

LIMELIGHT

Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society
Kingston Ontario Canada

Vol 17 no 4

ISSN 1488-5565

September 2015



Photo: MT Staff

L to R: Sheila Williams, Paul Mills, Graeme Watson—MT Director, Johanna Strong and Sophie Kiwala, MPP for Kingston and the Islands

SEPTEMBER MEETING

*Kingston's Early Education
and Schools*
by Gordon Sly

Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at 7:30 pm

**Senior's Centre, Frontenac Room
56 Francis Street**

Murney Tower Museum 90th Anniversary

Eventful Summer at Murney Tower

Murney Tower Museum has had an incredibly successful summer. We had visitors from all Canada and all over the world. Some people were first time guests, and others come every year. Here are some of our favourite events from this year. (See more photos inside)

Grand Opening

This year Murney Tower welcomed MP Ted Hsu, Mayor Brian Paterson, Councillors Peter Stroud and Liz Schell, and the grade seven LEAP class from Calvin Park Public School. As always, members from the KHS were also there to give their support.



Photo: MT Staff

Kingston Historical Society 2015 Executive Council



Top Row: Peter Gower, Don Richardson, Gordon Sinclair, Betty Andrews, John Whiteley, Paul Van Nest; Front Row: Graeme Watson, Peter Ginn, Anne Richardson, Corinne Harrison Absent: Joe Brites, Nancy Day, Ben Holthof, Marcus Letourneau,
Photo: Alan MacLachlan

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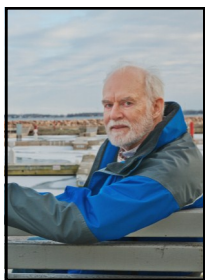


photo by Kristen Ritchie

I hope that you have all had the summer that you hoped for. KHS, at the Murney Tower, have been delighted with the increase in visitors, the publicity and the work of our student staff in this our 90th year of operating the Tower. Thanks are due to Graeme Watson and his committee for their innovations, and to the City's Heritage Fund for financing them.

I learned many new insights into contemporary history when I read Christopher Andrew's authorised history of Britain's MI5, "The Defence of the Realm". It was a good reminder that you do not always know what you are living through until the researcher can look at all of the evidence and find out what really happened! I have also been delving into George R. R. Martin's fictional series "A Song of Ice and Fire", popularised as "Game of Thrones". It certainly reminds us that for much of humankind's existence, life was indeed nasty, brutal and short – and, you might add to Hobbes' thought, very painful.

We are still homeless, having been banished from the Library for their renovations, which seem to be taking a long time to start. While St. Andrew's was a good venue, where we may return sometime, it was unfortunately not available for all of our needed dates in the fall. So we will travel again. The three fall meetings will all be in the Seniors' Centre on Francis Street. There is ample parking, and we will be meeting on the first floor, so there is no accessibility problem. Drive west on Johnson, and take the second left after the Richardson Stadium, onto Mowat Avenue. The second street on your right is Francis, and the Centre is ahead of you, where the street curves to the left. See you there!



THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established in 1893

LIMELIGHT is published 5 times a year in January, March, May, September and November. Please forward submissions to the Editor, Corinne Harrison corinneharrison111@gmail.com

Printing of articles must be accompanied by an acknowledgement of the Society, the issue and date. All photo credits and by-lines must be retained. The KHS gratefully acknowledges the support of our sponsors in producing LIMELIGHT.

KHS MEETINGS are held usually at 7:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month, September to May. For the next few meetings, we will be at the Senior's Centre on Francis Street, in the Frontenac Room. Refreshments are served; a small donation is appreciated. Annual events include a formal fine dining experience with a special presentation honouring the birthday of Sir John A. Macdonald, on the Saturday closest to January 11th, and a commemoration marking his death at the Cataraqui Cemetery National Historic Site on June 6th.

Canada's First Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, was born in 1815 and passed away in 1891.

NEW MEMBERS are always welcome! Membership rates are \$50 per individual, \$60 for families, \$60 for institutions and \$25 for students.

Membership includes: an invitation to attend our monthly meetings; 5 issues of *Limelight*, our newsletter; and a copy of *Historic Kingston*, the annual journal published by the KHS.

MAILING ADDRESS:

Kingston Historical Society
P.O. Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6

kingstonhs@gmail.com
www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca

KHS October Meeting, Wednesday the 21st

7:30 pm at **Senior's Centre, Francis Street**
Frontenac Room

"The Brant Family in Kingston"

with Jean Baxter

Source: UEL



KHS November Meeting Wednesday, November 18th

"Collecting Sir John A. Memorabilia"

with Paul Fritz

7:30 pm

at **Senior's Centre, Francis Street**
Frontenac Room

Kingston Historical Society Awards Night

Time & Date TBA

**Please get your nominations in by
October 31st**

(see article on page 6)

The Kingston Historical Society hosted the

Commemoration Service for Sir John A. Macdonald

*at his gravesite
in the Cataraqui Cemetery National Historic Site*

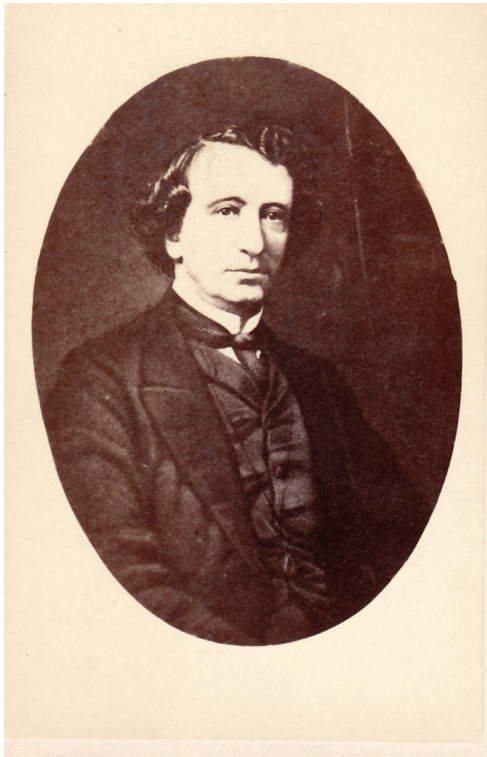
Saturday, June 6th at 1:30 pm

Guest Speaker: The Honourable Robert (Bob) Rae, PC OC O.Ont QC

It was a very touching ceremony attended by many— under clear, blue skies.



Sir John A. Macdonald Anniversary Dinner — Saturday, January 9, 2016



Our guest speaker for this year's Sir John A. Macdonald Anniversary Dinner, **Saturday, January 9th, 2016**, will be Bishop Michael Bedford-Jones whom people will remember as Dean of St. George's Cathedral. The topic of his talk will be "Thomas Bedford-Jones, my great-grandfather and his relationship with Sir John A. Macdonald for the last 15 years of his life".

The dinner will take place at the Senior Staff Mess at the Royal Military College. Please gather in the Mess at 6:00 pm to meet our guest. The dinner will commence at 7:00 pm. The cost for the dinner will be **\$70.00** per person. Seating will be limited to 100 members and guests. Please fill out the tear off portion below and send it along with your payment made out to the:

**Kingston Historical Society
C/O Anne Richardson
750 Amaryllis Street
Kingston, Ontario
K7P 0A9**

All reservations must be received no later than **December 21, 2015**.

NOTE The annual date for this event will now occur on the Saturday closest to his birthday.

16th Annual Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner

Name(s): _____

Telephone and Email _____

Number of members attending: _____ # of Vegetarian meal(s) _____

Number of guests attending: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

Please list any food allergies: _____

Please ensure you include the names of all those attending the dinner.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

of historical interest



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*www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca
kingstonhs@gmail.com*

Annual KHS Awards

The Kingston Historical Society annual awards are given to individuals, groups and institutions in recognition of their contributions to the preservation, understanding and interpretation of local Kingston history.

Members of the KHS are asked to nominate those that they believe meet this award criteria. Please send your nomination by letter or email. Be sure to include the nominee's contact information and why you believe the candidate should be recognized.

Nominations by mail should be sent to:

Chairperson,
KHS Awards Committee,
Box 54, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4V8.

If submitting by email, send your nomination to
1985@kos.net.

The deadline for nominations is **October 31, 2015**.
The awards will be presented at the Annual KHS
Awards Night.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

The Kingston Branch of the **Ontario Genealogical Society** will meet in the Frontenac Room of the Kingston Seniors' Centre, 56 Francis St., on
Saturday, September 19th at 10 a.m.

Patti Mordasewicz will speak on:

"Getting to Know the Neighbours - Resources at the Leeds & Grenville Archives"

Visitors welcome. Further details at www.ogs.on.ca/kingston

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

"To whom it may concern:

I am a graduate student in Archaeology at Syracuse University studying the colonial defense network of Antigua in the West Indies. I just finished reading Alexander V. Campbell's book on the Royal American Regiment. I cannot seem to find any contact information on him at all, except for a brief bio on your website. I was hoping that someone within the Kingston Historical Society might have his contact email or be able to ask him if he would be interested in speaking with me.

I am particularly interested if he has any information about the types of garrison duties the 60th Regiment undertook while serving in the Caribbean. As an archaeologist, I have come across the material remains from the 60th in the form of regimental buttons and headstones of soldiers and their family members who died in Antigua.

Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

With kind regards,

Christopher Waters
Graduate Student I Teaching Assistant
Department of Anthropology | Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs
Syracuse University"

Champlain hunts at Dog Lake

Watch for this story in next issue of Limelight!

An short account by Champlain of a hunting trip with natives in the area in the Fall of 1615 that involved the great explorer getting lost for a couple of days, which he seems to treat as an unfortunate inconvenience (two weeks earlier he'd had an arrow in his knee in a battle with the Iroquois in what's now Syracuse. An amazing man, and certainly tough!)

Submitted by Stephen Monty of Battersea, Ontario



DJs from radio stations 98.9 The Drive and 98.3 Fly fm

GoAhead Tours & Education First VIMY RIDGE CENTENNIAL Upcoming Presentation

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH
6:30-7:30PM

SENIOR'S CENTRE, 56 FRANCIS STREET



St. Andrew's guides and Salon actors



*The Manse, 1841
with Shannon's
Cannon*



*Victorian era
furnishings*



*St. Andrew's
Clergy at Princess
since 1822*



*Don Richardson of the KHS hosts
St. Andrew's guides at historic City Hall*

History Comes Alive at St. Andrew's

by Annie Dilworth and Chloe Grande

For many Kingstonians, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is a familiar landmark. Despite its central downtown location at Clergy and Princess, some local residents may not be aware of its remarkable historical significance.

Since the erection of the original edifice by Loyalist and Scottish immigrants in 1822, the church has maintained close ties with notable Kingston politicians, intellectuals and academic institutions. As a member of St. Andrew's congregation, Sir John A. Macdonald played a pivotal role in the founding of Queen's University in 1839. He seconded the motion in favour of creating a local school to train Presbyterian ministers. Two years later, Queen's was established through the determined efforts of the church trustees. Reverend John Machar even served as an unpaid Principal for seven years. His daughter, Agnes Maule Machar, was a well-educated woman ahead of her times, and also left a legacy in Kingston. In addition to being an acclaimed artist and writer, she was a prominent feminist, environmentalist and social reformer.

Cadets at the Royal Military College of Canada also attended Sunday services. A young Billy Bishop certainly left his mark at St. Andrew's. "W. A. Bishop" is carved into the back of a pew. Many members of the congregation served in the First and Second World Wars, and are commemorated by plaques and memorial windows throughout the sanctuary.

St. Andrew's connection to Kingston's heritage extends well beyond the formidable stone walls of the church. The first minister, Reverend John Barclay, is buried in McBurney Park, otherwise known as Skeleton Park. Barclay strongly advocated for a Presbyterian cemetery, which later became a public burial ground, and a final resting place for the Scottish minister.

Shannon's cannon, located on the south church lawn, often takes visitors to St. Andrew's by surprise. This authentic cannon dates back to the Siege of Londonderry in 17th century Ireland. Named after Protestant Orangeman William Shannon, it was donated to the church in 1909.

The current residents of St. Andrew's handsome manse, Salon Theatre Productions, showcase Kingston's rich heritage with their theatrical shows. Notably, their outdoor theatre experience, *In Sir John A's Footsteps*, explores the life of Canada's first Prime Minister.

To passersby, St. Andrew's is a stunning building to behold. The church's Romanesque-style stone architecture features beautiful stained glass windows, high arches and an impressive bell tower. Yet, the most intriguing stories about St. Andrew's come alive inside the sanctuary, where the historical interpreters share lesser-known details about its heritage. Offered during the summer, the free tours give church visitors an in-depth look at a fascinating part of Kingston's past and present.

Annie Dilworth and Chloe Grande, students from Queen's University, served as interpreters at historic St. Andrew's this past summer. Part of their professional development included visiting other heritage sites in Kingston, such as Bellevue House, the Murney Tower Museum and City Hall.

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