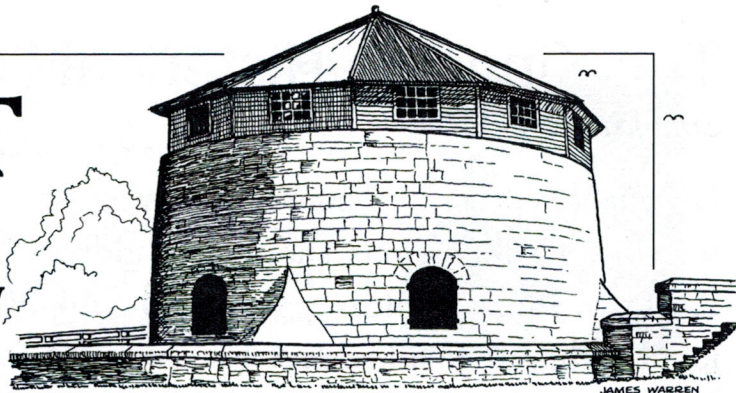


LIMELIGHT

Newsletter of the
Kingston Historical Society

vol 15 no 2 February 2013 ISSN 1488-5565



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new."
Albert Einstein

This will be my last message to you as your President, and I need to thank you all for your support and your forbearance. My time in office was not error-free, to be sure, as I'm certain to have offended some sensibilities among us, and made a few mistakes in judgement. However, I have worked pretty constantly to serve the interests of the Society, and more than a few Society achievements have happened over the last two years to justify my investment of time and energy, as well as the work of others on Council.



One of the things I have worked hard to do is to recognize individuals who make significant contributions to the Society, and there are many of you.

One such individual is Warren Everett, who again was responsible for the very successful John A. Macdonald Dinner January 11. Warren also deserves recognition for his guidance and leadership of the Murney Tower National Historic Site for many years. He is passing on this responsibility during this year to Graeme Watson, and I'm sure you all join with me in appreciation of Warren's service to the Society.

Please also mark on your calendars our Annual General Meeting February 20. In addition to the riveting AGM proceedings, there will be some additional program items you're sure to enjoy. At our AGM, we will also be recognizing some Society leaders who will be giving up some responsibilities, and, in some cases, assuming other duties. In other cases, we will be wishing people a sad farewell from Council responsibilities, and wishing them well in other endeavours.

In this issue...

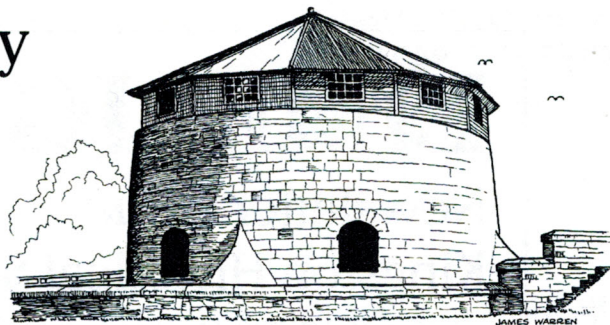
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Gordon Sinclair

The Kingston Historical Society

established 1893

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Murney Tower by James Warren

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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.

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

KHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

At the KHS AGM on Wednesday, February 20, 2013, at 7:30 PM, in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library, the Society's Nominating Committee will present a slate of Candidates for the term of March 2013 to February 2014.

As specified in the Constitution, the new Council will appoint the following: Editor of Historic Kingston, Editor of the newsletter (Limelight), and Chair of the Murney Tower national Historic Site Committee. Further the new Council will appoint chairs of other Society committees (Finance, membership, Programme, Publications, Website, Publicity, Grants, Sir John A. 6 June Commemoration, Sir John A. Banquet, and others)

Any member in good standing may nominate any other member of the Society in good standing for any office. Incumbents may be nominated for any or all of the positions to be filled. Members wishing to nominate a candidate for any position as a member of the Executive or Council may do so from the floor at the AGM, by submitting written nominations to Alan MacLachlan, 20 Oakridge Avenue, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 4S9, or by handing them to any member of the present Executive or Council before February 6, 2013. Submission of a nomination carries the assumption that the nominee is willing to stand for election and serve, and that this has been verified by the nominator.

Please participate in this extremely important event to ensure the continuing health and efficiency of the Society.

Alan MacLachlan
Past President & Chair, Nominating Committee

History Related Announcements

The **Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society** will meet in the Wilson Room of Kingston Frontenac Public Library, 130 Johnson St., Saturday, February 16, 2013 at 10 a.m. Our **Annual General Meeting** featuring a celebration of our 40th anniversary with speaker, Shirley Sturdevant, OGS President. Visitors welcome. Further details at www.ogs.on.ca/kingston

Members of the **Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation** and members of the community are invited to attend the Foundation's Annual General Meeting (AGM) March 27, 2013 - from 7:00pm to 9:30pm. The meeting agenda will be available and includes the election and re-election of members of the Board. All are welcome. You must be a member of the organization to vote.

Light refreshments will be served. Non-members please RSVP to carf@carf.info

Location: T.B.A.

Plan to enjoy a festive evening and celebrate the **Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation's** 30th Anniversary on 22 March 2013 at the Renaissance Event Centre.

This delightful evening will include a Regency Dinner and Silent Auction.

Thirteenth Annual Sir John A. Macdonald Anniversary

The 11 January 2013 celebration of John A. Macdonald's 198th birthday was an event that once again did not disappoint. This year there was a change of scene from the last few birthdays, with the dinner and talk taking place in the cadets' mess at the Royal Military College. One hundred people attended, a number of them in kilts fit for the occasion. Never one to miss a party, especially his own, Sir John A. Macdonald was present, along with his steady consort. Joining them at the head table were the following special guests: Jeff Blair of the St Andrew's Society of Kingston, Brigadier-General Eric Tremblay, Kingston Historical Society President Gordon Sinclair, Kingston and the Islands MP Ted Hsu, and Mayor Mark Gerretsen, as well as their partners.

After a lovely dinner of chicken breast saltimbocca and something vegetarian, with hazelnut truffle mousse cake for dessert, there was a round of toasts to the Queen and to Macdonald, in his various official capacities. Then everyone enjoyed a presentation by artist Ruth Abernethy, who provided insight into her sculpture practice. No stranger to larger-than-life Canadian personalities, Abernethy has created public sculptures of such luminaries as Glenn Gould (1999, CBC Toronto) and Oscar Peterson (2010, National Arts Centre, Ottawa). These are not public monuments on pedestals, but rather bronzes that share our space and engage us directly. Particularly fascinating and pertinent was Abernethy's discussion about her new sculpture of John A. Macdonald as a young lawyer, which will soon be unveiled in Picton, Ontario.

Much thanks are due to KHS Council member Warren Everett for planning another flawless John A. Macdonald (affectionately called JAM) dinner.



Don and Anne Richardson enjoy good cheer with Sandra Sinclair



Society member Paul Fritz in conversation with our MP Ted Tsu

Dinner

Written by Alicia Boutilier
Photos by Peter Ginn



Ruth Abernethy



Lady Macdonald and Sir John (Renee and Brian Porter in the 21st century) enjoy a discussion with Peter and Alison Ginn. The only question is who took the photo?



We also enjoyed the music of the bagpipes played by Douglas Green



As is customary we enjoyed the company of our Mayor, Mark Gerretsen



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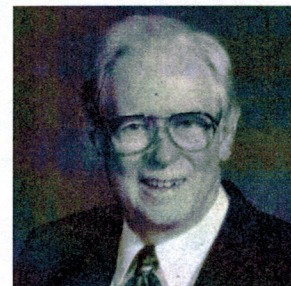
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IN MEMORIAM

Earle Thomas, 1916 - 2013

Dr. Thomas passed away at the Kingston General Hospital on 24 January 2013 after a short illness. He was born in Tay Creek, NB, on 12 July 1916. After graduating from Frederickton High School and the New Brunswick Teachers' College, he spent several years teaching in various parts of the province before joining the RCAF and serving nearly five years. He leaves behind his wife, Faith Ingraham Thomas and three children: Judith Gilbert of Grand Forks, BC, Graham Thomas of Kingston and Andrew Thomas (Alicia Borisonik) of Gatineau, QC. He is also survived by three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; as well as by his sister Clara Allen of Edmonton, and brothers, Allan Thomas of Kamloops, BC and Irvine Thomas and Robert Thomas, both of Frederickton. After his discharge from the RCAF, Earle carried on with his education, earning an honours BA from the University of New Brunswick and an MA from Queen's University. He and his family moved to Montreal where he had accepted a position with the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal, retiring 25 years later as a district superintendent. He returned to university and, in 1979, was awarded a PhD in history, his field of study being the American Revolution and the United Empire Loyalists. He took up residence in Kingston and turned his attention to writing - four books and innumerable articles for magazines and other publications. For the Kingston Historical Society's *Historic Kingston*, Dr Thomas wrote two important articles: one on Sir John Johnson in volume 33 (1985) and the other on Molly Brant in volume 37 (1989). His delightful wit and friendly demeanor will be greatly missed by Society members.



THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Wednesday, 20 February 2013 7:30 PM
The Kingston Historical Society Annual General Meeting

Wilson Room of the Kingston Frontenac Public Library
Johnson Street, at Bagot Street

Refreshments

All Welcome

The SLATE of CANDIDATES for the 2013 KHS COUNCIL

PRESIDENT: GOWER, Peter
VICE PRESIDENT: RICHARDSON, Anne
TREASURER: LEVI, Randall
SECRETARY: RICHARDSON, Don
PAST PRESIDENT: SINCLAIR, Gordon

COUNCILLORS:
1. BOUTILLIER, Alicia
2. EVERETT, Warren
3. GINN, Peter
4. MACLACHLAN, Alan
5. RIDLEY, Ron
6. VAN NEST, Paul
7. WHITELEY, John

All candidates had been contacted and gave their approval. Each has been approved by the committee.

The above slate is respectfully submitted by the Nominations Committee:

Alan MacLachlan (Chair), Robert Andrews, Gordon Sinclair, and Peter Gower

Speakers' Corner

Written by Alicia Boutilier
with photos by Peter Ginn

God Save the King?: The Evolution of Loyalty in the Limestone City, 1819–1841
Presented by Stephen Smith



The 2013 season of KHS presentations got off to an excellent start on 16 January with a talk delivered by Stephen Smith, a PhD candidate in the history department at Queen's University. Though a native of Ottawa, Smith has a longtime love of Kingston, and even once worked at Bellevue House as an interpreter.

In his talk, Smith examined the nature of Upper Canadian loyalty through a very specific lens. He focused on how loyalty demonstrations—such as coronation celebrations and other events—influenced local politics in Kingston in the early to mid-nineteenth century. The talk was illustrated with engraved images of pomp and ceremony: romantically enhanced scenes of processions, crowds and triumphal arches. With amusing and rousing quotations from several newspapers, Smith conveyed how the differing political leanings of the local press (whether Tory or reformist) would forcefully emerge in the portrayal of loyalty demonstrations. These newspaper commentaries are revealing for the cultural assumptions that

they upheld or undermined, as well as for the influence that they had on public perception.

The talk was well attended and, after a round of questions, Dr. Duncan McDowall (current University Historian at Queen's) thanked Smith for bringing fresh new research to an old familiar topic.

Editor's Footnote: Thanks Alicia for not only providing such an excellent roster of speakers but also for writing great summaries for Limelight.

