

THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 1893

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President's Message

by Paul Charbonneau

Following the last “heat wave” of October we have turned the page over to what is to come, like it or not, a true Canadian winter. As we harvest the crops, put down the preserves, jellies and root vegetables, prepare our winter nests and celebrate All Hallow’s Eve, we also prepare for remembrance.

We are all familiar with “In Flanders Field” by Dr. John McRae. However, the second most known poem of remembrance is “We Shall Keep the Faith” written in 1918 by Moina Michael.



*Oh! You who sleep in Flanders Fields
Sleep sweet – to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With all who died.*

Last month, our own prominent local historian and editor Peter Gower spoke on “The Changing Attitudes to the Memorializing of our War Dead, 1800-2022.” Whether in Flanders Field or any one of the dozens of military cemeteries around the world, we pause and reflect on what our war dead and wounded gifted to us in all conflicts.

We also honour those who came home, those with physical injuries and those with mental injuries. Often referred to as “shell- shock” in the early 20th century and now known as PTSD, we owe these women and men our ongoing and full support as they return from conflicts today.

My neighbour has a bumper sticker that reads “Remember the veterans but also remember the ones who still serve”.

Don’t let the 11th day, of the 11th month, at the 11th hour just be a moment on the clock; STOP and reflect on why we have Remembrance Day.

We are saddened by the news of the passing of Marc Raymond. Marc was a distinguished member and supporter of KHS and also a talented Kingston citizen. He supported many causes and worked tirelessly to make this city grand. We have it from here Marc; rest easy.

“For whom the bell tolls”

By the time this newsletter reaches the KHS membership, the nation will be in the throes of preparing for Remembrance Day on November 11th: poppies, cenotaphs, solemn music and thoughts cast backwards to lost relatives in uniform. Canada's road to such veneration was the timely subject of the Society's October 19th lecture. Prominent local historian and editor Peter Gower spoke on “The Changing Attitudes to the Memorializing of our War Dead, 1800-2022.”

Gower began by harkening back to the Napoleonic Era when the common soldier was treated in both life and death as little more than “cannon fodder.” While generals and officers were cast as national heroes – think of Wellington and Nelson – and laid to rest in glorious tombs, the common soldier was relegated to common, often mass, graves. After the Battle of Waterloo, some 40,000 dead were left scattered and unheralded across the field of battle, subject to looting and putrefaction. In Canada, for instance, there was little concerted effort to collectively honour casualties from the Northwest Rebellion or the Boer War.

In the late nineteenth century, public attitudes shifted, bumped by the increasing democratization of western societies. The common soldier came to be seen as a citizen worthy of perpetual respect. In 1889, pressured by Queen Victoria, Britain's war dead from Waterloo were finally gathered in the Evere Cemetery in Belgium. World War I accelerated the trend and, in Gower's mind, changed public attitudes “forever”. The horrendous toll in life of the conflict, and the notion that the fallen citizen soldiers were fighting to build a better world, sparked a commitment to systematic commemoration. Spearheaded by men like Britain's Major-General Fabian Ware, the state now took on the role of custodians of the war dead, a role that acknowledged the individuality of each victim against a backdrop of collective national effort. The Imperial War Graves Commission was created to lay out the cemeteries and to commission the war memorials. Prominent architects such as Sir Edwin Lutyens fashioned inspiring votive fixtures – such as London's national cenotaph. Ceremonies reinforced the newfound veneration: the wearing of poppies, the interment of the “unknown soldier”. Not surprisingly, a lively question period followed Gower's remarks. His well-illustrated lecture is available on YouTube (consult the KHS website) and will appear in the 2022 volume of *Historic Kingston*.

Kingston Association of Museums: an Historical Perspective.

Kingston is Canada's quintessential Heritage City. It possesses a wide variety of major institutions, structures, monuments and traditions of long duration. It's many museums furnish the tangible expressions of this heritage.

The 1960s and 1970s witnessed a surge in the number of diverse museums that came into existence in Kingston and area. Cooperation and coordination among them was slowly taking root. Indeed, Kingston was developing a reputation of having the largest number of specialized museums for a city of its size.

In 1980, Doug Clark, then manager of Fort Henry, envisaged an organization which focused on the common concerns and interests of all the museums, art galleries and historic sites in the Kingston area. He discussed this proposal with several Kingston museum personnel including John Grenville (local Parks Canada representative), Maurice Smith (Marine Museum of the Great Lakes) and Bill Fittell (International Hockey Hall of Fame and Museum). There was agreement on the fundamental objectives of a proposed umbrella museum organization, ie: policies, programs and promotion which would benefit individual Kingston museums. It was to be called *The Kingston Association of Museums, Art Galleries, and Historic Sites*, (shortened to KAM in daily parlance).

The organizational structure would be semi-formal but largely simple in character. Consequently, there would be no board of directors, only a secretary, the central administrative point. This person would attend to the exchange of any written correspondence and eventually emails with the public. Most important of course would be recording and distributing the minutes of all meetings attended by representatives from each of the then 16 museums. Meetings were held on a monthly basis except between June and August and in the month of December.

Each museum would take its turn as a meeting host. These meetings would be chaired by a member of the hosting museum. This format was used from 1981 to 2011. The first-ever meeting of KAM took place in early 1981 at the International Hockey Hall of Fame and Museum.

For the first 30 years of KAM's operations, the pre-eminent item of business was the annual production of KAM's distinctive brochure, listing the essential details of all the member museums. Invariably, one museum would volunteer to collect each museum's list of advertising materials, and then arrange for the printing and distribution of the resulting brochure to each of the museums and local tourist racks. Among KAM members, the brochure was frequently and affectionately referred to as the "Lure Brochure".

There were two other major KAM projects which significantly contributed to the daily operation of the museums. In the late 1980s, KAM embarked on a program to have the operation computerized. With the assistance of several museums, arrangements were undertaken to have a number of museums purchase a computer at a reasonable price and to provide instruction in its operation.

KAM also embraced a wider museum context, especially in Ontario, by hosting the Annual Conferences of the Ontario Museum Associations in 1983, 1997 and 2017.

Hosting KAM's monthly meetings by some museums was, on occasion, an adventure. Most museums held their meetings in their own facilities. Some museums however were unable to do so and

arranged their meetings in other more suitable venues. For example, in the early 1980s, KAM held a meeting at the Fire Hall Museum, then located on the second floor in the Fire Hall on Brock Street. The meeting proceeded in an orderly fashion until bells began to ring to summon firefighters to prepare to leave for an emergency. KAM meetings were also held in the Kingston Mills Block House in the 1980s. Because of the restricted space, KAM members sat on the few available chairs, the soldiers' cots, and even on the floor.

The Murney Tower Museum hosted a couple of KAM meetings in the late 1980s. One was in the Council Chamber at City Hall. On another memorable occasion, the Tower hosted a KAM meeting in the Kingston Historical Society storage room on the top floor of Queen's Archives. It turned out to be an unrelentingly hot day with the temperature soaring to the mid-40s in the meeting room. Suffice it to say, by the end of the meeting, the KAM members who attended were duly roasted and dehydrated. Another KAM meeting was held on the gun platform in the Murney Tower. Even though it was a spring day, the conditions in the Tower were very cool and damp, thus causing several members to freeze.

During the 1980s and early 90s, several interesting museums came and went. The Fire Hall Museum operated for a short while at the Brock Street Fire Hall. Another museum which had a brief period of operation was the Polliwog Doll Museum which was located in an elegant stone house on Perth Road near the entrance to the Lower Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. A KAM meeting was once held there as well.

In the 1990s and early 2000s, there was a minority in KAM advancing the desirability and administrative appropriateness of having KAM incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation. This would render the organization eligible for grants and programs to serve the interests of KAM members as an entity instead of each as a single museum, sharing the risk and responsibility over the entire organization. As well, there would be some liability protection for initiatives undertaken by KAM. The voting around this proposal, spaced over a period of ten years, was all negative. However, the fourth vote of the KAM members on the matter in 2011 approved the measure to incorporate. A constitution was drafted and approved by the membership during the same year. All the subsequent meetings of KAM were conducted by a proper Board of Directors, proceeding in accordance with the objects spelled out in KAM's founding documents since the early 1980s. The tradition of holding monthly meetings of museum representatives still continues.

A salient result of incorporation was that the City of Kingston furnished the fledgling organization with annual grants for an office and administrative staff, in addition to giving KAM the responsibility to administer the city's Heritage Grant program. Now KAM has a paid Managing Director and an Administrative Coordinator who attend to the organization's burgeoning workload.

At this juncture, it can be said that KAM has undergone two incarnations. The first one (KAM-A) was a semi-formal organization which had a more circumscribed set of interests and responsibilities. The second incarnation (KAM-B) is that of a not-for-profit corporation which has an expanded framework of responsibilities and opportunities with a paid staff and an office.

A noteworthy factor in KAM's four-decade development is the substantial involvement of members of the Kingston Historical Society – former presidents Bill Fittell, Maurice Smith and Edward Grenda, and members/directors John Grenville, Jack Pike, Tabitha Renaud and Brian Osborne.

Edward Grenda: *President, Kingston Historical Society (2007-9); President, Frontenac Heritage Foundation (2014-16); President, KAM-B (2011-13); Secretary, KAM-A (1983-86); Chair of the Murney Tower Museum, the MacLachlan Woodworking Museum, and the International Hockey Hall of Fame and Museum; and Vice Chair, City of Kingston Museums and Collections Advisory Committee (2013-16).*

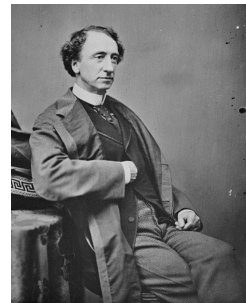


Si monumentum requiris, circumspice

If you seek for a monument, look around you.

Canada is his monument.

Brian Porter, a member of the Kingston Historical Society from Brockville who often recreates the character of Sir John A. Macdonald, sent this painting to be used in commemorating his death in June. It is a belated entry in Limelight.



This official portrait of Sir John A. Macdonald was painted in 1889 by Henry Sandham (1842-1910) Canadian painter and illustrator from Montreal. It was commissioned by his supporters for his 75th birthday and unveiled at the House of Commons on February 27, 1890

“ Let me thank you very much for this Crowning proof of your kindness and confidence. On the downward hill of life, which I am slow descending, it is gratifying to know that I have that which Shakespeare speaks of, ‘ Honour, respect and troops of friends.’

If I have been successful, and if my efforts in any way added towards the great advancement of our great country, I owe it to the brave men, the stout-hearted and loyal and true, who stood by me through good reports and evil reports since I entered public life.

I am proud to feel and to know that in my 75th year I am surrounded by the representatives of the people from all parts of the Dominion. My heart is full when I think of your kindness and of the honour that has been conferred upon me.”

The portrait shows him in his British Privy Councillor uniform. He died the next year, on June 6, 1891 at age 76 and was buried in this uniform in Cataraqui Cemetery in Kingston.



Henry Sandham – painter and illustrator was born in Montreal in 1842. He left home at 14 against his father’s wishes to become an artist. At age 18 he joined the art department of photographer William Notman, where he refined the technique of large composite photographs. He was awarded a silver medal at the universal exposition in Paris in 1878 for his work showing 300 members of the Montreal Snow Shoe Club.

In 1880 he became a charter member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts. He moved to Boston in December 1880 and exhibited regularly in the U.S. In addition to portraits, he did illustrations for books and periodicals.

In 1901 he moved to London to pursue his career and exhibited his paintings for the annual shows of the Royal Academy of Arts. He died there on June 21, 1910 and is buried in Kensal Green Cemetery in London.

**Please renew your
KHS membership
now!**

KHS Membership Renewal for January to December 2023

Individual membership: \$50 Family membership: \$60 Student membership: \$25

Institutional membership: \$60 Sponsor fee \$300.

Any additional donation you may wish to contribute to the Society would be appreciated. Amount: \$_____ (tax-receipt given over \$20.)

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

Membership includes annually:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Eight lectures of historical interest * 9 monthly issues of <i>Limelight</i>, the newsletter * The Kingston Historical Awards Ceremony * The quarterly newsletter of the Ontario Historical Society by email for members who receive <i>Limelight</i> by email 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <i>Historic Kingston</i>, the annual journal of the Society's proceedings * Our First Prime Minister's Commemoration Event, 6 June * February Heritage Month Event * Discounts offered by some sponsors
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Please pay in one of three ways:

Online at: www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca > Membership (Pay Pal or Credit Card)

By eTransfer to treasurer@kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca

By cheque to the 'Kingston Historical Society' (Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6)

The newsletter will be sent by email unless you specify hard copy to Paul Van Nest (contact info above)

Murney Tower Operated by the Kingston Historical Society



The Activities at the Murney Tower continue...



The Phantoms of Yore event sold out with 100 tickets over 3 nights (October 7, 8, 9) raising \$1800.

In preparation for winter, the Murney Tower collection is going into storage.

A Halloween Event will be held on Saturday, 29 October. The Tower will be decorated and open for 2 hours, 6-8 pm, featuring a treasure hunt with prizes.

Murney Tower, with its interest in The Kingston Heritage Fair, has volunteered to be one of the hosting sites for the big closing event for Eastern Ontario fairs in June 2023.



Marc Raymond: 1943 to 10 October, 2022



Marc and Marny Raymond first joined the Kingston Historical Society in 1999 and have been members ever since. Amongst many services to our Society was his proposal that sponsors be recruited to membership. And Marc F. Raymond Opticians Ltd. was our first sponsor; the company under his son, Courtney, continues as a sponsor to this day. The annual sponsor fee is \$300 and has been for over 10 years. We currently have 7 sponsors but have been as high as 10, so this continues to be a major fundraiser for the work of our Society.

Marc was a respected businessman, long-time member of the Kingston Jaycees and past president, and a member of the Downtown Business Association. He was heavily involved in refurbishing Market Square. He also served his community as a loyal Kiwanian since the mid-70s. He was president and was one of the instigators of the Annual Sports Dinner and Awards Program, sponsored by Kiwanis. He also was very involved in the Kiwanis Music Festival since the mid-1970s.

Carpentry was a major hobby which included moving a log cabin to Amherst Island and refurbishing it to Marny's specifications, well, her needs! They were married for 57 years. Despite his visual challenges, Marc was an avid reader over many disparate fields. As an example, would you believe the Civil War? He was a member of the Civil War Round Table since 1994, a year after it was formed.

He will be missed by so many in Kingston.

Paul Van Nest, October 2022



Welcome, new members

Sylvia Topp

