

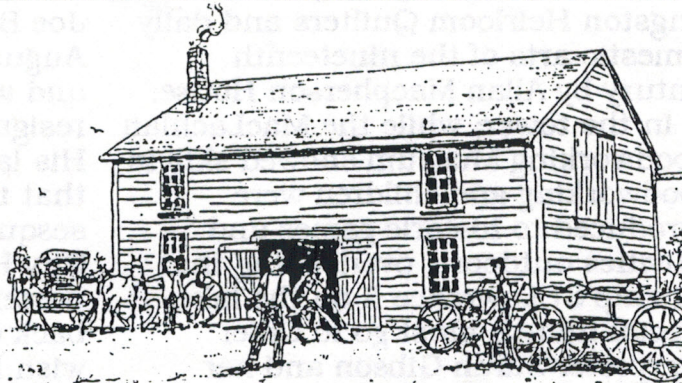


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James Warren
Editor

WELCOME BACK TO AUTUMN!

It has been a busy summer for historical events in Kingston between the Heritage Fair, the ceremony to commemorate the life of Sir John A. Macdonald and two special weekends at Murney Tower. We wish all our members a welcome back to Autumn and new programs.



St. David's, Kingston, Ontario, 1897-1928 (formerly owned by the Kingston Historical Society)

BOTTLERS OF OLD KINGSTON

To open the fall season, we welcome David Dobing, who will chat with us about 19th Century Kingston Bottlers and some bottles retrieved from Lake Ontario. As usual, our meetings are on the third Wednesday of the month, 17 September at 7.30 pm in the Wilson Room, upstairs in the Central Library, 130 Johnson Street. Please come to welcome our speaker and each other. Guests are always welcome.

One week before, on 10 Sept., your ever-faithful Executive will meet at 7.30 in Fort Frontenac room 111 in the Bradstreet Block.

HERITAGE FAIR AND AFTER

Our exhibit in the Heritage Fair on 22 and 23 May went smoothly, thanks to volunteers Lou Grimshaw, Fred McConnell, Bill and Barbara Fittell, Margaret and Bernard Burdsall, Desmond and Margaret O'Meara, Ted and Amy Storey, Marjorie Simmons, Shirley Gibson-Longille and Jim Warren. This year, a greater effort was made to promote our publications and

the sesquicentennial coin, resulting in revenue of \$212. More important, we had the opportunity to reach out to many young and enthusiastic students who share our interest in history.

A National Heritage Fair was hosted by Kingston on 20 July. One interesting aspect of the fairs was the production of a Kingston Historical Minutes video. John Esford, the Communication Technologies Teacher at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary who directed his students, was kind enough to send us along a copy.

MURNEY TOWER TRIUMPHS

Our members are not sufficiently aware of the hard work and imagination shown by the bright young people who look after the Murney Tower seven days a week from Victoria Day to Labour Day, while the rest of us take the time off. This year, the Tower provides more informative displays than ever, more live demonstrations and a more profitable gift shop, while maintaining records of publicity in the media.

On 5 and 6 July, they organized demonstrations by the Kingston Handloom Weavers Guild, the Kingston Heirloom Quilters and daily domestic arts of the nineteenth century by Allan Macpherson House, all in the tower; while the MacLachlan Woodworking Museum showed skill in woodworking and children were introduced to historic games and activities outdoors, overlooking the tall ship St. Lawrence II on the lake. Special thanks must go to Chief Interpreter Sarah Gibson and her colleagues Elizabeth Christie and Sven Walker. They have worked long hours beyond their regular contract.

Not content with that, they organized a most successful military re-enactment day on 23 August with troops in uniform from the 7th Fusiliers (1783), the Royal Marines (1812), the Kingston Mills Blockhouse (1833), an encampment of the Brockville Infantry Company (1862) and a display staged by the Canadian War Museum in a colonial marquee tent.

There was a barbecue and mock military drills for children while, inside, there were displays by the Museum of Applied Military History honouring women at war, a radio display by the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals and the Perth Regiment of Canada in battle dress from World War II.

On 24 August, visitors from the Katarokwi Native Friendship Centre spent a day at Murney Tower telling stories to children, providing arts and crafts activities and demonstrations by artists and drummers.

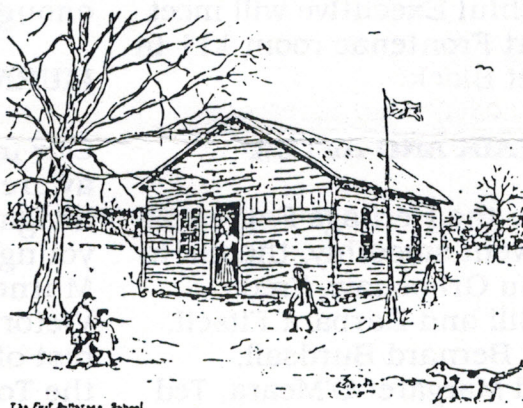
Activities like these do not just happen. They take much planning and adjustment to changing conditions. Our interpretive staff and members of the Murney Tower Museum Committee deserve our effusive praise.

PRESIDENT JOE RESIGNS

I was delighted to chat with President Joe Boucher on a sunny morning in August. Joe has had a rough time of it and we regret that he feels he must resign from office effective 31 August. His last official act was to announce that the city is erecting our sesquicentennial plaque in front of City Hall as we speak. Joe's cheerful presence at executive meetings or our back door is sorely missed and we wish him the most comfort possible during his treatment.

SARAH GIBSON & CARLETON IS.

On 15 July, Sarah Gibson delivered a paper on Carleton Island to fifteen New York State residents, including the president of the 1000 Islands Land Trust. Carleton Island, of course, was a key British Army base on the St. Lawrence before the Treaty of Paris, in 1783, placed it on the American side of the border, shifting attention to Kingston. Sarah's professor, Dr. Donald Swainson, suggests it be published in Historic Kingston. We agree.



DRAWN TO STORRINGTON TWP.

In the last of her series of pictures of the townships surrounding Kingston, Shirley Gibson-Longille has drawn us

to Storrington Township on Saturday 20 September for the opening of a display of her pen and ink sketches, watercolours and pastels. The place is Inverary United Church, and Shirley will be in attendance from 10 to 4 daily until Friday 26.

There will be introductions by Gord Smithson, a speech by Reeve Ron Sleeth, Norm Freeman's history of Storrington Township, a visit from the ghost of J.B.Willy, a mystery man from down under, piper Walter Freeman, the Sigsworth-McDonald-Warmington Trio and Wendy Bouma's old tyme (sic) fiddling & country music. Admission is free and Inverary United Church offers refreshments. When Shirley has a show you know it's a show!

Then on Sunday 21 there is an historic tour of Inverary and more musical entertainment than I can squeeze in this newsletter. Naturally, Shirley's illustrations grace these pages.

MICROFILM READERS

Not everyone may be aware of the extensive microfilm records in the Kingston Public Library. They include all the old Kingston newspapers back to 1810. These are indexed from 1810 to 1850 on file cards. Hundreds of headings include ships and ship movements, shipwrecks, shoemakers, booksellers, Garden Island and property. Each includes details, such as 'Armstrong and Greer have a boarding house for rent' from 28 August 1841, page 3, column 6.

Also included are, for example, McLean's Magazine 1911 to 1966, Popular Mechanics 1952 to 1972, St.Mary's Cathedral Parish Registers 1816 to 1869 and the censuses (censa?) for 1861, 1871, 1881 and 1891.

Unfortunately, viewing microfilm requires a reading machine. Reader-printers cost about \$16,000 and require regular servicing. The public library's budget is increasingly stretched. We as a Society and as individuals could help by making donations. Donors of over ten dollars will receive a tax receipt.

If you can manage it, please help to keep these valuable resources accessible.

AWARD TIME

While the deadline for nominations for our annual Awards was first September, it is possible that late entries would be considered. Send yours, with justification, to Jack Pike, Awards Chairman, 150 Macdonnell Street, Kingston K7L 4B8. The nomination form was in your May newsletter.

THE MAPLE LEAF FOREVER

Thanks to a CBC competition, new words have been set to that stirring old anthem The Maple Leaf Forever by a new Canadian, Vladimir Radian:

O, land of blue unending skies
Mountains strong and sparkling snow,
A scent of freedom in the wind,
O'er the emerald fields below.
To thee we brought our hopes, our dreams,
For thee we stand together,
Our land of peace, where proudly flies,
The Maple Leaf forever!

CHORUS:

Long may it wave, and grace our own,
Blue skies and stormy weather,
Within my heart, above my home,
The Maple Leaf forever.



Nellie McClung, (1873-1951) pioneer Canadian feminist, was a woman who tolerated no nonsense from politicians attempting to keep women out of government. Her philosophy was

"Never retract,
never explain,
never apologize.
Get the thing done
and let them howl."