingston Historical Society members participating as speakers and instructors. If you would like further information about the course and lecture topics, please call 613.533.3189.

The Marine Museum of the Great Lakes in Kingston invites the general public to its Fall Speakers' Series at the Museum, 55 Ontario Street, Kingston.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 at 2 pm

Dr. Brian Osborne, Professor Emeritus, Geography, Queen's will speak on:

THE RIDEAU CANAL-PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25 at 2 pm

Ken Watson, author and researcher will speak on
THE RIDEAU ROUTE-THE LANDSCAPE OF THE PRE-CANAL WATERWAY.

Visit to John By's home on the occasion of the 175th Anniversary of the opening of the Rideau Canal

by Joyce Waddell-Townsend

This story began in 2001 when St. George's Cathedral was asked whether they could find a WWI banner embroidered with an artillery piece which had been presented to the 22nd Battery C.F.A. in February, 1915, as they were on their way overseas. It had been embroidered by Mary Mitchell of Toronto, great grandmother of Lyndall Hacker, who was making the inquiries. As Chair of the Cathedral Guides it fell to me to lead the search for the banner, oversee its restoration, and plan for its dedication in the Cathedral on September 12, 2004 and its hanging in the Royal Horse Artillery balcony. Many thanks are owed to the Cathedral team of Bishop Bruce, Peter Gower, Ray Wade, Mike Bowen, Anne Thomas, and many others.

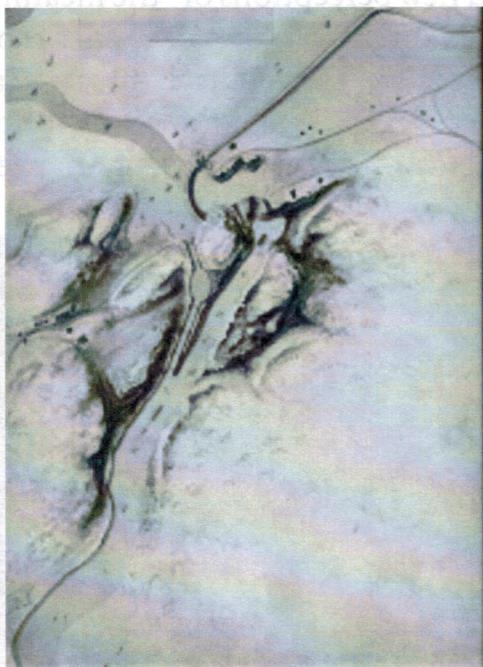
Through all this I have become great friends with Lyndall and her husband John. Because Lyndall is a tour guide at Rochester Cathedral, Kent, UK where there is a plaque to John By, and at Lambeth Palace where there is a plaque nearby commemorating John By's birthplace and his baptism in St. Mary-at-Lambeth, we arranged a trip to Jones Falls for the Hackers when they were here for the dedication in September 2004. It was at this time that the Hackers generously invited me to visit while I was in Europe this spring to come and see the By Memorials; including, the one in Frant Church.

As it was the 175th Anniversary of the opening of the canal, I asked Brian Osborne whether there was something I could take over with me to present to the church. Brian brilliantly, especially on such short notice, not only found in the Queen's archives a colour sketch of the Kingston Mills Locks done by John By himself but also had it copied and framed and delivered to me the night before I was to leave for France for the Vimy Memorial rededication.

When in England, where I stayed with the Hackers, I had the opportunity to present the John By sketch to Frant Church of England Primary School during their Friday morning Assembly at the church on April 27th. I also gave them a short talk about the Rideau Canal and John By's magnificent contribution to Canada.

Below is a photo of Lyndall and me beside a monument that was erected by the City of Ottawa on the grounds of Frant Church. The inscription reads:

IN MEMORY OF LT. COL. JOHN BY ,
ROYAL ENGINEERS,
OF SHERNFORD PARK IN THIS PARISH,
WHO DIED 1ST FEBy. 1836 AGED 53
AND OF
ESTHER, HIS WIFE,
WHO DIED 18TH FEBy. 1838 AGED 40.
ALSO OF
HARRIET MARTHA
THEIR YOUNGEST DAUGHTER



Colour sketch of Kingston Mills created by John By.
Copy made available thanks to Queen's University Archives



Photo of Lyndall and Joyce at the John By Memorial,
Frant Church, Sussex

Sir John A. Macdonald Remembered on 6 June 2007

by Brian S. Osborne



Thanks to the prayers of Presbyterians and Anglicans alike, the sun shone on the commemoration of the 116th anniversary of the death of their co-religionist, Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first prime minister. A gathering of some seventy people from KHS and the Kingston community was further complemented by students from The Mother Teresa Catholic School and Sydenham Street and Central Public Schools of the Limestone School Board. As in the past, representatives of federal, provincial, and municipal government as well as members of various community organizations and institutions with connections to Sir John also participated in the ceremony by laying wreaths at the grave. An innovation this year was the recognition of seven students from Mother Teresa School for their projects on the life and times of Sir John A. Macdonald (Caitlin Kinsella, Samantha Pho, Kathryn Doyle, Niveana Garrah, Francesca Amarante, Madison Roy, and Jenna Young).

The title of the graveside address by Dr. Jennifer McKendry, "Beneath the green and flowery sod, beneath the waving and weeping foliage: Sir John A Macdonald and the Cataraqui Cemetery," explored Sir John's connection with this distinguished place. He, together with others among the 67 prominent Kingstonians, organized this novel type of burial ground in reaction to the rapid population growth and burgeoning health problems associated with nineteenth century urbanism. Apart from such practical concerns, Dr. Mackendry also addressed changing aesthetic and philosophical considerations as garden and monumental cemeteries came to be seen as indicators of social progress and new perceptions of "the meaning of life, death and the hereafter." Her presentation also focused on the Macdonald-Williamson family plot itself. Dr. Mackendry presented a history of the successive interments there as well as the particulars of the design and symbolism of the cast iron fence and gate, the polished red granite obelisk, and the simple stone cross marking Sir John's grave. In all, this rich and nuanced analysis connected this remarkable Canadian with his home-community and also highlighted another contribution he made to enriching the society of his day.

Dr. Mckendry also provoked considerable discussion on what is the purpose of the KHS commemoration each 6 June. Clearly, it is an important event in the local calendar and the Society's sense of purpose. But, given the foundational role played by Sir John, should there not be more recognition of this day? If so, what should the KHS be doing about it?



Some seventy people from KHS and the Kingston community attended this year's event.



Students from Mother Teresa Catholic School, and Sydenham Street and Central Public Schools attended.

That being said, I must thank those who have contributed to the 2007 event. First, the gracious presence and good services of Reverend Brian Yealland was much appreciated. That the event unfolds efficiently on the day is much due to the organizational skills of the master of ceremonies, Peter Radley. The presence of the Fort Henry Guard and the staff of Bellevue House adds much flair to the occasion while the musical contribution of the Mother Teresa School choir under the direction of Christine Edwards and Alison Bogle enriched the event. Finally, I thank the Memorial Service committee for their attention to detail on such prosaic matters as chairs, tents, sound systems, and cookies and punch! (Mark Bennett, Barbara Bonner, John Coleman, Ted Huber, Marcus Létourneau, Alan MacLachlan, Jennifer McKendry, and Peter Radley).



A lament was played in recognition of Sir John A.'s Scottish heritage.



Representatives from the Fort Henry Guard and RCMP added colour and formality to the laying of wreaths.



President Edward Grenda spoke for the KHS

Photographs by Randy Genois

There is Rest for the Weary....Harry Traill Remembered

by Jennifer McKendry

On July 7 2007, one-hundred and thirty-seven years after the murder of penitentiary guard Harry Traill on 7 July 1870, a solemn procession followed on foot behind an honour guard accompanied by the wailing of the bagpipes to his gravesite behind Christ Church in Cataraqui Cemetery. Organized by the Canadian Federal Corrections Memorial Committee and the Ontario Regional Command Honour Guard of the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), the remembrance service featured David St Onge, CSC Museum Curator and member of the KHS board.

David spoke eloquently about the family ties to the famous Strickland and Traill family of authors and the grasping for comfort when Harry's mother planted violets on her dead son's grave, his marker inscribed "There is Rest for the Weary." Only 33-years old, he was struggling to support his wife and young children when he was assaulted by convicts on the Kingston Penitentiary grounds. Traill, the first known guard to die on service after the penitentiary system was taken over by the Dominion of Canada, symbolized, at this special service, all guards who have died while at work in penitentiaries across Canada.



photo courtesy of Glenbow Museum Archives, Calgary




David St Onge gives the main address at the memorial service to recognize Harry Traill, the first officer to die on duty in the service of federal corrections.


photo courtesy of Cataraqui Cemetery

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


Expressions
 Fashion Boutique
 Sandra Sinclair
 2815 Princess St 613-384-9763

Kingston's Independent Bookstore
 156 Princess Street
 613-546-9799
 Oscar Malan, Bookseller

**NOVEL
 IDEA** 

THE PILOT HOUSE OF KINGSTON

 265 KING ST EAST
 613-542-0222

CUNNINGHAM & POUPORE
 FASHION FOR MEN
 75 BROCK STREET 613-544-1400



 Marc F. Raymond
OPTICIANS LTD
 324 King St E. 613-549-2020

COLDWELL BANKER
 GRAHAM THOMSON
 REAL ESTATE

TERRY STAFFORD
 BRIAN STAFFORD
 613-546-3171

for
 "ULTIMATE SERVICE"

SANTORINI RESTAURANT 613-548-4654
 248 Ontario St
& MINOS RESTAURANT
 613-384-2021 2762 Princess St
www.minos1.com
Papadakis Family

RESTAURANT
 68-R Princess St
 613-549-7673
 "The Pig
 with
 a Peel"

PAN CHANCHO
 44 Princess St 613-544-7790

ChienNoir
 DISTO
 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

*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

SPEAKERS' CORNER

with Heather Home



Welcome back everyone to a new season of Limelight and a new line-up of programming. The summer has been a glorious one, and as we settle into the fall and the upcoming events and talks, I want to thank our speaker from May, Dr. Geraint Osborne, for his informative talk "We women found we could run a country": Kingston's Factory Women at War, 1939-1945. There were many interesting facts about Kingston, as well as photographs that accompanied the talk, which were new to me and likely some of our members. I was particularly interested in the points brought up by Dr. Osborne about the role of media, in this case the Whig Standard, in promulgating the status quo in terms of "a woman's place" in society. The examples of the paper's editorials which shifted from one end of the spectrum to the other; first, admonishing women for not doing enough to help out in the war effort then informing them that their proper place was in the home once the men had returned from service, was an effective way to try and get the audience to understand the greater context in which these incidents took place. I think the

"Engine Cleaner"
by Grant MacDonald.
(An image of Mrs. Annie Knight
working).
photo courtesy of CNR Archives



evening was a success in part for the conversation that followed the presentation. There were various members of the audience who were able to add their own remembrances and observations from that time which I think enriched the event overall.

Coming up on the programme for this year is an interesting array of talks: from art history, to Kingston's industrial architecture, to the history of sport, whatever your personal interest I hope that there will be something for you in the upcoming programme.

September 19th, 2007 Dorothy Farr "Daniel Fowler"

October 17th, 2007 Gillian and Tony Barlow "Industrial Kingston"

November 17th, 2007 David St. Onge "The Case of Harry Traill"

January 16th, 2008 Maurice Smith "Stone Frigate at RMC"

March 19th, 2008 - Dr. Gordon Dueck "The History of Beth Israel Synagogue in Kingston"

April 16th, 2008 Alan McLachlan "Ongwanada"

May 21st, 2008 Jason Wilson and Kevin Shea "Lord Stanley and Sir John A. Macdonald: A long and dear friendship"