

Limelight

Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

Kingston Ontario Canada



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May 2025

Kingston Historical Society Meeting 21 May 2025

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

Kingsbridge Retirement Community at 950 Centennial Drive

and simultaneously offered via >>>Zoom

Christine Lavallee will discuss the nineteenth-century Canadian author **Julia Beckwith Hart**, whose novel

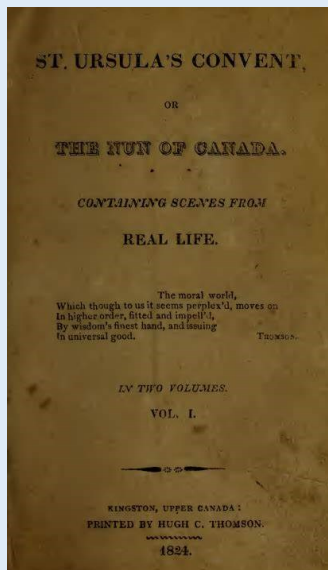
– *St. Ursula's Convent* –

was partially set in Kingston;

it is said to be

the first indigenous work of Canadian fiction.

Christine Lavallee, a librarian at St. Lawrence College, is a writer and a literary scholar.



We note the one hundredth birthday of Eileen Huberland, born 1 April 1925!

Eileen is a long-time member of the Kingston Historical Society.

It is noted with regret, the death of Dr. John Meisel, on 30 March 2025, a former long-time member of the Kingston Historical Society.

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.

Featured Sponsor

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

Kingsbridge 
Retirement Community *by Signature*

President: Peter Gower Vice President: Kat MacDonald Past President: Paul Charbonneau Treasurer: Peter Ginn Secretary: Don Richardson
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Ann Stevens, Publicity; Paul Van Nest, Membership Chair; Peter Gower, Editor of Historic Kingston.

President's Message

by Peter Gower

May thoughts:

Sandy Campbell had a large audience at Kingsbridge for her April talk on Kathleen Hammond, including Eileen Huberland who celebrated her 100th birthday at the beginning of April, and the granddaughter of other Lusitania survivors, who was able to give us further insight into the tragedy and its aftermath. The lounge was very full, and soon I am going to have to suggest that those who wish to meet the speaker will have to arrive early! This month we will hear Christine Lavallee talk about Julia Beckwith Hart's first novel, *St. Ursula's Convent*, or *The Nun of Canada: Containing Scenes from Real Life*. Written in 1824, this was the first work of fiction to be published in Canada by an indigenous Canadian. We invite you all, and hope you will invite your friends, to join us on Zoom or in person.



On June 6th. Roy Macskimming returns to us to talk at the graveside commemoration of Sir John A. Macdonald. We hope you will plan to attend: that meeting will not be broadcast live.

I was reminded on April 11th of all the interest in local history there is in the area around us. A group of large and small clubs and societies met in the Newboro Community Hall to discuss their strengths and weaknesses, and especially their plans for preserving, interpreting, celebrating and conveying the rich history of the area – an area we sometimes forget with our emphasis on Kingston. Especially, they are planning the 200th anniversary celebrations of the opening of the Rideau Canal in 1832.

And, I still have some (free) copies of *Yankees and Loyalists*, an amazing diary of a few men who travelled from Bytown to Kingston in 1830 to buy shares in the new Kingston bank. We may find driving Highway 15 adventurous; they had many more adventures.

With April showers behind us, let us enjoy the May flowers!

May 2 to May 4 Jane's Walk Kingston

Free walking tours of Kingston's neighborhoods. A variety of walks will be guided by speakers knowledgeable about the fascinating history of our city. For a complete list of walks, topics, locations and guides contact <https://janeswalkkingston.wordpress.com>

Tours of the S.S. Keewatin at the Great Lakes Museum resume on May 11th.

As well, a new 90 minute Shipwreck Cruise sets sail in May. This live-guided tour explores Kingston's historic waterfront and shores and stories of shipwrecks and maritime history in the 1000 Islands Region.

On May 17th the **Kingston Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society's** meeting will feature **Glenn Wright**. He will highlight the Heritage-Canadians website's digital collections of archival records, books, newspapers, serials, maps and government publications. He will show how to use the resources effectively in family history and genealogical research.

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After Glenn Wright's presentation another presentation will be given. In 2023 Cataraqui Cemetery Committee volunteers began transcribing the **Cataraqui Cemetery Burial Register** spanning 1853 to 1978 of more than 24,000 records.

Derrick Bouchard, Branch Cemetery Committee Co-ordinator will provide a step-by-step demonstration of how genealogists can explore the pages of the burial register.

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tJ6tGt6U6>

First 2025 issue of the quarterly Historical Society of Ottawa Newsletter, "Capital Chronicle": editor Richard Collins

<https://www.historicalsocietyottawa.ca/publications/capital-chronicle-newsletter/capital-chronicle-2025-03>



Provincial Town Crier Championships

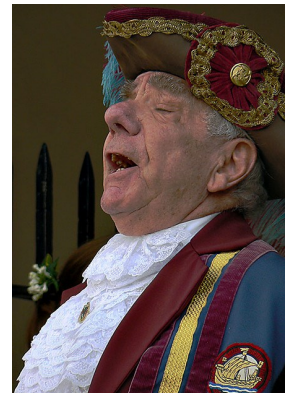
May 17, 2025 to May 18, 2025

You already missed this year's entry deadline, but you can still attend the

Provincial Town Crier Championships in **Gananoque**

on May 17 to May 18 - 9:00 a.m.

The event takes place at Town Park, 30 King Street West, Gananoque.





Speaker's Corner by Dr. Duncan McDowall, Programme Chair

The Fateful Life of Kingston's Kathleen Hammond

The Society's April speaker was Dr. Sandy Campbell, an emerita professor of women's studies at Carleton University. As her topic she chose a Kingston woman who exemplifies the life experience of a woman born into privilege while never escaping the hand of unexpected fate. Kathleen McParland, born in 1885, was the daughter of a successful Gananoque wholesale liquor and tobacco merchant, whose success prompted a move to the larger community of Kingston, where the family lived comfortably in a stone mansion on the waterfront on Emily Street.

The McParlands' prosperity saw Kathleen grow up enjoying high social status in Kingston's Catholic community. She travelled with family in Europe; she displayed a flair for music and theatrics. In 1909 she was married to Frederick Hammond, scion of a wealthy Catholic family in Toronto. A wedding at St. Mary's Cathedral in Kingston was followed by residency in Toronto, where husband Frederick indulged his love of horses and things "British".

Fate's cruel shadow first fell on the young couple when their first-born, a son, died in infancy. There would be no further issue. To assuage the sorrow, the couple toured Europe, returning home when the menace of war darkened the horizon. Early in 1915, Frederick determined to "do his bit" by going to Britain to enlist, as a cavalry officer, in the British army. Frederick and Kathleen booked passage in May on the RMS Lusitania, sailing out of New York. Off Ireland, fate again raised its hand: a German U-boat torpedoed the liner, sinking it in 18 minutes. Kathleen after enduring four desperate hours was pulled from the chilly Irish Sea. Initially, she was told that Frederick had survived. However, she had been misinformed – it was another first-class passenger bearing the Hammond name who was among the rescued, not her own Frederick.

After recuperating, Kathleen spent the rest of the war in England. She lent her musical talents to the production of a musical review called "Hello, Canada" which raised money for wounded soldiers. In the spring of 1919, she returned to Canada. But fate was on her heels. She had contracted tuberculosis – or, as it was then called, consumption or the "white plague".

Although the bacillus causing TB had been identified, there was yet no sure cure for the disease. Sufferers were urged to seek cool, dry climates where their lungs might possibly restore themselves. Kathleen, a rich widow, headed for the Adirondack Mountains in upstate New York. There, in the town of Saranac Lake, she joined a colony of health seekers under the auspices of the famous Trudeau Sanitarium. Alas, it was to no avail: in September of that year Kathleen succumbed to her illness. Her brother came to take her body home; she was buried in Brockville. Fate had asked its last of Kathleen.

Dr. Campbell's eloquent and moving illustrated lecture is now available on YouTube. Visit the Kingston Historical Society's webpage, under Meetings and Events, for access.

FYI

The Sir John A. Macdonald Graveside Ceremony, with the departure of Alan MacLachlan as Programme Planner, is being organized this year by a committee of Peter Ginn, Peter Gower, Duncan McDowall and Don Richardson.

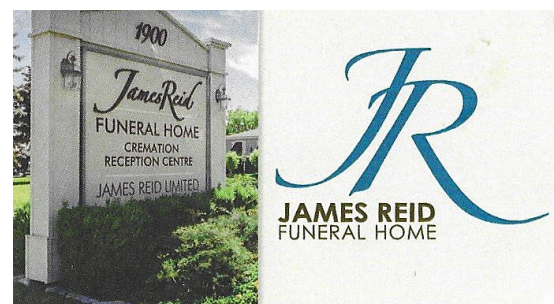
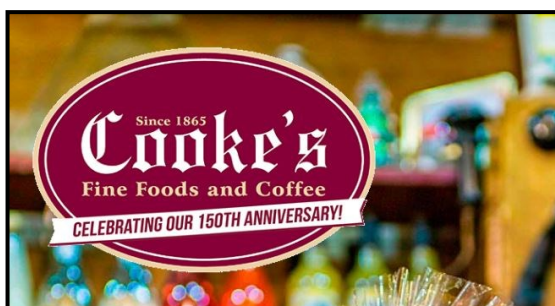
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Paul Van Nest reports that all schools have responded to the call for a winner of the KHS High School History Awards.

History Awards – Volunteers Needed

This is our third year of honouring a graduating student from each of the nine Kingston high schools who has excelled in history. The award of a society certificate and \$150 is presented at the graduation ceremonies.

This is an invitation to our members to volunteer to be a presenter. Please state the school of preference, if any, and contact Paul Van Nest 613-532-1903 or email pvannest@cogeco.ca



Join Us on June 6th to Commemorate Sir John A.

Friday, June 6th, 2025 at 1:30 pm

Cataraqui Cemetery – Macdonald historic site

follow signage off John Counter at Princess

For over a century, members of the Kingston Historical Society and the public at large have gathered at the graveside of Canada's first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald on the anniversary of his death on June 6th, 1891.

The ceremony is as much a celebration of Sir John's achievement as a statesman as it is a thoughtful reflection on Canada's strengths and weaknesses as a nation today.

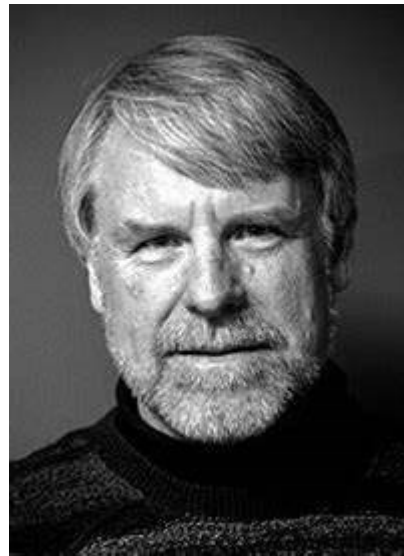
The ceremony is highlighted by a short address by a prominent Canadian

on Sir John's relevance in our national consciousness.

Past speakers have included the Rt.Hon. Brian Mulroney and the Hon. Murray Sinclair.

This year's speaker is
the well-known journalist,
biographer and novelist

Roy Macskimming



(www.roymacskimming.com)

**Please join us for this opportunity to reflect on the making
and values of our nation.**

***IF RAINY:** ceremony will move to Christ Church Anglican Church
nearby on cemetery grounds.*



The Art Exhibition
"Echoes: Reimagining Murney Tower"

running from April 5 at **Modern Fuel Artist-run Centre**,
located on the top floor of the Tett Centre, 370 King Street West, Kingston.
The exhibition will be at the Murney Tower in May.



Liana Shaw Reports:

Murney Tower Museum Welcomes 2025 Summer Staff

The Murney Tower Museum is delighted to introduce our 2025 summer student team!

Mackenzie Fitzpatrick joins us as **Chief Museum Assistant**. A recent graduate of the University of Toronto, Scarborough, Mackenzie brings extensive experience in gallery education, visitor engagement and team leadership from her role at the Doris McCarthy Gallery. She will begin her MA at Queen's University this fall.

Anandi Dajka, a Drama major and French minor at Queen's University, brings strong public speaking and customer service skills to her role as a **Museum Assistant**, honed through both academic training and work at the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts.

Victoria Payne, a third-year History and English student at Queen's, also joins as a **Museum Assistant**. With a passion for historical preservation and public outreach, Victoria offers hands-on experience in archival research and interpretation, most recently through her internship with the Rise Up! Feminist Archive.

We're thrilled to have this talented and enthusiastic team sharing Kingston's stories with our visitors this season!

Murney Tower Season Opening May 17



Alison and Lauren

Easter Egg Hunt at the Tower

On a chilly Saturday this month, nearly 250 visitors braved the weather to search all three levels of Murney Tower for fiendishly-hidden Easter eggs. Each egg held a letter, and once collected, participants had to unscramble a secret phrase to earn their Easter treats — and we're happy to report that everyone cracked the code!

The event was held in partnership with our friends at the Museum of Health Care, where a similar hunt took place. Special thanks to their team for loaning us a fantastic volunteer, Lauren, for the day!



Welcome, new members

Viriana Kardash