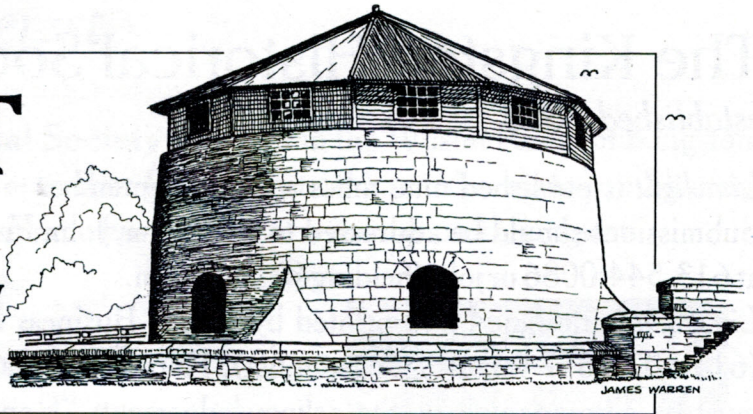


LIMELIGHT

Newsletter of the
Kingston Historical Society

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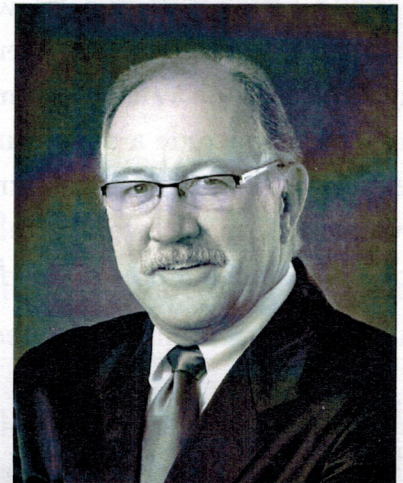


A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Once again September is upon us. My hope is that you were able to make the most of this quite remarkable summer we have experienced.

To bring everyone up to date on KHS happenings over the months since we last met, the Murney Tower National Historic Site/World Heritage Site has had a banner summer, and the June 6 John A. Macdonald gravesite ceremony was one of the most effective in memory.

Bucking the trend of fewer tourists visiting Kingston in the last few years, attendance at the Murney Tower actually increased over the previous year, a testament to the hard-working and talented staff, as well as the committee, chaired by Warren Everett, working to support the students at the tower.



The June 6 ceremony once again celebrated the life and times of Sir John A. Macdonald. Speaker David Warrick spoke about Macdonald's time in Picton. Congratulations to Alan MacLachlan and his committee for assembling a first-rate event. Even the weather was perfect, no doubt due to the committee's planning.

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Our October conference is fast approaching. This promises to be an excellent day. If you haven't yet registered, don't wait until the last minute, do it today! See inside your Limelight for further details.

The Kingston Historical Society

established 1893

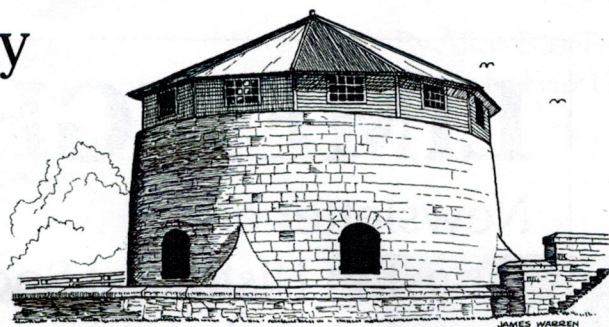
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KHS holds monthly talks or events, usually at 7:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month, September to May, usually in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library on Johnson Street at Bagot Street. Special annual events include a dinner and talk 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

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

In Memory

The Kingston Historical Society recognizes Edward Herbert (Ted) Storey who passed away on July 15, 2012. Ted, born August 30, 1922, was a R.C.A.F. Veteran, earned a B.A., and B.P.H.E. from Queen's University, Kingston and his M.Sc, Ph.D from the University of Illinois, Urbana. Beloved husband of 65 years of Emilia (Amy), father of Timothy Edward (Jacqueline) and Robert Andrew, grandfather to Sara and Colin, great grandfather to Axel, and mentor to many. A long time member of the KHS in 2000 Ted authored *An Illustrated Guide to Monuments, Memorials & Markers in the Kingston Area*, along with John Grenville, David Kasserra, Jennifer McKendry and William Patterson for The Society. He was also a member of the KHS plaque committee. Donations may be made in his memory to Student Financial Assistance to the University of your choice.

“Points of interest...which strike the traveller” – an American perspective

by Jennifer McKendry

Our neighbours to the south periodically saw us through the words and images of certain American publications, including Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper of New York; in this instance, the issue of 22 November 1856 contained three views of the city and area “taken from photographs furnished by J.P. Litchfield, M.D., of Kingston.” This was the year before Litchfield's house-of-cards tumbled down, when it was revealed that he was not a “M.D.” – a qualification he was not to achieve until 1862. After arriving in Kingston in 1853, he became a lecturer in obstetrics at Queen's College and the superintendent of Rockwood Asylum, the construction of which was begun in 1859. He may not have been the photographer but may have sent Leslie photographs by professionals such as Henry Sheldon (1820-77) or William Sawyer (1820-89), the two main resident photographers during the 1850s. The Cedar Island Martello tower was ten years old at the time of the photograph (reproduced as an etching in the newspaper, Figure 1), part of the line of defence thrown up as a result of the Oregon crisis. Already, in 1856, it seems to have made the transition from being of military importance to being a tourist “point of interest.” Americans were now not the enemy but welcomed for their money.

A year after Leslie published his view of Cedar Island, Ballou's Pictorial Drawing-Book Companion of Boston came out on 9 May 1857 with another one drawn by “Mr Kilburn” (Figure 2). The written description merges the tower's military function with its “picturesque” quality:

We see on the left, the long, embattled lines of Fort Henry, on a point overlooking the town of Kingston, while on the island in front, Cedar, is a picturesque Martello tower. The harbor is defended by several other Martello towers. The name of this kind of tower is a corruption from Mortella, in Corsica, where a certain strong tower maintained a determined resistance to a superior English force in 1794. In consequence of the great strength exhibited by this fort, the British government erected twenty-seven similar towers on the coast of Kent, at intervals of about a quarter of a mile, as a defence against the threatened invasion from France. They are circular, with walls of great thickness, and roofs bomb-proof. One traversing gun is mounted upon each, in working which, the men are secured by a high parapet. They are surrounded by a deep, dry ditch; the entrance is by a door several feet from the ground, approach to which is then cut off by drawing up the latter [ladder]. The ordinary guard consists of from six to twelve men.



Figure 1. Cedar Island in 1856 with minimal tree coverage for military reasons.
Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper,
collection Jennifer McKendry.



Figure 2. Cedar Island in 1857; the small building in front of Cathcart Tower is likely a privy,
Ballou's Pictorial,
collection Jennifer McKendry.

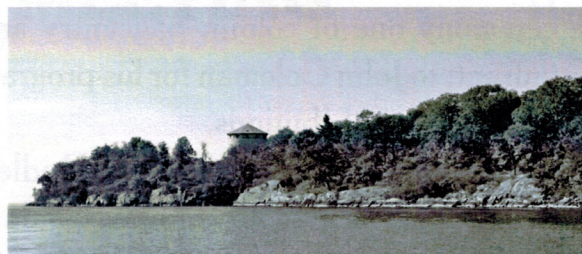


Figure 3. Cedar Island
credit Jennifer McKendry.

The 119th Sir John A. Macdonald Graveside Ceremony

Written by Alan MacLachlan
Photos by Peter Ginn

Though the morning clouds of June 6th 2012 threatened rain they did not deliver and the sun radiated wonderfully on the afternoon commemoration. Peter Radley, our Master of Ceremonies, using

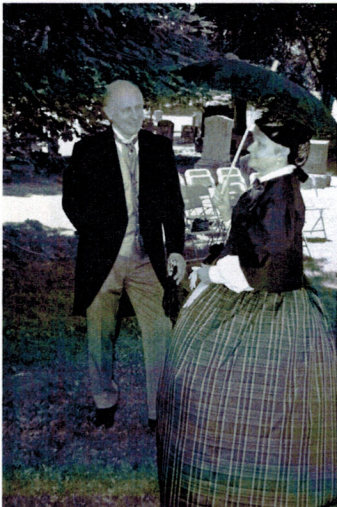


his customary humour, poise and attention to detail unfolded the program with aplomb. Under the direction of Mrs. Valerie Fisher the voices of the student choir from R. Gordon Sinclair Public School, dressed smartly in white

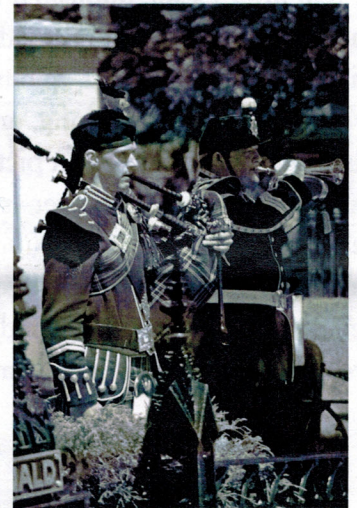


shirts with the bright Sinclair red modern tartan sash which added a special colour to our service led us in our national anthem. The Scripture Reading and the Opening Prayer was given by The Reverend Chris Walker of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. The key note address was given by Dr David Warrick, who was introduced by Gordon Sinclair and then thanked by Peter Radley. In his

presentation, "The Importance of the Quinte Years in the Life of John A. Macdonald" Dr. Warrick gave us insights into how the early years in Picton helped to develop our first prime minister's personality and adroitness. The complete address will be included in our next Historic Kingston.



Following the traditional laying of wreaths, 13 in all, which included our three levels of government and organizations affiliated with Sir John, the



lament was played by the For Henry Guard piper concluding with the last Post and Reveille by the bugler from Fort Henry. The Benediction was given by the Rev. Jack Beer of Christ Church Cataraqui. We then rose and joined the R. Gordon Sinclair School choir in the singing of "God Save the Queen".

Following the commemoration, the gathering retired to the Cataraqui Cemetery outdoor chapel for refreshments and conviviality. Special thanks goes to the staff of Bellevue House, the R.C.M.P. constables and the

Cataraqui cemetery staff, all of whom made this graveside ceremony one of colour, pageantry and tradition. Special appreciation is extended to Aunt Lucy's Restaurant; to John Coleman for his program insert on "Macdonald as a Father"; and to Peter Ginn for his photographic contributions.

This event was the result of the assiduous combined efforts of Barbara Bonner, Eva Barnes, Peter Radley, Bob Lemmon, Donna Lusk, Mark Bennett, John Coleman, and Alan MacLachlan, Committee Chair.

Shirley Gibson-Langille and Brian Osborne



The evening was opened with a few words from our President, Gordon Sinclair, who expressed sincere appreciation to our sponsors the Kingston Historical Society, Peter Aykroyd, Marc Campeau, Brit Smith, Kingston Community Foundation, Quarry Press, and Bob Hilderley for their generous donations. He recognized Dorothy

The book will be on sale at the next few KHS monthly meetings at a cost of \$30 per book.

Photos & article by Anne Richardson

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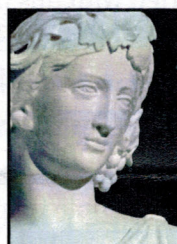
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Announcements of Historical Interest

The **Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society** will meet in the Wilson Room of Kingston Frontenac Public Library, 130 Johnson St., Saturday, September 15, 2012 at 10 a.m. A webinar on Sharing Genealogy Electronically will be presented. Visitors welcome. Further info at www.ogs.on.ca/kingston

Heritage Fair Winners of the KHS Awards for 2012

Elliott McDermott from Calvin Park Public School for his project on the Royal Military College and Rebecca Amell from Welborne Ave Public School for her project on the Kingston Penitentiary.



Kingston Historical Society Awards

Inaugurated in 1993, to mark the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Kingston Historical Society, these awards have been made annually to individuals, groups and institutions in recognition of outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of local history.

Members of the Society are encouraged to nominate those whom they feel meet the criteria for the award. Please do so in writing either on paper or via e-mail, giving the name and contact information of your nominee, and as much information as possible about your reasons for nominating the person, group or institution.

Completed nominations should be sent to Chairperson, KHS Awards Committee, Box 54, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 4V8 or to Chairperson KHS Awards, sampa@cogeco.ca, no later than October 31, 2012.

Award presentations are made at the annual KHS Christmas Party in December.

Inner Harbour Heritage Celebration

Sept 14 - 16 weekend. Friends of Kington Inner Harbour celebrate 300 years of boat building in the Inner Harbour. Friday at 1 pm: Mayor officiates at Metalcraft Marine Open House + unveiling future site of Frontenac Arch Paddling Trails trail head. Many varied heritage activities on Saturday and Sunday. For further information contact Mary Farrar at inverarymary@yahoo.com or 613-544-1246.

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Speakers' Corner

"How did we get to Aberdeen Street?":

Town and Gown Relations between Queen's and Kingston, 1960s to 1980s

Presented by Duncan McDowall

By Alicia Boutilier
Photos by Peter Ginn

In his talk at the 16 May KHS meeting, Duncan McDowall drew upon research into the history of Queen's University in the years 1961 to 2004, which he has been conducting for an upcoming book. He opened, however, with an amusing anecdote about the last time he presented to the KHS membership, forty years ago, as a recent graduate of Queen's—an anecdote that involved an elder Arthur Lower, distinguished Canadian historian, delivering a lengthy discourse on the 19th-century presence of the Irish in Kingston in the guise of a thank you to the young speaker. McDowall's more recent presentation, as he stated, brought him "to the end of a full circle."

During the evening, McDowall untangled the complex symbiotic relationship between university and city as it related to the strong Queen's tradition of student self-government, with a focus on how this relationship was affected by the post-1960s era of academic expansion and diversification. This tradition of self-government stems from the founding of the Alma Mater Society (AMS) in 1858, the oldest student association in Canada. In 1898, it was officially reorganized as the Alma Mater Society of Queen's University and took on the responsibility (as delegated by the university Senate) of regulating non-academic student affairs. Through the peer AMS Court, students meted out discipline to unruly students. For the most part, up to the 1960s, cases were confined to minor hijinks, and harmony between town and gown was maintained by this system.

McDowall identified two latent shortcomings in the system, however, that would manifest themselves in the 1960s, the coming of age of the Baby Boom. First of all, the judicial boundary between Queen's and Kingston was ill defined, particularly in the cases of off-campus misdemeanors connected with university events. Secondly, the AMS was an amateur legal institution only loosely bound to formal legalism. As the university expanded with respect to buildings and student bodies, the spheres of academic autonomy and normal citizenship rights intersected more than ever and the partnership became strained: "how would the hitherto amicable relations of town and gown in Kingston hold up under this new, cheek-on-jowl proximity?" In answer to this question, McDowall traced the history of two annual events—orientation and Homecoming celebration—and how they have tested the AMS cohesive notion of "Queen's community" and that grey zone between judicial jurisdictions. But for further details, and greater eloquence, you'll just have to wait for the appearance of McDowall's essay in the annual Historic Kingston.



After a round of questions (several from Queen's alumni), the evening ended with a formal thank you from architectural historian Jennifer McKendry, who briefly and amusingly reflected on her role in following the footsteps of Arthur Lower decades earlier.

Sideshow or Main Event

Putting the War of 1812 into Regional Contexts

Friday – Sunday
October 26 - 28, 2012

The Kingston Historical Society is proud to present this conference on the last weekend in October.

With a Meet and Greet scheduled for Friday, October 26, 7:00 -9:00 PM and a bus tour Sunday at 10:00 AM hosted by Sue Bazeley, Jennifer McKendry, and Brian Osborne, the main event of the conference is Saturday with presentations beginning at 9:00 AM and culminating at the end of the day with a talk by Keynote Speaker Dianne Graves after dinner.

What makes this conference different from other events this Bicentennial year is that we will hear from Canadian, American and Aboriginal speakers who will address not only the events of the war, but also what the war meant to their communities in the years that followed the war. To put it somewhat more succinctly: the war and its legacy, from various perspectives.

Our speakers: Connie Barone, Sacket's Harbor Battlefield; Alexander Campbell, Glengarry; Dennis Connors, Onondaga Historical Association; Dr. Jane Errington, Kingston; Dr. John R. Grodzinski, RMC Kingston; Matthew MacVittie, Onondaga Historical Association; Jonathan Moore, Kingston; Jamie Robertson, McMaster University, Hamilton.

Please complete the form below and mail with a cheque to Kingston Historical Society, Box 54 Kingston K7L 4V6 or register on-line at www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca

Name: _____ Address: _____

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___ Registration(s) @ \$110 = \$ _____

___ Sunday Bus Tour @ \$10 = \$ _____

Total Payable: \$ _____

Dietary requirements: _____

Accessibility needs: _____

This is the first-ever conference organized by the Kingston Historical Society. Do your part to make it a success. We hope to see you there.