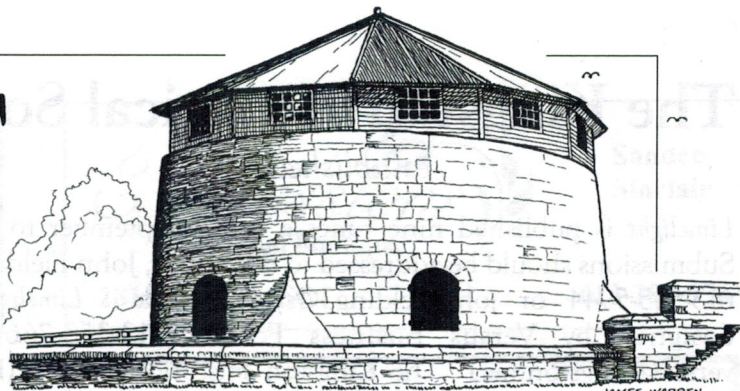


# LIMELIGHT

## Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

vol 9 no 7    October 2007    ISSN 1488-5565



### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

For those who harbour an appreciation and concern for matters historical, Kingston is the heritage capital of Canada. Given that the City of Kingston is one of the oldest cities in Canada, it has been the site of many introductory developments in a variety of socio-cultural and political institutions, not to mention the construction of impressive buildings and structures, particularly of limestone during the mid-19th century.

During the past century, Kingston citizens have developed organizations and events to recognize and perpetuate this indisputably rich heritage.

Kingston has the largest number of specialized museums for a city of its size in Canada. There are sixteen museums focusing on such diverse themes as the military, medicine, natural history, technology, sport, corrections and politics. Kingston also hosts two major art galleries Agnes Etherington Art Centre and the Modern Fuel Gallery.

Kingston has a wealth of active heritage societies that bring together researchers, writers, lecturers, and those with interest in the City's history. The Kingston Historical Society formed in 1893, has been a prominent player. The Pittsburgh Historical Society formed in the 1970's, continues to explore the extensive history of the former Pittsburgh Township. Created in 1972, the Frontenac Heritage Foundation promotes the preservation of buildings that contribute to the heritage of the Kingston area. The Cataraqui Archaeological Research

Foundation focuses on archaeological research in Kingston and its environs.

It is interesting to observe that the Society of International Hockey Research, which is now based in Toronto, was founded in Kingston by local sport historians. Also Historica (organizer of history fairs) has solid organizational roots in Kingston as well as personnel who administer the fairs in Ontario.

Historical re-enactments are another form of history education and commemoration. Kingston is the home of significant historical re-enactments on an ongoing basis. The Fort Henry Guard dramatically depicts 19th century British Army drills and maneuvers. This has been done since the mid-1930's. Less known, but nonetheless important, is the annual Historic Hockey Series (since 1969). It is a re-enactment of the first Kingston hockey game played between Queen's students and RMC cadets in March 1886. It is the only ongoing sport re-enactment in North America.

Indeed, heritage has a vibrant presence in Kingston, inspired and maintained by one of the more energetic and innovative heritage-conscious group of citizens in Canada.



*Edward R. Grenda*

### THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Wednesday, 17 OCTOBER, 7:30PM

The history of the development of industry and trades in the growing city of Kingston in the 19th century: the historical evidence of the meeting of rural and urban life that can be garnered from industrial buildings

Tony Barlow, historic building consultant and designer  
Gillian Barlow, University Records Manager/Archivist

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

Refreshments    All Welcome

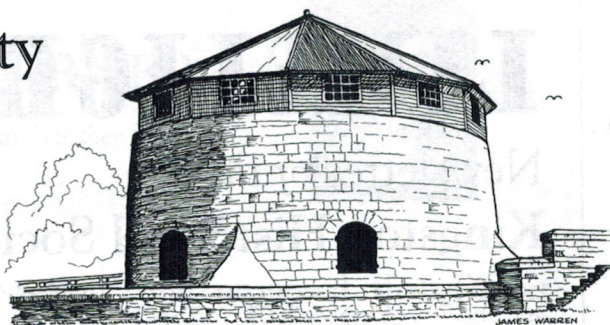
### CONTENTS

President's Message, 1  
Masthead, 2  
From the Editor, 2  
We mourn the loss of, 3  
Around and About Us, 4  
Announcements, 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

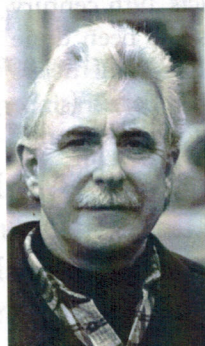
### Executive

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



**I**would like to welcome Ellie Deir, a new member as of this year to your KHS Council, as assistant editor of *Limelight*. I do have a tendency to travel these days and very much needed help to keep *Limelight* coming to you.

If you thought some of the photographs were not clear in our last issue you are right, we are working to solve that concern. But from time to time there may be images that are just a little fuzzy because the originals to which we have access are just not as crystal clear as we would like. But rather than not use those photographs I might decide that the image is important and will run it anyway.

*John Fielding*



Mark your calendars now for the annual **Sir John A. Macdonald anniversary dinner** Friday January 11, 2008. Our guest speaker this year will be Richard Gwyn, O.C., LL.D. His talk will be: "John A, The Man Who Made Us; How he did it, and Why he did it".

The dinner will take place at the Senior Staff Mess at the Royal Military College. Cost for this year's dinner has not been finalized, but will be commensurate with past years. Details of the menu and the cost will appear in the next issue of *Limelight*.

Please contact Heather Home, 613-544-5596 or Warren Everett, 613-545-9316 for more information.

## WE MOURN THE LOSS OF...

by J.W. (Bill) Fittsell

The city's limestone glare was dulled somewhat in late summer with the loss of three citizens in a three-week span. Only one was a long-time member of this Society and yet each in hers or his singular way contributed to Kingston's rich heritage and will be sorely missed.

Joyce Irene Grenville, wife of Jack Grenville, died unexpectedly Aug. 28th at Kingston General Hospital, aged 83. Three days later at a service in St. James Church, a loving tribute, led by son John Grenville, was paid to her memory. She was remembered as a mother, grandmother, great grandmother, parishioner and elementary school teacher, particularly in teaching reading. Although claiming she did not "do meetings," Joyce was a loyal and faithful supporter of KHS, including the Sir John

A. Macdonald graveside services. Joyce and Jack epitomized the exemplary joint contributions in the tradition of such couples as the Anguses, Flynns, Cohoes and Trumpours. Our condolences go to Jack and their four children, 11 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Photographer Randolph Lionell (Randy) Genois, who died Sept. 3rd at KGH, aged 66, was not a member of KHS, but did valiant service, much of it voluntary, in recording Kingston heritage events. He had the happy faculty of discovering the dates and places of noteworthy celebrations and showing up impeccably dressed

and working quietly and unobtrusively with his cameras. He filmed several Sir John A. Macdonald memorials and KHS Award nights, not to mention historic hockey and many Royal Canadian Legion and CFB Kingston events. Randy's photographs were regularly featured in *Limelight* and just this past summer he had agreed to become our official photographer. A native of Quebec City, he came to Kingston with his military father, taught judo, earned a black belt and competed nationally. Few people knew of his devoted service as caregiver to his aged mother Hazel Genois. Rest easy, Randy.

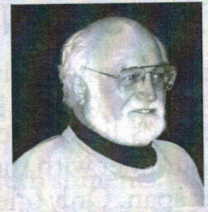
Author-poet-playwright Helen Joan Finnigan MacKenzie, who died Aug. 12th in her 82nd year, was known as the "Ottawa Valley's favourite storyteller" but spent most of her life and produced many of her 31 books in Kingston and Frontenac County. A postwar graduate of Queen's University, she wrote much of her early poetry as a resident of Grenville Park and published six books with Quarry Press here and gave the city its first coffee table book as a post-1973 Tercentenary presentation. Entitled *Kingston: Celebrate This City*, the lavishly illustrated pages featured her poetic prose, the delightful watercolours of Frank C. Johnston of Picton and was dedicated to "her three Kingstonians, born, raised and schooled mainly in this city." A third of a 1976 book, *Living Together*, was devoted to her "Kingston poems," one of which teed off on "rapacious developers." Fortunately, Joan Finnigan's literary papers are preserved at Queen's Archives. A memorial service celebrating her life is scheduled for Kingston in October.

Photographs by Jennifer McKendry



# AROUND AND ABOUT US

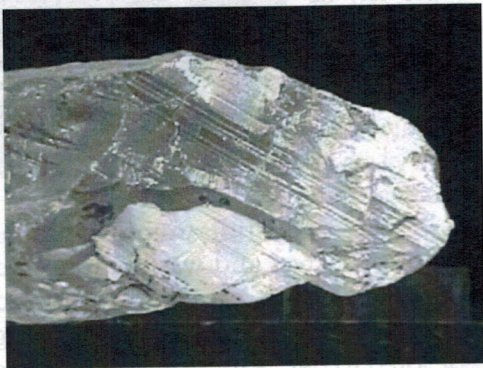
by Brian S. Osborne



## By the Way: Another Story about the Rideau

You should never underestimate the scholarly interactions that take place at the various cultural establishments throughout Kingston. Recently, I enjoyed the ambience of one of the city's popular places located opposite Robertson Davies' "St Nicholas" Cathedral. To my surprise, I encountered a fellow professor emeritus, Ian Nichol (what an appropriate-sounding name for a geologist!) who enquired about my talks concerning "Rideau 175" and the UNESCO/WHO designation. In particular, he wanted to know if I knew anything about bytownite. Always one to admit to ignorance en route to enlightenment, my confession resulted in the recruitment of another geological emeritus, Professor Dugald Carmichael. And this is how I was introduced to the story of bytownite, its Rideau Canal connection, and a whole list of personae dramatis. (Excuse the classical language but it was because "I had the Latin" that I didn't become a coal miner: an inside joke that's "beyond the fringe!").

Really, the principal source for all this is an article by H.R. Steacy and E.R. Rose in the *Mineralogical Record* of March-April, 1982. It tells the story of a "By-product" (ouch!) of the construction of the Rideau Canal: bytownite. They open their exercise in forensic geology by noting that the absence of rigorous analysis in so many C19th. geological classifications resulted in the rushed assignation of some 22,000 names to a mere 6,000 distinct species. One of these was bytownite.



It all started with a visit to Bytown in the 1830s by one, Dr. Andrew Fernando Holmes, a physician, chemist, botanist, and, incidentally, the first Dean of Medicine at McGill University. Perhaps he was motivated by the technological sublimity of the works along the Rideau Canal; perhaps he wished to meet with his colleague, Dr. James Wilson of Perth. Whatever the reason, his scientific curiosity prompted him to collect some geological samples from a boulder on the Richmond Road near the old trail to the Deschênes Rapids on the Ottawa River.

Holmes then forwarded his samples to Dr. Thomas Thomson, Regius Professor of Chemistry at the University of Glasgow. In 1836, Thomson analysed two portions of Holmes' sample and concluded it represented a new species which he named bytownite.

But the story didn't stop there. A later analysis in 1838 by Tennant, identified the find as amphotelite (anorthite). And then, fifteen years later, a mineralogist and chemist with the Geological Survey, T. Sterry Hunt, published a slightly different explanation based on differences in Tennant's and Holmes' analysis of proportions of lime, soda, and potash and declared it to be anorthite (thisosurite).

The story next shifts to Germany. In 1864, Professor Gustav Tschermak (1836-1927), a mineralogist at the University of Vienna, had presented a theory that plagioclases were isomorphous mixtures of albite (sodium feldspar) and anorthite (calcium feldspar) and he arranged them in a progressively calcium-rich series: albite, oligoclase, andesine, labradorite, bytownite, anorthite. That is, bytownite was included in the series and the original name assigned by Thomson in 1836 was, thus, formally established.

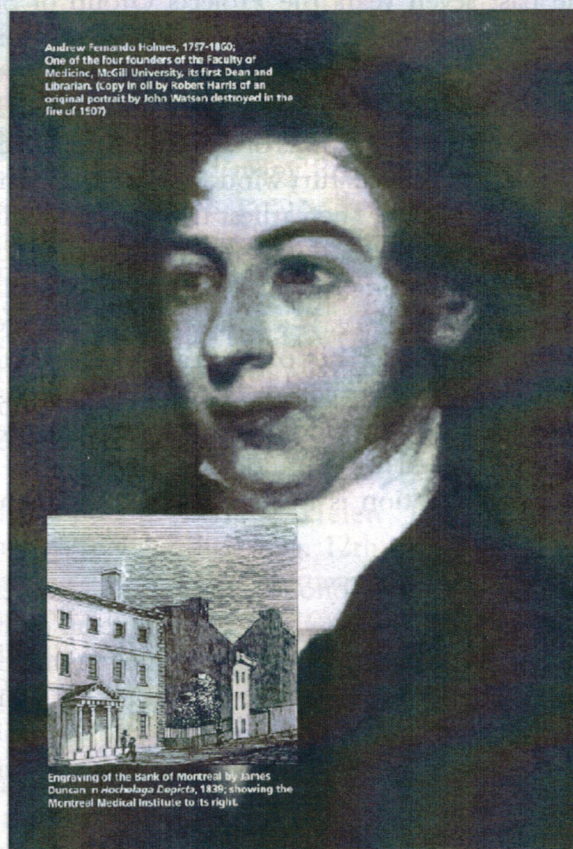
However, Dr. A. Krantz, a mineral collector and dealer of Bonn, provided a sample of what was, ostensibly, bytownite to Professor Ferdinand Zirkel (1838-1912) an eminent German mineralogist at the University of Leipzig. In 1871, Zirkel declared the sample to be composed of a mixture of anorthite, hornblende, mica, quartz, and magnetite. Accordingly, he recommended that the name bytownite be dropped! However, the provenance of Zirkel's sample was somewhat dubious and the Thomson-Tschermak designation stuck!

For Steacy and Rose, the story of bytownite had a complicated plot and a cast of several characters: By, Holmes, Thomson, Hunt, Krantz, Zirkel, and Tschermak. But there were five lead actors in the drama: as Steacy and Rose put it, "...without Holmes the mineral would not have reached Thomson. Thomson named the mineral; Tschermak adopted the name in his plagioclase series; and Hunt's analysis was the accepted one." Of particular importance to historians of the Rideau Canal is their conclusion that "Without By there would not, of course, have been a Bytown, nor a bytownite."

And remember where all of this started for me: a mixture of liquid conviviality and hard-rock geology. It reminds me of the wise words of Omar Kháyam:

The Grape that can with Logic absolute  
The Two-and-Seventy jarring Sects confute:  
The subtle Alchemist that in a Trice  
Life's leaden metals into Gold transmute.

...or even bytownite!



A photograph of Andrew Fernando Holmes

# The Cathedral Church Of St George: Art For Heritage

Over the past seven years the Projects Group of St. George's Cathedral has been raising money to support the restoration of the Cathedral's stained glass windows. The 21 stained-glass windows in St George's Cathedral represent the changing fashions of windows in the 20th century. All of the 19th century windows were lost in the fire of 1 January 1899. The earliest two in the rebuilt cathedral were dedicated in 1902, and are in the style of Louis C. Tiffany. Among the most recent, installed in the RMC Gallery in 1979, is a window of St George, whose banner extends up out of the main window into the lunette above an unusual arrangement. The most recent, the St. Cecilia window and the St. Margaret window were installed in 2002 and 2003.

The window restoration is in its final phase and the

proceeds from this year's event will be used for building restoration. The sale will be held at 6:30 to 9:00PM on Friday, October 12th and will be accompanied by music and a gala reception with refreshments. Visitors entering the Cathedral from the King St entrance will get the full effect of the paintings and fine quality art products exhibited by local artists, artisans and designers.

Tickets are \$10, including refreshments, and can be ordered at 548-4617, or may be purchased at the door. The exhibition continues on Saturday, 13 October, 10:00AM to 3:00PM; admission \$2 at the door. Just by being there, you will help preserve a very important part of Kingston's heritage.

I am compiling a Roll of Honour of the men and women associated with Kingston and Frontenac County who died in the First World War. I hope to publish biographies and photographs of them for the 90th anniversary of the Armistice next year. A full list can be seen at [http://kingston\\_volunteers.fastmail.fm/index.html](http://kingston_volunteers.fastmail.fm/index.html). Persons whose photos I am looking for are marked on the site by ++. However, I have been unable to identify seventeen men memorialized on city plaques. If you have any information on any of them, I would be pleased to hear from you at [kingston\\_volunteers@fastmail.fm](mailto:kingston_volunteers@fastmail.fm), or you can leave a voice message at 613 546 8538. They are, (with the locations of the memorials in brackets):

Charles Baker (KCVI)

John Beadis (Memorial Hall)

William J Bickham (Memorial Hall)

A R Bryant (Memorial Hall)

B W Clarke (Memorial Hall)

R W Clarke (Memorial Hall)

Frederick Corkey (Frontenac County Court House)

Lloyd Fleming (Cooke's Presbyterian Church)

John Vincent Gallivan (Regiopolis)

Archie Cecil Kane (Regiopolis)

H C Martin (Memorial Hall)

T J Mateer (Regiopolis)

John Francis McDermott (Regiopolis)

J J McDermott (Regiopolis)

Herbert McDonald (Frontenac County Court House)

Robert Miller (Frontenac County Court House)

R F Vair (Regiopolis)

Peter Gower, 16 Kingsgate Place, Kingston 613 546 8538

## "WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

A retrospective exhibition of paintings from 1960-2007 by Shirley Gibson-Langille



To be held in the Wilson Room of the Kingston-Frontenac Public Library  
130 Johnson Street, Kingston  
November 1st- November 30th 2007

OPENING Saturday November 3rd 1pm-5pm  
Dr. Brian Osborne will open the show at 1pm.  
Entertainment: Lisa Russell will be playing the violin  
. Refreshments



CONTACT: Shirley Gibson-Langille 613-549-8360 Email: [shirley.gibson-langille@sympatico.ca](mailto:shirley.gibson-langille@sympatico.ca)  
[www.shirleygibsonlangille.homestead.com](http://www.shirleygibsonlangille.homestead.com)

**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 & POUPORE**  
**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"



**TARA  
 NATURAL  
 FOODS**  
 • ESTABLISHED 1972 •

81 Princess Street  
 613-546-4439

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

**ROYAL LEPAGE**

[larrybrennan@royallepage.ca](mailto:larrybrennan@royallepage.ca)

613-384-1200 cell 613-329-7222



Larry Brennan

*Expressions*   
 Fashion Boutique

Sandra  
 Sinclair

2815 Princess St

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](http://www.minos1.com)  
 Papadakis Family

**ChienNoir**  
 bistro

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](http://www.cookesfinefoods.com)

Established 1865



## SPEAKERS' CORNER

with Heather Home



What a pleasure it was to listen to Dorothy Farr's talk "Daniel Fowler: An Artist After All", at this month's meeting of the Society. Dorothy Farr is the Associate Director and Curator at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre and the subject of her talk was Daniel Fowler, an author, artist, and farmer. Fowler was born February 10, 1810 to a relatively comfortable life in England. His position allowed him to take an interest in the arts and he was drawn to both painting and literature. Upon the death of his father he quit his apprenticeship in law and concentrated on his painting. He was able to continue with this interest by undertaking to teach well-heeled women in the art of watercolour. After a number of years, however, financial concerns dictated a more rewarding employment.

In 1843, Fowler moved to Canada to become a gentleman farmer. He settled on Amherst Island but it was not until 1850 that he was required to become a farmer in earnest due to the need to provide for a growing family. During this time, it is unknown if he continued to paint. It is assumed that Fowler's return to England in 1857, to visit his mother, was the impetus which renewed his personal interest in painting. He arrived back in Canada inspired and rededicated to his art and at age 53, he experienced a second life as an artist.

The talk then turned to Fowler's talents, and Ms. Farr proceeded to give the membership a brief lesson on his style, technique and

composition. She proposed that Fowler's works were quite innovative for his time. He exhibited at provincial shows and won prizes and medals for his work. The Canadian public appreciated a fine landscape and that was Fowler's forte. As a result of this subject matter, Fowler was an artist who was actively collected during his lifetime. Interestingly enough, almost all of Fowler's watercolours were composed of the landscape of Amherst Island and his own farmlands. This constituted a more personal expression than was typically found in Victorian Art at the time.

Ms. Farr concluded the talk with the reading of excerpts from Fowler's diary from 1862-1863. Likely started with the idea of future publication, the diary portrays an intimate picture of life on Amherst Island. Fowler wrote in a thoughtful and detailed manner. His recounting of his winter adventure across the newly formed ice to get his daughter to a social event on the mainland was wonderful. Dorothy Farr's talk was a perfect start to our programme year. I find it truly inspiring to listen to speakers who are not only extremely well informed, but also clearly enthusiastic about their topic. Ms. Farr's talk was one such occasion and I am hopeful that this bodes well for the line-up of speakers we have for the rest of this year.

Next month, 17 October 2007 will feature Gillian and Tony Barlow who will speak about "Industrial Kingston"