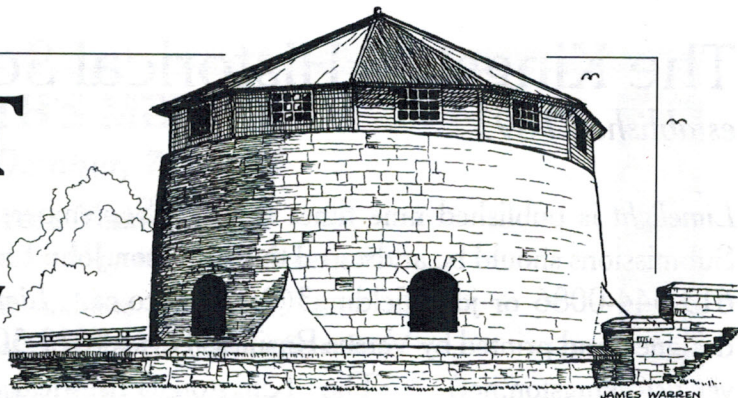


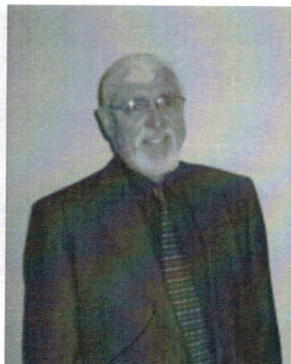
# LIMELIGHT

Newsletter of the  
Kingston Historical Society

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



There are communities that like to lay claim to a specific historic individual as belonging solely to that village, town or city and there are some who believe that Kingston has first dibbs on Sir John A. Macdonald. However, as a cursory delving into the history of Sir John suggests, that is not the case.

An excellent example of this is what has happened in Picton and Prince Edward County. Following the results of a poll conducted by Ipsos Reed on behalf of the Dominion Institute revealed that only 41% of Canadians could identify Sir John A. Macdonald from his picture, several folks in PEC took action. A group of County residents in partnership with the Prince Edward County Community Foundation, the Picton Business Improvement Association, Streetsmarts and the Prince Edward Historical Society, has initiated a project to recognize and celebrate the connection between Canada's first Prime Minister and

Prince Edward County.

The purpose of this project is to commemorate and celebrate John A. Macdonald, arguably the most famous resident of Prince Edward County, by commissioning a bronze sculpture of him to be located in a suitable place in Picton. Macdonald made the following statements about Picton and PEC which can be viewed at the website shown below: "the good old County....my early associations are connected with Prince Edward – some of the happiest days of my life were spent here – I here obtained my earliest professional education, and here, in this good old town of Picton, I earned my first fee and made my first speech to a jury in this very Court House"

Ruth Abernethy an internationally renowned sculptor, has been commissioned to create a bronze statue of John A. as a young lawyer standing at the dock or witness box in the Picton Court House. Interestingly, his first case was in Hallowell. Some of Ms Abernethy's works include the recently unveiled Oscar Peterson statue at the National Art Gallery in Ottawa by her majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Other life size statutes she has produced includes Glenn Gould, Ian Millar and Big Ben, William Lyon Mackenzie King, Norman Bethune and Arnold Palmer. Her works are considered "interactive life-sized pieces" that engage the public and make history come alive.

We wish the Macdonald Project of Prince Edward County Committee all the best in this endeavour. For those who would like to contribute and be involved you are invited to visit the following website:<http://www.macdonaldproject.com>.

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Our fall series of presentations continues with one by Robert Andrews who will be speaking on "The Forgotten Year; 1760: The end of the Seven Years War In North America". We hope to see you there on October 20th.

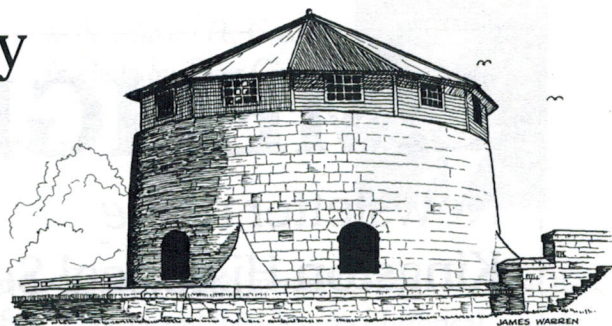
*Alan MacLachlan*



# 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 613-544-0086 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

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

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## History-Related Meeting Announcements

### Kingston Historical Society Awards

Since 1993, the Society has made one or more awards to individuals, groups or institutions in recognition of outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of local history. Members of the Society are encouraged to nominate those whom they feel meet the criteria for the award. Please do so in writing either on paper or via e-mail, giving the name and contact information of your nominee, and as much information as possible about your reasons for nominating the person, group or institution. Please send the completed nomination to Chairperson, KHS Awards Committee, Box 54, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 4V8 or to Chairperson KHS Awards, sampa@cogeco.ca.

Awards are presented at the annual KHS Christmas Party in December. Please submit nominations by October 31, 2010.

### Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner - January 11th

The annual Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner will be held on January 11th, 2012 at RMC. The speaker is Graham Fraser, Commissioner of Official Languages. He will speak about Sir John's views on the two languages. Cost is \$45.00 for members and \$50.00 for non-members. See the next issue for details and reservation forms.

**The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society** will meet in the Wilson Room of Kingston Frontenac Public Library, 130 Johnson St., Saturday, October 16, 2010 at 10 a.m. Ron Mann will relate "The Story Told by a Friendship Quilt". Visitors welcome. For further info, visit our website [www.ogs.on.ca/kingston](http://www.ogs.on.ca/kingston).



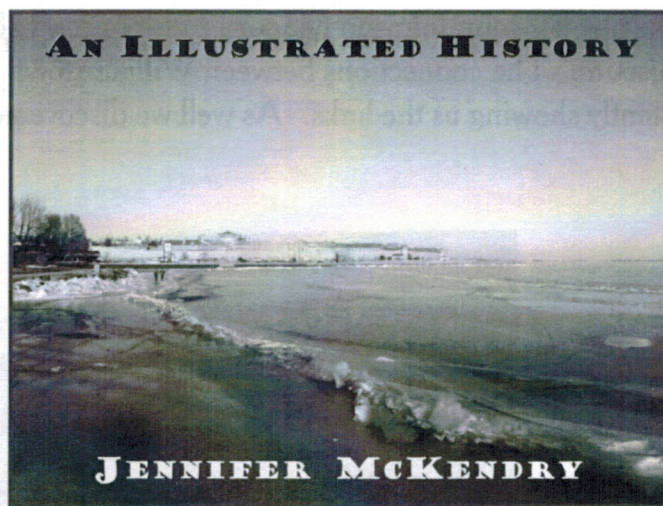
Architectural historian & KHS member Jennifer McKendry announces the release of the revised and enlarged second edition of *Portsmouth Village, Kingston: an Illustrated History*. The first edition, well received in 2005, has recently sold out.

Dr McKendry has added a number of maps, aerial views and even found a few more buildings to include. The memories of village life, recorded in 1931 by a resident, have surfaced since the first edition and add interest. From the back cover:

This area was granted to United Empire Loyalists in 1784. A village, first known as "Hatter's Bay," grew in response to the establishment of the Provincial Penitentiary ("KP") in 1833, and was formally incorporated in 1858. Villagers worked in tanneries, breweries, shipyards, sawmills, as well as the penitentiary and nearby asylum. The village was annexed by the city of Kingston in 1952. Many interesting early stone, brick, and frame buildings have survived.

Over 300 b & w illustrations, fully indexed, 112 pages, colour covers, \$22, available at Novel Idea (Princess & Bagot), Peter's Drugs and by mail order from [www.mckendry.net](http://www.mckendry.net). Copies will be available at October's KHS meeting for the special price of \$20.

## PORTSMOUTH VILLAGE KINGSTON



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# The 7th ANNUAL AUTUMN EXCURSION

by Alan MacLachlan with photos by Peter Ginn

On a scintillating Saturday, September 19, a small but enthusiastic group of 21 members and friends of the Society meandered down the country roads of South Glengarry County to Williamstown. There we were met by David Anderson and Sandy Campbell, likely the two most knowledgeable individuals of the history of that county, and Brenda Kennedy, curator and director of the Nor'Westers and Loyalist Museum. With these three superb guides, we went on an fall foliage tour that included the Bethune-Thompson House (circa 1784), The Sir John Johnson Manor House (circa 1782-1784), St Andrew's Church and Graveyard and the museum. The connections between Williamstown and Kingston are many and David and Sandy were consistently showing us the links. As well we discovered that the Loyalists and settlers of Williamstown and



*Bethune-Thompson House*



*David Anderson at the N*



*Lunch at St Mary's church hall*



*Sir John*



area were major movers and shakers in the development of the post 1784 development of Canada including such luminaries as David Thompson, Sir John Johnson, Simon Fraser, Bishop Alexander Macdonnell, John Sanfield Macdonald and Hugh McGillis to name but a few. A highlight of our day was the visit to the spectacular remains of St. Raphael's Church built in 1821-1823. Unfortunately it suffered a devastating fire in 1970 with only the walls remaining and in 1999 it was declared a national historic site. If you have not ventured northeast of Cornwall to Williamstown and its environs, you are encouraged to do so and come away with the realization that many of our political, social and cultural roots lie in Williamstown and South Glengarry county.

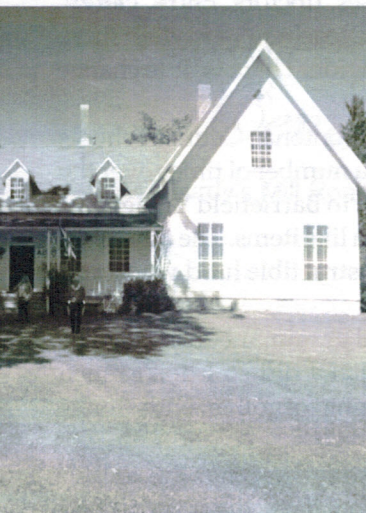
A special thanks to Bob and Betty Andrews for inspiring and assisting in the organization of this wonderful day for all of us and to Peter Ginn for the photographs.



*esters and Loyalist Museum*



*St Andrew's Church and cemetery*



*son House*



*Bob Andrews thanking David Anderson*



# An Everyday Hero and The Schools Museum

by Stewart Renfrew

I have long maintained that when it comes to national heroes, we need look no further than those strong minded young ladies who taught in our one and two roomed country schoolhouses. So it was that I was saddened to hear of the death of my grade three teacher. She was eighty when she died and so must have been about eighteen when she took on my grade three education. Since, in those days, elementary teachers were able to start teaching after completing grade twelve and a summer course, this was not at all unusual.

My grade three teacher was, as my Scottish Grandmother would have put it, "a great broth of a farm lass." We considered her a little too short tempered, but that was a good thing when confronted with about thirty lively children in four different grades, each day. Moreover, she was born and raised on a farm near our village, she well understood our community and knew just how far she could push things. When I started school we had a traditional one room frame schoolhouse with a pot bellied stove at the back. Then they added a second room as the 'baby boomers' were about to arrive. By the time I was in grade three, we had a senior teacher, she was all of about twenty three or so, and a junior teacher. The village kept growing and a few years later they built a brand new brick building with four classrooms, central heating and running water.

My father was on the school board then and I well remember him coming home from a board meeting and commenting that our senior teacher would have liked to become the principal of the new school. With my father's, I regret to say, full approval: the school board decided that this would be too much for a young woman. So they hired a younger male!

One recess, when I was in grade eight, a bunch of us were hanging about the rear door waiting for one of the group to catch up. As he left the building, irritated at being held back, he bullied some of the smaller children out of his way. Words were exchanged with the grade three teacher. Then, somehow, she managed to sucker him into letting her back him against the wall, and WACK, WACK, WACK! "OooH! Right across the chops" I heard an awe inspired voice whisper behind me. Our school mate staggered over to us, only to be faced with the instantly formed opinion that the teacher was right. In fact I expect that he agreed. That was the end of it. In our school, in those days, the unwritten rule was whatever punishment the teacher dished out a school was doubled at home if your old man ever found out about it. With that in mind our mate was not going to go crying home and we had decided that his punishment was just so all was forgotten until I happened to read the teacher obituary in the paper.

*Illustration provided by Jennifer McKendry*

"Things was different in them days", an old timer once told me about his time in that school house. They were different but on the whole they were good days and that old school house turned out more than its share of nurses, doctors, Phd's, clergy, schoolteachers, librarians and even an archivist. Those days are gone now along with both of the teachers who were there when I was in grade three and a good many of my school mates. The rest of us are scattered far and wide. There is little chance now for a reunion.

In Kingston, though, it is still possible to have a reunion with your memories from those days. The Frontenac County Schools Museum opened in 1971 as a late centennial project. It has had its ups and downs and been relocated a number of times over the years. Run by a dedicated group of mostly former school teachers it is now located at 414 Regent Street in Barriefield Village.

The main building is divided into two sections, one to displaying relics, globes, photographs and such like items. The other part is a replica of an old time school room, with real BLACK boards, pictures of royalty, and those indestructible hard wood and cast iron desks complete with inkwells well positioned for dipping pig tails of the little girl in front.

Along the walls is a wonderful collection of old text books. There are spellers, readers, arithmetic and grammar books. There is a fine collection of Dick and Jane books of course. Dick and Jane arrived at our school a little after I did so I don't much remember them. On the other hand I was enthralled with many of the other books, old friends I had long forgotten, with stories I only vaguely recalled.

I would recommend a visit to the schools museum, it will be open to visitors on Monday and Wednesday mornings this fall. Or perhaps some members would like to arrange a group visit. They offer re-enactments of old time school days. But if you attend one of those please remember that you will be facing a real old time school teacher. So, stand politely by the side of your desk when answering a question and remember, there is a real old time strap in the top drawer of the teachers desk.



## THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Wednesday, 20 October, 7:30 PM

### The Forgotten Year; 1760

*The end of the Seven Years War in North America*

Robert Andrews

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

Refreshments All Welcome

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## Speakers' Corner

### The Chancellor Richardson Memorial Fund

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

with Edward R. Grenda  
& photo by Peter Ginn



(Presented by Dorothy Farr & Brian Osborne)

This presentation was a joint endeavour by Dorothy Farr, currently a Society Councillor and former Curator of Art at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre, and Brian Osborne, former president of the Society and the Ontario Historical Society, and professor of geography at Queen's University for over forty years.

Their primary focus was the prominent Kingston family, the Richardsons, and their diverse contributions to Queen's University and Kingston.

At the outset, Professor Osborne furnished the background of the Richardson family and the general character of the Chancellor Richardson Memorial Fund (CRMF). Professor Osborne posed the question - "What makes a city?" Although a city's geography and the physical characteristics are elements in this regard, they are not of overwhelming importance. The significant factor is people, not in numbers, but in the roles they play. This entails factors such as quality of life, sense of location, creative artists, political activists, and public benefactors. It is this latter facet that constituted the theme of the presentation - that the Richardson Family were and are recognized pillars of Queen's University and Kingston. In the late 19th century, George Richardson was the initial driving force of the Richardson Family's active prominence in Kingston. He was involved in an enormous variety of enterprises that exploited the natural and human wealth of the Kingston region and markedly opened up commerce and trade here. He was involved in the local Board of Trade, grain business, local harbour improvements, the Woolen Mill, hosiery and the mining of mica and other minerals in the Kingston region.

Through financial contributions and bequests, the Richardson Family was instrumental in establishing the Richardson Bath House (1919), Richardson Stadium (1921), Richardson Laboratories, Richardson Hall on the Queen's campus (1954), as well as the Agnes Etherington Art Centre (1954). The Family was indeed an active presence in the Kingston community landscape.

To honour Queen's Chancellor James Richardson, the Memorial Fund was established in 1950 and the appropriate documents were signed in 1968. The Fund's object was to furnish financial assistance for the acquisition of materials possessing literary, historical, and industrial significance - e.g. documents, reports, maps, books, films, photographs, newspapers, family correspondences, writer's papers, as well as works of art.

Dorothy Farr elaborated on how the CRMF made possible the acquisitions of 450 works of art, both historical and contemporary, at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre. The Fund enabled purchases to be made of early British Military water colours in Canada and the works of art of First Nations and Women artists. Ms. Farr reviewed a list of some of the

more important works of art secured through the CRMF. Most notable in this regard were Daniel Fowler, Prudence Heward, Carl Schaefer, and Micah Lexico. Special mention was made of Goodridge Roberts, the first artist in residence at the Art Centre from 1933 to 1936. In 1976, the Arts Centre acquired the water colour of Elizabeth Frances Amherst Hale, the Centre's first acquisition of the work of a woman artist. Ms. Farr concluded by emphasizing that the CRMF provided a stable source of funding and reduced the dependence on random gifts of financial assistance.

Former Society president, Lou Grimshaw, thanked the two speakers on behalf of the Society and underscored the enormous asset the CRMF is for Queen's University and Kingston and deserves a higher profile than it currently has.



*Lou Grimshaw presents thanks to presenters  
Brian Osborne & Dorothy Farr*