



# THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 1893

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*LIMELIGHT is published nine times a year, September to May.*

*Please forward submissions to the Editor [betty.andrews@gmail.com](mailto:betty.andrews@gmail.com)*

*Reprinting of articles from the Limelight must be accompanied by an acknowledgment of the Society, the issue and date. Photo credits and by-lines must be retained.*

The Kingston Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Kingston Association of Museums, Art Galleries and Historic Sites and the City of Kingston.



*The KHS gratefully acknowledges the support of its sponsors in producing Limelight.*



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## President's Message

by Paul Charbonneau

As we slide into fall coolness and changing of tree colours we so love as Canadians, we witness, at the four-yearly intervals, the blooming of election signs in Kingston. Elections are history in the making for the future of cities, towns and counties to move change forward by their individual votes. Since 1838, when Thomas Kirkpatrick was voted in as Kingston's First Mayor, when Kingston became a Town, Kingstonians have exercised their right to "cast a ballot". Elections are about choice and your opportunity to influence change.



Taylor Swift is quoted: "It's not enough to just want change ... You have to go and make change by voting."

It is with sadness that we hear of the closing of the Pittsburgh Historical Society which for over 50 years "worked to understand, record and conserve the history" of Pittsburgh Township, now Kingston East. Gord Sly's "A Sad Goodbye to The Pittsburgh Historical Society" is below.

The Council continues to review the opportunity for in-person meetings however, October's meeting will be via Zoom. I am looking forward to our own Peter Gower's talk on "The Changing Attitudes to Memorializing our War Dead, 1800 to 2022"

**Dr. Nathan Brinklow**, who is a member of the indigenous studies faculty of Queen's University, is of the Turtle Clan from the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory. He grew up not knowing the Mohawk language in a community that had largely lost its heritage language as an everyday spoken language.

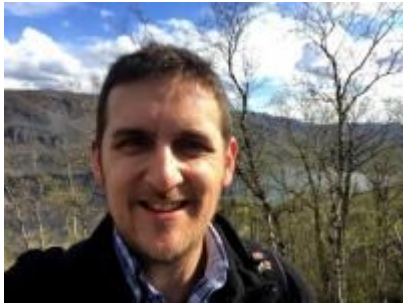
His interest in the language was sparked through the Mohawk hymns he sang with his grandmother as a young man and, following his formal studies, he went on to study at the intensive language program at Tyendinaga. Nathan taught in that program for four years before moving to Queen's University, where he teaches Mohawk in a partnership between the university and the Tyendinaga Language and Cultural Centre.

In addition to his teaching, Nathan regularly guest lectures in linguistics and phonetics classes, religion and biomedical ethics, world music classes, and supports ongoing language technology projects for indigenous languages.

Nathan is the associate department head of languages, literatures, and cultures, where he oversees the indigenous studies program at Queen's, and is a PhD student at the University of Victoria in Indigenous Language Revitalization.

In Nathan's experience of learning and teaching, the language and culture are inseparable. Mohawk is a descriptive language and paints vivid pictures with the way words have been created, so learning to

recognize the actual meanings of the words allows the contemporary speaker to "see" how previous generations encountered and interacted with the world.



He began his presentation with a demonstration of the spoken Mohawk language, and then gave a riveting address, "Mohawk Language: Loss and Recovery," which you may listen to at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1lhJLxDkBM>

From the Great Depression  
to the Common Sense Revolution

## Kingston in Hard Times

**Thursday, October 6**

Doors 6pm. Presentation 7pm  
RCHA Club, 193 Ontario Street

Picket lines go up as  
massive strike begins  
Premier provokes fury



Local labour  
historian Doug Nesbitt  
shares the stories of how  
Kingston workers  
organized and fought  
back in the 1930s and  
Harris Years

hosted by the  
Kingston Workers' History Project

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# A Sad Goodbye to The Pittsburgh Historical Society

*by Gord Sly*

It is very difficult to say goodbye to an organization that has worked to understand, record and conserve the history of East Kingston, formerly Pittsburgh Township, for almost 50 years. Unfortunately, a combination of circumstances has made it impossible for the work to continue.

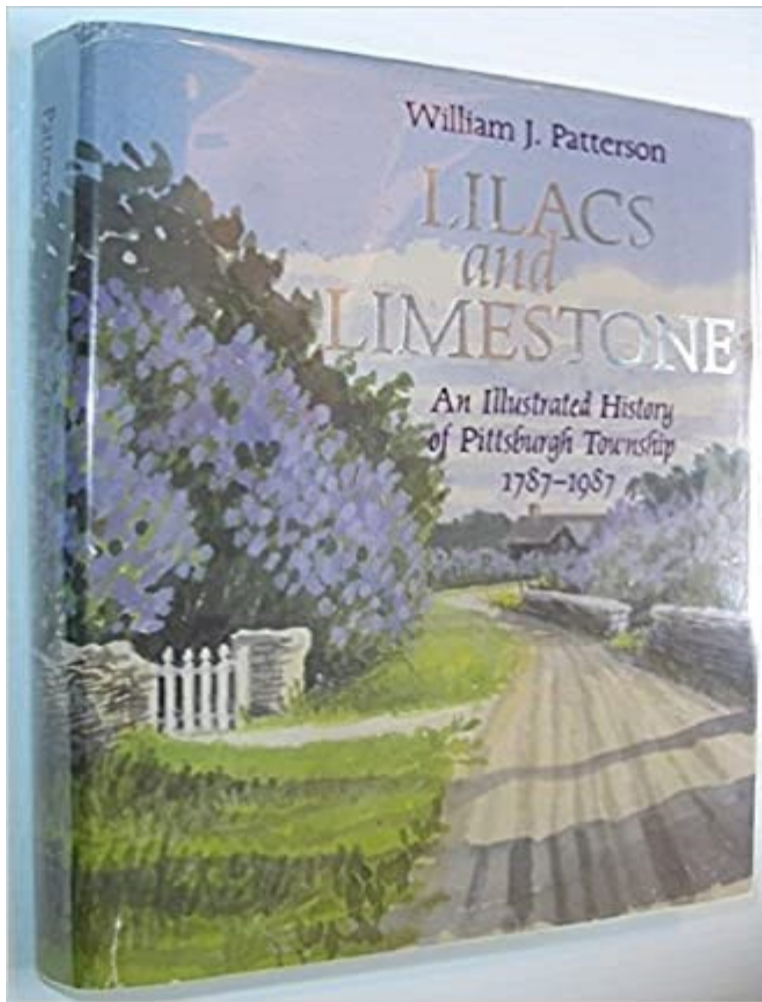
The Pittsburgh Historical Society began from concerns of township residents who wanted to preserve the heritage of the area so steeped in history, going back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The roots of the PHS began in 1973 with the Historic Buildings Committee, appointed by the Pittsburgh Township Council, that began to restore the long-neglected Milton Cemetery, and held public meetings to encourage heritage conservation. The new Ontario Heritage Act of 1975 and the Local Architecture Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) replaced the Historic Buildings Committee. In 1976, 46 years ago, the former members of the Historic Building Committee got together to create a constitution for the new Pittsburgh Historical Society.

Over time, the Society brought members together six times a year to hear talks on diverse aspects of the history of the area, from agriculture, industry, education and religion, to transportation and government. Particularly memorable were annual guided trips to historic sites both in the township and further afield.

Guest speakers' talks on the Pittsburgh community and region have been published and combined into bound annual volumes. As well, the PHS also built up a collection of original documents and photographs for a small archive established in 1997. An important project of the Society was to recognize the area's history by placing historical plaques on stone cairns at significant locations. These included Brewers Mills, Kingston Mills, and Barriefield Village; four more were placed by the new KFL&A Pittsburgh Branch Library.

To celebrate the bicentennial of Pittsburgh Township in 1987, the Society decided on the project of writing a comprehensive history of the first 200 years of the Township. With some grant funding the book, *Lilacs and Limestone*, was written by Bill Patterson and published in 1989. Bill is a long-time member of the Society and a descendant of one of the early families in the township. Today, this lovely masterpiece is the ultimate source of the History of Pittsburgh.





Because of major demographic changes, COVID 19, and other factors, the decision was made to discontinue the Society. Since the amalgamation in 1998 of the Pittsburgh Township and the City of Kingston, development has brought more industry and newcomers to the eastern area across the Cataraqui River. The large majority of people who have settled in the former township have come from outside the area and many of them do not realize that Pittsburgh Township ever existed. The older families who supported the Society in the past are disappearing and many of their children do not remain in the area.

Pre-Covid-19 attempts to maintain a

strong membership were having some success, but recruiting new members to the board of the Society remained difficult. With the work concentrated in fewer and fewer hands, finding speakers in a market competitive with other historical organizations has been very challenging.

COVID-19 was the breaking point. The venue for the meetings since 1990s is no longer available and the cost of renting another with appropriate audio-video equipment would necessitate increasing fees and, much more problematic, membership. The executive, after long serious discussions, decided that Pittsburgh Historical Society could not continue, and in June began to work on closing the Society.

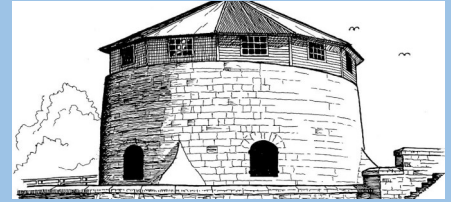
The spirit of the Pittsburgh Historical Society will live on. Its published and archival assets have been welcomed by the Queen's University Archives and the Barriefield branch of the Kingston Frontenac Public Library, and therefore will remain available to the public.

Gord Sly, President

# Murney Tower

## Operated by the Kingston Historical Society

[murneytower.com](http://murneytower.com)



**Dr. Tabitha Renaud** reports that the Murney Tower has closed for the season and bid farewell to the three student assistants so all new staff will be hired for 2023. It was a good summer with approximately 10,000 visitors over 16 weeks. A booth near the bridge steps every Saturday delivered children's programming.



The staff ran many educational programs and had several school field trips visit the Tower. Some popular events included *Museums in the Square* and *Kids Take Over the Museum Day*. A new treasure hunt around the Tower for children was instituted, in which more than 800 kids participated.

Two new exhibits were installed for this season, thanks to a grant for exhib-

it renewal. They were *Voices of Murney* and an indigenous art display on the gun platform for the Hope and Healing project across Canada supporting Truth and Reconciliation. An outdoor sign and several more exhibit cases will be ordered.

A student spent one day a week working on the artefact collection at the storage unit. The Tower was open for Doors Open on the September 25th weekend with the new Queen's History Intern assisting our Director to give tours. Simge Erdogan O'Connor, the curator-manager, appeared in 6 national and regional television interviews this year.

The *Phantoms of Yore*, a revenue-generating event, will be at the Tower on the second weekend of October. There is an Audio Tour project in progress.

Follow the activities at this vibrant museum at: [murneytower.com](http://murneytower.com) OR

<https://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca/the-murney-tower/>

## KHS Membership Renewal: 2022

- Individual membership: \$50
- Family membership: \$60
- Student membership: \$25
- Institutional membership: \$60
- Sponsor fee \$300.

An additional donation: The Society would sincerely appreciate any additional donation you may wish to contribute to the Society.

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (tax-receiptable)

Questions: Please speak to Membership Chair Paul Van Nest, 613-544-6802 or email [pvannest@cogeco.ca](mailto:pvannest@cogeco.ca)

Membership includes 8 monthly lectures of local historical interest, the annual journal '*Historic Kingston*' and 9 issues of the newsletter '*Limelight*' as well as discounted fees to selected special events. Some sponsors also offer discounts.

Pay by cheque made out to the 'Kingston Historical Society': mail to  
Kingston Historical Society, Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6

Pay online from our webpage: [www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca) >  
Membership

Please indicate, if it is the case, that:

I would like to receive my *Limelight* online \_\_\_\_\_

**Remember**, starting this fall, all members who receive *Limelight* by email will also receive electronically, each quarter, the newsletter of the Ontario Historical Society, as part of their membership, at no additional cost.



## ***Alas, the fraudsters are always with us***

### **From 1834 Emigrants Handbook**

*Official Information for Emigrants, Arriving at New York and who are desirous of Settling in the Canadas, also, Extracts from the Instructions for Emigrants arriving at Quebec, as issued by A.C. Buchanan, Esq. His Britannic Majesty's Chief Agent for Emigration to the Canadas.*

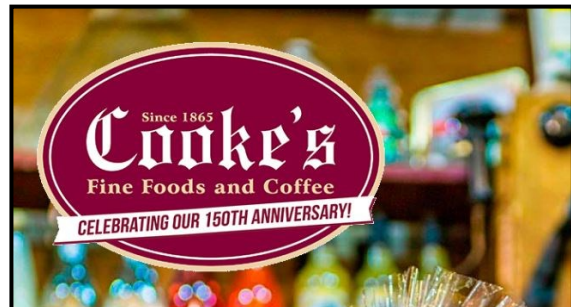
There is nothing of more importance to Emigrants, on arrival in a strange country, than correct information on the leading points connected with their future pursuits. Many have suffered much by a want of caution, and by listening to the opinions of interested and designing characters, who frequently offer their advice unsolicited, and are met generally about wharves and landing places frequented by strangers.

To guard Emigrants from falling into such errors, these instructions have been prepared by His Britannic Majesty's Chief Agent for the superintendence of Emigrants in Upper and Lower Canada.

At New York, and on your route to your destination, ***you will find many plans and schemes offered to your consideration by persons assuming the character of Land and Emigrant Agents, without any responsibility or authority, (whose object is their own gain,) frequently misleading the credulous stranger,*** but turn away from all such persons, unless you are well satisfied of the purity of their statements. When you require advice at New York, apply at the office of His Britannic Majesty's Consul, between the hours of ten and two o'clock, daily, (Sundays excepted,)...

#### **The good news**

Toronto, formerly York, being the capital of the Province, and the residence of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and Officers of Public Departments, Emigrants proceeding to the Home or Western Districts, will in general find it to their advantage, to proceed thither in the first instance. **Kingston**, Toronto, Belleville, Cobourg, Port Hope, St. Catherines, Niagara, Hamilton, and particularly the new City of the Falls of Niagara, will be also found desirable situations for respectable families to stop at, until they finally decide on their settlement.



# **HOMESTEAD**