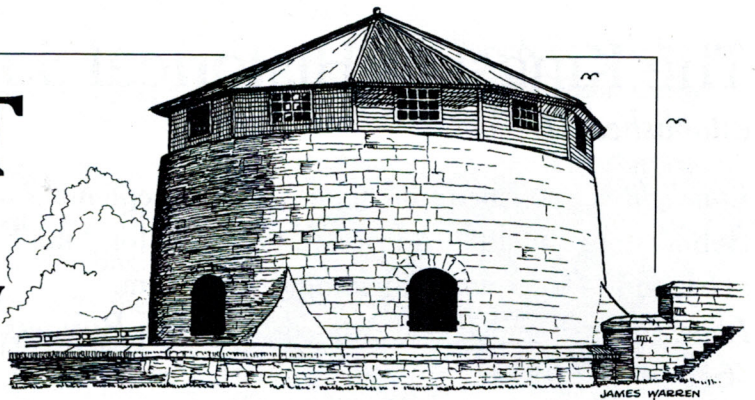


LIMELIGHT

Newsletter of the
Kingston Historical Society

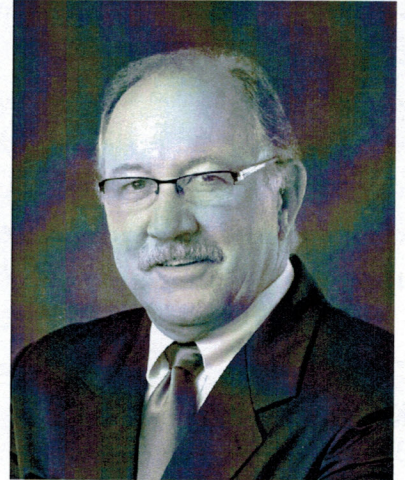
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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By the time you read this, our Fall Conference will have come and gone. Some two years in the making, it has, for some time now, held promise of being a very successful weekend. The Limelight deadline also will happen prior to the conference, so I am writing this the week before our symposium opens. Registrations have been processed right up to the eve of the conference; we expect that in excess of eighty people will have attended.

This is the first time in its long history that the Society has attempted to mount a conference and it has been a learning experience for all involved. A number of people worked very hard to make the conference a success. They have earned a considerable debt of gratitude from the Society membership.



Impressively, several of you renewed your membership at our last meeting. Elsewhere in this Limelight will be a membership renewal form. A new option for you this year is to renew on-line. The Society website www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca is now set up to accept payment for memberships if you choose to renew in this way. Heather Home is our web administrator, and is doing a first-rate job.

As was announced at our October meeting, mark Wednesday, December 5 on your calendars as the date of our Christmas Party at the Renaissance Event Venue, 285 Queen Street, and the same location as last year. Along with the expected conviviality will be the presentation of the KHS Awards for this year. There may even be a musical interlude. A donation of \$10 will be requested as you enter, in order to recover some of our costs for the evening event. I hope to see all of you there.

Gordon Sinclair

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The Kingston Historical Society

established 1893

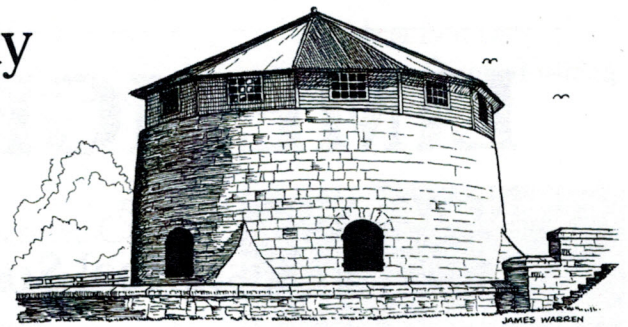
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KHS holds monthly talks or events, usually at 7:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month, September to May, usually in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library on Johnson Street at Bagot Street. Special annual events include a dinner and talk 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 \$50 individual, \$60 family, \$60 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



Kingston Historical Society Annual Holiday Party

Wednesday, 5 December 2012

Renaissance Event Venue - 285 Queen Street (the c. 1837 historic church)

Social Hour 6 – 7 pm KHS Awards Presentation 7 – 8 pm,

HOT & COLD SNACKS TO FOLLOW

Donation of \$10 requested

Illustration courtesy of Jennifer McKendry

Announcements of Historical Interest

Kingston's Memorial Wall

The City unveiled the new Memorial Wall on October 30th, outside Memorial Arena. The Wall has 1022 names on it. They are of men and women who called Kingston and area their home through birth, residence or work. Over 1000 died in service in World War I or II and are commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, on the Canadian Virtual War Memorial or in the Ottawa Books of Remembrance. One died in service in the South African War, five in the Korean conflict, and three in the Middle East missions and are commemorated on the Canadian Virtual War Memorial or in the Ottawa Books of Remembrance. Many who died in service and are also commemorated by their own countries: France, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore and the United Kingdom. Five were civilians who died in war related activities during World Wars I or II. This is the first time all of the names have been collected together.

Prepared By Peter Gower

Saturday, November 24, 2012 Annual General Meeting of **Kingston and District Branch, UELAC** at St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall, corner Montreal and Queen Streets, 1:00 p.m. Speaker Robert C. McBride UE, President of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada. Some members will be meeting ahead of time for lunch at 12:00 p.m. at the Golden Rooster Delicatessen, 111 Princess Street. All are welcome to join the group. For further information call Carol at (613) 546-2256.

Setting The Record Straight

The article concerning the history of the Bank of Montreal in Kingston in October's Limelight neglected to mention the role that Joyce Waddell-Townsend played in assembling the information presented in the article. She not only initiated the idea of exploring and documenting its Kingston past with an enthusiastic Linda Carey, manager of the Kingston Main Branch of the Bank of Montreal and regional BMO staff, she also persuaded the Kingston Main Branch to mount a historical display. Well done, Joyce.

Submitted by Gordon Sinclair.



SOCIETY MEMBERS RECEIVE DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDALS

Three members of the Kingston Historical Society were recipients of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal at a ceremony held in Davies Hall at St. Lawrence College on September 8, 2012. The presenters of the award were Ted Hsu, MP and John Gerretsen, MPP. The Society members who received the medal were: Edward Grenda, Brian Osborne, and Henk Wevers. The medal was created to recognize the outstanding contributions individuals make to their communities in Canada or to acknowledge achievements abroad that bring credit to Canada. As well, the medal marks the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's accession to the Throne. The medal is awarded by the Governor General of Canada on the basis of nominations received from MPs throughout Canada. A total of 30 individuals from the Kingston area were recipients of the medal. Brian Osborne received the medal for his contributions to heritage matters in Kingston. Edward Grenda was recognized for his contributions to Kingston's heritage, culture, sport, and civic service. Henk Wevers led a ten year project to restore the old river steamboat, "Phoebe" at the pump House Steam Museum. Grenda and Osborne are former Society presidents. All three are former professors at Queen's University.

Bill Fittell Launches His Fourth Book

The Book launch for Bill Fittell's latest book, Captain James T. Sutherland: The Grand Old Man Of Hockey And The Battle For The Original Hockey Hall Of Fame, is scheduled for Monday, November 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at Memorial Hall in Kingston City Hall. Widely considered to be the pre-eminent historian of the game of hockey, Bill Fittell (former president of the Kingston Historical Society) has written a biography of Kingstonian, Captain James T. Sutherland who was a staunch advocate of the claim that Kingston is the birthplace of hockey and undertook to have the hockey hall of fame built in Kingston. Bill traces the life of Capt. Sutherland and the controversies Sutherland's quest engendered in Canada's hockey world. The book is about an interesting Kingstonian written by another interesting Kingstonian. All Society members are welcome.

Along the Old Road

By Stewart Renfrew

This essay was sent to me by the late Don MacClement in 1997 a year or so before he died. Don's father, a Queen's biology professor, bought a house and small farm at the west end of Collins Bay early in the 20th century. The MacClement family owned the house into the 1940's, although by then Don's parents were long dead and he was teaching at McMaster. I had mentioned the old Methodist chapel at 736 Hillview Road to him and he sent me this in an email.

"Some of my earliest memories of Collins Bay are connected with going to that Church. Father would hitch Goldie, our old fat grey mare, to the buggy. Mother and father sat on the seat. Ruth and I squatted between their feet against the dashboard. Our driveway down to the Bath Road was usually muddy for the soil was heavy clay. It was my job to hop down and draw open the long wooden gate, then drag it shut again behind us. In those days the Bath Road was limestone gravel. All the vehicles had steel rims that gradually crushed the gravel into a fine white powder. Each wheel picked up some of this dust and created a little fountain of it as it turned. We would be dressed in our 'good clothes' for father was a strict Presbyterian. Mother admired his interest in the church, but sometimes was scolded for her more relaxed attitude to things religious. She had been a Methodist. We drove the mile to the village of Collins Bay, then across the double tracks of the Grand Trunk Railway and on few hundred yards to the church, which was on our left. Mother and Ruth got out and joined a group of people on the front of the steps. Father drove along to the back where an open shed went across the church property. A dozen or so wagons and buggies would already be tied to the hitching rail. Father fitted on Goldie's leather feed bag, for the church did not provide hay. If it was rainy or cold everyone would have gone inside. We sat well up towards the front. I don't remember who we shared the pew with. I sat farthest in, next to the large woman who wore a lot of perfume and disapproved of my fidgeting. My feet did not touch the floor and I liked to swing my feet, much to my sister's annoyance. I can remember the sonorous voice of the minister but not his sermon. I liked the singing as the tunes were familiar, for the woman who operated the harmonium was a Methodist and liked the ones that could be sung with enthusiasm. The choir was a mixture of older and younger girls from the village that did a lot of giggling. I got in trouble sometimes for making faces at them to get them laughing.

Then church union came along and trouble started. There were special meetings and organizational meetings and protest meetings and finally a vote. Father was deeply involved and very upset when the 'Antis' won. They took the Church and would not share it with the rest that had voted to join the United Church. A place of worship was found in a large hen house a little further along the road. It was cleaned and whitewashed but still reminded us of its previous occupants. It was probably after one of the first services there that I remember driving past the old church. Ruth and I were warned not to wave at anyone there, just look straight ahead and not say a word. Father said that the only thing good that came of the split was that the 'Antis' got the whole of the church debt, for the unionists refused to pay their share. I believe that after a while they got together again. I took little interest in church squabbles."

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Wednesday, 21 November 2012

7:30 PM

When Coal Was King:

The Nineteenth-Century Kingston Water Works

Henk Wevers

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

Refreshments

All Welcome

13th Annual Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner

Our guest speaker for this year's Sir John A. Macdonald Anniversary Dinner, Friday January 11 2013, will be Ms. Ruth Abernethy, Sculptor. The subject of her talk will be

Face to Face With Sir John A

The dinner will take place at the Cadet's 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, 2012.**

Please note that this year, due to renovations at the Senior Staff Mess, the dinner has been moved to the Cadet's Mess. This mess is located across the sports field, directly opposite from the Senior Staff Mess. Parking will be on the west side of the parade square. A Commissionaire will be available to assist in parking and directions to the mess



Sir John A. Macdonald Anniversary Dinner, Friday January 11, 2013

Name(s): _____

Telephone & email: _____

Number of Members _____ Number of Non-Members _____

Number of Vegetarian meals Required: _____

Food Allergies: _____

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

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DAWN HOUSE

Story & Painting By
Shirley Gibson-Langille

I recently had a phone call from my dear friend Sister Gaffney. I was aware that she and the other Sisters of the Religious Hospitallers of St Joseph had bid farewell to their beloved home at St. Joseph's Regional House in Amherstview. They now live at 1200 Princess with the Sisters of Providence at the Mother House. She proceeded to tell me a story of this kind lady from Kingston Hotel Dieu Nursing Alumna who wanted to give them an appreciation gift as they bid farewell and to wish them much happiness in their new home. She wanted to send them flowers. One of the Sisters suddenly spoke up suggesting that instead of flowers they would very much appreciate a donation to Dawn House instead. She was aware that Dawn House was having serious financial difficulties and that they now have a new campaign "1000 Women Campaign" to raise money. Then Sister Gaffney asked me if I would do a painting of Dawn House at 302 Victoria Street, Kingston along with a story to go with it. I was happy to help. I really enjoyed doing the painting of Dawn House and learning all the wonderful things about it. Dawn House Women's Shelter is a community based nonprofit, charitable organization, which opened its door in December 1986 to respond to the needs of homeless women and their children. Dawn House provides...



Temporary shelter for women (aged 16 and over) and their children, experiencing a housing crisis. Assistance in securing decent affordable housing. 24 hour staffing on the premises. Food and other basic necessities. A 24-hour crisis line. Information, referrals and advocacy. The shelter operates 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, and can accommodate up to 10 residents.

What I find so extraordinary is that I learned that in 1983 it was a Sister from Providence Mother House along with a Sister from the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph who were instrumental in getting Dawn House started. Now in 2012 they are together again to help make sure it stays open. I believe that there are no such things as coincidences! This has happened for a reason. Please help them to see that Dawn House stays open by sending out a donation to Dawn House. (A receipt for income tax purposes will be provided).

I would like to support the work of Dawn House Women's Shelter by:

☐ A donation of \$ _____

☐

Becoming a Member (fee: \$5.00 to \$20.00 - sliding scale)

☐

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone #: _____

Please mail this with your cheque or money order to Dawn House, 302 Victoria Street, Kingston, ON K7L 3Z1

Date: _____ (Membership valid for one year)

Speakers' Corner

Mud, Mire and Inconvenience: Walking in Nineteenth-Century Kingston
Presented by Georgia Carley

By Alicia Boutilier
Photos by Dianne Fielding

At our last monthly meeting we had the pleasure of hearing Georgia Carley, a PhD student in history at Queen's, talk about what it was like to walk in Kingston in the nineteenth century. To reconstruct the experiences of the Kingston *flâneur* and *flâneuse*, Carley drew upon research of plank walks—specifically, residents' petitions about them and Board of Works reports on them (among other primary documents), focusing on the years immediately following Kingston's 1846 incorporation.

According to Carley, petitioners were men and women, from all walks of life (so to speak), seeking ease of movement within their growing city, both day and night. These petitioners requested the creation or repair or upkeep of plank walks that would allow them to go about their daily life—to travel to church, to welcome customers into their businesses, or simply to enter their

own homes—without sinking knee-deep in mud or falling through broken wood planks. And with the possibility of outbreaks ever prevalent, there were health concerns about contact with so much mud and what might be mixed in it. Arguments were often couched within notions of the greater good of a neighbourhood or the city itself. Concomitant with the rapid growth in urban planning and sanitation reforms elsewhere, solid existing plank walks were viewed as necessary not only for the physical but also the mental wellbeing of Kingston's citizenry.

With the Act of Incorporation, the city assumed responsibility for the physical environment by setting up a committee of the Council, the Board of Works, to regulate construction and maintenance of plank walks. As Carley pointed out, though citizens sometimes took it upon themselves to construct plank walks, they had to comply with city standards, especially if they were to receive city funding for their efforts. Kingston's sidewalks in the mid-1800s were still a ways away from pavement, but their improvements nonetheless reflected the changing perceptions and implementations of municipal responsibility that were taking place throughout North America at the time.

After an enthusiastic question-and-answer period, the speaker was thanked by KHS President Gordon Sinclair, and then approached by a number of members with further questions. Clearly the talk provided much food for thought.

Speaking of food ... don't forget the much-anticipated, not-to-be-missed KHS Holiday Party on December 5th! Details are provided elsewhere in this issue.

