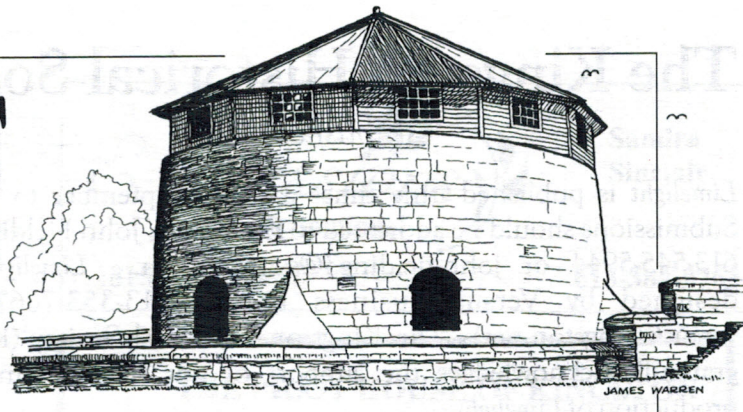


LIMELIGHT

Newsletter of the
Kingston Historical Society

vol 9 no 8 November 2007 ISSN 1488-5565



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Very few historical societies in Canada operate museums. It is, however, rare for a historical society, in Canada at any rate, to operate a museum in a structure designated as a National Historic Site as the Society does with the Murney Tower in partnership with Parks Canada. Now the Society possesses the unique distinction of having the Murney Tower and its museum as a part of a World Heritage Site as a result of the UNESCO designation in late June 2007 of the Rideau Canal and the Kingston Fortifications as a World Heritage Site. This is the first such designation and currently the only one in Ontario.

Several weeks back, Parks Canada erected a substantial green sign (pictured below) on King Street, immediately in front of the Murney Tower, tastefully pointing out that the Tower is "a part of a World Heritage Site". The sign is positioned in such a manner on the northern periphery of Macdonald Park on King Street that it appropriately informs passersby and yet does not obscure the view of the Tower from street level. The sign is unarguably a mark of heritage significance for the Society largely because of the museum it has operated in the Tower since 1925, and, of course, for the City of Kingston.

This sign joins an impressive plaque located in front of the Tower which the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada erected in the early 1930's, indicating that the Murney Tower is a National Historic Site.

I should like to invite Society members and other interested individuals to visit these heritage markers and ponder the themes that they so elegantly convey. In addition to the history and socio-cultural lessons that members will come away with, they will have the opportunity to experience a bracing autumn walk in an attractive Kingston shoreline park. Imagine – history, physical activity, and aesthetics in one fell swoop!



Edward R. Grenda



photo by Jennifer McKendry

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Wednesday, 21 NOVEMBER, 7:30PM

David St. Onge

Curator of the Correctional Service Canada Museum

The Case of Harry Trail

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

Refreshments All Welcome

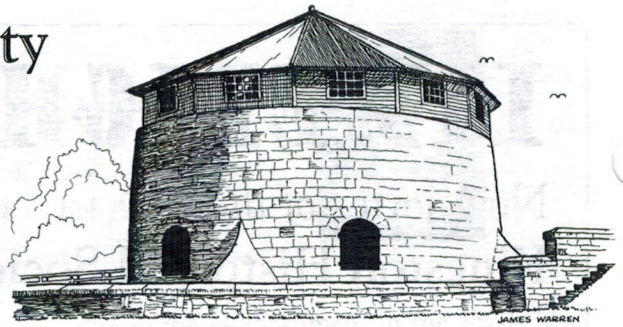
CONTENTS

President's Message, 1
Masthead, 2
From the Editor, 2
Sir John A. Macdonald
anniversary dinner, 3
KHS Annual
Autumn Excursion, 4
Book Review, 6
Our sponsors, 7
Speakers' Corner, 8

The Kingston Historical Society

established 1893

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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 \$40 individual, \$50 family, \$50 institutional or \$25 student. Memberships include *Historic Kingston*, published annually by The Kingston Historical Society.

Kingston Historical Society

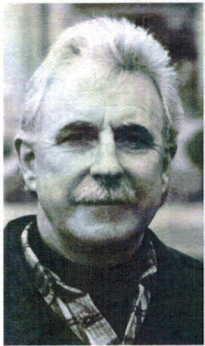
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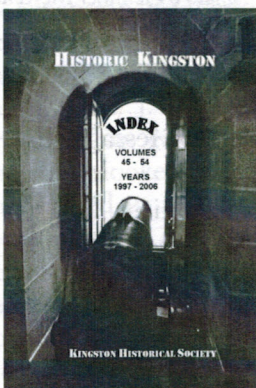
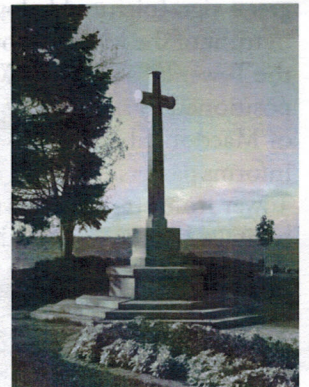
Robert Andrews	Heather Home
Paul Banfield	Ted Huber
Ellie Deir	Douglas Petty
Warren Everett	David St Onge
John Fielding	Carol White



From the Editor

Thank you to Jennifer McKendry who reminded me about Remembrance Day on November 11th. Last year I neglected to include a notice. She also sent this striking photo of the memorial cross in Macdonald Park. The Cross of Sacrifice is inscribed with these words, "This cross is set up by the Kingston Chapters of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire. Dedicated May 17 1925."

John Fielding

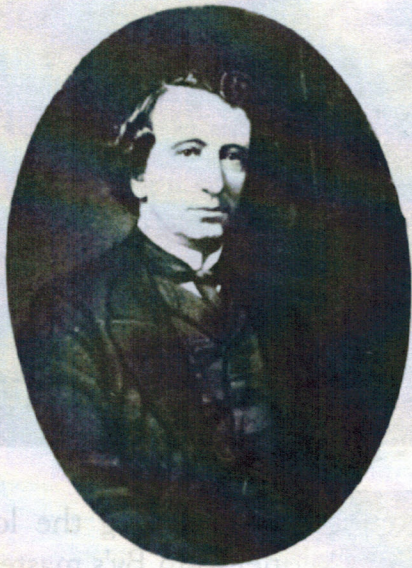


At 7:00 PM on 21 November 2007, in the Kingston Library and just prior to the regular November meeting, the Kingston Historical Society will host the introduction of its latest publication, The Index to Volumes 45 to 54 (1997 to 2006) of *Historic Kingston*.

Compiled by Donna Ivey, this 144 page document is offered for sale at \$18.00. After November, it will be available through the website, at the same price with a charge of \$3.00 for shipping and handling.

Please join us to acquire your personalized copy of this valuable reference tool.

Sir John A. Macdonald anniversary dinner



Our guest speaker for this year's annual Sir John A. Macdonald anniversary dinner on Friday January 11, 2008 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. We can gather in the Mess any time after 6:00 pm to meet our guest. The dinner will commence at 7:00 pm. Our menu this year features:

Chef's Salad
Julienne Consommé
Chicken Breast Florentine
Chocolate Mousse Pyramid
Coffee and Tea

The cost for the dinner will be \$40.00 for Society members and \$50.00 for guests of members.

Please fill out the tear off portion below and send it along with your payment to:

Sir John A Macdonald Dinner
C/O Ms. Heather Home
Queen's University Archives
Kathleen Ryan Hall, Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario
K7L 3N6

All reservations must be received no later than January 4, 2008



Name(s): _____

Number of members attending: _____

Vegetarian meal(s) _____

Number of guests attending: _____

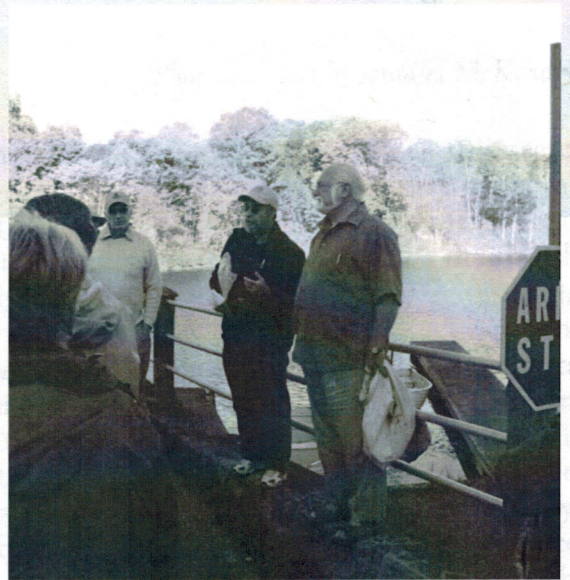
Vegetarian meal(s) _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Please list any food allergies: _____

Please ensure you include the names of all those attending the dinner.

*Brian Osborne and Ken Watson set the tone
for our adventure along the Rideau at Jones Falls*



September morning sunshine and cool breezes greeted the Kingston Historical Society members and friends as they boarded the bus which would take them for a cruise on part of the newest World Heritage site: The Rideau Canal. The fifty some members eagerly awaited not only the cruise but also to listen to our learned guest speakers, Brian Osborne and Ken Watson, who would guide and entertain them during the day.

Following the drive by of the Kingston Mills Locks, we arrived at the Jones Falls set of locks. Here Brian and Ken toured us along the locks emphasizing the strategic and construction accomplishments of Colonel John By's masterful 19th century engineering marvel. The highlight of the walking tour was the viewing and explanation of the 20 m. high and 107 m. long arch keywork dam at Jones Falls which employed creative engineering, stonemasonry construction methods and workmanship.

We then boarded the General Brock for our cruise from Jones Falls to Smiths Falls. As we enjoyed the dazzling autumn colours, Brian and Ken regaled us with stories and information of our vistas and through the use of copies of the paintings by Thomas Burrowes (Burrows) we gained insight into the way of life along the canal during and after its construction.

Midway through the cruise we enjoyed a delicious lunch on board the General Brock and continued to be enamoured by the sights that greeted us at each lock. Upon arrival at Smiths Falls, we enjoyed Ken Watson's description and explanation of the hidden dam beneath the water tower.

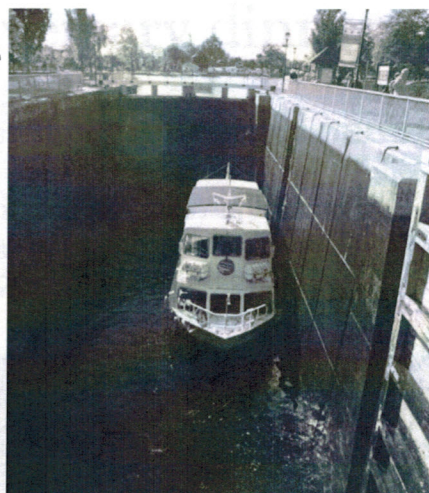
Our motor coach meandered back to Kingston and Fort Henry where we gathered in front of the advanced battery and heard Brian's account of the significance of the Kingston Fortifications (Fort Henry and the Martello Towers) as we viewed them from that vantage point. Following his talk, we, with champagne in hand, toasted Col. John By, the Rideau Canal and the Kingston Fortifications. We also ended with a thankful toast to Ken Watson and Brian Osborne, our guides into the past who have given us a true appreciation of our local World Heritage Site.

As one person said, "Mother Nature blessed us again with glorious sunshine, warm temperatures and a cornucopia of colours." Mark Saturday, October 4, 2008, on your calendars for the next KHS AUTUMN EXCURSION.

Text by Alan MacLachlan. Photos by Peter Ginn



Ken Watson describes Colonel By's genius in building the dam at Jones Falls.



We not only travel along the Rideau Canal system we also went up and down in the locks



Lunch aboard the General Brock was excellent but our tour organizer Alan MacLachlan had to keep a close watch on the Tim Bits



Our day long journey along the Rideau ended in Smith Falls

The 2007 KHS Annual Autumn Excursion



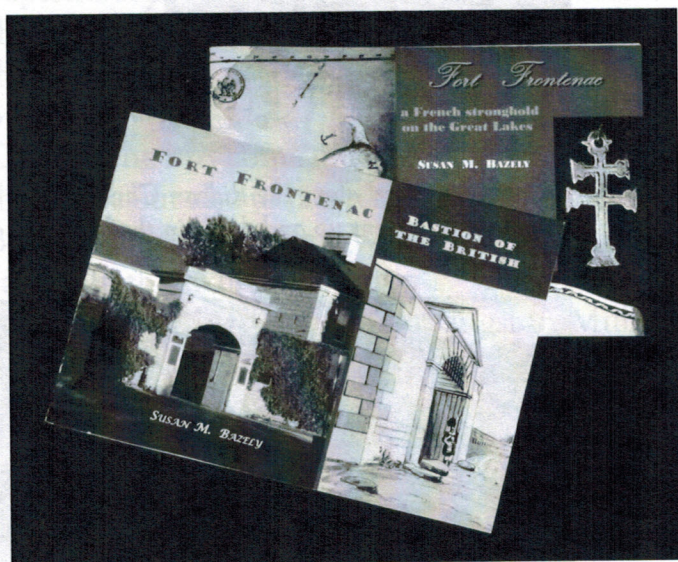
An unexpected ending to a wonderful day - a toast to Col. John By and Canada's most recent World Heritage Site on Fort Henry hill

Fort Frontenac Revealed

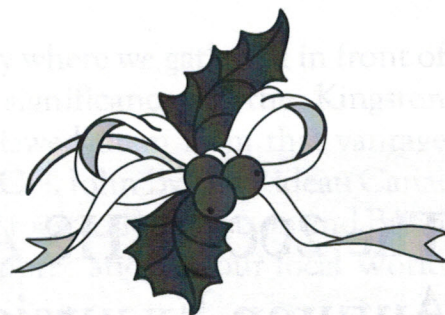
Photo and text by Jennifer McKendry

Two interesting books have just been published on Fort Frontenac by the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation. Both have been written by archaeologist Sue Bazely who has given talks to KHS over the years. One deals with the French regime, **Fort Frontenac: a French Stronghold on the Great Lakes**, covering the years from about

1673 to about 1758, and the other with the British, **Fort Frontenac: Bastion of the British**, covering the years from about 1758 to about 1867. Maps and drawings, along with photographs of archaeological investigations and some of the excavated artefacts, allow the reader to trace the history of the site now in the shadow of the new sports and entertainment facility and to relate the two forts' remnants to today's Fort Frontenac, also known as the Canadian Forces Staff College. Addressed are such aspects as the origins of Place d'Armes and what material objects soldiers and officers accumulated. The small books - a bargain at \$7.95 each or \$15 for the pair - are for sale at the Kingston Archaeological Centre (72 Gilmore Ave.), Novel Idea and at the KHS meeting on 21 November. For further information please phone 613-542-3483 or email carf@carf.info



A reminder that the Membership Form is included in this month's Limelight and we encourage members to renew at the November meeting



The KHS Annual Christmas Party

Please reserve the evening of Thursday, 6 December for our KHS Christmas Party. It will take place at Fort Frontenac Officers' Mess beginning at 7:30 PM. This festive occasion promises to be an evening of Christmas celebration, delicious snacks and, as always, the presentation of the KHS Awards. All KHS members are invited. Look for more details in December's Limelight.

Please note: As guests of the Officers' Mess, gentlemen are required to conform to the Mess dress-code of jacket and tie and no jeans.

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SPEAKERS' CORNER

with Heather Home

*written this month by Bob Andrews



On Wednesday evening, 17 October 2007, members of the Kingston Historical Society were treated to expositions of two fascinating subjects by Gillian and Tony Barlow. In approaching "A History of the Industrialization of Kingston: Gathering the Evidence", Gillian focused our attention on the 18th and 19th centuries and traced for us how society moved from manual and animal power to that of machines. She linked the fur trade, the first industry of Europeans in Kingston, to cottage industries, then to the development of a manufacturing industry. She spoke of early 19th century manufacturing in Kingston and Stuartville, with the development of products from earthenware to snuff. Such development was connected to changes in transportation, where the advent of steam made major impacts upon shipping (sail to steam) and land transport (horse-drawn stages to railroads). Gillian reminded us that the Rideau Canal not only had a military, and later commercial function, but it was also the first steam-boat canal.

We were taken through the effects that steam power had on Kingston. Iron foundries produced products ranging from plows, stoves, and wheels to manhole covers while woolen goods, leatherwork, hats, locomotives, typewriters and pianos all bore a Kingston "stamp". Gillian also drew to our attention that steam power itself underwent an evolution from being fired by wood to that of coal.

During the showing of pictures of a variety of industrial buildings, members of the audience engaged in the identification of locations, and also pointed out that some of the buildings have been transformed into very different uses from their original intentions.

Gillian noted that the growth of production that typified the expansion of Kingston industry along the waterfront, from Morton's Brewery to the Cataraqui Bridge, was matched by the simultaneous growth of a rich cultural mosaic. Dr. E. J. Barker's "Spring Walks", published in his British Whig, give a vivid portrait of what Kingston's waterfront looked like in the middle of the 19th century. She advised us that there were once 43 fire insurance companies in the town along with a plethora of newspapers and other businesses. By the 1950s, all that had changed and only one small mill was left.

Tony Barlow then moved us from the breadth of the mosaic to the specificity of the Morton properties and explained how he had examined the building now known as the Tett Centre to try to determine what it was like in its original configuration. He traced the growth of buildings

on the site, due to the establishment in the 1820s of a brewery and distillery by Thomas Molson. James Morton had learned the distillery trade under Molson and Tony indicated that Morton took over the business in 1844. Tony gave a brief description of the buildings that once existed on the site, as well as an outline of the various transformations of the property from brewery to military hospital to arts and archeological centres.

Tony examined the J. K. Tett building and gave an analysis of its evolution. He demonstrated how the building had been adapted from its original design and construction to its present form, and showed the adaptation and relocation of windows as the functions of the building evolved. He indicated what buildings no longer existed or have had facades significantly altered, and advanced hypotheses as to what may have been in certain segments of the structure by comparing the shape and size of various parts of the building, with distillery buildings in Great Britain.

The presentations concluded with questions from an attentive and appreciative audience.



Gillian Barlow is the University Records Manager/Archivist at Queen's University Archives and Tony Barlow is an historic building consultant and designer.

*This month's speaker:
21 November 2007
David St. Onge
The Case of Harry Traill*