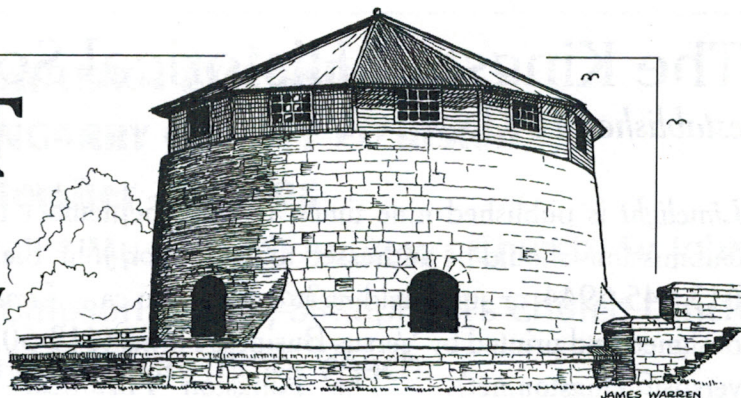


LIMELIGHT

Newsletter of the
Kingston Historical Society

vol 12 no 6 September 2010 ISSN 1488-5565



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The summer hiatus has proved to be very eventful not just for our members but also for Kingston and its citizens and visitors.

*The 6 June saw a slight change in venue with the commemorative service being moved from the Cataraqui Cemetery grave site to Christ Church Cataraqui. We are very grateful to Father Blair Peever and his staff for accommodating us on such short notice after the drenching that Kingston experienced.

*On Saturday, July 17, as part of the centenary of the establishment of the Royal Canadian Navy, a limestone memorial was unveiled in Navy Park located next to the Marine Museum. During the ceremony the local branch of the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service turned the park back to

the city after owning it for seven years, saying there were too few of them and they were too old to continue looking after it. Beatrice Corbett of the Kingston WREN Association spoke eloquently on the role and contributions of the WRENs and it should be noted that they will "still be able to come down here and enjoy it." The address given by Senator Hugh Segal of the roles past, present and future of the Canadian navy and military was truly poignant and emotive. The ceremony was adroitly captained by Bill Fittell who ended with "We WILL remember them,"

*This summer saw the inception of the Macdonald Festival with a variety of different venues for performances and activities including Bellevue House, Boucher Park on Clarence Street and other sites throughout the city. A major highlight of the month long festivities was The Sir John A. Macdonald Back-From-The-Dead Concert Tour production stages at Boucher Park and has been very well received. The organizers are to be congratulated and it is hoped that this initial success will blossom into a major annual festival especially as we approach January 11, 2015.

*Kudos is extended to the Kingston branch of the Southern Ontario Locomotive Restoration Society for getting on board to restore Engine 1095 (The Spirit of Sir John A.). According to Douglas R. G. Smith, in November the locomotive will be moved 6 m to a new site for the \$650,000 refit and restoration. For those who wish to make a donation make cheques payable to SOLRS, P.O. Box 1714, Station Main, Kingston, Ontario K7L 5J6 (Tax receipts will be issued)

*Congratulations to Bill Fittell who was accorded the highest honour by the Society of International Hockey Research, founded in 1991 in Kingston, by designating him 'Honourary President'. Only 2 other individuals have received this title: Brian MacFarlane of 'Hockey Night in Canada' and Edward Grenda of the Kingston Historical Society. The award of Honourary President represents the recognition of Hockey Historians and Researchers throughout Europe and North America.

*Congratulations to Warren Everett, his Murney Tower N.H.S. Committee and the summer staff for another successful season of operation

*As we enter the colourful autumn season a wondrous slate of activities await us including the annual Autumn Excursion to Glengarry County, a September presentation by Dorothy Farr and Brian Osborne on The Chancellor Richardson Memorial Fund to be followed in October with "1760: The Forgotten Year" and Robert Andrews.

In this issue...

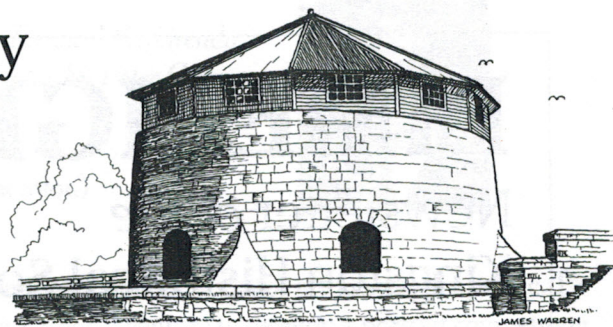
President's Report	1
Masthead & Announcements	2
In Memoriam	3
Sir John A. Macdonald Memorial	4 & 5
Sir John A. Music Book Launch	6
Announcements	7
Speakers' Corner	8

Alan MacLachlan

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 and printed by Versus Business Forms (613-507-7667 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
kingstonhs@gmail.com
www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca

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The Kingston Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Ministry of Culture of the Government of Ontario

History-Related Meeting Announcements

The Lower Burial Ground, located at Queen & Montreal Streets was first laid out in 1783 in preparation for the arrival of the Loyalists, thus making it one of the oldest Protestant cemeteries west of Montreal. In this burial ground lie the remains of the first prominent citizens of Kingston, Stuarts, Cartwrights, Bonnycastle, Molly Brant and her family, as well as soldiers of the War of 1812, black slaves, ordinary citizens. The stone perimeter wall was built by F. X. Rocheleau 1799-1801. The LBGRS was formed in 2008 to preserve and restore this important heritage site. We are an incorporated registered charity able to issue tax receipts. Our first project, restoration of the Forsythe Monument (1813) was finished in 2009. Now we have to repair the wall before it is lost forever. We are holding a Gala Dinner for the Wall, Wednesday, October 27 at the Renaissance Event Centre, 285 Queen Street, 6:00pm for 7:00, a 3 course dinner with entertainment, speaker Dr. Brian Osborne, and a silent auction. Tickets \$50.00 per person, available from Doug Thompson, 547-8853 or Bill Patterson, 546-4421. We need all the help we can get. For more information, please call Doug Thompson, 547-8853

The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will meet in the Wilson Room of Kingston Frontenac Public Library, 130 Johnson St., Saturday, September 18, 2010 at 10 a.m. "Return to Deutschland". Don Dulmage will speak about the challenges and successes of travelling to Germany in search of his Palatine roots. Visitors welcome. For further info, visit our website www.ogs.on.ca/kingston.

ARTHUR MEREDITH FOX

1917 – 2010

One of the stalwart members of the Kingston Historical Society, Arthur Fox, died on May 18, 2010 at St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital in Kingston. For the past two decades, Arthur Fox, along with his wife, Donna Elizabeth, enthusiastically attended virtually all Society functions – monthly talks, Sir John A. Macdonald commemorative events, Murney Tower Committee events. He was a member of the Murney Tower Museum Committee (as it was then known) in 1997 and 1998. His measured contributions, usually laced with subtle wit, to the Committee's deliberations were always welcomed and appreciated by the Committee members. These contributions were invariably bolstered by his youthful, mellifluous voice.

Arthur Fox was born in Orillia, Ontario on May 28, 1917. He was graduated in 1941 with a BA Honours degree in French, German and Spanish from Victoria College at the University of Toronto. In the fall of 1941, Arthur Fox joined the teaching staff at Queen's University as an Assistant in Spanish on an eight month appointment. Shortly thereafter, he saw service in the Canadian Army with the Canadian Intelligence Corps based in London, England. While in England, he also taught at Khaki University of Canada at Leavesdon, Hertfordshire from August 1945 until the closure of the institution in June 1946. He returned to Queen's University in the fall of 1946 and remained on the faculty teaching Spanish until his retirement in the mid-1980's. He continued his personal studies while teaching at Queen's earning a doctorate from the University of Toronto in 1961.

He was pre-deceased by his wife in 2008 and his daughter, Elizabeth in 2009. He is survived by his son, Lorne of Toronto, and daughter, Gloria of Ottawa.

Arthur Fox was a person of an impeccably robust physical constitution and stamina until a few months prior to his death. During the period between 1998 and 2009, I frequently met Arthur walking to and from the downtown Kingston area and his home on Victoria Street. We discussed virtually everything under the intellectual sun and when we concluded our conversation, he continued on his way in a seemingly effortless fashion.

Arthur Fox will be missed by all those he touched during his long, eventful life, much of which was spent in Kingston.

by Edward Grenda

Cataraqui Cemetery

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6 June: The 117th Sir John A. Macdonald Graveside Ceremony

The Saturday night and early Sunday morning rains failed to put a damper on the service to commemorate the death of our first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald. The committee, early Sunday morning, arranged with Father Blair Peever to hold the afternoon ceremony at Christ Church Cataraqui. Though the venue was new our Master of Ceremonies, Robert Andrews, orchestrated the program with adroitness, alacrity and flexibility with over 125 in attendance. Rev. Bruce Cossar led us in our national anthem. This year our guest speaker was Dr William Glover, a maritime historian and a local city councillor. His talk was titled "Macdonald and Naval Defence" a most fitting topic as this year is the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Navy. He gave us a perspective of Sir John which has seldom been emphasized and argued that the Fisheries Protection Service was a precursor of the Royal Canadian Navy. The full text of his address will be found in the 2010 Historic Kingston.

Following the traditional laying of wreaths, 12 in all, which included our three levels of government and organizations affiliated



Mayor Rosen presents a wreath on behalf of the City of Kingston



The Fort Henry Guard provided music, colour and pageantry



Speaker

with Sir John, the Lament was played by the Fort Henry Guard piper concluding with the Last Post and Reveille by the Fort Henry bugler. The benediction was given by Fr. Blair Peever who had also given the Scripture Reading and Opening Prayer. It should be noted that for the first time the national High Commissioner of Clan Donald Canada, Glenda McDonell, was present and laid the wreath for Clan Donald.

Following the service, the gathering retired to the Christ Church parish hall for refreshments and conviviality. We gratefully acknowledge the roles played by Fr. Blair Peever, the staff of Bellevue House, the Cataraqui Cemetery staff and the R.C.M.P. constables all of whom made this ceremony one of colour, pageantry and tradition.

The success of this event, especially given the unforeseen weather conditions, was the result of dedication and attention to detail by the committee: Barbara Bonner, Ted Huber, Peter Radley, Robert Andrews, Donna Lusk, and Mark Bennett



am Glover



Thanks to Reverend Blair Peever the ceremony went ahead at Christ Church Cataraqui despite the rain.



Refreshments were served at Christ Church Cataraqui Parish Hall

Photos by Peter Ginn



Town crier Chris Wyman announces the book launch



Sir John A. (Brian Porter) and Lady Macdonald (Renee Porter) look over The Music Book with Barbara Carr

On a beautiful, sunny May 16 authors Donna Ivey and Norma Kelly hosted, appropriately, on the lawns of Bellevue House the launch of The Sir John A. Macdonald Music Book. The subtitle for the book says it all, "We'll Hand Down His Name in History and Song." The book is a collection of music written and dedicated to honour Sir John A. Macdonald and Lady Macdonald from 1871 to 1897.

Photos by David Craig and Jennifer McKendry

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD Music Book

"We'll Hand Down His Name in History and Song."



Author Donna Ivey was kept busy signing copies of her book

Authors Norma Kelly and Donna Ivey enjoy a moment of rest during the performances



Performances of music from The Music Book were provided by Carl Bray, Barbara Carr, David Colwell, Avanti Dey, Sarah Gibson-Bray and Kimberley Duca who also acted as accompanist on the piano

The 7th ANNUAL AUTUMN EXCURSION
LOYALIST ROOTS in GLENGARRY COUNTY Excursion
Saturday September 18, 2008

Guided tours of the Nor'wester and Loyalist Museum, St Andrew's Church, Sir John Johnson Manor House, the Bethune Thompson House, St Raphael's Church Lunch and Transportation in a highway motor coach.

All for only \$80 for members / \$90 non-members

Depart at :7:00am from the George Richardson Stadium parking lot
 (Entry off Johnson St.) Return by 6:00pm

CONTACT: Alan MacLachlan at 613-549-8841 or alantour@bell.net

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Wednesday, 15 September, 7:30 PM

The Chancellor Richardson Memorial Fund

The most generous of Richardson's gifts to Queen's & Kingston

Dorothy Farr and Brian Osborne

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

Refreshments All Welcome

Larry Brennan - Sales Representative
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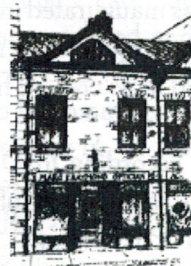
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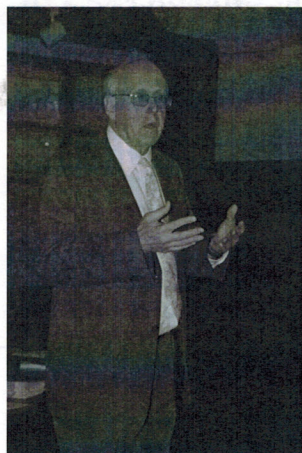
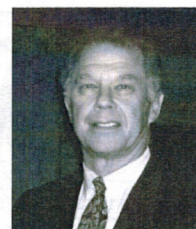
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Speakers' Corner

Prizes, People and History

(Presented by Julian Brown,
co-founder of The Kingston Prize - Canada's National Portrait Competition)

with Edward R. Grenda
& photos by Peter Ginn



In the realm of art, portraits are not always the most popular works of art among the public. By virtue of this attribute, for an individual to embark upon a venture to develop a portrait competition requires courage, confidence, patience, and, above all, perseverance. Doubtless, Julian Brown and his wife, Karen Brown (Co-founders of the Kingston Prize) manifest these qualities in copious quantities.

Dr. Brown began his talk by furnishing a useful characterization of what a portrait is. Dr. Brown stressed that a portrait constitutes a likeness of a person or group, largely focusing on the face. A portrait can take the form of a painting, drawing, etching, sculpture, photograph, written or spoken word, video, or digital image. In the contemporary world, the most common medium for a portrait is the photograph.

The objective of The Kingston Prize is to encourage, support and reward the development of contemporary portraits by Canadian artists by way of a biennial national competition for paintings and drawings. Dr. Brown emphasized that the portrait competition exclusively concentrates on paintings and drawings because these media are enduring (lasting for centuries), largely unaffected

by changing technology, and display an unequivocal continuity with the past.

Dr. Brown appropriately touched upon the obvious question: Why a prize for portraits? In brief, his forceful argument in this regard is that a prize provides direct financial support of artists through exposure; cash attracts a wide interest among artists; new styles of portraiture can be developed; and engenders public interest and education.

Given that there are only a few portrait competitions in the world, Dr. Brown set the Kingston Prize in an international context. The first major national portrait competition was the Archibald Prize in 1921 in Australia. Other significant national portrait competitions are the BP Prize started in 1980 in Britain, the Moran Prize in 1988 in Australia, and the Boochever Prize in 2008 in the USA. The Kingston Prize was inaugurated in Canada in 2005.

Dr. Brown noted that the Kingston Prize was modeled in its general structure on the Australian Archibald Prize. The rules for the latter prize stressed that the portrait had to be created from life (not through photographs, video, etc.) and the subject had to be Australian, preferably distinguished.

The framework for the Kingston Prize, according to Dr. Brown, had the following requirements: it was to be a biennial competition, open to all artists living in Canada, the subject is to be Canadian (though not necessarily distinguished as the Archibald Prize enjoins), the portraits must be either paintings or drawings, the subject of the portrait must be created from life requiring verification in this respect. The Kingston Prize amounts to \$10,000 secured through the support of The W. Garfield Weston Foundation.

One of the obstacles The Kingston Prize has encountered is the lack of a facility in Kingston in which the portraits can be exhibited for an extended period of time. In consequence, The Kingston Prize entries have had to be exhibited in a facility in Gananoque, Ontario. The other enervating problem The Kingston Prize has been subject to is the disappointing reporting and editorial writing of Toronto newspapers and in other large Canadian cities. No newspapers in these cities have reviewed the portrait exhibitions in 2007 and 2009. This, in Dr. Brown's view, creates a situation in which it is difficult to build up the competition when media interest and cooperation is conspicuous by its absence. But there are elements of success in this enterprise in that in 2009 there were 471 entries, an encouraging development among artists.

Reverend Bruce Cossar thanked Dr. Brown on behalf of the Society and presented him with a Society pin featuring the Murney Tower.

