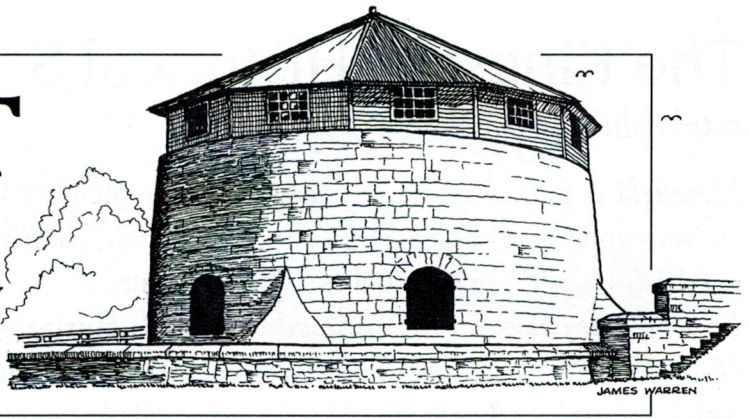


# LIMELIGHT

Newsletter of the  
Kingston Historical Society

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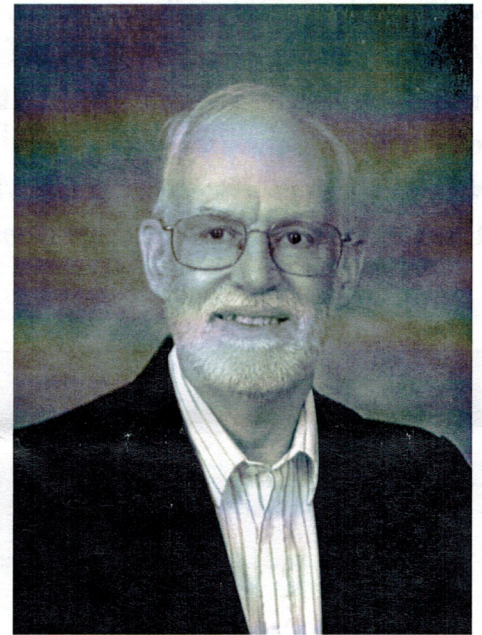
## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

John Fielding's article last month, First Impressions of Kingston was yet another reminder that we today are tomorrow's history. With regard to Kingston, I would not be of much help. My diary notes that I passed through, travelling by bus from Toronto to Montreal in late fall 1965. It was night and it was snowing. I had no idea what was awaiting me out there!

But John's impressions remind us of the industrial heritage that is so conveniently overlooked when we prefer to celebrate limestone and domestic architecture. I wonder what your first impressions of Kingston are – or your early impressions of those of you born here?

And have you recorded those first impressions of where you were born or brought up? You may well have memories that no others have, or are different interpretations because of your particular experiences. If not recorded, those facts are forever lost. I have just bought a facsimile edition of the 1939 A to Z Atlas of London, England. It is a fascinating reminder both of the streets I once roamed, and of a London lost in the World War Two bombing. If that first A to Z had not been published in 1939 ...

I recently visited a village whose sole industry, a century ago, was slate, and particularly making slate roof tiles. Probably few of the present day inhabitants think about that now, or even know. But the village has sponsored a memorial for its war dead. It was designed in the form of a cross, and the upright of the cross is a stack of slates, as uneven and irregular as slates are. The memorial commemorates and reminds us of both lost citizens and a lost industry. Let us try not to lose the memories of Kingston.



I look forward to seeing you at the next three KHS events, all different: the regular November meeting, our Christmas and award celebration in December, and the Sir John A Dinner in January: tickets for the latter are quickly going.

Editor's Note: Do you have a first Impression story?  
Send it along and share it with Society members.

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# The Kingston Historical Society

established 1893

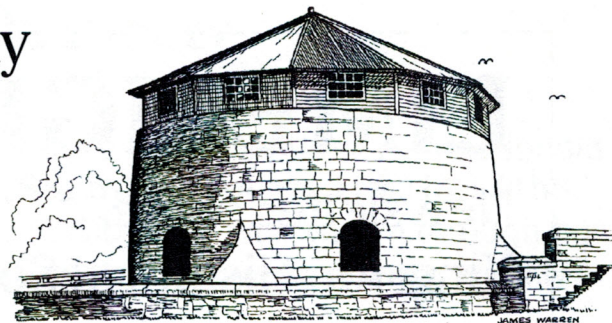
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KHS holds monthly talks or events, usually at 7:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month, September to May, usually in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library on Johnson Street at Bagot Street. Special annual events include a dinner and talk 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

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

**Wednesday, 20 November 2013 7:30 PM**

**"They Walk to Work:**

*The Captains Irwin, Their Times and Neighbours*

*at Kingston's Inner Harbour in the Mid-19th to early 20th Centuries."*

Donna M. Ivey

**THIS  
MONTH'S  
MEETING**

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

Refreshments

All Welcome

# Newman's Men's Shop 214 Princess Street

Written & Painted by Shirley Gibson-Langille



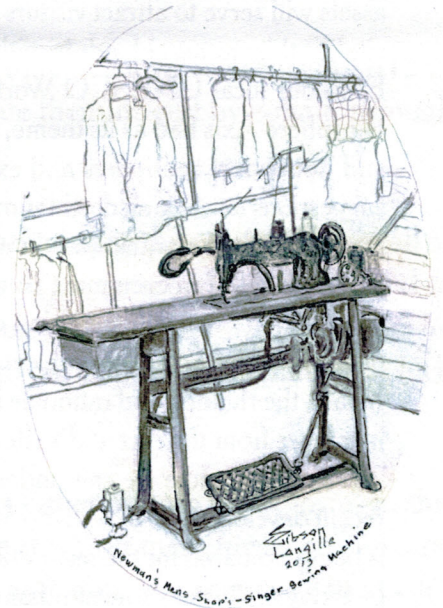
Having coffee every morning at McDonald's Restaurant on Princess St. lets me meet many interesting people. One man, David Ibbott, stands out in particular because he is probably the best dressed gentleman in Kingston. He is the owner of Alexander Newman's Men's Shop. I did this painting of him in front of his store in 2012.

Later in 2013, I decided to visit David inside his store to take notes for this story. I walked into this magnificent store filled with the grandest of clothing and accessories. On my way to the back where David was sitting, I got the eeriest feeling of ghosts. Was I imagining things? David told me they did "made to measure" suits, pants, jackets, shirts, overcoats, even men's shorts. They also rented Tuxedos for formals

and weddings. He then changed the subject to tell me that from the very first night that he spent in the store, he had felt spirits from the past. He said they were not unwelcome ghosts. And that he got to enjoy their presence. Ha! I wasn't imagining things!

David preceded to share with me the intriguing history of Alexander Newman. He was born in Poland. He and all his family were taken to Germany and put in a concentration camp. He was the only one to survive as he made uniforms for the officers. After the war he came to Canada and opened a tailor shop on King Street in a shop in back of an alleyway across from A-One Clothing. From there he moved to Barrie and Princess St. He then bought the present store in 1954. Before him it had been George Freed's Men's Wear and before that it was Freeman, Hardy and Willis Shoe Store. When Alexander Newman decided to retire in 1979, David Ibbott bought the store. David took his tailor trade in England. He came to Canada in 1966 and worked in the Men's Department at Steacy's then he went to Dover's Men's Wear as assistant manager.

Just then Gabriella, the seamstress came and went upstairs to the Mezzanine. I was curious so I followed her up the narrow stairway. I could hardly believe my eyes as she was working on an old treadle Singer Sewing Machine. She told me it worked for everything. I just had to come back and do another picture to show you this magnificent machine!



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# SO WHAT'S THE FUTURE OF OUR HERITAGE? GEOTOURISM?

Brian S. Osborne

Some of you may recall that in previous *Limelight* pieces I have posed several questions: “What is the future of the Rideau Canal and Kingston Fortifications World Heritage Site?”; “From History to Heritage, Branding, and 'Pizzazz': Where Is Our Past Going?” My concern was that recent developments have caused me to contemplate the threats prompted by political philosophies, public demands, and a new culture of social media.

A recent title says it all: *Cultural Heritage and the Challenge of Sustainability* (Diane Barthel-Bouchier 2013). At a time when international, national, provincial, and municipal authorities are baulking at the expense of maintaining heritage sites they are embracing heritage-tourism as a source of funding and heritage sustainability.

Do you remember our old economic classes? The sectors of the economy were organised into Primary (Resource Extraction), Secondary (manufacturing), and Tertiary (services). Welcome to the Quaternary Sector: the “experiential” economy! Planners are turning away from protecting heritage as a public financed social-good to the generation of income derived from the “branding” of attractions and the generation of tourism revenues. Certainly, as the aging baby-boomer generation can attest from their experience of convoys of coach-tours and armadas of cruise ships, the post-World War II growth in tourism has been stunning – and growing! The UN's World Tourism Organization predicts an increase in the number of tourists from 842 million in 2006 to 1.6 billion in 2020. So, consider the agenda of current studies.

Our Kingston's Integrated Cultural Tourism and Cultural Heritage Strategy is designed to Ensure that History and Innovation Thrive in the City of Kingston. Based on the assumption that nurturing Kingston's unique historical and cultural assets will serve to attract visitors and enhance the Quality of Life of residents, encourage both economic health and cultural vitality, this strategy blends in with the City's Official Plan, Sustainability Plan, and Cultural Plan.

Even our local UNESCO World Heritage Site are getting on board. A recent day-long seminar on the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Axis had as its theme, Sustainable Tourism -- the major tourism growth opportunity for the next 20 years. To that end, tourism practitioners and experts considered the promotion of new tourism markets, reduction of operation costs, and suggestions for making destinations more competitive and profitable.

And recently, I participated in a “brainstorming discussion” to explore how we can make the Rideau UNESCO World Heritage Site “an even more compelling destination for heritage explorers and leisure travelers.” I was encouraged to let my imagination “soar in identifying compelling experience themes and opportunities.” That is, to seek out new opportunities to develop “unique, year-round, consumer-focused tourism products” and so ensure “destination competitiveness.”

In fact, the rhetoric and rationale is everywhere. Recent reports speak of Lac-Mégantic's tourist plans to attract visitors to help it recover from the recent disaster that killed 47 residents and devastated the local economy (*Globe and Mail*, 14 October 2013). But while we can understand Lac-Mégantic's rationale of marketing its regional beauties, it's hard to understand recent developments in post-Soviet Georgia (*Globe and Mail*, 3 October 2013). In the main square of Gori, a massive plinth is being prepared for the restoration of a six-metre-high bronze statue of Joseph Stalin on the 21st December 2013, the 134th birthday of “history's most infamous Georgian.” Sixty years after his death, for some, Stalin is a murderous dictator. But for others he is a symbol idealism, stability, and hero of the defeat of Nazi Germany. And Gori, a town of 55,000, hopes to stimulate its tourism industry and the sale of Stalin souvenirs and Georgian wines to the expected masses of tour-bus pilgrims. So, there's a lot going-on in the heritage field. As we in the Kingston Historical Society are well aware, thanks to the pioneering work of Margaret Angus and others, over the last 50 years, heritage has come to be considered as a “human right” for some, and a “social good” for others. However, recent evidence suggests that other social needs and growing pressures on scarce resources are eroding the financial commitment to the support of heritage. In this new world, the strategies of “branding” and “commodification” and “marketing” of the “experiential economy” – if well-conceived and managed – may prove to be a realistic strategy for ensuring the “sustainability of heritage” and its future contribution to our social cohesion in the twenty-first century.

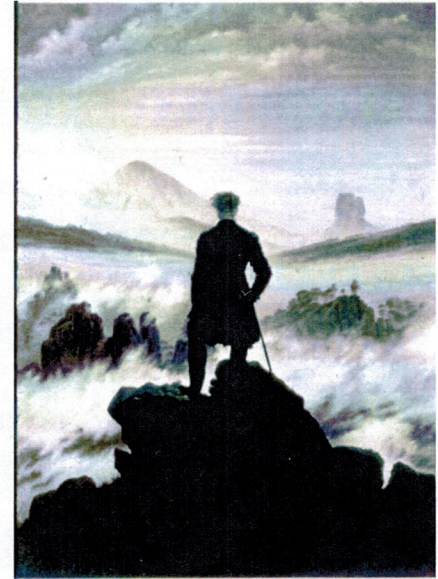




Illustration courtesy of Jennifer McKendry

# Kingston Historical Society

## Annual Holiday Party

Wednesday, 4 December 2013

Renaissance Event Venue

285 Queen Street (the c. 1837 historic church)

Social Hour 6 – 7 pm

KHS Awards Presentation 7 – 8 pm,

**HOT & COLD SNACKS TO FOLLOW**

Donation of \$10 requested

### ***Announcements from the Kingston Historical Society Council***

1. The KHS is seeking members who would be interested in serving on a committee to plan activities/events in 2015 in commemoration of Sir John A's 200th birthday anniversary. Members should indicate their interest by e-mail through [kingstonhs@g-mail.com](mailto:kingstonhs@g-mail.com), the e-mail address which appears on the KHS website.

2. At its recent meeting, Council supported the concept that KHS prepare a position advocating the preservation of all or parts of the Kingston Penitentiary site. However, Council wants to garner the views of the members who are asked to indicate whether they support this or not by e-mail through [kingston@gmail.com](mailto:kingston@gmail.com), the e-mail address which appears on the KHS website. In addition, members are also invited to indicate their willingness to participate in a committee which would prepare the specifics of such a position.

Another Editor's Note: If you don't want to cut up your Limelight in order to send in either or both of the forms in this month's edition please make a copy and keep your Limelight intact. The reason we don't do these forms on separate sheets is because it increases our cost - even one page can increase the weight and cost of postage. Thanks for understanding.



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# Speakers' Corner

"The Macdonald Locket:

Love, Death and Domesticity in Canada West"

Presented by Julia McArthur

Written by Alicia Boutilier,  
with notes & quotes from the Speaker  
Photos by Peter Ginn



In her October talk, art historian and photographer Julia McArthur explored the ideal of domesticity as it relates to Sir John A. Macdonald through a piece of vernacular jewelry called "The Macdonald Locket." This small gold locket (only 3 cm in diameter) is located in Library and Archives Canada and contains three hand-tinted daguerreotypes: Macdonald himself, his first wife, Isabella, and their son, Hugh John. It also constitutes a puzzle.

The locket and the photos within provide none of the traditional art historical clues to indicate who made them and who owned them. There are no inscriptions or marks. The only thing known about authorship: the portraits of Isabella and Hugh John are daguerreotypes of oil paintings by Kingston artist William Sawyer, also in the Library and Archives Canada collection. Nonetheless, as McArthur pointed out, there are still things that the locket can tell us even with scant evidence upon which to build. The physical form of the locket (small enough to fit in a hand or store in a pocket) and its function (as an aide de memoire), among other

aspects, combine to reflect and support the ideology of domesticity. "The Macdonald locket, with its compressed representation of webs of family relationships and attachments, can be seen as containing in a microcosm, an ideal of the nineteenth-century middle-class family. During the mid-century, this ideal was one sought after and aspired to—as evidenced by the efforts of both John A. and his first wife, Isabella." Drawing upon letters and other documents, McArthur conjured images of Macdonald as a husband proud of his wife's housekeeping and as an avid purchaser of goods for the home.

As the nineteenth century progressed, the domestic ideal "lost some popularity due to both internal and external pressures." But for the time that we spent with the beautiful locket over the course of McArthur's talk, we learned "how a simple piece of jewelry can illuminate ways" in which "even legendary figures have to navigate social constructions and ideologies about domesticity."

After thoughtful questions and enthusiastic applause, Julia McArthur was presented with a Murney Tower pin (small and precious in its own right) by Kingston Historical Society vice-president Anne Richardson.



# Kingston Historical Society Membership Application/Renewal



Membership dues are as follows (Please check one):

- \$50 for an individual membership
- \$60 for a family
- \$60 for an institutional membership
- \$25 for a student membership.

Application for membership and membership renewals should be addressed to the Membership Secretary, c/o the Kingston Historical Society, Box 54, Kingston, ON, Canada K7L 4V6.

Membership includes the annual journal, *Historic Kingston*, and 9 issues of the newsletter, *Limelight*, as well as a discounted fee to selected special events.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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# 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner



Our guest speaker for this year's Sir John A. Macdonald Anniversary Dinner, **Saturday January 11 2014**, will be Dr. Sarah Gibson. Dr. Gibson is well known through her articles on Kingston Street names which appear weekly in the *Whig Standard*.

The dinner will take place at the Senior Staff Mess at the Royal Military College. Please gather in the Mess any time after 6:00PM to meet our guest. The dinner will commence at 7:00PM. The cost for the dinner will be \$60.00 for Society members and \$75.00 for guests of members. Please fill out the tear off portion below and send it along with your payment made out to the:

**Kingston Historical Society  
c/o W. Everett,  
253 Willingdon Ave,  
Kingston, ON K7L 4J2**

All reservations must be received no later than December 21, 2013.

The dinner is again being held at the Senior Staff Mess RMC. A Commissionaire will be available to assist in parking and directions to the mess.



Sir John A. Macdonald Anniversary Dinner, Saturday January 11, 2014

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone & email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Non-Members \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Vegetarian meals Required: \_\_\_\_\_

Food Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

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