

Limelight

Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

Kingston Ontario Canada

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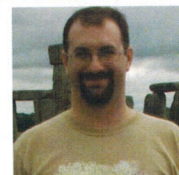
May 2017

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Marcus R. (Marc) Létourneau

"We are a young country; we must build on the solid rock of sound economic policies and balanced budgets. But, we must be prepared, as a nation, to step from the solid rock onto new ground. The path of ease, the path of tradition alone, is not the path of a greater Canada."

W.A.C. Bennett, Canadian Chamber of Commerce 1962.



One of the most pervasive myths of Canada is that it is a 'young' country. As those who attended Dr. Robert Shipley's presentation at Kingston City Hall know, such a statement belies the complex and multifaceted aspects of Canada's human history, and in particular, marginalizes the important contributions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FMNI) communities over the last 10,000 years. One only has to visit the Teaching Rocks near Peterborough or read about the Wendat (Huron) Ancestral Village known as the Mantle Site to begin to understand the complex and dynamic cultures that existed prior to colonization. Indeed, with European settlement dating back approximately 1000 years (with the confirmed Viking settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows and potential additional sites in Canada's north and in Newfoundland), this underplaying of Canada's diverse past has limited wider understandings of its importance to contemporary society.

Kingston has not been immune to these myths. However, based on the work of a number of KHS members who have been actively engaged in research and teaching, some exciting discoveries are helping to clarify important aspects of Kingston's past. Did you know that there have been approximately 10,000 years of human habitation in the Kingston area? (See the Kingston Archaeological Master Plan at <https://www.cityofkingston.ca/residents/heritage-conservation/archaeological-master-plan>) Did you know that Ontario Park was the site of French and War of 1812 fortifications? (See the work by Dr. Jennifer McKendry at http://www.mckendry.net/Lake_Ontario_Park_&Area/Lake_Ontario_Park_&Area.htm). Kingston and the surrounding area (including Wolfe Island) were also home to seigneurial farms; and there is some interesting evidence suggesting that the area of Kingston was not completely abandoned following the Battle of Fort Frontenac in 1758. There is so much more to learn and explore about our community, and the KHS has a critical role to play in this process. John Grenville's fascinating talk last month highlighted some of the little known aspects of Kingston's western fortification, and I look forward to learning more from future lectures. I hope you will join us!

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Kingston and District Branch, United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada
Annual Spring Luncheon

Tuesday, May 30th 11:30 a.m., for 12 noon \$30.

Minos Village Restaurant, 2762 Princess Street

Attendees will be asked to select their entrée ahead of time from the menu provided, which will be on our website www.uelac.org/kingston.

Speaker - Dr. David More - Move of Quebec Loyalists to Ontario.

Even those who are not of Loyalist descent will find the information about Kingston history of interest.

The next meeting of the Kingston Historical Society

Wednesday, May 17, 2017 7:30pm

Liam (William) McKone: "The Fenian Raids"

Seniors Centre 56 Francis Street

The May 17th meeting will be a special AGM to clarify financial questions.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will meet at the Kingston Seniors Centre, 56 Francis St., on Saturday, May 20 at 10 a.m. Gord Sly will speak about the Frontenac County Schools Museum and Archives. Visitors always welcome. Further details at

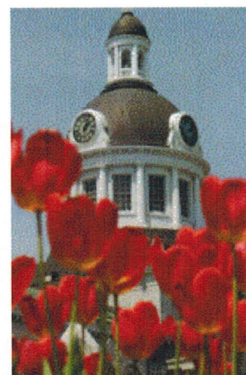
www.ogs.on.ca/kingston

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Please forward submissions to the Editor Betty Andrews. betty.andrews@gmail.com

Reprinting of articles from the Limelight must be accompanied by an acknowledgement of the Society, the issue and date. All photo credits and by-lines must be retained.

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MAILING ADDRESS:

Kingston Historical Society P.O. Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6
kingstonhs@gmail.com www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.com

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2017-18 KHS Executive Council

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pvanneest@cogeco.ca

KINGSTON REGIONAL HERITAGE FAIR

THURSDAY, MAY 11TH AT QUEEN'S WEST CAMPUS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO JUDGE GRADE SCHOOL

HISTORY PROJECTS

SIGN UP HERE: [HTTP://WWW.KRHF.CA/REGISTRATION/VOLUNTEERS](http://www.krhf.ca/registration/volunteers)

**OPEN HOUSE FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC HELD FROM
1:30 – 3:00 PM**

VIEW HISTORY PROJECTS AND COMMUNITY HERITAGE BOOTHS

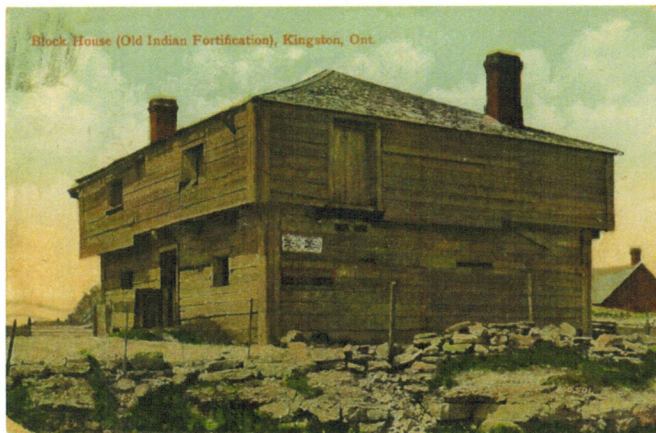
Speaker's Corner

Dr. Marcus R. (Marc) Létourneau

This month's speaker was John Grenville. Many members are familiar with John, and his multifaceted research on Kingston's history. A regular speaker for the Society, John provided a fascinating lecture on Kingston's War of 1812 - the land defenses, which included a complex series of blockhouses, redoubts, and palisades that once surrounded the community. Of particular focus was Rooney Castle, which was a blockhouse that stood at the end of Sydenham Street for almost a hundred years.



Profusely illustrated (which included some rarely seen maps and images), and with detailed information on the lives of the soldiers and the fates of the various aspects of the defenses, John helped illuminate an important part of Kingston's past that served to shape aspects of City's current urban form.





MUSEUMS OF KINGSTON

The Cloyne Pioneer Museum and Archives

A treasure in the woods. Just a scenic one hour drive Northwest of Kingston you will find this authentic Pioneer collection of artifacts and history.

You may have heard a grandparent talk of bygone days of hardships, improvising, "making do", doing without?

Our museum will take you into the lives of early settlers to our area. Glass washboard — we have one of those. Coal oil lamp—we have one of those. Two man crosscut saw, bucksaw, ice saw, bow saw — those too. A cream separator, hand crank washing machine, wooden harvest rakes, feed chopper—these are all representative of a period when "leisure time" was an unknown commodity.

Artifacts on display were once used in developing this country. We have an old time classroom, complete with wooden desks, glass inkwells, straight pens, old school books and even our own "School Marm".

Our kitchen, parlour, clothing and toys provide glimpses of home life. Farming, lumbering, mining and early businesses are also carefully featured.

Families are already referencing our Archives for ancestors while we continue to record endless genealogy. We have had folks from as far away as Winnipeg visit in search of a long ago connection.

Local souvenirs and books are available from our gift corner.

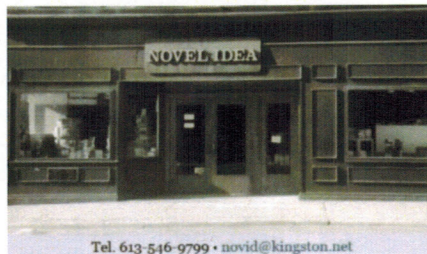
Come and visit our past. Stay as long as you like. Look around. Ask questions. Come back again and again.

Admission is free. Donations gratefully accepted. Open seven days a week from 10 am to 4 pm beginning Sat June 24th until Labour Day. Great outing on a wet or cool day. Make it a change of pace. Bring a lunch to enjoy at one of the picnic tables on the grounds. Stroll through the park area or along the shore of Benny's Lake.

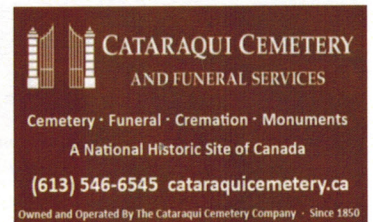
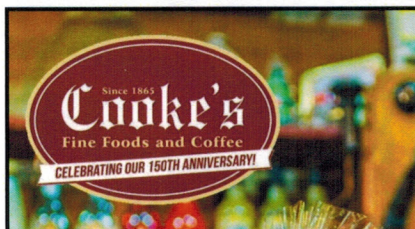
In celebration of Canada 150 we partner with others in the community for festivities, music, a smudging ceremony, barbeque and more. This will take place on the museum grounds at the season opening on Sat June 24th at 11a.m. Be sure to join us then.



**Marc F. Raymond
OPTICIANS LTD**
324 King St E.
613-549-2020



Tel. 613-546-9799 • novid@kingston.net



STILL STANDING:

Looking at Regional Architecture with Jennifer McKendry, Architectural Historian

"Roselawn...a large heavy stone building surrounded with fine grounds, and forming a residence fit for any gentleman in the country, and with the tame deer sporting thorough the rich lawn, forms a picture far too seldom seen in Canada." (1857-58 city directory)

Caroline and David Smith's stone mansion of 1841-42 was likely designed by George Browne, in town as the government architect during the capital era, 1841-44. The house was, at the time, located well away from downtown. After Smith's death in late 1848, it was put up for sale: in a fulsome ad, its location was described as "desirable and salubrious" with a good view of Lake Ontario, and the mansion equipped with hot air heating, while the "tastefully laid out" front lawn was planted with rare shrubbery. It possessed drawing and dining rooms, bedrooms, a kitchen, buttery and pantry. Today, it is a conference centre for Queen's University (the Donald Gordon Centre on Union Street at College). In 1851, via John Mowat, the large property was purchased for £1243 by Mary and Henry Smith Jr, a lawyer and politician who wrangled a knighthood in 1860. After his death in 1868, it remained in the family for the next 20 years, when it transferred to W.A. Haskell Jr. for \$4450.

Even though the house has had modern wings added and is missing its balcony awning and a considerable amount of front verandah, it still is a remarkable and handsome structure because of its wall texturing, windows, chimneys, western garden wall and porte-cochère leading to the back yard, which contains the original stone stable. The style is boldly Classical with modified Venetian windows, worth seeing on the front and back facades. Inside the mansion, the main reception rooms are impressive, as is the splendid staircase.

Sir Henry, "Knight Bachelor of Roselawn" (as described on a plaque in St George's Cathedral), may be something of an overstatement considering he purchased an existing house in 1851 and only lived there 17 years, but he was not one to underplay his importance.



Roselawn in 1860 when Sir Henry Smith was the owner (Walling map)



View in 1992 before the new wings were added (photo J. McKendry)



View in 2015 – note the handsome chimneys (photo J. McKendry)

People Flourishing at the Time of Confederation

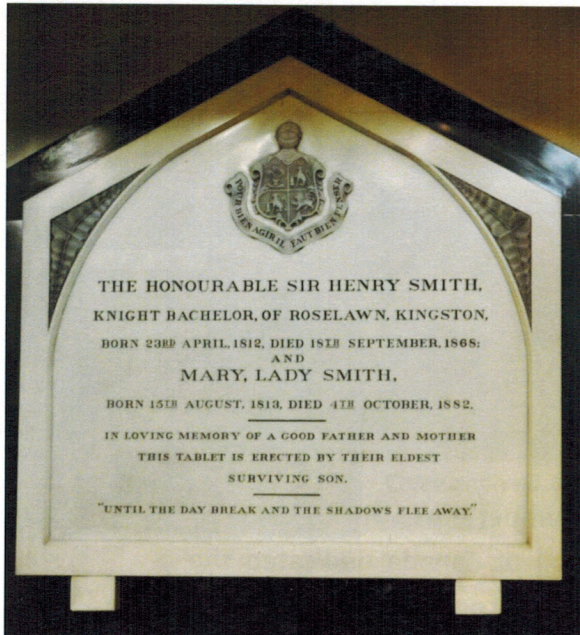
Sir Henry Smith

by Warren Everett



The walls of St. George's Cathedral are decorated with numerous plaques, the earliest to Charles Poulett Thomson, 1st Baron Sydenham, and first Governor of the United Province of Canada. These plaques describe the history of many of the prominent citizens of Kingston and in turn our city.

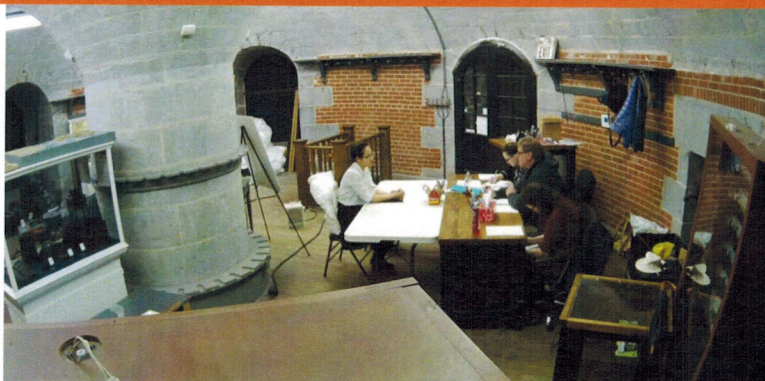
Located under the Artillery Gallery is a large ornate marble plaque to Sir Henry Smith, Knight Bachelor of Roselawn, Kingston. Roselawn is a well-known old stone of Kingston; better known today as the Donald Gordon Centre. Sir Henry was a Canadian lawyer and politician who represented Frontenac County in the first Parliament of Ontario.



Smith was a strong Church of England follower and a prominent congregant of the church of St George. In 1862, the church became the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Ontario. This year marks the 155th anniversary of the Diocese, the oldest west of Quebec. Smith was a long-time friend of Sir John A. Macdonald, both in law and in politics. Smith's friendship with Macdonald was seriously threatened by Smith's personal attempts to gain a knighthood without government support. Surprisingly, in 1860 he was knighted by the Prince of Wales in Quebec City during the Prince's visit to Canada. The Prince had intended to visit Kingston, but was turned away due to Orange troubles at Kingston and Belleville.

Smith's political career was only moderately successful, partly because of the rift between him and Macdonald. Eventually, he won the Frontenac seat in the provincial government of John S. Macdonald. Sir Henry died in September, 1868. The Smith family retained ownership of Roselawn until 1888.

Murney Tower



Interviews were held last month at the Murney Tower for summer staff positions.



Jennifer McKendry lectured to a packed hall April 20 on "Bricks in 19th-century Architecture in the Kingston

DEDICATION of the Hill 70 MEMORIAL MONUMENT
LOOS-EN-GOHELLE, FRANCE
8 APRIL 2017



Under glorious sunshine and warm, mid-to-high teen temperatures His Excellency, the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada dedicated the Monument surrounded by school children from Napanee and Loos-en-Gohelle.



Even though the site is still under construction and controlled by the contractor, some 250 people attended this small, "private" function. Dignitaries included Fabien Sudry, Préfet du Pas-de-Calais, representing France; The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson; The Honourable Harjit Sajjan, Minister of National Defence; General Jonathan Vance, Chief of the Defence Staff; Lieutenant-General Steve Bowes, Commander, Canadian Forces Joint Operations Command; Lieutenant-General Paul Wynnyk, Commander of the Canadian Army; and, Lieutenant-General Michael Hood, Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force.



Seated in this amphitheatre, below the obelisk, the ceremony started with the arrival of his Excellency and the cutting of a ribbon at the entry gates (behind the gates you will see the templates for the 1,877 maple leaves representing each of the soldiers killed during the battle that are sandblasted into the pathway. His Excellency then inspected a guard before the official ceremony began with the usual speeches, Last Post, minute of silence, Rouse, Lament, and laying of wreaths. Following that, a lone piper above the amphitheatre, by the obelisk, played a special Hill 70 tune, written by Dr. Jim Finan especially for this event (you can listen to the tune accompanied by the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment Pipes and Drums, here: <http://www.hill70.ca/In-Memoriam/Hill-70-Pipes-and-Drums.aspx>). Following the playing of the National anthems, the ceremony concluded.

Both Global and CTV provided excellent coverage of the event. The links to those video clips are here:

Global: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUNcwJf4MRc>

CTV: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NMxOBaQk48>

Planning is now underway for the centennial commemoration scheduled for 22 August 2017. The Commander of the Canadian Army, L Gen Paul Wynnyk will preside. This event will be open to the public and one and all will be welcome.

If you have any questions, feel free to email them to hill70mp@gmail.com.

Monitor the web site for more information and to see progress pictures of the construction.

[http://www.hill70.ca/Monument/Building-Progress-\(1\).aspx](http://www.hill70.ca/Monument/Building-Progress-(1).aspx)



NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

MEMBERSHIP RATES		\$300 Sponsor
\$50	Individual	\$60 Family
\$60	Institutional	\$25 Student





THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY presents

The Graveside Commemoration Service for Sir John A. Macdonald

Tuesday, June 6th, 2017 at 1:30 pm
Catawaqui Cemetery National Historic Site
927 Purdy's Mill Road, Kingston ON

*The public is invited to join the Kingston Historical Society,
members of the Fort Henry Guard,
Bellevue House historical ambassadors,
representatives of Catawaqui Cemetery National Historic Site,
and many special guests and dignitaries
from local, provincial and national organizations.
Wreaths will be laid, surrounded by solemn formal pageantry
to mark the 126th anniversary of the passing
of Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first Prime Minister.*

Guest Speaker:
The Hon. Hugh Segal, OC, O. Ont
Master, Massey College

"Beyond 150 - the real Sir John A..."

Information: Alan MacLachlan, Commemoration Service Chair
(613) 540-8841 or (613) 453-7078 (cell) alaguide20@gmail.com

Alternate location in unfavourable weather:
Christ Church Parish Centre, 990 Sydenham Road, Kingston

photos by Peter Ginn, design by Eva Barnes

