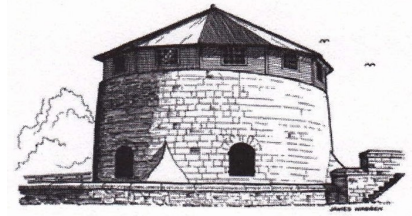


President's Letter

Kingston Historical Society

February 2015



Dear Member,

There has been justifiable concern from members about the decision to cut back the number of issues of "Limelight". Council hopes to rectify that soon. But in the meantime, in an effort to keep in touch, and to keep you informed of the many activities in Kingston, I am sending this letter to those of you who wish to receive emails from us. It will also be available in printed form at the February meeting.

Peter Gower, President

Annual General Meeting

Yes, I know that these can be very boring. Unfortunately, they are necessary if we are to continue to be legal! This year, after the formal business, we will be watching a slide show of over 110 photos of the past year's many and varied activities. Come and remember the many highpoints of the year! We will also be having an open discussion on what we are doing right, what should be stopped, and what you would like to see us do in the future. And there will be refreshments! We hope you will be able to be with us. If you have not already done so, you will be able to pay your 2015 membership. And maybe you will be able to give us a name of somebody who would like to take over the KHS website. There will not be a silent auction this year, but a well based rumour tells me that there will be silent auctions at upcoming KHS meetings.

Upcoming events

February 7th: Lennox and Addington HS at the County Museum, Napanee: Jennifer Bunting "Sir Gilbert Parker: from Camden East to Whitehall" 2.00 p.m.

February 17th: County Museum, Napanee, Ron

Tasker "Main Street—At The Heart of the Community" (Ron restored Ham House in Bath) 7.00 p.m.

February 18th KHS AGM, followed by a 110 photo tour of KHS's year, and discussion about our future. The photos will bring back memories! Wilson Room, Central Library, 7.30 p.m.

March 7th: Lennox and Addington HS at the County Museum, Napanee: Hon. Peter Milliken "When I Was Young" 2.00 p.m.

March 18th: Kingston Historical Society: Adrian Halpert, "The Railway: An Improvement for Kingston?" The development of the railway system and its impact on Kingston in the 1840s and '50s. Wilson Room, Central Library, 7.30 p.m.

March 27th Historical Society of Ottawa, Bob Garcia, "The Best Laid Plans of the Royal Engineers: Proposed and Lost Fortifications of Kingston, 1827-1903", Routhier Community Centre, St. Patrick Street and Guiges Avenue, 1.00 pm

April 15th: Kingston Historical Society, Dr. John Carter, "The Result of Rebellion: North American Political Prisoners in Van Diemen's Land". The story of the 1837-38 Rebellion prisoners transported to Australia. Wilson Room, Central Library, 7.30 p.m.

April 25th or 26th Sir John A Macdonald Commemorative Concert. Details from Donna Ivey, 613 547 5263

May 23rd Hastings County HS tour: In search of Sir John A. details at www.hastingshistory.ca or from Mary-Lynne Morgan at 613 961 7091

June 6th KHS Graveside ceremony commemorating Sir John A Macdonald's death. Speaker will be Bob Rae.

July 1st Unveiling of the Sir John A statue in Picton, sculpted by Ruth Abernethy, who spoke at our dinner in 2013.

January 10th Dinner

The keynote speaker at this year's 200th Anniversary Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner was the Hon. Justice Thomas Cromwell of the Supreme Court of Canada. Justice Cromwell selected as his theme, "Sir John A. Macdonald: The Kingstonian, the Lawyer and the Leader".

A background was given of the early life in Kingston of Sir John and how his early experience in the legal profession in this area shaped his political views. As he entered politics, his personal observations on both the Imperial British and evolving American systems of justice, and their constitutional systems, had an impact on how the Canadian legal system came into being following Confederation. His leadership as the first Prime Minister produced a unique Canadian amalgam, especially in the establishment of the Supreme Court of Canada, an institution which reflects the cultural and geographic diversity of our country even today.

Justice Cromwell's talk provided the Society with a thoughtful and unique perspective on Sir John A. Macdonald's legacy as we begin the bicentenary of his birth.

January 21st Meeting

Bernard Kavanagh took us on a fascinating tour through Kingston, stopping at the many places which have inscriptions partly or wholly in Latin, and put them into their historic setting. We learned about royal visits, stones speaking to us, and how the Romans calculated their dates. We were shown the stone which has its date partially in a Greek system, and found out what is lost from the inscription on the wall at the House of Providence. There was an almost full house, with many younger attendees, and a lively question period. When you see people walking around town somewhat distracted, they are not on their phones, they are looking for the inscriptions to which Dr. Kavanagh introduced us.

Stones

If you have not already done so, visit www.StonesKingston.ca for an interesting online

guide to Kingston's Social History.

Vimy Ridge

Terri-Lynn Brennan of Cultural Services, City of Kingston, invites you to contact her at tbrenan@cityofkingston.ca if you are interested in travelling to Vimy Ridge on a 100th anniversary tour in 2017.

Questions needing answers

We receive many questions on our website. If you can help with these, please contact me: Do you have information on the history of Quakers in Frontenac County? Or a history of Kingston's farming and agriculture industry? Or of any skating rinks in Kingston before 1889? (and please do not overlook 'obvious' suggestions: that is just what we may have done!)

Murney Tower

Graeme Watson continues to look for volunteers to serve on the Murney Tower Museum committee. The Museum, Kingston's oldest, will be 90 years old this year.

Sponsors

Please support the Society's sponsors:

Cataraqui Cemetery

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Novel Idea

Marc. F Raymond, Opticians

Cooke's Fine Foods and Coffee

James Reid Funeral Home

And if you want to become a sponsor, please contact us.

I look forward to seeing you, and hearing your views, at the Annual General Meeting on the 18th. Peter Gower.