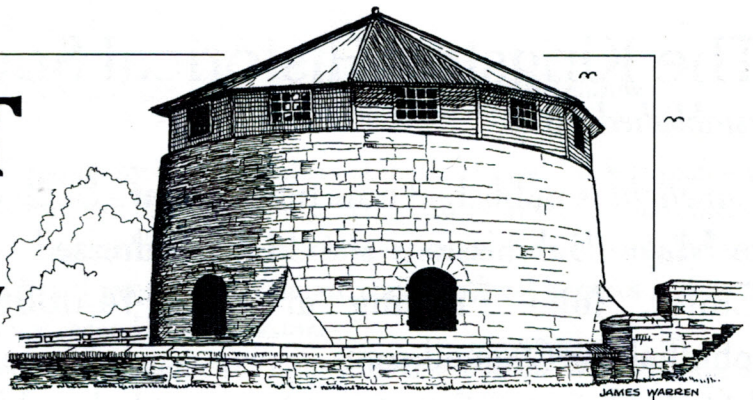


# LIMELIGHT

Newsletter of the  
Kingston Historical Society

vol 14 no 4 April 2012 ISSN 1488-5565



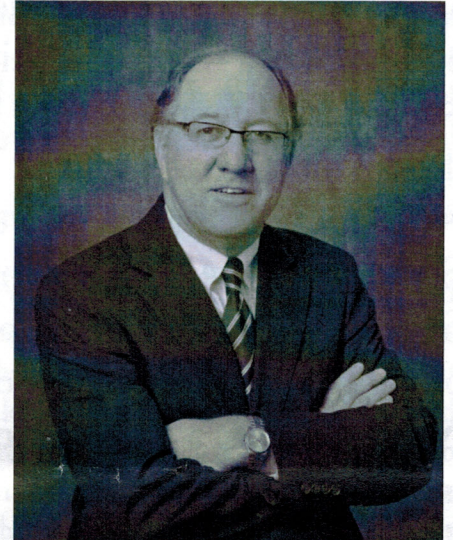
## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In a town like Kingston, there are very few months that pass by without being confronted with an issue that has a heritage component. The Barrack Street re-naming, the possible closure of KCVI, the Catarqui Cemetery/Homestead issue are all questions that have recently presented themselves.

Should the Kingston Historical Society be taking a public position on these and other heritage issues? Put another way, does not involving ourselves represent a missed opportunity to possibly influence public policy?

Your Council has not, because of a less-than salutary experience a number of years ago, taken a position on any issues that might involve the political sphere in recent times. However, Council is now studying ways in which the Society could possibly take a position on selected issues.

We are constitutionally obliged "to be an advocate for the preservation of buildings and areas of historic interest in the City of Kingston and district." While we can't possibly take on every issue that presents itself, it should be possible for the Society to be more involved in the public square. Involvement could be as simple as a letter to the editor of the Whig or a letter to the Mayor, or it could see the Society committed to a course of action over an extended period of time. These and other factors would be carefully considered before the Society could take a stand on any issue placed before the Society's Executive and Council.



### In this issue...

President's Report	1
Masthead	2
A Chance Discovery	3
Announcements	4
An Extraordinary Happening	5
Col. John Bradstreet Plaque	6
Quiet Voices	7
Speakers' Corner	8

Once Council makes a decision on an issue like this, the membership would be notified at the earliest opportunity. Stay tuned for more information on this important matter.



# The Kingston Historical Society

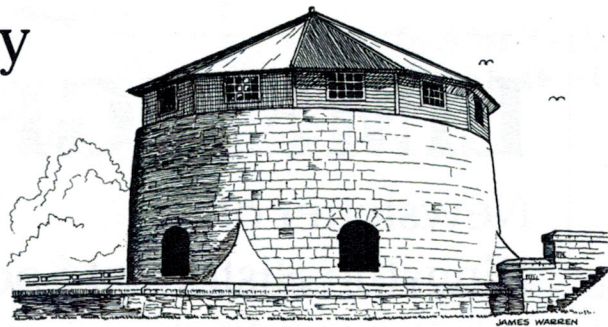
established 1893

*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.

*Limelight* is designed and printed by Versus Business Forms (613-507-7667 versus@kingston.net). Reprinting of articles 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

Box 54, Kingston, ON K7L 4V6  
kingstonhs@gmail.com  
www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca

## Executive

Gordon Sinclair, *President*  
Alan MacLachlan, *Past President*  
Peter Gower, *Vice President*  
John Richardson, *Secretary*  
John Whiteley, *Treasurer*

## Councillors

Eva Barnes  
Alicia Boutilier  
Peter Ginn  
Warren Everett  
Ross McKenzie  
Anne Richardson  
Douglas Petty

Hazel Fotheringham, *Editor, Historic Kingston*  
Warren Everett, *Chair, Murney Tower Committee*  
John Fielding, *Editor, Limelight*



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

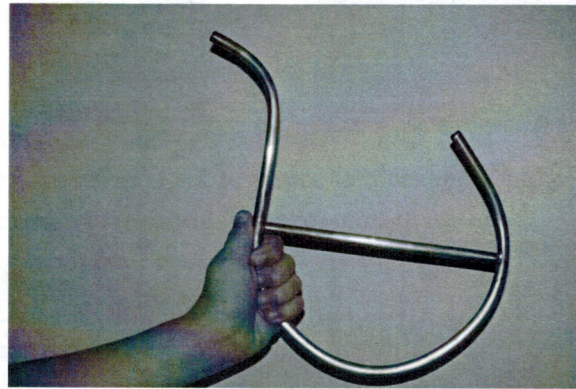


# A Chance Discovery

Story and photo by Brian S. Osborne

Knowing my interest in things connected with the Rideau Canal, my colleague and friend, Mary Campeau drew my attention to the item below and explained its provenance.

It appears that while working in his garden one day, lockmaster Mark Balfe (1958-1965) uncovered this strange looking copper musical instrument. He thought it was a child's toy until he later discovered that historians had identified it as an artifact used by the workers constructing the Rideau Canal in 1827. If a worker got lost in the denser brush, he would blow this flute which could be heard up to two miles away on a clear day. The strange sound has not been duplicated by any modern instrument. An original flute is on display at the Rideau Canal Museum in Smiths Falls. Mark's son, Michael, is reproducing this unique instrument. Thank you, Mary.



## A Chance Discovery Update!

When Mary Campeau presented the Rideau Flute to Brian her husband, David, warned him not to blow it because it would be too loud for the restaurant they were in. Predictably, our Brian ignored the arrangement of in-pipe out-pipe and blew it with full force. Look at it! He was blasted with a face-full of powder accompanied by the laughter of spectators around. It was an April Fool's Day surprise!

Thank you Mary and David!



Celebrating 20 years  
of Quality & Innovation  
[www.versusforms.com](http://www.versusforms.com)

- \* 61 Brock St
- \* 613-548-7721
- \* [www.cookesfinefoods.com](http://www.cookesfinefoods.com)



*Established 1865*

THE PILOT HOUSE OF KINGSTON



265 KING ST EAST

613-542-0222

CUNNINGHAM & POUPORE

FASHION FOR MEN

75 BROCK STREET 613-544-1400



**IRON DUKE**  
**On Wellington**  
 Heritage and Hospitality on Tap



Be a Part of History  
*Cataraqui Cemetery*

613-546-6545 · 927 Purdy's Mill Road · Est. 1850

**Larry Brennan - Sales Representative**  
**Royal LePage Proalliance Realty**

*Independently Owned and Operated*

(613) 384-1200 Office  
 (613) 329-7222 Cell  
 lbrennan2@cogeco.ca  
 www.larrybrennan.com



Marc F. Raymond  
**OPTICIANS LTD**

324 King St E. 613-549-2020



RESTAURANT  
 68-R Princess St  
 613-549-7673

"The Pig with a Peel"

PAN CHANCHO 44 Princess St 613-544-7790



*Dining Room / Bar*

*Courtyard Terrace*

**69 Brock Street**

**613-549-5635**

## Announcement of Historical Interest

**The Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation** would like to invite you to: "Investigations into prehistoric winter pithouse village life on the Canadian Plateau" a lecture by Suzanne Villeneuve (Department of Archaeology, Simon Fraser University) on Wednesday, April 4th, 2012, 7:00pm Upstairs in the Lair (Special Events Room), Kingston Brew Pub, 34 Clarence St.

**The Ontario Women's History Network's Spring Conference** is on "Women and the War of 1812" -- April 13/14. Friday April 13 - at Mackenzie House, Toronto, includes a performance by Cheryl Macdonald. Saturday April 14 - at Fort York, includes a day of presentations and conversations. For more information, please contact either Jane Errington: [errington-j@rmc.ca](mailto:errington-j@rmc.ca) or Gail Cuthbert Brandt: [gcbbrandt@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gcbbrandt@uwaterloo.ca)

**The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society** Bus Trip to Region 8 Meeting and the City of Ottawa Central Archives, Saturday, April 21, 2012. Cost is \$30 for bus trip and \$25 for meeting including lunch. Details at [www.ogs.on.ca/kingston](http://www.ogs.on.ca/kingston)



# An Extraordinary Happening

By Shirley Gibson-Langille

To tell this unforgettable story, I must first give you some background.

One of my dearest friends, Elue Mitchell, was a beautiful portrait artist. Elue was also very much into the jazz scene and, up on the walls of her home, she had framed autographed pictures and letters of many greats such as Louis Armstrong. Over the years I knew her, she threw many artsy-parties where her jazz-musician friends came and played the night away. Elue died on April 5th 2007 but, remarkable woman that she was, she had pre-planned for all her friends to come to her house at 851 Division Street for one last big bash after her death.

When I arrived at the party, Rita McGrattan was up singing accompanied by many other musician friends, all with tears in their eyes. I couldn't stop crying. It was just like all Elue's fabulous parties had been over the years but, this time, we were all very sad because Elue wasn't there.

On June 7th 2010, I drove down Wellington Street to the Doug Fluhrer Park. I wanted to finish a painting Where did they go? It was of a horse carriage, and I wanted it set in a nice landscape. I parked my car near the river. It was fun watching the many ducks playing in the water there and I fed them most of my lunch. Others came to feed them and, at one point, I noticed three people go down to the shore. I thought they were feeding the ducks too but they were there so long and they seemed to be acting strange.

Finally, they finished and came walking toward me. I suddenly realized who they were. It was Elue's partner, "Chik" Denis Groves, her very dearest friend, Louise Cassidy, and her daughter, Arlene. They couldn't believe their eyes when they saw me there. They had tried to call me that morning to take part in their personal memorial-service for Elue. Can you believe it? They had come to this same place I had chosen for my painting to spread some of Elue's ashes in the river there at a spot where she used to enjoy sitting. They then shared with me the poems and prayers they had recited and we all hugged and cried together.

Yes, it was a very unique happening and when I look at this painting it brings it all back to me.



*If you've enjoyed these items in Limelight over the years, watch for the Kingston Historical Society's most recent publication to be launched by Quarry Press in April this year - Landscapes and Inscapes: Drawn to History with a Brush of Serendipity by Shirley Gibson-Langille and Brian S. Osborne.*



## Colonel John Bradstreet Plaque

The long-awaited Colonel John Bradstreet plaque in Breakwater Park will be unveiled Wednesday, April 18 at 1:00. This is part of a welcome initiative on the part of the City of Kingston to replace aging historic markers in the city.

The plaque commemorates the British Col Bradstreet's arrival on August 25, 1758 with 3100 troops in 200-300 small bateaux along the beach between what is now the Murney Tower and the present-day Filtration Plant. The next morning the troops captured and later destroyed Fort Frontenac, the strategic French fur-trading and military post, a morale builder, honored by the Kingston Historical Society and many others, and an inspiration to all who knew him.

*Wednesday, 18 April 2012 7:30 PM*

### **THIS MONTH'S MEETING**

**Billion Years of Earth History:  
The Geology of the Kingston Area**

**Mark Badham**

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

### **Library Elevator Out of Commission**

Beginning April 2, the elevator at the Public Library will be under repair. The reconstruction is expected to take as long as two months.

Apologies for any inconvenience, but the stairs will be the only access to the second floor Wilson Room for both our April and May meetings.

*Kingston's Independent Bookstore*

156 Princess Street  
613-546-9799  
Oscar Malan, Bookseller



331 King St East

613-531-0800



"Step up to Tango" Tapas Bar & Restaurant



# Quiet Voices

By Stewart Renfrew

Recently, I was clearing and re-organizing some bookshelves. Like so many of the members of the Historical Society I am an incorrigible buyer of books, and, of course, I don't always get a chance to read them right away. In this case I turned up a book that I bought a few years ago for a dollar and had never even looked into. It is *Quiet Voices* edited by Roger Bainbridge and published by Quarry Press and The Whig-Standard, 1989, isbn 0-919627-69-2. I expect that there are copies in local libraries and as I remember the one I got came from a pile of remaindered books in a local second hand bookstore.

The point about this book is that it recalls one of the very high points in the journalistic history of Kingston, the Whig-Standard Magazine. Many members will remember that wonderful supplement that appeared each Saturday in the Whig. I, for one, seldom missed picking up a copy of the paper on Saturday just because I knew the Magazine would be there and well worth the price, I don't think it ever failed me and I miss it even now.

At the time it was publishing the Magazine the paper was still under the ownership of the Davies family and still very much a Kingston newspaper. Still, as the Whig's editor, Neil Reynolds, remarked in his introduction to the magazine, newspapers must publish a great deal of national and international news. He goes on, "the Whig-Standard Magazine will be the exclusive turf of writers, columnists, artists and photographers from our own town and country community. Its concerns will range from Global issues to backyard gardening, but its viewpoint, for better or worse, will be uniquely local."

"Quiet Voices" is a wonderful reminder of what we are missing since that magazine was terminated. For me it is also a nostalgic reminder of the people and talent that were so much a part of Kingston in the 1980's.

Arthur Lower leads off with an essay predicting the developments to come in the 1980's. He was a little less acerbic than he enjoyed being in such efforts in the past but by then he was very elderly, in fact one prediction he missed was his own demise, at 98, near the end of the decade. Not all of the issues in the Magazine were limited to a specific time period, John Meisel adds a piece about "newspeak" a topic that I find even more concerning in today's Whig. There are articles about the constitution by Donald Swainson and Richard Simeon. David Prosser remembers the time the Whig sent him and two of his colleges, undercover, into Soviet Afganistan. Donna Jacobs writes about the "Dog Meat Trade" and J. Lorne MacDougall tells about his experience crossing the Atlantic "before the mast" as it were in a 1930's freighter. In another essay the Reverend J.A. Davidson discusses belief in God, and along the way gets a subtle shot in at another local Reverend.

Unlike so much of the journalism we get today, the Magazine did not dumb down the language. Here is a bit from David Prosser's comedy, 'Filthy Philosophy.'

"No sooner had I unlocked my apartment door than she ripped open her pocket Socrates and seized me in a passionate elenchus."

Then, among so many other's, Ian Hamilton's description of the now elderly hockey great Sil Apps.

"It's a winter head, nature's perfect crown for a hockey player in the autumn of his life. The face is an immediately recognizable ice-sculpture...".

It isn't just the articles that interest one but the names of the contributors nearly twenty-five years later that bring up memories. The editor, Rodger Bainbridge, then lived just a few doors down the hall from me in Elrond College. There are articles about George Walley and Norman Mackenzie. I often encountered them in Douglas Library and I heard a good deal more about them from, then, Grad. Students like David Prosser and his wife Barbara Dunn. I suppose everyone who lived in Kingston in those years will remember the sight of J. Lorne MacDougall peddalling his bike around town warmed by his Queen's tam. A.R. M. Lower I knew the longest of any of the people in this book, having gone to school with his daughter Louise. Not all of the contributors were old personal friends of course. I never met Helen Richards Campbell but her stories about an older Kingston, including the one in this book, made me regard her as one.

I started to read the book when I found it because I noticed an article about George Thompson my neighbour on Howe Island. Yes, he still has that log house mentioned in the article and still thinks the world of it. *Quiet Voices* holds no favourites though. Another article by Harvey Schacter attacks the difficulties inherent in the provincial adoption process. He then rests the responsibility for this on the doorsteps of Kingstonians, Keith Norton, Social Services Minister and Associate Deputy Minister George Thompson.

I could go on but I think my readers would get far more from this exercise by referring to the original source *Quiet Voices*.



## Speakers' Corner

By Alicia Boutilier  
Photos by Peter Ginn

British Home Children, Who Are They? A Canadian, Communal and Personal Story  
Presented by John Fielding



For the March presentation, John Fielding drew upon his extensive experience as a history educator, at both the secondary and university school levels, to provide an engaging talk on British home children that had a personal ending. Fielding began with the big picture, “The Canadian Story,” revealing the shocking statistic that, between 1869 and 1939, as many as 100,000 British children were sent to Canada as cheap labour by well-meaning philanthropists empowered by the law. These were children from the workhouses, orphanages, and streets of Britain—victims of the Industrial Age and mass urban migration, as a consequence of agricultural collapse. As Fielding outlined, “There were over 50 sending agencies, some of the better-known names are Marie Rye, Annie Macpherson, William Quarrier, Catholic Emigration Society, Salvation Army, and the Church of England Waif & Strays. The best known, however, was Thomas Barnardo.” Often, the promised care was

exaggerated, and the children, treated as hired hands, were denied affection or worse.

Many British Home children came to the Kingston and eastern Ontario area. The Fairknowe Home in Brockville, for example, received a high number: 4,418 between 1890 and 1930. In Kingston, both the Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph and the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul took in Home Children through the Catholic Protection Society of Liverpool, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Sisters of Providence ran an orphanage at the House of Providence (now Providence Manor) on Montreal Street between Ordnance and Bay. Many of these children were placed in Kingston or Wolfe Island homes, or with other family members.

Fielding's own father, Leslie Henry Baden Powell Fielding, was a British Home Child, a past that was always difficult for him to discuss. Much of his story was filled in by his children after he passed away in 1973. Fielding's father had always thought that he was a Barnardo orphan and an only child, but it was later discovered that he had actually come through the Annie Macpherson distribution home in Stratford, Ontario, and that he had six siblings whom he had never had the opportunity to meet. Fielding told several intriguing and poignant anecdotes about his father as a British Home Child, which brought home to his captive audience the difficulties that these children faced. We can all look forward to reading more in the essay-version of his talk, in a future volume of *Historic Kingston*.

After a round of thoughtful questions and further shared anecdotes, the speaker was thanked and presented with the well-known Kingston Historical Society pin by the Society's vice-president Peter Gower.

