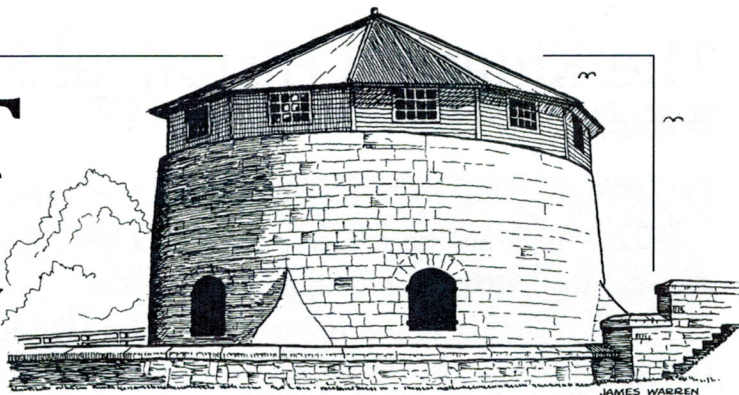


LIMELIGHT

Newsletter of the
Kingston Historical Society

vol 15 no 6 September 2013 ISSN 1488-5565



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

That summer certainly became history very quickly! KHS started with much activity, when our speaker cancelled on June 6th, and it rained that day. Thanks are due to all, especially Alan MacLachlan and Arthur Milnes, for working so efficiently and so well at the last minute. The ceremony, inside at Christ Church Anglican, seemed as though it had always been planned that way, and was graced with the presence of ex-Prime Minister John Turner.

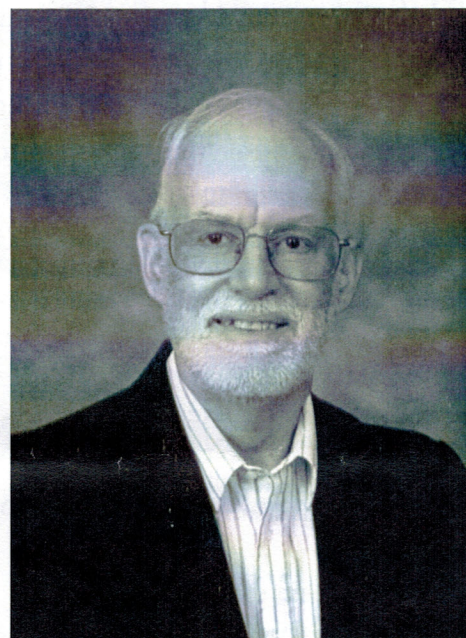
If you have not yet thought of yourself as history, you might want to buy your grandchildren a copy of "Grandpa. His stories. His Words" (ISBN978-19354 1405 6) (there is also a Grandma version: see www.live-inspired.com). They will then have many questions to ask you, and a book to record answers to such questions as "What two major news events influenced you?", "How far away from your grade and High Schools were you, and how did you get there?", and "Are there any black sheep in our family?". Your grandchildren will end up with a wonderful survey of your life and their family.

I also spent time reading the collection of Donald Swainson's writing, "Personalizing Place" which gathers together many of his writings on Kingston people and institutions. It reminds us what a

wonderful place in which we are privileged to live. I would thoroughly recommend it for you, or for you to give as a present to anybody who is at all interested in the City.

I look forward to meeting you all again on September 18th, usual time and place, to start a new year of fascinating insights into Kingston and its past.

Peta Fowler



In this issue...

President's Report	1
Masthead	2
Right Stop Restaurant	3
June 6 Commemorative Service Pictorial	4 & 5
History Related Announcements	6
Tom's Shoe Repair	7
Speakers' Corner	8

The Kingston Historical Society

established 1893

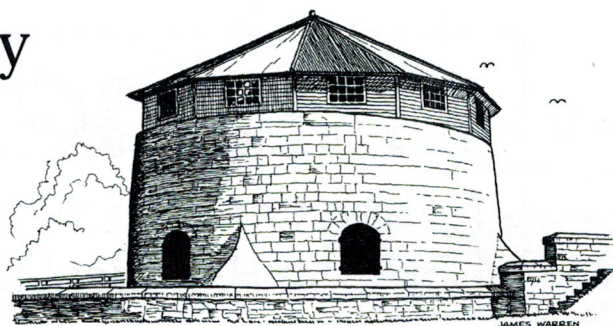
Limelight is published nine times a year - September to May. Submissions should be addressed to the Editor, John Fielding at 613-544-0086 or johnffielding@gmail.com.

Limelight is designed and printed by Versus Business Forms (613-381-7667 blair@versusforms.com). Reprinting of

articles must be accompanied by the acknowledgement: "Reprinted from *Limelight* (issue & date) published by Kingston Historical Society". All photo credits and by lines must be retained. The Kingston Historical Society (KHS) gratefully acknowledges the support of our sponsors in the production of *Limelight*.

KHS holds monthly talks or events, usually at 7:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month, September to May, usually in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library on Johnson Street at Bagot Street. Special annual events include a dinner and talk honouring the birthday of Sir John A. Macdonald in January and a ceremony marking his death in June.

New members are welcome! Membership rates are \$50 individual, \$60 family, \$60 institutional or \$25 student. Memberships include *Historic Kingston*, published annually by The Kingston Historical Society.



Murney Tower by James Warren

Kingston Historical Society

Box 54, Kingston, ON K7L 4V6
kingstonhs@gmail.com
www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca

Executive

Peter Gower, *President*
Gordon Sinclair, *Past President*
Anne Richardson, *Vice President*
Don Richardson, *Secretary*
Randall Levi, *Treasurer*

Councillors

Alicia Boutilier
Warren Everett
Peter Ginn
Alan MacLachlan

Ron Ridley
Paul Van Nest
John Whitely



The Kingston Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the
Ministry of Culture of the Government of Ontario

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Wednesday, 18 September 2013 7:30 PM

Great Conveniences for Smuggling:

***The Bust on Carleton Island, August 1821, and
International Relations in the Wake of the War of 1812***

Walter Lewis

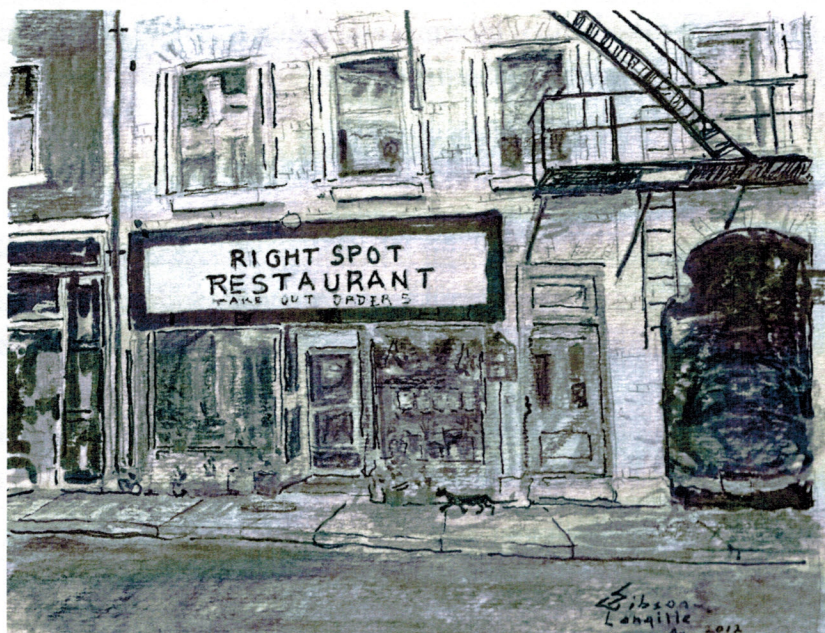
**Wilson Room of the Kingston Frontenac Public Library
Johnson Street, at Bagot Street**

Refreshments

All Welcome

RIGHT SPOT RESTAURANT, 1977-

Written & Painted by Shirley Gibson-Langille



In 2012, I painted this picture of the Right Spot Restaurant at 171 Wellington Street. I was always curious to read the historical iron plaque on the outside of the building. Also it always gave me pleasure to see the lovely plants in and out of their windows.

In 2013, I decided to go there for breakfast and to learn about its history to write a story. I walked into this old fashioned type restaurant. On the right at the back was the kitchen and beside that a counter with stools. At the front were you paid your bill was a glassed in counter that had gift items displayed there. There were a couple of men having breakfast in one of the booths that lined the other side of the wall. My friend Don Sleeth of Camera Kingston was sitting at one of

the middle tables. He invited me to join him. He told me he had been coming there since it opened. He introduced me to his friends and owners, Penny and Gus Marras a two person team. Gus serves and Peggy does the cooking and baking. Penny got her culinary training at 17 when she went to work for Mr. Sugarman at his Town and Country Restaurant on Princess at Clergy Street. They work seven days a week and have barely missed a day in 35 years.

Customers were coming in and it wasn't hard to tell they weren't only coming in for their delicious food and cheap prices but also for the warm hearted interactions with Gus and Penny. By the looks of her many plants she also gives them the same loving attention.

As for the history, Penny told me they bought and opened their business in 1977. Vandermeer's Meat Market had been there before them since 1966. Before that it was Underwood Limited then Underwood Olivetti.

Now for the sensational part of the story. When leaving, I realized I hadn't checked out the historical brass plaque on the front. I could hardly believe my eyes. It said that the building was built in 1835 and was the first law office for none other than Sir John A. Macdonald the Father of Confederation!

Kingston's Independent Bookstore

156 Princess Street

613-546-9799

Oscar Malan, Bookseller

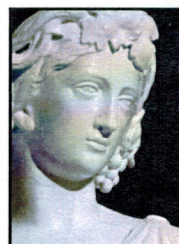
**NOVEL
IDEA** 



*We design & supply effective
forms & labels to help your
business run more efficiently*

www.versusforms.com

IRON DUKE
On Wellington 
Heritage and Hospitality on Tap



Be a Part of History
Cataraqui Cemetery

613-546-6545 · 927 Purdy's Mill Road · Est. 1850

6 June: The 120th Commemoration Service of the Death of Sir J.

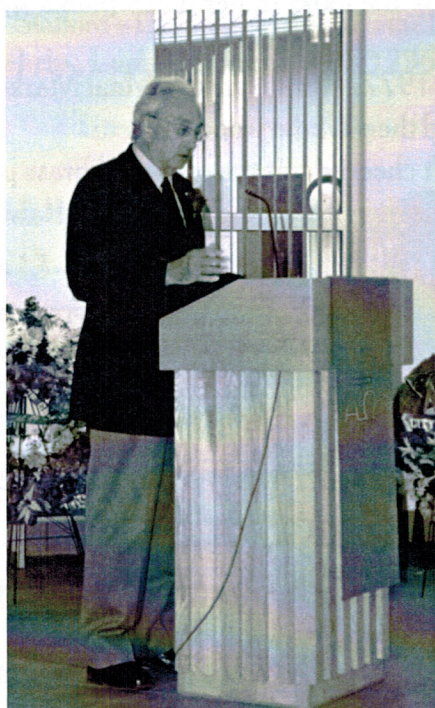
For the second time in the last four years we had to move the annual 6 June Commemorative Service of the D occasion and were most amenable on such short notice. Though overcast outside and the rains did come, th Valerie Fisher who led us in our national anthem, "O Canada".

Our Master of Ceremonies, Peter Radley, orchestrated the program with adroitness, alacrity and flexibility. our guest speaker was Mr. Arthur Milnes, the Commissioner of the Sir John A. Macdonald Bicentennial C A.'s role across history as a source of inspiration for each of the 21 people, who have, like him, held the lone

Following the traditional laying of wreaths, 14 in all, which included our three levels of government and org Post and Reveille by the bugler from Fort Henry. The Benediction was given by the Rev. Tony Boonstra of S "God Save the Queen".

Following the commemoration, the gathering retired to the foyer of Christ Church and the outside entrance Blair Peever and the staff at Christ Church Cataraqui, the staff of Bellevue House, the Cataraqui Cemetery ceremony one of colour, pageantry and tradition. We are indebted to Peter Ginn for being the photographer

The success of this event, especially given the unforeseen weather conditions, was the result of dedication Osborne, Bob Lemmon, Donna Lusk, Mark Bennett, Eva Barnes, Peter Gower and Gordon Sinclair.



Master of Ceremonies Peter Radley



Guest speaker Arthur Milnes



R. G. Sinclair

John A. Macdonald

Written by Alan MacLachlan
Photos by Peter Ginn

... of Sir John A. Macdonald indoors to Christ Church Cataraqui. Father Blair Peever and his staff rose to the service was lit up by the 70 voices of the R. Gordon Sinclair Public School Choir under the direction of Mrs.

... over 175 in attendance. The service began with a bible reading and prayer by Rev. Blair Peever. This year mission. His address was titled :The President of the Prime Minister's Club" in which he examined Sir John office of Prime Minister of Canada. The full text of his address will be found in the 2013 Historic Kingston.

... ations affiliated with Sir John, the lament was played by the Fort Henry Guard piper concluding with the last Andrews Presbyterian Church. We then rose and joined the R. Gordon Sinclair School choir in the singing of

... refreshments and conviviality. We gratefully acknowledge the roles played by Aunt Lucy's Restaurant, Rev. aff, John Coleman for the insert, the R.C.M.P. constables and the Fort Henry Guard, all of whom made this he event.

... d attention to detail by the committee: Alan MacLachlan (Chair), Barbara Bonner, Peter Radley, Brian



School Choir



Fort Henry Guard assist with the dedication of the wreaths



A surprise guest:
the Right Honourable John Turner

History Related Announcements

The Kingston Branch of the **Ontario Genealogical Society** will meet in the Wilson Room of Kingston Frontenac Public Library, 130 Johnson St., on Saturday, September 21, 2013 at 10 a.m. Captain Brian Johnson will present "Ferry Tales from Wolfe Island", based on his new book of the same name. Visitors always welcome. Further info at www.ogs.on.ca/kingston

Kingston Historical Society Awards Inaugurated in 1993, to mark the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Kingston Historical Society, these awards have been made annually to individuals, groups and institutions in recognition of outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of local history.

Members of the Society are encouraged to nominate (with detailed reasons for the nomination) those whom they feel meet the criteria for the award. Please do so in writing either on paper or via e-mail, giving the name and contact information of your nominee, and as much information as possible about your reasons for nominating the person, group or institution.

Completed nominations should be sent to Chairperson, KHS Awards Committee, Box 54, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 4V8 or to Chairperson KHS Awards, . no later than October 31, 2013.

Award presentations are made at the annual KHS Christmas Party in December.

Requests for information

"Subject: Edward Herbert (Ted) Storey

Hello, my name is Mallory Reid. I work for the 1000 Island Antique Boat Museum Trust located in Gananoque, Ontario. I was asked to complete a short biography on Ted Storey for The Arthur Child Heritage Museum located here in Gananoque. I was wondering if you could provide me with any relevant information about Ted and his career? I noticed that Ted was once affiliated with the Historical Society in Kingston. If you have any contacts that would be helpful as well. If you are able to help me out I would be very appreciative. mallory_reid@hotmail.ca"

"Good morning - I'm trying to locate an old cottage/fishing camp business that operated during the 1950's & 1960's. It was called "Stafford's Landing" and was on the Rideau, not too far from Kingston, in an area we called River Sticks. (sic) ...Hope you can help. Louis Zaydon, Jr. (717) 236-2774"

- * 61 Brock St
- * 613-548-7721
- * www.cookesfinefoods.com

Established 1865



THE PILOT HOUSE OF KINGSTON

265 KING ST EAST

613-542-0222



RESTAURANT
68-R Princess St
613-549-7673

"The Pig with a Peel"

PAN CHANCHO 44 Princess St 613-544-7790



Dining Room / Bar

Courtyard Terrace

69 Brock Street

613-549-5635

Tom's Shoe Repair 1980-2013

167 Wellington Street

Written & Painted by Shirley Gibson-Langille

I painted this business in 2012. The sign read "Toms Shoe Repair George the Hatter-Orthopedic Shoe Repair". I was curious about his connection to George the Hatter who used to be at 90 Princess Street near Bibby's Department Store in the 40's. I never was in there but was told that besides being a cobbler repairing shoes and boots, he had a great business cleaning and reshaping bowlers and fedora hats. He had shelves of different styles and size hat moulds. On another shelf there were boots and shoes that no one had picked up for sale. Also there was a shoeshine man there. George closed his business in 1980. It was then that Tom bought all of his machinery etc. and started his business at 167 Wellington Street where Aird and Rush Fine Jewellery had been since 1977. From 1961-1977 it had been offices of the Bank next door. From 1935 to 1959, William McCormick and George Cotman ran Doyle's Haircutting Place. I was especially interested to find out that from 1905-1912 it was Sarah and Rebecca's Fancy Goods Shop downstairs. On the second floor were the dressmakers. Some of them lived on the 3rd and 4th



floor. Apparently since that time the 4th floor has been haunted by the ghost of Esther B. She wants to show off her beautiful dress but doesn't want you to see her face.

Getting back to 2013 and Tom's Shoe Repair, I decided to take my "Perfect Balance" shoes into Tom's for new heels. I asked him if he still did hats. He had done hats for ten years before putting the moulds in the basement.

I came back the following week to pick up my shoes. They weren't quite ready so I sat down to wait for them. I found it interesting watching him work on the multi revolving machine on the sanding wheel, heel grinder cone and horsehair brushes. He then sprayed them and put them on the counter for me to see. They looked like new and well worth the \$30 he charged me. I asked him what he did with shoes that hadn't been picked up. He gave them to the Salvation Army. It was then that he told me the sad news that he had sold the building. I don't know if he will find someone to buy his repair and hatter business equipment. It might be an end of an interesting time in Kingston's history?

Oh! Oh! Maybe not! I read today that men's fedora hats are coming back in style?

Larry Brennan - Sales Representative
Royal LePage Proalliance Realty

Independently Owned and Operated

(613) 384-1200 Office

(613) 329-7222 Cell

lbrennan2@cogeco.ca

www.larrybrennan.com



Marc F. Raymond
OPTICIANS LTD

324 King St E. 613-549-2020

Speakers' Corner

Murney Tower and its role in the defence of Kingston

Presented by Bob Garcia

by Ron Ridley
Photos by Peter Ginn

Our May meeting featured a presentation by Bob Garcia, the Parks Canada historian for the Ontario district. Bob's talk to the Society covered the development of the Kingston fortifications system.

Following the War of 1812, the British army realized that Kingston was an important lynchpin in the defence of Upper Canada. British Royal Engineers saw that a bypass of the bottleneck of the St. Lawrence River was critical and work began on the design of the Rideau Canal, one of the largest military feats of the postwar strategy. It was also realized that because Kingston was at the southern end of the canal, housed the Royal Navy Dockyards and was important as the transportation junction of the St. Lawrence River, the Rideau Canal and Lake Ontario, that significant fortifications were required here.



The first plans of the strategic defence of Kingston included three redoubts, or forts, on the outskirts of the city to defend the western approaches, along with Martello Towers. On the other side of the Cataraqui River, two other redoubts and supporting towers provided an outer, supporting fire system north of a newly designed Fort Henry. However, cost overruns on the Rideau Canal project resulted in a scaling back of the ambitious, but costly plan. In the end, Fort Henry was slightly reconfigured to increase its northern facing defences and the redoubts on the eastern side of the river were postponed. Work began in 1832 and the redoubt and advanced battery of Fort Henry were completed by 1837. The commissariat stores were built in 1841-43 to connect these two features.

The Oregon Border dispute with the United States saw a rapid resumption of military building in Kingston and the iconic Martello Towers along the waterfront were erected in a two-year period between 1846-48. These defences also included the earthworks around the tower on Point Frederick and the Market Battery in front of City Hall. The ambitious defences on the western and northern edges of the city were eliminated. The Martello Towers on Kingston's waterfront, were not fully armed with guns until the American Civil War commenced in 1861, prompting the last large-scale increase in spending on the defences of British North America. The final defences provided an intricate system of interlocking arcs of fire that would have made an attack on Kingston a complicated and costly venture. Fortunately, the defences were never tested.



With the exception of the Market Battery, which was taken down for the railway lines in the 1870s, all four of the towers, Fort Frederick and Fort Henry are a lasting reminder of Kingston's military legacy of the nineteenth century and are the most complete and advanced remaining fortification system constructed in Canada by the British Army.

John Grenville thanked Mr. Garcia on behalf of all in attendance.