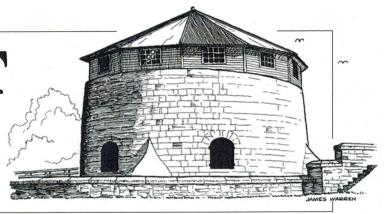
LIMELIGHT

Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

vol 10 no 9

December 2008

ISSN 1488-5565



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A start has been made this year by a number of heritage groups and government agencies to commemorate the anniversaries of several historical events which have since acquired significant symbolic status in Canada. In 2010, the Canadian Navy will be marking its 100th anniversary and events are being planned throughout the country, especially at the current and former naval centers in this connection.

In addition, the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 (Canada and the U.S.A) will be marked in 2012 in a series of commemorative events which will extend for a two year period. Planning is now underway in this regard and several committees involving both Canadian and American participants have already been created. The Ontario provincial government will be extensively involved in this undertaking. The province has been divided into six regions for this commemoration, regions in which significant military ventures took place during the War of 1812.

The designated regions for the 2012 commemoration are as follows: St. Lawrence Region from Cornwall to Bath (the area in which Kingston will be involved); Toronto Region; Niagara Region: Windsor Region; and Sault Ste. Marie Region. Re-enactments of naval and land encounters, it appears, will be the principal means marking the events along with heritage

oriented activities in the cities of these regions.

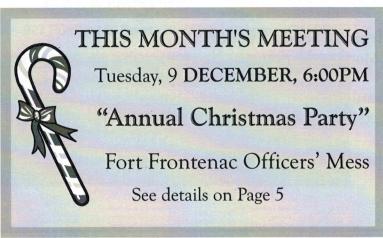
The Kingston Historical Society, through its Projects Committee, is currently in the process of considering how and to what extend the Society will participate in these celebrations.



In line with previous years, it can be confidently said that the Society has experienced another fulfilling year in its operations through its monthly talks on interestingly diverse topics, its many publications, and involvement in many heritage based initiatives in Kingston. Doubtless all this has been the result of a dedicated group of Society volunteers who selflessly offer their time and unstinting energies to make the Society a dynamic presence in the Canadian heritage realm.

In keeping with the season, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the Society's members a joyful Christmas and a happy prosperous New Year.

Edward R. Grenda



CONTENTS

President's Message, 1
Masthead, 2
Membership benefits, 2
Book Review, 3
Kingston - Glasgow Connection, 4 & 5
Speakers' Corner, 6
Our Sponsors, 7
Annual Sir John A Dinner
announcement, 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 (613-507-7667 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 \$40 individual, \$50 family, \$50 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 Ted Huber, Secretary John Whiteley, Treasurer

Councillors

Betty Andrews Robert Andrews Paul Banfield Ellie Deir Warren Everett John Fielding Heather Home Douglas Petty Gordon Sinclair Carol White

If you haven't yet renewed your membership, or are considering becoming a member, now is the time!

And there are many benefits. Consider these:

- 7 stimulating and informative monthly lectures plus a February AGM followed, frequently, by an auction sale
- 9 Issues of the Limelight Newsletter to keep you informed and provide you with knowledgeable articles on the history of Kingston
- Historic Kingston, a compilation of the yearly lectures that documents the history of our community
- Colourful annual Sir John A. Macdonald Memorial Service (June 6)
- Delightful and delicious annual Sir John A. Macdonald dinner and lecture at a discounted price (January 11)
- Festive annual Christmas party and KHS Awards night
- Colourful, informative and very well-organized Fall excursion
- Much appreciated discounts on Society Publications
- Valued 15% discount at Novel Idea
- Free entrance to the Murney Tower

Book Review

Title: Shipwrecks from the War of 1812 at Kingston, Ontario

Author: Jonathan Moore

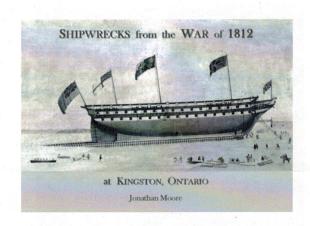
Publisher: Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation

Book Designer: Jennifer McKendry

Summary: Kingston, Ontario, has a proud heritage. During the War of 1812, the Royal Navy built powerful warships at its Kingston dockyard in a life-or-death struggle with the United States Navy for control of Lake Ontario. This book describes the history of these warships and their archaeological remains that lie submerged off Kingston's waterfront.

Front Cover Image: Watercolour of the launch of HMS St. Lawrence, 10 September 1814, by an anonymous contemporary artist, with permission of the Royal Ontario Museum © ROM

Bio of Author: Jonathan Moore is an underwater archaeologist with Parks Canada's Underwater Archaeology Service, based in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. He has an MPhil in Maritime Studies from the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, and a BA in Classical Studies from Queen's University, Kingston. He worked for the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation on a number of excavations and surveys between 1983 and 1998.



Other Books in this Series:

Bazely, Susan M. Fort Frontenac, Bastion of the British (Kingston: Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation, 2007).

Bazely, Susan M. Fort Frontenac, a French Stronghold on the Great Lakes (Kingston: Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation, 2007).

Price: Each book is priced at \$7.95

Books are available at: Novel Idea Bookstore at princess & Bagot Streets, the Archaeological Research Foundation at 611 Princess Street

For further infomation: 613-542-3483 or email carf@carf.info

ROUND AND ABOUT: THE KINGSTON-GLASGOW CONNECTION

Text & photos by Brian S. Osborne

Sometimes our interests in Kingston's history takes us afar. Over the last few months, I have been in correspondence with one, Graham Evan MacDonell, a former teacher and journalist and a current public relations professional. He is also a virtual gold-mine of information on Sir John A. Macdonald, his family and background. He recently sent me a recent copy of *The Scottish Genealogist* (Vol. LIV, No. 2 June 2007) in which two of his articles appeared.

In one, "Finding Sir John Alexander Macdonald's true birthplace a genealogist' challenge," MacDonell wrestles with the evidence for determining the place and time of Sir John's birth. His research indicates that despite the much cited and fêted date of January 11th, entry No. 7, page 198, Roll 644/21 of the City of Glasgow Official Parish Records cites

Prime Minister John Diefenbaker was present at the dedication of the Rogart Cairn.

A mechanism for the formal recognition of this fact was the subject of MacDonell's second article: "A PM from Scotland, you say! Yes, it's a long tradition!" Noting the profusion of Scots in politics in the U.K., Australia, and New Zealand, he focuses on what has been done to recognize Sir John's achievements in Scotland: a cairn at Rogart, Sutherland, dedicated to JAM's grandfather, John Macdonald; another cairn at Dalnavert commemorating the birthplace of his mother, Helen Shaw, and his wife, Isabella Clark; and a plaque to Sir John on the steeple of Glasgow's Ramshorn Kirk.

the birth date of January 10th 1815. Robert D. Watt, the former Chief Herald for Canada and now a retired consultant has advised the government of the error in the Sir John Alexander Macdonald and Sir Wilfred Laurier Act but harbours no hope that the error will be corrected.

But whatever the outcome of MacDonell's research, no one questions Sir John A.'s connection with Glasgow. As for the precise place of birth, our scrupulous researcher posits several options in the residential area of Laurieston: 22 Brunswick Place, 29 Ingram Street, or 4 Virginia Street.



Dalnavert was the house in which Helen Shaw Macdonald and Isabella Clark Macdonald were born, albeit a generation apart.

Faced by all of this commemorative fervour elsewhere, MacDonell concludes, "For a Glasgow-born lad who became a political icon in the British Empire's largest colony turned dominion, perhaps it is time that the City Councillors reviewed the legacy of its 'favourite sons.' More specifically, in his letter to me accompanying these provocative articles, Graham MacDonell extends an invitation to KHS. He seeks our support in his "quest to get a statue raised in Glasgow on January 10 (or 11), 2015 the bicentenary of his birth." One possible location is inside the proposed Selfridges store owned by one, Galen Weston.

Here we go again!

Come ring in the season in the company of your fellow Society members

Please join us for

The Kingston Historical Society Christmas Party at Fort Frontenac Officers' Mess Tuesday December 9th, 2008 Social hour at 6:00PM for a 7:00PM commencement Business attire required

The evening's events will include a welcome from the President, Christmas carols, and the launch of Peter Gower's book "Kingston Volunteers: The Thing to Do" and the presentation of the Kingston Historical Society awards. Refreshments will be provided following the awards presentation.

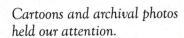
SPEAKERS' CORNER

With Suzanne Pritchard Photos by Peter Ginn

An excellent assembly of members and visitors were present to hear our November speaker, John Olson, formerly of the Faculty of Education at Queen¹s University, who gave a presentation entitled "Princess Street and the Automobile: 50 years of service." John displayed great grace and a calmness that was admired by all in attendance in the face of technological failure at the beginning of his talk. Unable to display the carefully assembled picture collection designed to illustrate his talk, he invited us to imagine George Lilly's aerial photograph of lower Princess Street. From then on, he had us in his hand especially when he gestured to the blank blue screen. After much effort the "glitch" suddenly resolved itself. John was then able to show us a fascinating collection of photos of the twenty plus gas stations located along Princess Street between Ontario Street and the old traffic circle. There were five at that intersection alone. John pointed out several interesting features of these "service centers" asking us to consider how they and the automobile affected the development of Princess Street and Kingstonians' lives during the twentieth century, and what messages the oil companies that built them wanted to convey. From the English cottage style of some early stations to the modernist garages designed by Walter Teague in the interwar years, to the ultramodern round glass windows of later stations, these buildings represented an evolving message of modernity. Providing full car care, rest rooms and map distribution, automobile service centers became symbols of technical efficiency, cleanliness and trustworthiness in local neighbourhoods. John¹s talk was especially timely, as this month witnessed the closure of the last remaining gas station on Princess Street east of the traffic circle. Many vestiges of their former presence remain, from the concrete blocks (another form of "old stones") that once

supported signs advertising gasoline brands, to buildings that have been converted to a variety of other uses. John's talk was also a walk down memory lane for a great many KHS members who happily joined in by identifying garages as they flashed up on the screen. At the end of the presentation, a lively question, answer and comment period followed.

John Olsen, unfazed by technical problems, engaged our historical imaginations.







Ellie Deir thanked John on behalf of all of us.

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

CUNNINGHAM & POUPORE

FASHION FOR

OR M

75 BROCK STREET 613-544-1400



TERRY STAFFORD BRIAN STAFFORD 613-546-3171

GRAHAM THOMSON REAL ESTATE

"ULTIMATE SERVICE"



RESTAURANT 68-R Princess St 613-549-7673

"The Pig with a Peel"

PAN CHANCHO 44 Princess St 613-544-7790

Cataraqui Cemetery

Tel: 613-546-6545

927 Purdy's Mill Road • Kingston • Ontario • K7M 3N1

Larry Brennan - Sales Representative Royal Lepage Proalliance Realty

Independently Owned and Operated

(613) 384-1200 Office (613) 329-7222 Cell Ibrennan2@cogeco.ca www.larrybrennan.com



THE PILOT HOUSE OF KINGSTON



265 KING ST EAST

613-542-0222



Marc F. Raymond OPTICIANS LTD

324 King St E. 613-549-2020



Kingston, Ontario

Uptown - Village 2762 Princess St. 613-384-2021 www.minos1.com Village Takeout 2796 Princess St. Beside Village, next plaza 613-384-5552



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



Annual Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner



This year's annual Sir John A. Macdonald Anniversary Dinner will be held on Sunday January 11, 2008. Our guest speaker will be Professor Tom Axworthy, Chair of Centre For the Study of Democracy, Queen's University. His topic:

"Revitalizing a Brand, John A's Lessons For the Liberal Party"

The dinner will take place at the Senior Staff Mess, Royal Military College, 6:00 pm for 7:00 dinner. Cost for this year's dinner will be \$45 for members and \$50 for non-members

Reservations for the dinner must be received no later than December 23, 2008.

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

Menu

Chef's Salad
Cream of Garden Vegetable Soup
Chicken Stuffed with
Chanterelles and a Cardamom Sauce
Parisiennes Potatoes
Mixed Vegetables
Maple Blondie Bombshell Cake
Tea and Coffee

Sir	John	A.	Macdonald	Anniversary	Dinner,	Sunday	January	11,	2009

Name(s)		
Member(s)		
Food Allergies:	Vegetarian:	
Remarks:		
Amount enclosed:	 _	

Mail Reservations & Cheque to: Sir John A Dinner, 253 Willingdon Ave, Kingston, ON, K7L 4J2

(cheque made payable to "Kingston Historical Society")