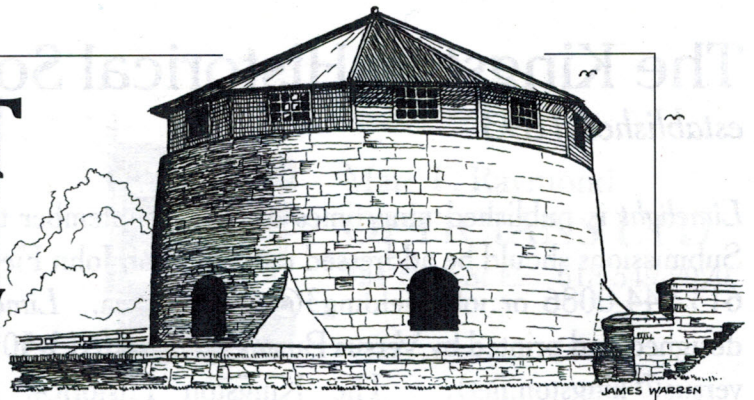


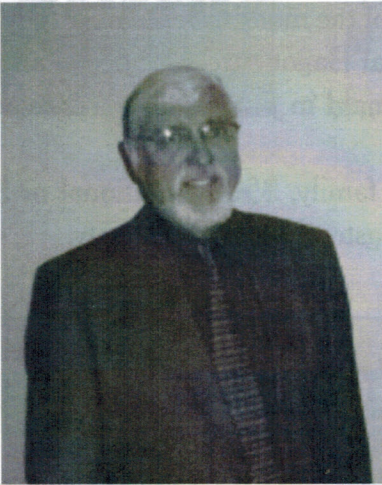
LIMELIGHT

Newsletter of the
Kingston Historical Society

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The evening of 8 December, 2010, was indeed a most remarkable one for the Kingston Historical Society. It began with the Gordon Sinclair quartet entertaining us with several Christmas carols followed by our annual KHS Awards. We first honoured two ladies, Donna Ivey and Norma Kelly, whose energy and commitment to the preservation of Kingston's past and to honouring Sir John are well known. The third recipient, Brian Johnson, has written extensively about the ferry service to Wolfe Island and the marine activities of the St. Lawrence Seaway and Lake Ontario. Following our Annual KHS Awards presentation we had the book launch of *Favourite Son? John A. Macdonald and the Voters of Kingston 1841-1891* by Ged Martin which has been produced under the auspices of the Kingston Historical Society. The annual KHS Awards and a book launch made for a truly a memorable and wondrous night and a vibrant start to the festive season.

Your Society is commencing the New Year with a lively slate of activities. Please note the following dates and activities in your calendar. First is our 11th Annual Sir John Dinner at the RMC Senior Officer's Mess on Tuesday, January 11, 2011. This will be followed by our regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 19, with Dr James Pritchard speaking on "Kingston's Wartime Shipbuilding Industries, 1939-45: An Update". Then on Wednesday, February 16, our Annual General Meeting will be held in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library.

The KHS Council and I wish you a Happy New Year and may you have newly found prosperity, happiness and delight throughout the year.

Alan MacLachlan

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Wednesday, 19 January, 7:30 PM

**Kingston's Wartime Ship Building Industry,
1939 - 1945: An Update**

Prof. James Pritchard, Queen's University
Wilson Room, Kingston Frontenac Public Library
Johnson St. at Bagot

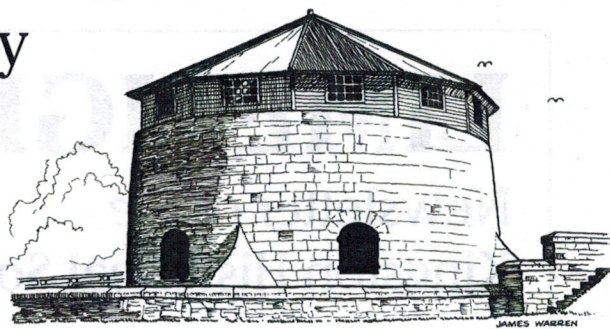
Refreshments

All Welcome

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

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

Historical Event Announcements of Interest

Kingston & District Branch UEL Association Association meets on Saturday, January 22, 2011 at St. Paul's Anglican hall, corner Queen and Montreal Streets, at 11:30 for a 12:00 noon potluck lunch. Cost \$3.50 if you don't bring a contribution. After lunch, speaker will be Brian Johnson, Captain of the Wolfe Islander III and a well-known writer on the maritime history of Kingston and area. Visitors are welcome - info 613-546-2256.

The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society Saturday, January 15, 2011 at 10 a.m. "My Interesting Ancestor". Several members will speak about why their ancestor is particularly interesting. Visitors are welcome. For further info, visit our website www.ogs.on.ca/kingston.



Passing of Highly Respected Former President

Former president of the Kingston Historical Society, Isobel Trumpour (née Duguid) passed away at Kingston General Hospital on Tuesday, December 14, 2010 in her 88th year. Beloved wife of Bogart Trumpour (predeceased) of Kingston, mother of Mark, Noel and Ian Trumpour, mother-in-law of Julie Ferrera Trumpour; grandmother of Adam, Sabrina, Briar, Cassidy and Arden Trumpour (all of Toronto). Born November 21, 1923 in Ottawa, she attended Rockcliffe Public and Lisgar Collegiate, where she excelled at multiple sports, graduating in June 1941. After attending Ottawa Normal School (teacher's college), she spent the summer of 1942 driving a missionary van in Peace River District, northern Alberta. She then taught in a one-room schoolhouse north of Cornwall. In July 1943, she joined the war effort, enlisting in the Royal Canadian Air Force Women's Division. She was stationed in St. John's Nfld as a radar operator at the American airbase, and received the Foreign Service Medal. During this time she met Bogart Trumpour, who she married in Ottawa February 10, 1945. From 1945 to 1948, while Bogart attended Osgoode

Law School, Isobel worked at the daycare at St. Aidan's Church in the Beaches, Toronto. Moving to Kingston in 1948, while bringing up three boys, Isobel kept busy outside the home as well. For many years during the 1960s she ran the St George's Antique Fair, rose to District Commissioner with the Girl Guides of Canada, where she was responsible for the Girl Guide Centennial maple leaf near the entrance to Murney Tower. In 1973, during Kingston's Tercentenary, she was in charge of the Celebration Events in City Park. For over 50 years she enjoyed being a member of a Kingston Reading Club, and was a member of the Kingston General Hospital Women's auxiliary, serving on the executive.



She was active in the Kingston Historical Society, serving as president from 1990 to 1992, inaugurated, and for many years chaired, the Society's Sir John A. Macdonald June 6th ceremony at Cataraqui Cemetery, and worked with the Cemetery on refurbishing the gravesite of Canada's first Prime Minister. On the occasion of our celebration of the Kingston Historical Society's 110th birthday, we honoured at City Hall several people who may truly be considered to be our own in terms of years of service and loyalty to the Society and who have sustained their association with us since 1966. Among this august group were Isobel and Bogart Trumpour.

Isobel will be remembered and missed by her many friends in the Kingston Historical Society. As expressions of sympathy, donations may be made to Girl Guides of Canada, Kingston Historical Society or KGH Auxiliary, in Mrs. Trumpour's memory.

(Adapted from the Whig-Standard obituary by the Limelight editor; photographs taken in 2002 by Sarah Meharg)

Kingston Historical Society Awards for 2010

Citations prepared by Peter Ginn and his Awards Committee. Photographs by Betty Andrews

DONNA M. IVEY

Donna Ivey's professional career included the management of technical and business libraries for two large Toronto industrial organizations. She held office in related local and international organizations and in 1992 received the inaugural President's Award from the Toronto Chapter of the Special Libraries Association. She has provided major research support for several historical and autobiographical works and, herself, authored a history of the Consumer's Gas Company and a variety of publications relating to the heritage of Bracebridge, Ontario. To our good fortune, this ability to write insightfully about the local scene was transferred to Kingston upon her co-purchase, with Norma Kelly, of the onetime dwelling of the John A. Macdonald family on Rideau Street. Donna's papers concerning her new home and the Queen's principalship of Dr. R.C. Wallace have both been published in Historic Kingston. Also, she compiled an index of Historic Kingston for the period 1997-2006. Her gathering, in conjunction with Norma, of 19th century songs and music dedicated to Sir John and Lady Macdonald, much less her participation in their performance in Memorial Hall, was a highlight of the Society's 110th anniversary year. The collection was subsequently published as The Sir John A. Macdonald Song Book. The Kingston Historical Society is proud to honour this Kingston citizen whose skills have furthered the understanding of local history.



*KHS Award winners, from left
Donna Ivey, Brian Johnson and*

I. NORMA KELLY

The founder and for nearly twenty years Executive Director of The Ontario Foundation for Visually Impaired Children, Norma Kelly, has received international acclaim for her work in support of the infant and pre-school visually impaired. Following a decade of retirement in Bracebridge, Ontario, she succumbed to the opportunity of becoming co-owner, with Donna Ivey, of the former John A. Macdonald family residence on Rideau Street, Kingston, and now lives there a short distance from her father's boyhood home. It is surely gratifying to all Kingstonians that this important element of local heritage is now being lived in and cared for by such sensitive and caring individuals. Having become fully absorbed in Macdonald lore and building on extensive choral experience, Norma and Donna produced a stirring presentation of 19th century songs and music dedicated to Sir John and Lady Macdonald upon the 110th anniversary of the founding of the Kingston Historical Society. More recently, they have published an annotated collection of these works, The Sir John A. Macdonald Music Book. Norma was a founding member of the Wolfe Island Historical Society and has served on the board of the Frontenac Heritage Foundation. The Kingston Historical Society welcomes the opportunity to recognize the contributions of this ardent student of local heritage.

BRIAN P. JOHNSON

Captain Johnson served with the Wolfe Island Ferry service for 28 years. This experience coupled with his Wolfe Island ancestry has engendered in him a keen and well-informed appreciation of the maritime lore and history of the Island and adjacent waters. He has demonstrated an ability and enthusiasm to transform these insights into colourful and informative prose. His numerous articles, which address subjects as diverse as early phone services on Wolfe Island and pilotage on the St. Lawrence, have appeared in The Kingston Whig Standard, the Thousand Islands Life Magazine and other St. Lawrence region publications. They invariably attract attention and spark interest amongst his readers. Similarly, his presentations to nearby heritage organizations, amongst them the Kingston Historical Society, are always stimulating and well received. He co-edited "Growing up on Wolfe Island", a valuable record of the oral history of Island life and was a key organizer and founding president of the Wolfe Island Historical Society. The Kingston Historical Society is pleased to recognize the contributions of Captain Brian Johnson to the preservation of the intriguing history of Wolfe Island and the St. Lawrence.

KHS Annual Christmas Party

Photos by Betty Andrews



ight,
orma Kelly



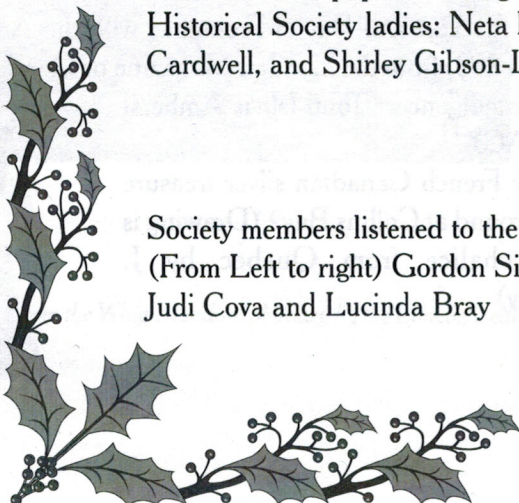
Three distinguished gentlemen enjoy the festivities: Ged Martin, John Matheson and Brian Porter

President Alan and Awards Committee Chair Peter Ginn had a busy evening presenting awards, on this occasion to Norma Kelly



Festive red was popular among Kingston Historical Society ladies: Neta Pike, Elizabeth Cardwell, and Shirley Gibson-Langille

Society members listened to the lovely carols sung by (From Left to right) Gordon Sinclair, Phil Rogers, Judi Cova and Lucinda Bray



Treasure at Collins Bay

by Stuart Renfrew

In 1947 my father decided to build a new house, on the hill along the "Old Road" overlooking his beloved Collins Bay. As soon as the word got around several old timers took care to remind us that we should be careful to look for the treasure that was buried there. Some even went so far as to say that they believed that an old pear tree on the lot next to ours might well be the marker for the treasure. Of course nothing came of the story, but it did remain in my mind and I wondered about it as I grew older. The first time I saw anything in print was in an 1949 article in the Whig Standard. More recently, I have found a number of variations on the story collected by Dr. Burleigh in his papers at Queen's Archives.

As the story goes, in 1758 a small French barque was hurrying along the outer shores of Amherst Island on its way to Fort Frontenac. The French suspected that the British were about to invade the Great Lakes and the barque carried valuables, mostly gold and silver plate from the alters of the Catholic missions further up the lakes.

Collins Bay being throughly Protestant, this story was embellished to read from the Jesuit missions because Jesuits were always suspected of being a most sinister part of the Catholic Church. Of course the treasure, as was only proper, was in a brass bound chest!

At the east end of the island the crew spotted Bradstreet's whalers rounding the head of Wolfe Island and making for Fort Frontenac. In a panic, they quickly came about and found shelter in Tonoguignon, or Pongeg, or now, Collins Bay. Through the night and the next day they could hear the sounds of battle and so they buried their treasure on the shores of the bay and stole away to find another route back to France. Unfortunately for them, the British won the war and they could not get back to the shores of Collins Bay to retrieve their treasure.

It would seem to me that the best place for them to bury that treasure would have been near what is now 660 Hillview Road. There is a deposit of sandy soil left there by a departing glacier that would have made digging easier. Most likely though the Jesuits would not have had time for such niceties.

The story goes on, though. A son of Michael Grass, John Grass, took possession of lot two on the second concession of Kingston Township and a family named Smith took over lot three. The two families worked together clearing their land. There was a place not far from where their lands met, near 660 Hillview Road, that was different from the rest of the land. In a grove of trees there something felt eerie, even their oxen were nervous there. Finally, growing irritated with this the families felled most of the trees and cleared the land. From then on this area was like much of the rest of the land and they soon forgot where exactly it was. But, they found while clearing that place a plaque with strange writing on it, since no one could read it they put the plaque aside.

Years later two strange Frenchmen appeared in the district asking about the plaque. By then they had forgotten what they had done with it and so they sent the Frenchmen away none the wiser. Ever since they have wondered if that plaque might have been the key to the lost treasure.

When I was a kid our tobaggan hill was near 660 Hillview Road. It gets dark very early in winter and if we stayed late I would have to make my way home along the road, past what was left of a grove of white pines. It was dark and very cold and felt a little eerie to me. Was this where the treasure was buried? But then again there is a very similar story in the history of Prince Edward County.



A Plan of the Fort and Bay of Frontenac with the Adjacent Counties, 1758, from the London Magazine or Gentleman's Monthly Intelligencer; Tonti Isle is Amherst Island (LAC)

Does early French Canadian silver treasure lie underground at Collins Bay? (Drawing is a silver chalice from Quebec by J. McKendry)



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11th Annual Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner



Our guest speaker for this year's Sir John A. Macdonald Anniversary Dinner on Tuesday, January 11 2011, will be Mr. Graham Fraser, Commissioner of Official Languages. His talk will be:

"Treat them as a nation":

Sir John A. and the French fact in Canada

The dinner will take place at the Senior Staff Mess at the Royal Military College. Please gather in the Mess any time after 6:00PM to meet our guest. The dinner will commence at 7:00PM.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Wednesday, 19 January, 7:30 PM

Kingston's Wartime Ship Building Industry, 1939 - 1945: An Update

Prof. James Pritchard, Queen's University

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

Refreshments

All Welcome

Bellevue House Celebrates Sir John A. Macdonald's Birthday with Launch of Novel

Roderick Bennis, author of the just-released historical fiction novel *The Legends of Lake on the Mountain: An Early Adventure of John A. Macdonald*, will be at Bellevue House on January 11th from 1-4 pm for a book signing and reading. The novel stars a 13-year-old John A. in a quest to uncover the truth about two famous legends in nearby Prince Edward County – that there might be treasure in a cave near the county's famous landmark, Lake on the Mountain, and that the lake itself is haunted. Written for young people ages 12 and up *Legends of Lake on the Mountain: An Early Adventure of John A. Macdonald* includes a Foreword by former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. This is the second book in the Leaders & Legacies series of Canada's Prime Ministers, which puts our leaders at age 12 or 13 into adventures or mysteries. The first book was the award-winning novel, *The Mystery of the Moonlight Murder: An Early Adventure of John Diefenbaker*. Join the staff of Bellevue House for refreshments and the opportunity