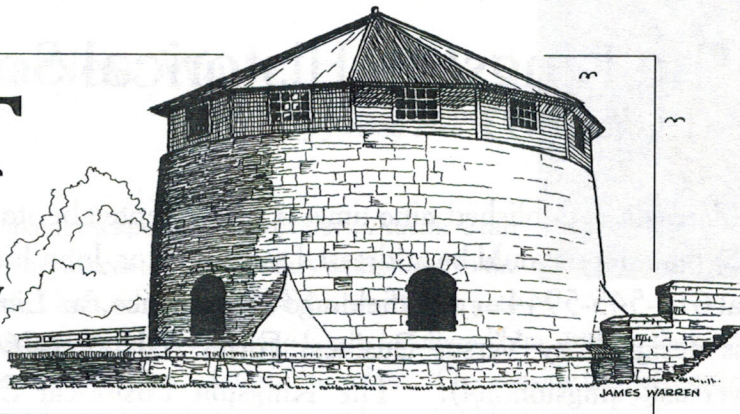


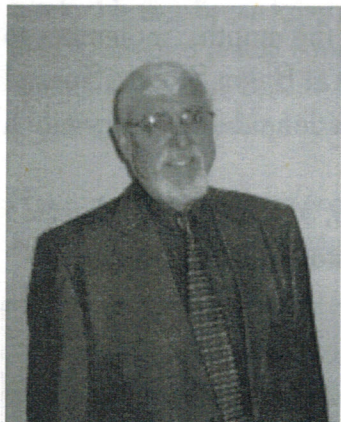
LIMELIGHT

Newsletter of the
Kingston Historical Society

vol 11 no 9a December 2009 ISSN 1488-5565



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The year 2009 is quickly coming to a close and Christmas and the holiday season will soon be upon us. As I reflect upon the Society's activities that we have experienced, we have had a very entertaining, varied and informative program. This has been due to a group of dedicated members. Bob Andrews has been the chief editor of "A Troublesome Berth": The Journal of First Lieutenant Charles Allan Parker, Royal Marines The Canada Years 1838-1840 which came out earlier this year and makes a superb Christmas gift. Ed Grenda has delivered a superb array of guest speakers throughout the year. The June 6th Commemoration of Sir John's death was highlighted with the humorous, penetrating and informative talk delivered by Dr. Ged Martin from the University of Edinburgh.

As we turn the corner into 2010, please know that your Council is active on several fronts in addition to the monthly and perennial events. The Finance Committee is reviewing the costing of the Society's operations especially with regards to our publications and annual activities. Also, Gordon Sinclair is heading up a committee which will see the KHS hosting a symposium in Kingston in 2012 focussing on the War of 1812. Further, your Council is also looking at activities to commemorate in 2015 the 200th anniversary of Sir John's birth.

Two major KHS events are in the offing. First on Wednesday, 9 December, our annual Christmas party at Fort Frontenac will take place and the high light of the evening will be the presentation of the KHS Awards. The second event is our annual 11 January, Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner at the officer's mess at RMC and our guest speaker is the renown Canadian author, Charlotte Gray, whose talk is titled "Sir John A's Women", a most intriguing title to be sure.

We wish all of you a most joyful and safe holiday season. 2010 is looking to be another year of vibrant activities for the Kingston Historical Society.

Alan MacLachlan

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

"Annual Christmas Party"



Come and join your Kingston Historical Society friends on the evening of **Wednesday, 9 December** for our Christmas Party.

It will take place at **Fort Frontenac Officers' Mess** beginning with a social hour at **6:30 PM** with celebrations formally commencing at **7:00**.

This festive occasion promises to be an evening of Christmas celebration, delicious snacks and the presentation of the Kingston Historical Society Awards.

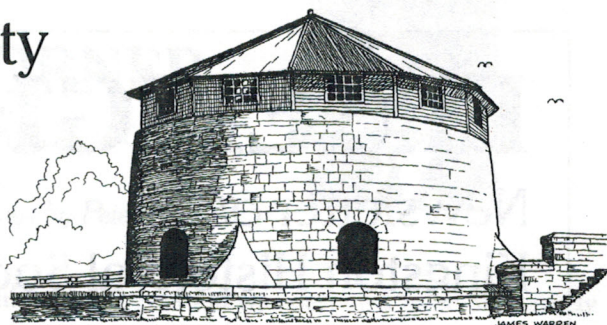
All Society members and friends of members are welcome.

Please note: As guests of the Officers' Mess, gentlemen are required to conform to the Mess dress code. A donation of \$5.00 is suggested.

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

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Edward Grenda, *Past President*
Gordon Sinclair, *Vice President*
Ted Huber, *Secretary*
John Whiteley, *Treasurer*

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| Robert Andrews | Ross McKenzie |
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| Peter Ginn | |

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Please note this is vol 11 no 9a. Last month we made an error in numbering November's *Limelight* as vol 11 no 9 instead of as vol 11 no 8. To correct this we have numbered this edition as vol 11 no 9a.



The Kingston Historical Society
gratefully acknowledges the
financial support of the Ministry of
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Annual Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner



This year's Sir John A. Macdonald Anniversary Dinner will be held on Monday, 11 January, 2010 at the Senior Staff Mess, RMC. We will gather at 6:00pm for dinner at 7:00pm. Our guest speaker will be Charlotte Gray, notable Canadian author. Her topic: **"Sir John A's Women"**

Cost for this year's dinner will be \$45 for members and \$50 for non-members. A vegetarian meal is available. **Reservations for the dinner must be received no later than December 21, 2009. Please note, the dinner will be limited to 96 members and guests.**

Please contact Warren Everett, 613-545-9316 for more information.

Menu

Chef's Salad
Cream of Garden Vegetable Soup
Chicken Breast Alain
Oven Baked Stuffed Potatoes
Mixed Vegetables
Caramel Chocolate Cake
Tea and Coffee



Sir John A. Macdonald Anniversary Dinner, Monday January 11, 2010

Name(s): _____

Member(s) _____ Non-Member(s) _____

Phone Number: _____ email: _____

Food Allergies: _____ Vegetarian: _____

Remarks: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

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

Kingston Sport History: The Olympic Flame

by Edward Grenda

One of the most underplayed (no pun intended) aspects of Kingston's history is the history of sport. By and large, the history-minded are not sport-minded and, conversely, the sport-minded are emphatically not history-minded. Moreover, for some, sport is essentially a frivolity, a triviality, an indulgence in the toy department of life. This patronizing and cloying view of sport invariably derives from those who harbour an excessively bloated notion of the vital importance and value of their personal interests and pursuits. For purposes of balance it can be argued that those involved in sport can inflate the importance of sport to exclude a universe of pursuits. However, those elements that render an athlete or team as something special are those that are fundamental to life in general. I am here referring to characteristics such as determination, courage, speed, strength, persistence, endurance, dedication, effort and preparation.

The aforementioned is a circuitous way of saying that an event of significance in Kingston's sport history will occur on December 14, 2009 at about 6:00 p.m. The Olympic Flame by way of a cross-Canada Olympic Torch Relay will appear in Kingston for the third time, a distinction that very few cities in Canada, or for that matter in the world, can accurately claim. The Olympic Flame conveys a multiplicity of symbols and meanings for those involved in sport and even for those who have no interest in sport. The Flame, among other things, stands for unity, achievement, continuation of lengthy traditions of superlative athletic endeavours and, of course, extensive grass roots participation of those who will never appear in an Olympic competition.

The first time the Olympic Flame appeared in Kingston was on July 17, 1976 when the City hosted the Olympic Sailing competition as part of the Montreal Summer Olympic Games. On that occasion, the Olympic Flame was transported by an intriguingly organized relay of athletes from Montreal to Kingston. The relay was unique in the sense that the Torch bearing the Flame was carried in the traditional manner by runners for a substantial distance. But it was also transported by horseback, canoe, rowing shell, and bicycle. The general route taken by the Flame involved only a few Canadian cities. After having been sent by laser beam from Greece to Ottawa, the Flame was carried by a phalanx of runners from Ottawa to Montreal and then from Montreal to Kingston by various means of conveyance as noted earlier.

The Olympic Flame arrived in Kingston at the front steps of City Hall at 3:00 p.m. The cauldron on the Tetrahedron sculpture on a dock at the Portsmouth Olympic Harbour was lit by the Flame during the afternoon of the following day to symbolically mark the start of the Sailing events.

The second occasion the Olympic Flame came to Kingston was on December 17, 1987 while the Olympic Torch Relay was carrying the Flame across Canada from Newfoundland to Calgary for the 1988 Olympic Winter Games. The Flame was greeted by an appreciative crowd of 8000 along with a contingent of two hundred Royal Military College cadets who performed a *feu de joie* immediately following the Flame's arrival.

On December 14, 2009 the Olympic Flame, again transported by a cross Canada Relay, will make its third appearance in Kingston. And given that Kingston has been designated as a Celebration Centre, a special

ceremony will be held in Market Square behind City Hall following the Flame's arrival in Kingston. On the next day at 7:00 a.m. the Flame will leave Kingston at the Tetrahedron at the Portsmouth Olympic Harbour complex and continue its route across Canada to Vancouver.



Edward Grenda was involved in the organization of the 1976 Olympic Torch Relay. He was Chair of the Kingston Olympic Torch Relay Committee in 1987-1988. He is currently a member of the Kingston Olympic Torch Relay Community Task Force organizing the 2009 event.

Mayor George Speal tries on an Olympic t-shirt in the spirit of the 1976 Olympics. Photo provided by Jeremy Heil from "Queen's University Archives, Kingston Whig-Standard fonds V142."

KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

A TROUBLESOME BERTH The Journal of First Lieutenant Charles Allan Parker,
Royal Marines: The Canada Years 1838-1840,
Robert J. Andrews & Rosalyn Parker Art, editors, \$40

Illustrated Guide to Monuments, Memorials & Markers in the Kingston Area, \$24.95

The City of Kingston Portrait Collection: Historical Sketches & Portrait Views
Marjorie Simmons, \$29.95

Williamsville Revisited: an Illustrated History of "Williamsville" at Kingston, \$35

Selected volumes and indexes of **Historic Kingston**
(listed on KHS website publications order page), \$12 to \$18

For information on ordering and postage costs:
www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca

(also available at Novel Idea, Princess & Bagot)

FUTURE EVENTS

- December 9, 2009: KHS Christmas Party
6:30 p.m. Fort Frontenac Officers' Mess
\$5.00 (suggested donation)
- January 20, 2010: "Reflections on the Role of Rene-Hippolyte Laforce in the Campaign of 1759". By David More (Novelist)
7:30 p.m. Kingston Frontenac Public Library
(Wilson Room) 130 Johnson Street
- February 17, 2010: KHS Annual General Meeting
7:30 p.m. Kingston Frontenac Public Library
(Wilson Room) 130 Johnson Street
- March 17, 2010: "Work Hard. Play Hard: The Making of a Nurse in Kingston-1890 to 1970). By Paul Robertson (Museum of Health Care
7:30 p.m. Kingston Frontenac Public Library
(Wilson Room) 130 Johnson Street

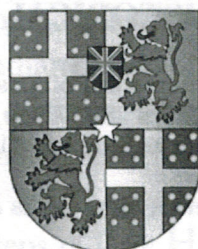
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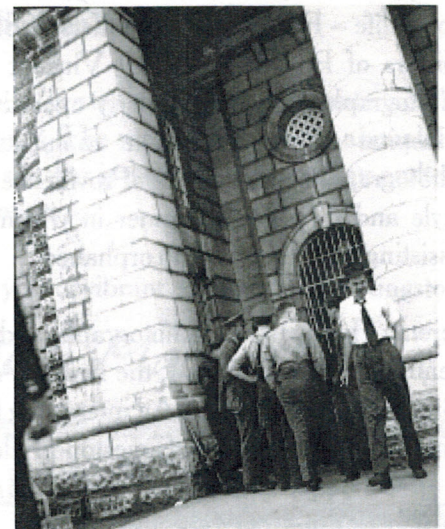
by Jeremy Heil



"On 26 April 1948, Officer Kennedy was the victim of a violent escape by two prisoners: Austin Craft and Howard Urquhart. On that morning, the officer was driving across the penitentiary compound to the north gatehouse to exit the facility. On the way, he saw inmate Craft, who was also on his way to the gate (because that was where he disposed garbage as part of his assigned work). Knowing Craft, he offered him a ride to the gate. Unknown to the officer, hidden in the trunk of the car, was another prisoner, Howard Urquhart. Once inside the gatehouse, Officer Kennedy stepped out of the car as per procedure in order to show that he was not being held hostage. As the outer gates were being opened, Craft pulled a gun that had been hidden under the rear bumper of the car and let Urquhart out of the trunk. He then began firing as he jumped into the driver's seat. In the melee, Officer Kennedy was struck by a stray bullet and died. Craft then roared through the open main gate and made his escape. This resulted in a large-scale search of the area, when police across Ontario were notified of the escape. However, the search was quickly over and, later that day, Craft and Urquhart were captured in the village of Sydenham, not far from Kingston."

Kingston photographer, George Lilley, captured this shot on the day in question, the grand architecture of the front entrance of Kingston Penitentiary looming large over the guards, who had by this point recaptured the convicts some three hours after their escape.

"Stones: A Guide to the Social History of Kingston" not only takes a look at Kingston's prison history, but also presents four additional virtual tours: "From Huaquio to Residents: The Chinese Experience in Kingston, 1875 to 1980"; "The Stories and Accomplishments of Some of Kingston's Early Black Citizens, 1780 to 1950"; "The Gay and Lesbian History of Kingston, 1940 to 2000"; and "The Jewish History of Kingston." We will also soon be launching "The History of "La francophonie" in Kingston" and "The Aboriginal History of Kingston." The website was developed out of a set of social history tours that were conducted in 2005 as part of Queen's University Archives' Annual Archives Lecture series. With funding from the Canadian Heritage Canadian Culture Online Programme, Queen's University Archives has partnered with Kingston Frontenac Public Library, Kingston Area Network (KANnet), the City of Kingston, the Penitentiary Museum, L'association canadienne-française de l'Ontario (ACFO) Milles-Îles and the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation to further develop these tours both virtually and as self-guided audio tours. The tour information is supported with primary source material (archival, artefactual and contemporary secondary sources) that has been scanned and added alongside the tour texts. Lesson plans have also been developed for secondary school teachers to use in the classroom.



Experience the tours for yourselves! Come see us at www.stoneskingston.ca.

Queen's University Archives, George Lilley fonds V25.5 2-363



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SPEAKERS' CORNER

with Edward Grenda

photos by Peter Ginn

"Scenes of Early Kingston" by Paul Banfield et al
November 18, 2009



The Society's November talk possessed a unique character. To begin with, the presentation was designed to be of a largely interactive format by focusing on photographs of late 19th and early 20th century Kingston and area, selected from the extensive collection of local archives. Significantly, the presentations were made by five archivists from these archives. The lead speaker was Paul Banfield (University Archivist at Queen's University Archives and current president of the Archives Association of Canada) who introduced the following archivists: Jeremy Heil (Queen's University Archives), Rodney Carter (Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph Archives), Shelly Respondek (County of Lennox and Addington Museum and Archives), and Danielle Hughes (Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul Archives). Each archivist presented four photographs and elaborated on various socio-cultural elements depicted in each photograph.



Paul Banfield

Introducing the presentation, Paul Banfield stressed that the objective was to engage the audience in a give-and-take context and to highlight the enormously rich archival resources available for historical and genealogical research.

Shelley Respondek showed photographs of late 19th century Napanee emphasizing sport, entertainment, and logging themes. Rodney Carter and Danielle Hughes concentrated on the religious aspect by showing the various hierarchical levels of organization and related attire of the religious orders which played a prominent role in 19th and 20th century local

social life – Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph (Hotel Dieu Sisters) and the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. Mr. Carter also presented photographs showing the early operating theatres at Kingston's Hotel Dieu Hospital which were quite sophisticated for this period. Ms. Hughes' photographs of the Sisters of Providence provided an insight into the austere life style and formalized manner in which the nuns carried out their duties in assisting the local poor and orphaned.

Jeremy Heil presented photographs of downtown Kingston featuring late 19th century Sydenham Ward, the British American Hotel and the intersection of Brock and King Streets. An interesting facet in this regard was the prominence and substantial number of limestone buildings in the downtown Kingston area.



*Queen's University Archives,
Joseph F. Madden collection V095-1- 3-2*



An animated exchange of comments, questions and personal reminiscences between the speakers and audience members followed the presentation, which, in turn, strengthened the impression that an interactive format can be engaging and of absorbing interest.

Former Society Councillor, Jack Pike, thanked the speakers on behalf of the Society and presented each speaker with the Society's prestigious Murney Tower pin.

L to R: Danielle Hughes (Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul Archives), Jeremy Heil (Queen's University Archives), Shelly Respondek (County of Lennox and Addington Museum and Archives), and Rodney Carter (Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph Archives).