

Limelight

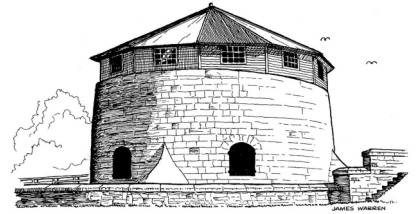
Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

Kingston Ontario Canada

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November 2023



The Kingston Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.



Kingston Historical Society Meeting November 15, 2023

presented live at 7pm, in the theatre lounge of the

Kingsbridge Retirement Community at 950 Centennial Drive

and simultaneously offered via >>>**Zoom**

Kaitlyn MacDonald presents

Spectres of the Limestone City: Dark Tourism and Heritage in Kingston, Ontario

Kingston has long relied on its haunted walks, and its role as penitentiary warden of the nation, to bolster its tourism.

Queen's doctoral candidate **Kaitlyn MacDonald's** research into what is called "dark tourism", which includes such things as haunted walk tours, ghost stories and local fanciful myths, will delve beyond the superficial into the historical construction behind our fascination with the abnormal and suggest ways in which such analysis may be used to enhance both our historical understanding and tourism management.

In the latest release in the HSO's pamphlet series, Bryan D. Cook takes a look at three early hydroelectric generating stations and the history of damming and channeling that come before them.

<https://www.historicalsocietyottawa.ca/publications/bytown-pamphlets/pamphlets-available-for-download/122-victorian-hydroelectricity-generation-at-the-south-chaudiere-falls-ottawa-ontario>

Your feedback is welcome. Please email us any questions, comments or suggestions you may have at:

info@historicalsocietyottawa.ca

THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 1893

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Please forward submissions to the Editor 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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Featured Sponsor



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Peter Gower, Editor of Historic Kingston and Webmaster

President's Message

by Paul Charbonneau

"We cannot own history; we are just taking care of it." – Diane Peterson

Kingston, being an historical community, is enhanced when any one of the many historical groups in our city achieves a milestone. Such a milestone has been achieved by the Great Lakes Museum (GLM) as they take stewardship of the S.S. Keewatin. Enjoy the piece, "Our Ship Comes In", by Dr. Duncan McDowell describing October's lecture by Chris West, chair of the Great Lakes Museum, or watch the lecture on our website for the full tale of this remarkable journey of this Titanic-era vessel.



Congratulations to our own Murney Tower Curator Simge Erdogan-O'Connor on completing her doctorate; we are very fortunate to have Dr. Simge leading our little treasure of a museum.

Congratulations also to Council member Warren Everett on his award from the Province of Ontario for 20 years of volunteer service to the Kingston Historical Society. Warren is a passionate contributor to our Council meetings.

It may be hard to image this: our museum will turn 100 years old in 2025 and I encourage you to consider joining the planning committee.

Monday, November 13th is World Kindness Day; I sign off with one of my favorite quotes:

"You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know when it will be too late." — Ralph Waldo Emerson

Murney Tower

Operated by the Kingston Historical Society

www.murneytower.com



Recent Activities at the Murney Tower Museum

A well-attended *Phantoms of Yore* event took place from 6 October to 9 October, 2023.

A Halloween event was held Saturday, 21 October, from 3 to 8 in collaboration with the Museum of Healthcare. Both sites were decorated. The 100 + participants visited both sites, completed a treasure hunt and collected stamps to win chocolate bars.

Curator Dr. Simge Erdogan-O'Connor has joined Tourism Kingston's Digital and Visual Creators sub-committee. In November she will present a case study of the Murney Tower Museum's digital engagements to the class of St. Lawrence College Communications Professor Lexy Correa, who is the social media co-ordinator of Tourism Kingston.

Murney Tower Museum is looking for volunteers within Kingston communities to join its 100th-anniversary planning committee. Established by the Kingston Historical Society in 1925, the Murney Tower Museum is the oldest operating museum in Kingston. An event planning committee is being formed to work with the museum's manager and staff to develop special projects and events to celebrate the museum's 100th anniversary in 2025.

If you have experience in event planning and are interested in joining our event planning committee, please email info@murneytower.com

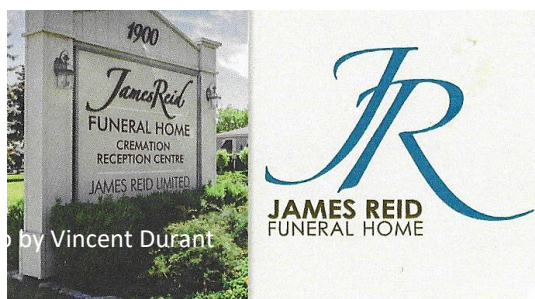


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Kingston City Hall has witnessed a great many meetings during its 180-year history, but perhaps none so historically interesting as the one that took place the evening of June 8th, 1883. At issue was the expulsion of female students from Queen's University's medical program earlier in the year, less than three years after becoming the first in Canada to admit women!

According to the Queen's website: "In 1882, physiology professor Kenneth Fenwick started making a habit of reciting insulting anecdotes about women to draw attention to the women in his class and elicit laughter from men in the back benches. The women struck back when Fenwick, in a lecture on the larynx, likened the pitch of women's voices to that of apes." When the women marched out and complained of his harassment, "... Fenwick and a group of students claimed that the women were restricting academic freedom and demanded that they be ejected from the school so that lectures would not have to be 'garbled' to suit their over-refined sensibilities."

Fearing the male students would make good on their threat to transfer to either Toronto or Montreal medical schools, Queen's expelled the female students, a move that brought about a wave of condemnation from the local and national media.

At the same time this drama was playing out in Kingston, Dr. Jennie Trout, the first female registered MD in Canada (she studied in the United States), offered \$10,000 to endow a women's medical college at the University of Toronto, provided women would be on the board of trustees, and those who qualified could serve as faculty. When her offer was rejected, she turned her attention to Kingston, with an offer of \$200 per year for five years towards the cost of operating a women-only medical college here.

Now back to the balmy June 8th meeting! After a few speeches and much debating, several resolutions were passed, including:

"Whereas Kingston offers special advantages for successful working of a Women's School of Medicine. Resolved, that in the opinion of this meeting it is right and fitting to establish in Kingston, such a Medical College."

"That as the Royal College has resolved not to admit women to its classes in future, and as the session of any new institution must open not later than the month of October, it is desirable that immediate action be taken."

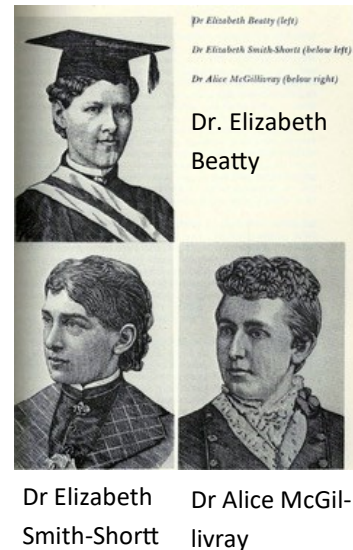
The latter resolution was, appropriately enough, seconded by Queen's Principal George Grant, who desperately sought a way out of the chaos created by Dr. Fenwick and the male students. He would later inform the meeting of Dr. Trout's generous offer, and this triggered others to pony up with offers of financial support.

Meanwhile, when word got back to Toronto, suddenly all objections to a Toronto Women's College evaporated. As described by Dr. A. A. Travill in his definitive book: *Medicine at Queen's 1854-1920 (chapter 7)*, "The Toronto medical men attended a meeting organized by the Women's Suffrage Club in Shaftesbury Hall on Tuesday evening, 12 June. They withdrew their objections to women being on the board of management and acting as professors, and the majority then agreed to the immediate establishment of a Toronto Women's Medical College."

At its August 6 meeting, Kingston City Council voted to donate the lease of Ontario Hall (present day mayor's office and council chamber) for the College, along with several ancillary rooms. A library and study area were established in the dome, and the area just under the dome (current councillors' lounge) was dedicated to performing dissections. So impressed with the facilities was Dr. Trout that she donated an annual scholarship of \$50.

The October 1883 intake included eight students expelled from Queen's plus three "freshies". And while much better than the harassment suffered in their old school, over the years students found the facilities at City Hall less than desirable. Indeed, in a tongue-in-cheek verse printed some years later in Queen's College Journal, they gave a glimpse into the facilities, noting the cold study area that drove them to seek refuge in the police area in the basement:

*And now, who will blame us for asking,
If the Toronto lady Med.
Has as tiresome a walk to her college,
And such a steep stairway to tread -
If she's sent to the P'lice Court for lectures
When the gas in her college won't burn,
If she's subject to such severe trials,
When an M.D. she's striving to earn
But our professors and methods
Comparison need never fear,
Had we but a convenient building
We'd invite the Toronto Meds. here*



The quest for "a convenient building" bore fruit when in 1890 the College paid \$4,800 for a spacious double-fronted house at 75 Union Street. However, partly because of the added costs of the building and necessary renovations, but mostly due to a decline in interest by prospective students, the newly minted College was forced to close its doors four years later. In effect, this ended the coeducation experiment begun some 10 years earlier when three young women were admitted to Queen's Royal Medical College. They would weather the sexist remarks of Dr. Fenwick and jeers and oafishness of their male comrades to help found the women's own College and graduate with their MDs from Queen's. And two of them, Elizabeth Smith and Alice McGilivray would graduate and come back to teach in the Women's Medical College.

When Kingston's Women's Medical College closed its doors in 1894, the remaining students were absorbed by the Women's College in Toronto, and as noted on the Queen's website, "...it was not until 1943 that women were allowed to return to Queen's Faculty of Medicine."

Further reading

- *Medicine at Queen's 1854-1920: A Peculiarly Happy Relationship*, by A.A. Travill (1988), Chapter 7 - *Medical Coeducation at the Royal and Queen's*, is an excellent source of information on the subject. The book is available at Kingston Frontenac Public Library, Resource Centre at City Hall, Queen's Archives.
- Annual calendars of the Women's Medical College, Kingston; available through Queen's University Archives.
- KHS Limelight, September 2019: *City Hall Information Posts* (page 4). The article features the Info Post related to the Women's Medical College. <https://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/LL-2019-09-Sep19.pdf>

Our Ship Has Come In

Since its earliest habitation, Kingston has been oriented and shaped by the Great Lake that defines its shores. From the Aboriginal canoes that arrived each summer to fish the lake, to the immigrant bateaux that brought immigrants up the St. Lawrence, to the schooners and barges that brought coal, timber and grain, to the steel-hulled lakers that attached the local economy to the national economy, Kingston harbour has been a place of ships. This October that venerable tradition was extended by the arrival the S.S. Keewatin as the magnificent new centerpiece of the Great Lakes Museum on Kingston's waterfront.

At the Society's October lecture, Chris West, chair of the Museum's board and a local investment banker, related the 116-year voyage of the Keewatin to Kingston's shore. Built in Scotland in 1907, the 103 metre (336 foot) ship went into service of the Canadian Pacific Steamship Company as a liner-freighter on the Great Lakes, carrying immigrant passengers to the lakehead and then returning east with grain and other export cargoes. When Canada's immigrant boom cooled, the Keewatin, with her wood-paneled lounges and elegant dining room, went into the business of showing off the beauty of the Great Lakes to tourists who were drawn by the ship's Edwardian style. (Many have likened her elegance to that of the famed Titanic.) Air and car tourism killed that trade and in 1967 the Keewatin went into a retirement in which she has lived a precarious existence as a novelty museum ship in Michigan and at Port McNicol, Ontario, slowly declining into disrepair.

Chris West related the fortuitous tale of how Kingston's Museum, through bold strategy-making, volunteerism and heroic fundraising acquired the Keewatin. After a refit in Hamilton to restore her original glamour and seaworthiness, the ship was towed to Kingston where she will proudly reside in the old government graving dock beside the revamped Museum. Pipers and a large crowd welcomed the ship to her new home. Next spring, she will be opened to visitors and will undoubtedly quickly make this port of call not only her last but also her most renowned. The Great Lakes Museum website (www.marmuseum.ca) will update her new career.



Almost home in Kingston, October 26, 2023

Photo by A. Bartkiw

Keewatin in the 1910s Nova Scotia Archives

Photo by Arthur Bloomfield Dawson



Membership includes the annual journal 'Historic Kingston' and 9 issues of the newsletter 'Limelight', some sponsor discounts and some special event discounts.

'Historic Kingston' may be purchased by non-members for \$25.

Please Renew Your Membership for 2024 now

New members joining from September through December 2023 will receive credit for the year 2024.

☐ \$40 for individual membership; ☐ \$50 for family; ☐ \$10 for student; ☐ \$50 for institution; and ☐ \$300 for sponsor.

Donation: Amount: \$_____ (Charitable receipts for amounts exceeding \$19.99 with our thanks.)

Name: _____

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Postal Code: _____ Tel: ____ - ____ - _____ I would like to receive my Limelight online _____

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1. Mail this completed application form and a cheque made out to the 'Kingston Historical Society' to
Kingston Historical Society, Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6

2. Online with Visa or MasterCard or PayPal: <https://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca/membership/>

3. eTransfer to treasurer@kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca

Paul Van Nest, Membership Chair, KHS, 613-532-1903 (text or phone), pvannest@cogeco.ca

Ear to the ground

by Elizabeth Durno

Reporting on events of interest to history buffs

On November 9th, Brian Porter, historian, will be presenting a talk on Sir John A. MacDonald at the Canadian Club Kingston. He will be speaking at the Cataraqui Golf and Country Club. 1:00
Call 613 699 3102 for details.

Brian Porter



The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society has just celebrated its 50th anniversary with an open house at the Central Library. If you want help in getting started on your own family history, visit their website for details.



<https://kingston.ogs.on.ca/>



Friends of St. Alban's invites you to celebrate the launch of

**THE WINDOWS OF ST. ALBAN'S
A CENTURY OF ILLUMINATION**

BY JANE LOVELL & DIANE BERLET
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID CLENNING

Sunday November 5th at 2pm

at

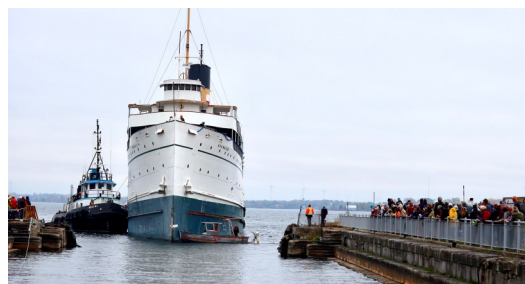
St. Alban's Centre

10419 Loyalist Parkway
Adolphustown

Refreshments provided

Inquiries: 613-373-8865

At 1:00 p.m. October 26th, a very enthusiastic crowd gathered at the Great Lakes Museum to welcome the arrival of the S.S. Keewatin at Kingston. This Edwardian steamship, one of only three still existing, played an important role



carrying immigrants and cargo on the Great Lakes. She will be permanently berthed at the museum and will be open for tours in the Spring.

Photo by A. Bartkiw



Frank was born in January 1920 making him almost 104 when he died on August 9, 2023 in North Vancouver. His earliest years were in Southsea, England. He was the first of three boys. The family moved to Montreal in 1929, not the best of timing. Leaving school early to help the family, he assisted a photographic company which held a contract with Cunard White Star Line, making photography a life-long passion. Frank signed up with the army in 1940 and transferred to the Armoured Corps in 1942, the year he married Moira. His unit, The Sherbrooke Fusiliers, arrived in Normandy 3 months after D-Day, in time for the Battle of the Falaise Pocket. On his return in 1946, he transferred to The Royal Canadian Dragoons and served under the United Nations in Lebanon and Kashmir and retired in 1969 as the Chief Administrative Officer at the Army Staff College, stationed in Fort Frontenac. He was subsequently honoured by France with

the Legion of Honour and was specifically singled out by the Queen of the Netherlands to be personally thanked for his role in the Liberation of Holland. It's said that he quietly replied that he had had some help!

The family remained in Kingston where he served as the Executive Director of the United Way for 18 years. He joined Rotary on 2 January 1969 and served as president only 4 years later: 1973-74. In 1985, Frank received a Paul Harris Award from the club. Always active and contributing through Rotary, he was very persuasive in smoothing the way for women joining Rotary in the late 80s and was made an honorary Rotarian in 2008 when he and Margaret moved to North Vancouver. I knew Frank through Rotary beginning in 1977 but I especially got to know him on three of my tours of Civil War battlefields in 1987 to 1989. He revelled in the study of warfare predating his personal experience by 80 years.

Finally we get to his contributions to the Kingston Historical Society. He joined as treasurer in 1989 until 1992 when he became president for two years and past president for the two years following. He became a life member in the early 90's and remained active until leaving Kingston in 2008.

He and Moira had 7 children who in turn gave him seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren before he died. Moira had died in 1991 and Frank married Margaret in the early 2000s. She predeceased him by a few years.

What an impressive contribution Frank has made in so many spheres! He was warmly admired by all who knew him.



HOMESTEAD