Limelight

Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

Kingston Ontario Canada

Volume 28 no 8 ISSN 1488-5565 November 2026

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

Kingston Historical Society Meeting November 18, 2026
presented live at 7 pm in the theatre lounge
of the Kingsbridge Retirement Community, 950 Centennial Drive,
and simultaneously offered via >>>Zoom

Dr. David More

"Unforgiving Seas:
The Schooner Women on the Great Lakes in the Age of Sail."

David holds a doctorate in history from Queen's,
is a boat builder and the author of many books
of historical fiction and non-fiction
about the waters that lap Kingston's shore.

It is noted, with regret, the death, on October 13, 2026, of Bill Patterson, a long-time member of the Kingston Historical Society and a winner of the KHS Centennial Award in 1998.

It is noted, with regret, the death, on October 17, 2026, of Lois Logan, a long-time member of the Kingston Historical Society.

The Kingston Historical Society *Established 1893*

Limelight is published nine times a year, September to May. Please forward submissions to the Editor: betty.andrews@gmail.com. Reprinting of articles must be accompanied by acknowledgement of the KHS and the date of the Limelight issue. By-lines and photo credits are to be retained.

President: Peter Gower Vice President: Kat MacDonald Treasurer: Peter Ginn Secretary: Don Richardson Councillors: Betty Andrews, Editor of Limelight; Duncan McDowall, Programme Chair; Craig Pettis, Webmaster; Liana Shaw, Director of Murney Tower; Ann Stevens, Publicity; Paul Van Nest, Membership Chair; Bob Mayo Member-at-large; Peter Gower, Editor of Historic Kingston

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

The Kingston Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of its sponsors.

Message from the President *by Peter Gower*



Sometimes good ideas just don't work out. At least 64 years after starting to distribute a regular mailed newsletter to members, your Executive has decided that we will no longer print a paper copy for mailing. Only a digital pdf will be available. The earliest newsletter I have seen is dated 10 September 1962. It notes that the membership fee is $2, that Margaret Angus will be speaking on the 19th in the City Council Chamber, where KHS used to meet, and that the Oliver Mowat plaque had been unveiled in front of the Court House. The acquisition of a building for the Kingston Historical Society Museum was still being discussed. The newsletter was a three foolscap page affair, black and white with no illustrations, and cost 2 cents to mail.

Times have changed. Today 160 of our members receive their copies electronically, with no printing or mailing costs. The remaining 40 mailed copies cost $3.33 each to print and $1.65 each to mail. The cost of envelopes is extra. So the total cost is $5.00, or $50.00 annually. The fee for a personal membership and for an institution is $40. We are losing money on the printings. So, regretfully, we will only be producing electronic copies, and note that those of you who want a paper copy can print your own. I wonder what Louis Flynn, President when that 1962 newsletter was mailed, would be thinking.

Executives have to make difficult decisions. If you disagree with our decisions, or even if you agree, please let our Secretary know that you would be interested in joining the Executive, and help us make better decisions. We are looking for a Vice President, and editors for Limelight and Historic Kingston and would welcome onboard members who do not want a specific job, but just want to help keep the Society running for another 133 years at least.

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Speaker's Corner *by Dr. Duncan McDowall*

Alicia Boutilier and The House that Agnes Built



For a small provincial town, Kingston enjoys a rich and vibrant cultural life. Many factors have contributed to this richness – the presence of two universities and government endowment of the arts has certainly enlivened local life. But private benefaction has added a crucially benevolent boost to Kingston's cultural life. In particular, the family names of Richardson, Etherington and, most recently, Bader have given Kingston a cultural aura enjoyed by few communities of its size.

At the Society's October lecture, we learned of the vision and generosity of Agnes Etherington (born 1880), a daughter of a local grain merchant George Richardson and wife of Queen's dean of medicine Dr. Frederick Etherington. As an adolescent, Agnes' artistic instincts bloomed. Married in 1921, she moved into a Georgian revival home – "Windburn" – on the edge of the Queen's campus. What followed was brought to life for us by Alicia Boutilier, a distinguished curator of Canadian art and currently the acting director of the Agnes Etherington Art Centre, a legacy of Agnes' commitment to the cultural life of Kingston.

In 1927, Agnes sponsored an Art and Music Club and then an Art Appreciation Club. By the mid-1930s, Agnes began dedicating time and money into what she described as "the furtherance of art and music" on Queen's campus and in the broader Kingston community. Using her spacious home as a platform, she provided funds for an artist-in-residence – Swiss-born André Bieler – at Queen's. Inspired by trips to Europe, Agnes oversaw art classes that reached out to the community. Advised by Bieler, she began assembling a collection of works by distinguished artists such as Lawren Harris and A.Y. Jackson.

When she died in 1954, Etherington's will left her grand home to the university. In 1957, the Agnes Etherington Art Centre opened and quickly became an epicenter for local cultural life. Expansion of both the building and collection followed. Queen's alumni Alfred Bader enhanced the progress through generous donations of Baroque art. Queen's now boasts five Rembrandts. Alicia "walked" us through the rooms and history of the "Agnes". Today, ongoing progress is reflected in a multi-million dollar revamping of the centre into a cutting-edge twentieth century cultural hub for Kingston. For all its architectural glamour, the new facility will still exude the glow of its far-sighted founder. Alicia's October lecture is available on YouTube through the Society's website.



...taken from September 1999 Limelight

The new Agnes Etherington Art Centre will open in May 2000. It will feature seven galleries that flow into each other with deliberate transitions, yet each room will be distinct and appropriate to its contents. The Dutch "old masters," for instance, will now have a room of their own. And everything will be better protected from the vagaries of temperature, humidity and light. More and better community programs will be offered within an expanded range.



Kingsbridge
Retirement Community by Signature



HOMESTEAD



William Patterson

Kingston, and the Historical Society, lost a stalwart member on 13 October 2026 with the death of William John (Bill) Patterson. Born on the Kingston Penitentiary farm, where his father was the Farm Instructor, he attended KCVI and Queen's, and then joined the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment: a true Kingston boy! He transferred to the Canadian Guards. After eight years of being constantly on the move, he came home with his family and became Superintendent of Historic Sites for the St. Lawrence Parks Commission, managing Upper Canada Village and Fort Henry. He also joined the army reserves and retired as a Brigadier General. When he moved back to Kingston he continued to be active in the community. We have heard him talk, always authoritatively, on Fort Henry, St. Mark's, Barriefield, the Kingson Penitentiary quarries and farm, women in the Penitentiary and finally on the Glens, the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders. In his retirement he also became a writer, with histories of the PWOR, the Grenadier Guards, Portland Township, Pittsburgh Township, St. Mark's, Barriefield, Canadian Military Communications, and the Glens. They are large, heavy, and carefully researched tomes – but he always kept his sense of humour. One Saturday, he formally presented Princess Anne with a copy of the weighty Semaphore to Satellite, the communications history, when she visited the Base. He greeted her on Sunday morning with "Did you read my book last night?" He will be greatly missed.

Kingston Historical Society Membership Renewal Membership

includes a series of 8 lectures, the annual journal *Historic Kingston,* 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 2027 now. New members joining from September through December 2026 will receive credit for the year 2027.

* $40 Individual * $50 Family * $10 Student * $50 Institution * $300 Sponsor

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Prov. _____ *Postal Code:* _____

Tel: ____- ____-_____ *Email:* _____

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

You have three ways to join and pay your dues: 1. By cheque and mail: Kingston Historical Society, PO Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6 2. Via the website: https://kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca Membership tab

3. By e-Transfer: treasurer@kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca

If we don't have your mailing address and telephone number, please include or send separately.

Royal Highland Emigrants at Carleton Island
by Dennis McCarthy

Raised in 1775 to defend British North America during the American Revolutionary War, the 84th Regiment of Foot (Royal Highland Emigrants) played a crucial role in securing the northern frontier. Recruited primarily from Scottish veterans and Highland immigrants who had settled in Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New York, the regiment's 1st Battalion was dispatched to the head of the St. Lawrence River in 1778.

To safeguard the vital supply line between Montreal and the upper Great Lakes posts, British forces established a key naval and military post on Carleton Island and constructed Fort Haldimand. Soldiers of the 84th Regiment formed the backbone of this frontier garrison, serving alongside Loyalist provincial units, British regulars, and Native American allies.



84th Regiment Officer's Button

Behind glass in the Cape Vincent Historical Museum rests a small, gilded artifact that was recovered near the officer's barracks: a single, polished officer's button bearing the insignia of the 84th Regiment of Foot. While buttons were standard military issue, this particular relic carries an uncommon history. It is one of the few tangible traces left by a small cadre of Highland officers who held the northern frontier for the British Crown—and it very well may have been worn by a direct ancestor of former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Born in Scotland around 1732, George McDougall forged a career on the volatile edge of the British Empire. Commissioned as an officer in the 60th (Royal American) Regiment of Foot, he was stationed at Fort Detroit during Pontiac's War in 1763. Sent under a flag of truce to parley with Chief Pontiac, McDougall and Captain Donald Campbell were seized as prisoners. While Campbell met a grim fate, McDougall orchestrated a daring escape through enemy lines, slipping back into the fort to survive one of the longest, bloodiest sieges on the frontier.

McDougall soon rooted himself firmly in frontier society, marrying Marie-Françoise Navarre, a daughter of Detroit's prominent French-Canadian habitant nobility. In 1768, McDougall set his sights on Île aux Cochons (Hog Island) in the Detroit River—the expanse now known as Belle Isle Park. Striking a direct treaty with Ottawa and Ojibwe leaders in 1769, he purchased the island with tobacco, rum, vermilion pigment, and an ornate wampum belt. Despite fierce protests from local French settlers who had used the island as common grazing land, British Commander-in-Chief Thomas Gage upheld McDougall's claim, securing the property as an elite private estate for his family.

When the American Revolution broke out, McDougall's fierce loyalty to King George III never wavered. He secured a commission as an officer in the newly raised 84th Regiment of Foot (Royal

Highland Emigrants), joining a proud battalion of Scottish veterans and Loyalist emigrants assembled to defend British North America.

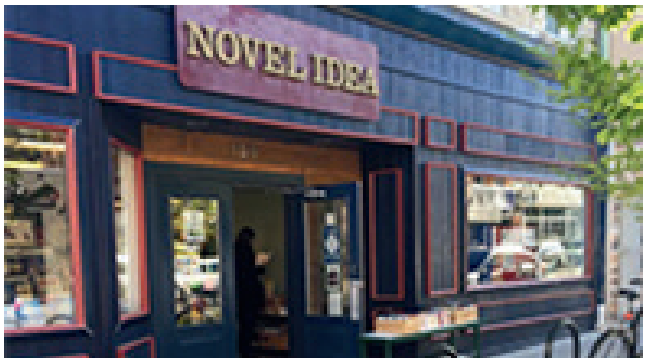
By 1778, the 84th's 1st Battalion was deployed to the head of the St. Lawrence River to construct Fort Haldimand on Carleton Island. Positioned at the threshold of Lake Ontario, the island became a massive, fortified transshipment hub, guarding waterborne supply lines, harboring naval gunboats, and staging Loyalist and Native American raids into the Mohawk Valley.

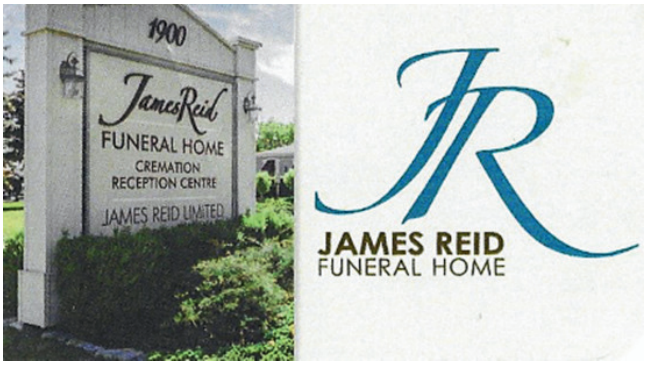
Stationed at this remote outpost, McDougall briefly took command of the garrison. The brutal winters, isolation, and disease common to the St. Lawrence borderlands quickly battered his constitution. Records confirm that McDougall's health collapsed, forcing him to relinquish command before he died on Carleton Island in the spring of 1780. Following military protocol of the frontier garrison, he was buried there in the windswept earth near the fort's ramparts.

When the Revolutionary War concluded, the 84th Regiment disbanded, leaving behind the chimneys and earthworks of Fort Haldimand. McDougall's children remained in the borderlands, with his son George Jr. serving as a magistrate in the Michigan territory. Over successive generations, the McDougall bloodline merged into the Howell family line of the midwest, and passed down through Dorothy Howell Rodham to her daughter, Hillary Rodham Clinton. Because Carleton Island hosted only a small handful of 84th Regiment officers during its brief, intense wartime existence, historians and local preservationists maintain that the gold 84th button preserved at the Cape Vincent Museum likely belonged to Captain George McDougall himself—a solitary keepsake from an officer who helped shape the frontier, died in Crown service, and lies buried in an unmarked island grave just across the channel."



Officer of the 84th

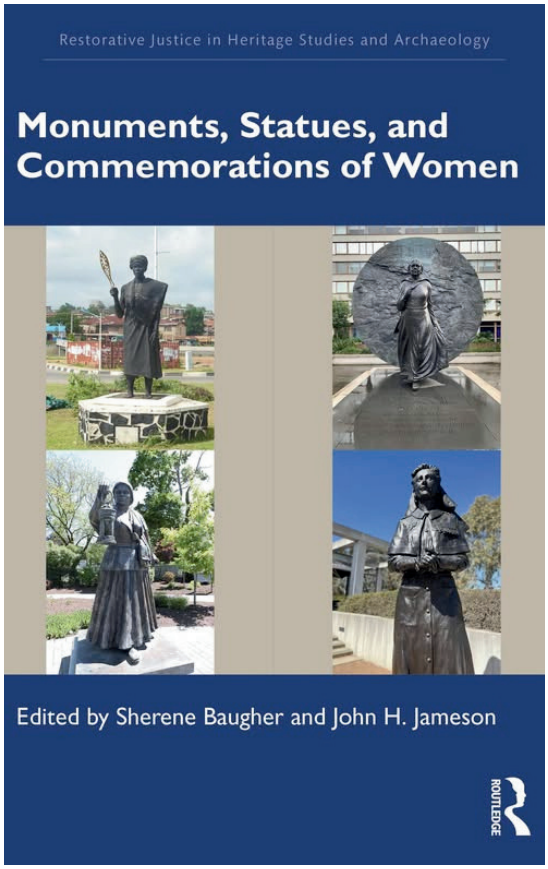




Monuments, Statues, and Commemorations of Women

edited by Sherene Baugher, John H. Jameson

This new publication with a chapter by **Sue Bazely** examines the heritage messages presented by statuary monuments, focusing on statues and monuments of women and exploring the challenges involved in depicting the key role played by women across different societies examining the motives behind – and impediments to – the installation and commemoration of women around the world from antiquity to the twenty-first century. Describing the role androcentrism has played in the great predominance of statues memorializing men, the book argues that the lack of statues of accomplished women renders their achievements invisible by erasing them. Chapter 3, Commemoration of Molly Brant: a Canadian and American Dichotomy in Memorialization of an Indigenous Woman is by Susan M. Bazely, known for her archaeological work in Kingston and especially that in relation to Molly Brant. She writes that Kanyen'kehà:ka (Mohawk) matriarch Molly Brant (c. 1736–1796) exerted considerable influence over her people and homeland in the pre-revolutionary British colony of New York. Archival and archaeological details of her final 13 years in Kingston, confirm that she remained a prominent Indigenous woman, and continued to be respected by the colonial administration. An examination of multiple twentieth- and twenty-first-century commemorations of this National Historic Person of Canada, reveal, however, an absence of her presence for well over 100 years, controversy in Indigenous circles, and minimal recognition at American sites.



Kingston is well known for its historic sites, buildings, and commemorative plaques (over 1,600) and although there exist sixcommemorations of Molly Brant, including a bust, her story, critically important to the resettlement of displaced Kanyen'kehà:ka and the success of British colonial settlement of Canada, remains invisible to her adopted community of Kingston, her own people, and is largely ignored or disparaged in the United States. The chapter illustrates the efforts to tell that story and demonstrates that the endeavors of today are lost to the past.

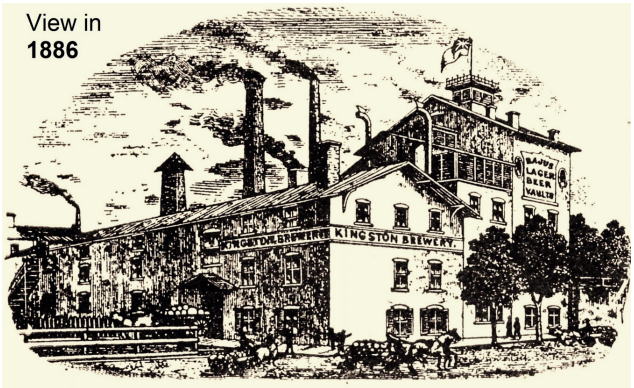
The book is available for purchase at https://www.routledge.com/Monuments-Statues-and-Commemorations-of-Women/Baugher-Jameson/p/book/9781032910383

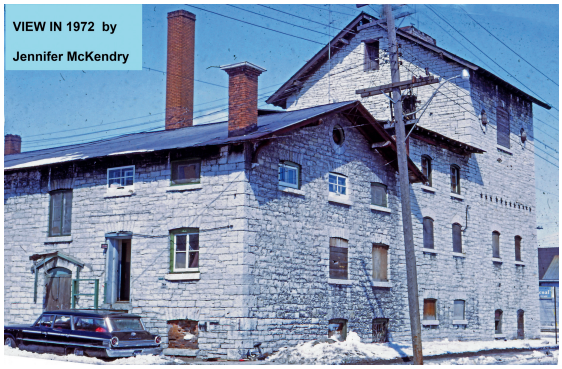
Still Standing

Looking at Regional Architecture with Dr. Jennifer McKendry

THE BAJUS BREWERY: "THE PUREST AND BEST"1852

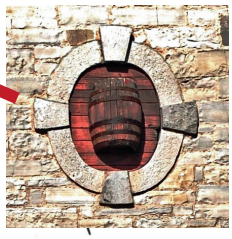
Now residential and commercial, Bajus Brewery, 308 Wellington Street near Bay, is a rare surviving example of an early industrial building in Kingston.

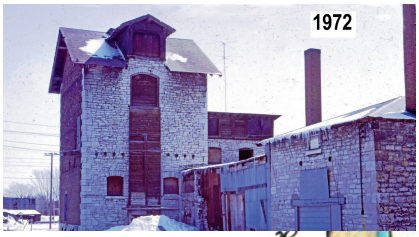




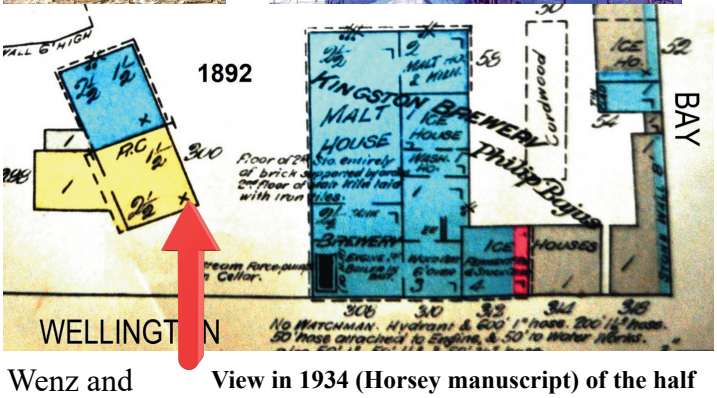


The tower sports, near the top, a loading door flanked by beer barrels within classical openings and, midway, a row of iron stars, which enliven the wall and act as the ends of tie-rods.





The site has a complex history stretching back to the 1790s as the location for a series of breweries, with the current stone building mainly dating from c1860 and designed by William Coverdale. Often called, "The Kingston Brewery," past owners and operators included Joseph Forsythe, John Darley, John Robins, Philip Wenz and Jacob Bajus who announced in 1852, "For the Public – Phillips' Old Brewery Still Alive!!" In 1923, the city directory noted that the Bajus Brewery was closed. In use for other purposes and with parts vacant, architects Inglis & Downey in the late 1980s made renovation plans for the site, including a new, 40-suite Bajus Place Condominium fronting Bay Street.



View in 1934 (Horsey manuscript) of the half shown in yellow (representing frame) and the other half in blue (representing stone), as noted on the 1892 fire insurance plan.



Fronting Rideau Terrace is a four-unit row of cottages, likely living quarters for the brewery workers.

Kingston Historical Society Award Nomination Form

The Kingston Historical Society Award was created in 1993 to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Kingston Historical Society. It is presented to those worthy individuals, groups or institutions in recognition of outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of local history. Members of the Society are encouraged to be part of these deliberations by nominating individuals or groups whom they feel have met the criteria for the Award, by making nominations using this form.

Completed forms may be mailed to the Awards Committee, Kingston Historical Society, Box 54, Kingston ON, K7L 4V8 Please use the format below if responding via e-mail.

The deadline for nominations is 15 January 2027.

Name of NOMINEE:

_____

Address of Nominee: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone Number_____

Nominator[KHSMember]_____

Address: _____ Postal Code _____

TelephoneNumber_____ _____ _____

Please give as much information as possible about your nominee. Details which are obvious to you may not be known by members of the Awards Committee.

Doane Grant Thornton

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Ear to the Ground — by Elizabeth Durno

Events of interest for history buffs

The Lennox and Addington County Museum in Napanee, which was featured in the March 2025 Limelight, is celebrating its **50th anniversary** with an exhibition about its opening year of 1976 .
Visit the exhibition at 97 Thomas Street, Napanee
or at countymuseum.ca/before-google

Ontario Geneological Society Kingston Branch meets November 21 at 10 am on Zoom discussing how to use the Ontario Land Records Index to research your ancestors occupying land in Ontario.

KHS President Peter Gower will be speaking
on Themes of Kingston: An Illustrated Journey Through 400 Years
at the Aging Well and Talking Cafe
at the Kingston East Community Centre, 779 Hwy. 15
on Friday, November 6, at 2pm

Horne's Ferry For over 200 years seasonal ferry service operated between Wolfe Island, Ontario, and Cape Vincent, New York. Since the 1860s the ferry was owned and operated by the Wolfe Island Horne family. In September 2024,when Captain George Darrell Horne died, the ferry service was discontinued. We now hear that, if border and vessel inspection arrangements can be made, the service may resume with a new owner in 2027.

The 26th **Annual Indigenous Knowledge Symposium** is being held November 12 at the Tett Centre. Indigenous elders, historians and scholars come together to share cultural heritage and traditional knowledge regarding the local area.

Welcome New Member

Beth Simard

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Murney Tower: Beyond the Season

by Liana Shaw

September brought an opportunity to share Murney Tower's work with museum professionals from across the country when Alison and I presented at the Interpretation Canada conference at Fort Henry. We also welcomed Queen's history graduate students to the tower for a networking event, while Phantoms of Yore again brought some decidedly spookier visitors to the tower.

We're disappointed that the upcoming bridge replacement means we can't reopen the tower for the kids' Hallowe'en event that proved so popular last year. Our friends at the Museum of Health Care have kindly welcomed us to take part in their festivities, however, and we're already looking forward to transforming the tower into a Hallowe'en wonderland once again next October!

We have also said farewell to our programming coordinator, Alexa, with warm thanks for everything she has contributed to Murney Tower. We will miss her enthusiasm and knowledge but look forward to seeing her at the Scout Museum's booth at Kingston community events.

Meanwhile, work continues behind the scenes. Our fall intern Ethan is helping catalogue the collections in our new database, and summer student Rhianna is staying involved as a volunteer. Research is beginning for an exhibit exploring the environmental history of Murney Point, and school programming continues, with classroom visits taking shape for winter and museum visits booked for spring.

Like many small museums, Murney faces growing pressure as the funding we have traditionally relied upon becomes more limited. Partnerships, community support and the commitment of our staff and volunteers remain essential as we plan for the years ahead. Thank you to KHS members for your continued interest and support—it means a great deal to everyone working to keep the tower's stories alive.

