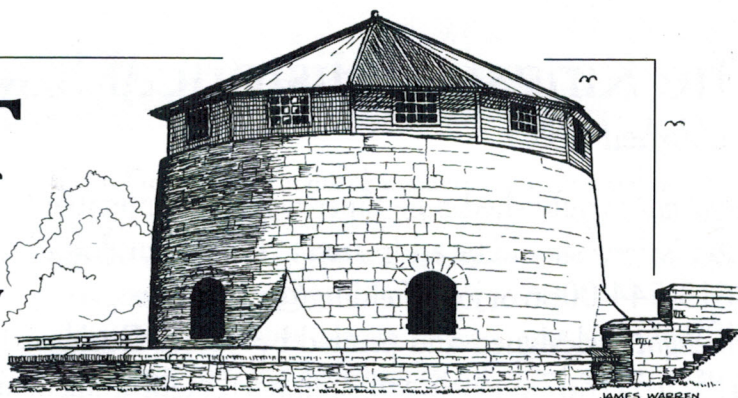


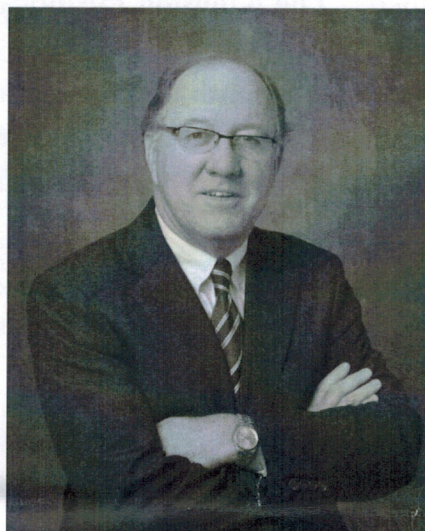
LIMELIGHT

Newsletter of the
Kingston Historical Society

vol 13 no 9 December 2011 ISSN 1488-5565



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



You will be pleased to know that your society continues its tradition of involvement in a variety of matters civic and cultural.

KHS involvement with staff at the City of Kingston is already yielding benefits. The illumination of the statue of Sir John A. Macdonald in City Park looks likely for the spring of 2012. With any luck at all, we can aim for an unveiling July 1.

In addition, the city has initiated a Kingston Remembers project that will see matching historic plaques erected throughout the older part of the city, in some cases replacing older signage that has since deteriorated, in other cases installing plaques at previously unsigned sites. Our Society role will evolve into links between a code on the plaque and the KHS website, which

will contain supplementary information. The city has contracted with a firm led by Brian Dodo, who is doing the design work for the project. You can read more about this project on page 7 of your Limelight. The next plaque to be installed will commemorate Col. John Bradstreet and his 3000 troops coming ashore at what is now Richardson Beach in 1758. The city has also undertaken to re-install the old Bradstreet plaque in a site not yet selected at a later date.

A nod of the KHS cap to many of you who have been quick off the mark with your membership dues. For those who have not yet renewed, well, no time like the present! For those of you accustomed to enclosing a donation with your membership, you'll notice that the donation line has been left off this year's membership form, but I'm certain you won't let that hold you back.

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Gordon Sinclair

The Kingston Historical Society

established 1893

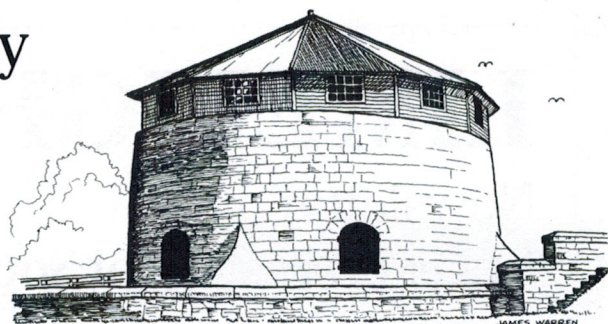
Limelight is published nine times a year - September to May. Submissions should be addressed to the Editor, John Fielding at 613-544-0086 or johnffielding@gmail.com.

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must be accompanied by the acknowledgement: "Reprinted from *Limelight* (issue & date) published by Kingston Historical Society". All photo credits and by lines must be retained. The Kingston Historical Society (KHS) gratefully acknowledges the support of our sponsors in the production of *Limelight*.

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.



Murney Tower by James Warren

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 Announcements

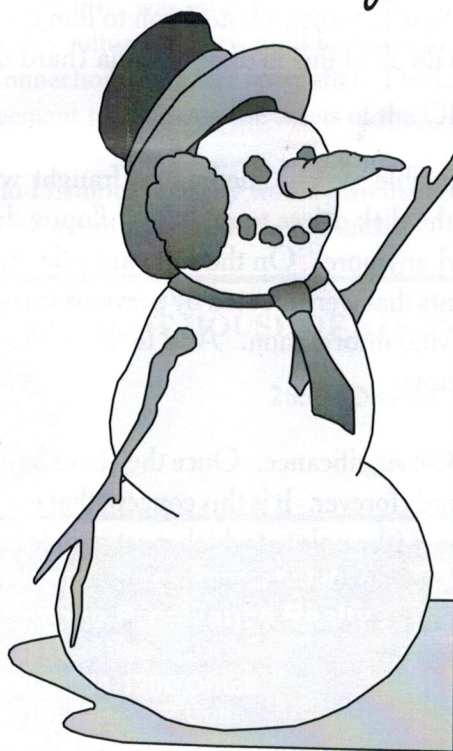
Shirley Gibson-Langille An exhibition of paintings "Wheels Of Time" Opening Saturday December 3rd, 2011 1 p.m.-5 p.m Show continues thru December 29th 2011 in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Frontenac Public Library, 130 Johnson Street. See a collection of scenes with old wagons, cars, trucks, tractors, farm equipment, spinning wheels, sewing machines, washers...At the Opening enjoy live entertainment, ghosts of the past and refreshments. A percentage of sales go to University Hospitals Kingston Foundation.

Contact: Shirley Gibson-Langille 613 549-8360 Website: <http://shirleygibsonlangille.homestead.com>

The Great Cataraqui River Trail initiative spearheaded by Mary and Edward Farrar went to City Council for approval at the Nov. 1 meeting. The Farrars are pleased to report that Council approved their request for 2.8 million dollars to be spent over the next 10 years to complete Stage 1 of the trail. Approval was unanimous! Stage 1 of this waterfront trail will proceed from the La Salle Causeway to John Counter Boulevard on the west side of the Great Cataraqui River. Attention will be drawn to a number of sites of Aboriginal, French, Industrial and Natural Heritage. Construction will begin in the summer of 2012.

The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will meet in the Wilson Room of Kingston Frontenac Public Library, 130 Johnson St., Saturday, January 21, 2012 at 10 a.m. Ron Walsh will speak on Marine History of Kingston. Visitors welcome. Further info at www.ogs.on.ca/kingston

Come and Celebrate with friends and acquaintances!



Kingston Historical Society Annual Holiday Party

Wednesday, 7 December 2011

Renaissance Event Venue

285 Queen Street (the c. 1837 historic church)

Social Hour 6 – 7 pm

KHS Awards Presentation 7 – 8 pm

FESTIVE SNACKS TO FOLLOW.

\$10 donation gratefully accepted at the door.



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Does Digital = Disposable? (Part 1)

By Jeremy Heil

What would you do if you were told that all of your family photo albums would simply disappear in the next five years? Would you take action to ensure the contents would live on in some form, by copying the photos, reprinting them or storing them in a secure location? Or would you simply let it happen? Chances are, these records mean something to you. The photos don't just sit in a box; they are organized and kept by you or someone you know, and recall some special memory.

Unfortunately, the rapid loss of our own history is precisely the dilemma we all face today. Digital photography is the norm, but few people actually take the appropriate precautions or considerations with their jpegs to ensure they can still be viewed five years from now. And it's not as if the colours simply fade – a loss of a few bits - the 0s and 1s that make up digital files - can destroy the entire image forever.

Most people don't give it a second thought. Nowadays we create almost everything on computers, smartphones and other technology. It is a “born digital” world, so I am now writing this article in a Word document, to be submitted via e-mail and for editing on another computer.

A year ago, I completed a six-month sabbatical studying just this dilemma – how do we, as archivists, preserve the digital memory of our institution and our private donors? On the surface, the question is quite straightforward. Just as people write and type to paper, photograph to film then print to paper, and record sound to tape, they now do all of this to digital media (hard disk, flash memory, etc.).



But the move from a tangible to an intangible storage medium is fraught with many problems in the long term. Do you have the disk drives to read 5 1/4" floppy disks? Zip disks? Even 3 1/2" floppies are seldom used anymore. On the software side, most of the popular word processors can read documents that were created by previous versions of the software, but not without the loss of some vital information. And to top it all off, we are

generating more records each and every day than we ever have in human history.

The Archives are the end of the road for records of lasting value and historical significance. Once they have outlived their usefulness to their creators, Archives are tasked with maintaining these records forever. It is this concept that escapes most – this is not five years (the life cycle of most new technology), twenty-five years (the point at which most people forget what the old technology was like) – this is multiple lifetimes, extended for centuries. We have been the repositories of human history since the beginning of the written word, and now we are the keepers of future memory. What we preserve now will be seen and used by our progeny to understand and interpret our lifetime. What we lose will form wide gaps in this understanding.

There is no doubt that we have lost some history by virtue of technology progressing at a faster rate than our ability to preserve the records created. This does not mean that all is lost, though. Even paper can crumble into many pieces, never to be seen again – it happens all the time! Flood, fire, pests and so much more are the enemies of the historic record. Only now in the digital age, we face new enemies in the guise of rapid progress and obsolescence. Loss of records through negligence, benign neglect and ignorance of their importance is serious, and serves to undermine most Archives' preservation efforts. The truth is, Archives can only preserve what records they receive.

Next time, I'll tell you what you, as a records creator, can do to preserve your digital records.



Ontario Historical Society Launches Online Heritage Directory

(Originally appeared in *OHS Bulletin* Summer 2011 (No. 179))

The Ontario Historical Society (OHS) is excited to announce a new online service: *The Ontario Heritage Directory Online*, a free database resource that will connect Ontario's heritage community, tourists and researchers at www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

The Ontario Heritage Directory Online features a database of over 1,600 heritage organizations, heritage sites, museums, archives, First Nations Councils and Municipal Heritage Committees in Ontario. The Society encourages you to explore your local heritage sites to learn more!



In preparation for the bicentennial of the War of 1812-14, any organizations, historic sites and museums celebrating bicentennial-related events, exhibits or publications will be highlighted with a War of 1812 icon.

The online Ontario Heritage Directory features an updating tool that allows organizations to keep their contact information current. Users of the directory can select the "Keep this record up to date" feature and submit any change of address, email address, etc. The Society would like to acknowledge the support and contribution of The Ontario Heritage Connection Society (OHC) and its Board of Directors. The OHC was established in 2002 with a mandate to serve as a network for the exchange of information about Ontario's culture, history, built heritage, archaeology and natural environment. It launched its website, featuring a Heritage Connections database soon after. The OHC excelled in fulfilling its mandate and in March 2011, signed a mutual agreement transferring the assets of the OHC to The Ontario Historical Society.

The Ontario Historical Society would also like to acknowledge the support of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture through the Museum and Technology Fund.

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COMING NEXT YEAR!

Wednesday, 18 January 2012 7:30 PM
Bruce Carruthers: Father of Canadian Military Communications

David McCarey

**Military Communications & Electronics Museum,
 CFB Kingston, 95 Craftsman Blvd., (Hwy #2 East)**

Refreshments

All Welcome

OHS now accepting nominations for 2011 Honours & Awards

In 1967, the Ontario Historical Society established an Awards Program to honour individuals, organizations, institutions, corporations and authors who have contributed significantly to the preservation and promotion of Ontario's heritage. Awards are offered across thirteen different categories.

The Awards program is intended both to acknowledge the work of outstanding individuals and organizations, and to raise public awareness of Ontario's history and the people who work to preserve and interpret it.

All recipients of awards receive recognition in subsequent publicity, and a framed certificate accompanied by a copy of the citation acknowledging their contribution to the heritage community.

Nomination Deadline is Friday January 6, 2012.

Please go to <http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/vm/newvisual/attachments/874/Media/201112OHS HABrochure.pdf> for complete details on nomination requirements.

Kingston Historical Society Membership Form

I am renewing		
I am not renewing		
I am a new member	\$	
As an individual \$40	\$	
As a family or institution \$50	\$	
As a student \$25	\$	
I am making a donation	\$	
TOTAL	\$	
Payable to the Kingston Historical Society		

Name: _____

Address: _____

Optional Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

I give permission to publish my name in *Historic Kingston* and *Limelight* Newsletter.

☐ YES ☐ NO

I am interested in receiving *Limelight* by email.

☐ YES ☐ NO

Please mail to:

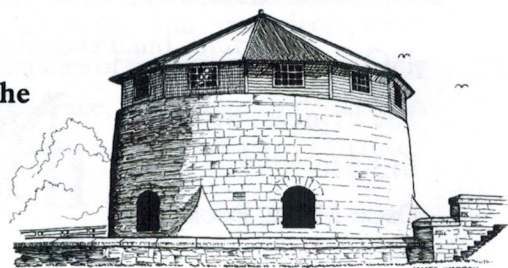
**Kingston Historical Society
 PO Box 54, Kingston, ON K7L 4V6**

OR

**Hand form and payment to a member of the
 KHS Council at a monthly meeting.**

Your support is appreciated!

www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca



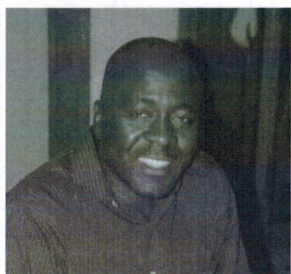
Kingston Remembers

Written by John Duerkop
and Marnie Venditti

The city's Kingston Remembers program is designed to bring a comprehensive approach to historic commemoration in the city. A wide variety of different commemorative designs have been used in the past. These include plaques and markers placed by the federal government, the province and by the city itself. Others have been placed by non-government organizations, most prominently by the Kingston Historical Society, veterans' groups and the Pittsburgh Historical Society.

In recent years new standards have been set for accessibility and language. Most of the previous designs do not meet today's requirements. Furthermore, their wide variety of appearances does not support their instant recognition as sources of historic information. Two years ago the city identified the need for greater uniformity and modern standards for historic commemoration. The Kingston Remembers program does that.

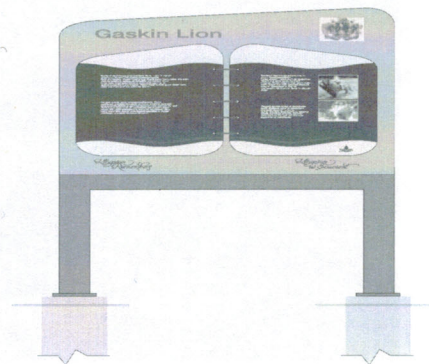
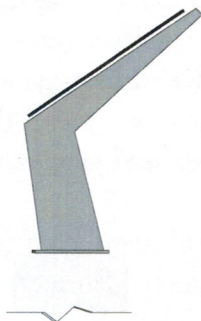
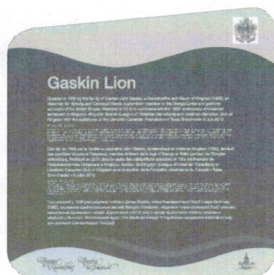
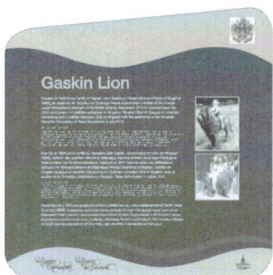
All commemoration on city property must now go through a city approval process and use the appropriate city template. The only exceptions are projects of senior governments. At present the program includes two templates. These are markers for designated buildings (both private and public) and commemorative plaques. Alternative formats may be used such as a "book" (e.g. Market Square) or digital means. The designated building markers continue to be small bronze



Artist Brian Dodo

circles identifying the building and giving one or two facts about it. The commemorative plaques are made of aluminium following a template designed for the city by graphic artist Brian Dodo. Plaques will normally include a photo, map or other graphic feature.

Photo by Peter Ginn



Both French and English languages are to be used as well as Braille where possible. If appropriate, a third language may also be used. Both Hebrew and Ukrainian have been used to this point.

Two commemorative plaque projects were done in 2010. The first was the rededication of the Gaskin Lion in Macdonald Park. The second was at the location of the original synagogue on Queen Street. The "book" that is currently being designed for Breakwater Park is a variation of the plaque template adapted to the different format.

The city by-law states that a commemorative plaque will be required when:

- (1) There is major redevelopment of a heritage building or it is converted from private to public use (e.g., conversion from residential to office or retail uses);
- (2) A heritage building is retained in a new subdivision or where properties within a subdivision have significance to the community;
- (3) A property considered significant to the community is subject to site plan approval;
- (4) City streets that have been in use for more than 20 years are to be closed;
- (5) Significant archaeological resources have been removed;
- (6) A significant vista is being lost.

In these cases the cost of the plaque (including the mounting and landscaping) will be paid for by the applicant for the change.

Anyone or any group may request that the city initiate a specific historic commemoration, or may request permission to proceed with a project themselves together with the city. Further information about the Kingston Remembers program is available from the city Planning and Development Department at 613-546-4291.

Speakers' Corner

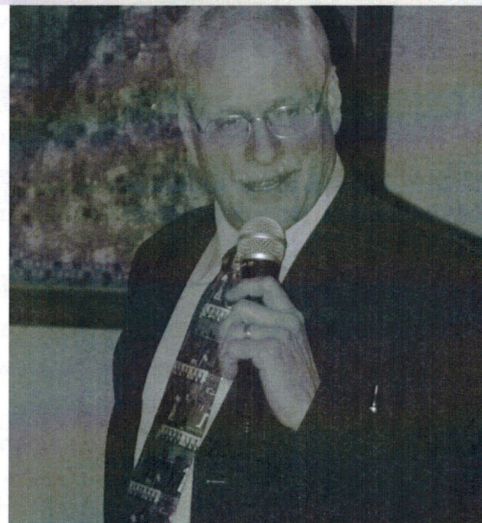
by Alicia Boutilier

From Kingston to Cairo ... and Beyond: Adventures in Egypt

Presented by Mark B. Trumpour

Photos by Peter Ginn

Kingston's rich cultural history knows no geographic bounds, as evident in the lively talk delivered by Mark Trumpour at the Kingston Historical Society's November meeting. "A funny thing happened on the way to ancient Egypt," the speaker quipped. While researching ancient Egyptian collections in Canada, Trumpour kept stumbling upon key figures with Kingston connections. His talk focused on three Egypt-bound Kingstonians in particular: Frederick "Cupid" Wilson, George Edward Kidd and James Douglas.



Wilson was born in Kingston and distinguished himself by accomplishing a number of "firsts." He was not only the first Canadian-born officer to command the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery and to attain the rank of Major-General, he was also the first to see action abroad. Wilson volunteered for the relief force that was sent to Egypt during the 1884–1885 Sudanese crisis at Khartoum (made famous by the film starring Charlton Heston). The relief expedition also incidentally consisted of Canadian voyageurs, who were recruited expressly to navigate the rapids of the Nile River, Egypt's main transportation artery. For his service, the popular Wilson received the Khedive's Star and the Egypt Medal.

Born in Prospect, Lanark County, George Edward Kidd completed a Medical degree at Queen's University, becoming a Doctor of Surgery in 1910. The following year, he succeeded Dr. Frederick Etherington as the university's Chair of Anatomy. When WWI broke out, Queen's University raised a medical unit, the 5th Canadian Stationary Hospital. As part of this unit, Kidd was instrumental in establishing a 400-bed hospital at Cairo for men in dire need of care in the Eastern Overseas Service. While in Cairo, "Kidd's interest in anatomy apparently led him to acquire a mummy," which he eventually donated to the Museum of Vancouver (at the behest of his wife). The mummy was later identified to have been "Panechates, son of Hatres."

The final Kingston-Cairo connection of the talk was James Douglas, former Chancellor and a great benefactor of Queen's University. Douglas's father, a respected doctor, suffered from a respiratory illness, for which the dry climate of Egypt was deemed to be beneficial. The entire Douglas family thus travelled to the African country on more than one occasion and became intimately acquainted with the antiquities trade. Dr. Douglas Sr. built his own Egyptian collection, some of which went to Laval University and the rest to the Metropolitan Museum in New York, donated by his son. Or was it the rest? Queen's University's collection contains exquisite stone objects (now housed at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre) dating from the earliest dynasties of Egypt, the originally donor of which is unknown. Trumpour mused that these are just the sorts of items to appeal to a mining engineer like Douglas, who just may have held them back from the Met.



After a round of stimulating questions, Mark Trumpour was presented with the Kingston Historical Society's valued Murney Tower pin by Ross McKenzie, Curator of the RMC Museum.

11th Annual Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner



Our guest speaker for this year's Sir John A. Macdonald Anniversary Dinner, Wednesday January 11 2012, will be Mr. Peter Milliken, retired MP for Kingston and The Islands and Speaker of the House of Commons. His talk will be:

Sir John A. Macdonald and the Heritage of Kingston

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. The cost for the dinner will be \$60.00 for Society members and \$75.00 for guests of members. Please fill out the tear off portion below and send it along with your payment to:

Sir John A Macdonald Dinner
C/O W. Everett
253 Willingdon Ave
Kingston, Ontario
K7L 4J2

All reservations must be received no later than **December 21, 2011.**

Our menu this year features:

Chef Salad with Dijon Dressing
Carrot Golden Autumn Soup
Chicken Breast with Feta and roasted Red Pepper Stuffing
(Vegetarian Meal Offered)
Maple Blondie Cake
Coffee and Tea

Name(s): _____

Telephone and Email _____

Number of members attending: _____ Vegetarian meal(s) _____

Number of guests attending: _____ Vegetarian meal(s) _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Please list any food allergies: _____

Please ensure you include the names of all those attending the dinner.