

LIMELIGHT

Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society
Kingston Ontario Canada

Vol 17 no 5

ISSN 1488-5565

November 2015

The Marine Museum of the Great Lakes at Kingston presents

THE WRECK OF SIR JOHN FRANKLIN'S HMS EREBUS:

Discovery, Exploration and Archaeological Study

A presentation by

Jonathan Moore

Senior Underwater Archaeologist, Parks Canada

At Currie Hall, Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario

Wednesday, November 4, at 7:30 pm

Cost: \$20,

includes a free 2016 Marine Museum membership

For tickets, call the Marine Museum at 613-542-2261

Meet Jonathan Moore at the cash bar reception
that will follow at the Senior Officers Mess.



Jonathan Moore

Cultural Strategy for Ontario

*Sophie Kiwala MPP Kingston and the Islands
addressed the*

*35th Anniversary of the Kingston Association
of Museums, Art Galleries, and Historic Sites*

*"I want to take this opportunity to thank the museum
community right across this great city for preserving
our cultural heritage, telling our stories, and for striv-
ing to reach out and engage us for education and enjoy-
ment.*

*Museums are an important means of cultural
exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of
mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among
peoples. Museums have a significant impact on the
social and economic vitality of our city and our prov-
ince, attracting more than 3 million national and inter-
national visitors to Ontario every year.*

*I am proud that our government continues to make
meaningful investments in this sector to help museums
and heritage organizations deliver innovative cultural
programming. Our museums are at the heart of
cultural tourism. They are the keepers and interpreters
of the province's irreplaceable heritage collections, of-
fering visitors an authentic glimpse into our past."*

*To learn of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's
(MTCS) new Culture Strategy for Ontario, and how you can
participate in this important project, please see pages 5 and 6 for
more information.*

NOVEMBER MEETING

"Collecting Sir John A. Memorabilia"

with Paul Fritz

Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 7:30 pm

**Seniors Centre, Frontenac Room
56 Francis Street**

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2015 Kingston Historical Society 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



photo by Kristen Ritchie

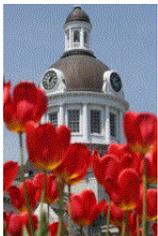
President's Message—November 2015

We seem to have made the move to the Seniors Centre reasonably successfully; just how permanent it will be we do not know. There is no news in when the Wilson Room at the Library will be completed. Meanwhile I am still happy to receive your comments on the Frontenac Room. And, yes, Seniors Centre does not have an apostrophe anywhere!

As mentioned before, a committee led by Marcus Letourneau is looking at the long term objectives of the Society, with the idea of writing a Strategic Plan to guide future Councils. I was surprised and delighted to talk with George Henderson who was part of a group (with Isobel Trumpour and Kevin Quinn) who did similar work in the late 1980s. Does anybody have a copy of what they produced, that I could borrow and photocopy? Many thanks in advance to all who look through their libraries.

It is that time of year when your Past President starts looking for new Council members. If you are at all interested, please contact Gordon Sinclair (sinclair@kingston.net). Most new members sit for a year learning the intricacies of the Society, and then many volunteer to work in a particular area: planning the programmes, producing a newsletter, organising the Macdonald dinner or the graveside ceremony, etc. Please do not feel that you will be overwhelmed in your first year: we let you get your feet wet slowly. But if you would like to help, please let us know.

I will remind you of the special meeting on November 4th at Currie Hall, RMC, when Jonathon Moore visits us (again) and updates us on the arctic diving for Franklin's ships. Tickets are \$20 each, and can be ordered from the Marine Museum. I will not guarantee that there will be any left at the door.



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 corineharrison111@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 Seniors 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 Cataraqi 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:

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kingstonhs@gmail.com
www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca

Gord Sly: Early Education in Frontenac County

Gord Sly spoke to us on September 16th on early education in Frontenac County. This was our first meeting in the Seniors Centre, which was most appropriate, as the building is a converted elementary school. Our unfortunate technical problems that evening really underscored the simplicity of the school system for so many years. Gord traced Kingston’s schools back to John Stuart’s school in his house and then followed the development as schools became more common and popular, and then a legislated necessity for children. He brought a number of items from the Frontenac Schools Museum, where he volunteers, and these recalled (mostly fond) memories from the audience. Many felt that when consolidation came in the 1960s, much good was lost as well as many benefits being gained. There was a lively question session following the presentation, and Gord was thanked by John Whitely. He concluded by inviting all to visit the Schools Museum where you can research and see many of those items of bygone days – and try to fit into the desks that once seemed so big!

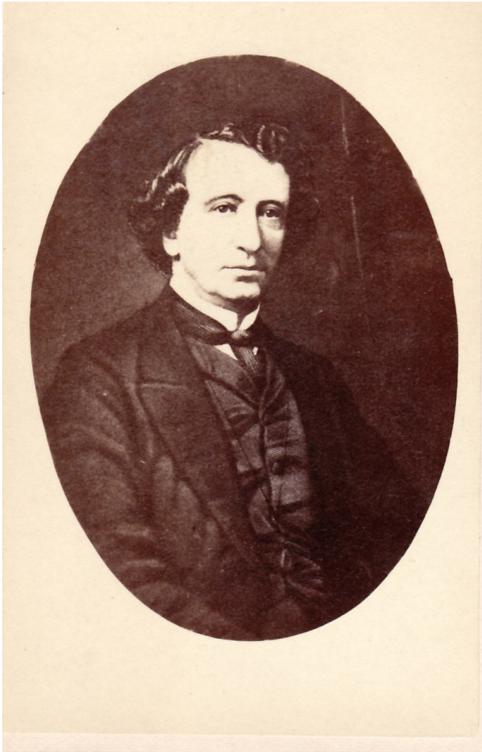
Requests

Our email account receives many requests. Can you help with this one: **Corey Berti** (csberti7@gmail.com) is looking for information on the **Reverend B.P.Squire**, who oil painted between 1920 and 1950. He believes they may be examples of his work locally. If you have any information that could assist, please contact Corey directly.

KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY STRATEGIC PLAN — ongoing; stay tuned

This committee is comprised of: Marcus Letourneau-Chair mletourneau3@cogeco.ca |
Peter Gower peter.gower@sympatico.ca
Corinne Harrison corineharrison111@gmail.com
Anne Richardson richanne@hotmail.ca
Caroline Petznick kammandir@gmail.com;
Paul Robertson porobertson@cityofkingston.ca;

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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The Visitor Information Centre
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*www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca
kingstonhs@gmail.com*



The [Ontario Historical Society](#) would like to inform you that the [Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport](#) (MTCS) is pursuing the development of a [Culture Strategy for Ontario](#). The Ministry's objective is to establish a vision for culture across the province, and they want to know which aspects of Ontario's culture are valuable to you and your community.

The deadline for public submissions to the MTCS is **December 7, 2015**. Make sure that your interests, and those of your community, are accurately represented in the new Culture Strategy for Ontario.

How to get involved:

The Ministry has developed a Discussion Paper outlining the importance of culture within our communities, and the many different events, institutions, and industries which help us to define and express that culture. Pages 3, 14, & 15 will be of particular importance to those with an interest in heritage activities and services. The Ministry has also provided a list of discussion questions at the end of the paper (page 16), for your consideration.

Attend the Kingston Townhall meeting: see page 6.

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, November 21st at 10 a.m.**

Bob Thomas will speak on
"From Cloth to the Cloth: Archibald Stevenson - a Presbyterian Missionary to Canada".

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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



SALON'S AUTUMN FETE AND COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Renaissance Event Venue
285 Queen Street
Thursday, November 12th
7:00 to 9:00 pm

A special fundraising celebration at the Silent auction. Support the important heritage work of Kingston's nationally-acclaimed historical performing arts company, **Salon Theatre**. Tickets \$40. RSVP online to production@salontheatre.ca and purchase tickets at salontheatre.ca/donate/ or call the office at (613) 767-8178.

Ontario's culture strategy event : attend an in-person event

Wednesday, November 25th
7:00 – 9:30 pm
Tett Centre for Creativity and Learning, Malting Tower



Jamie Kennedy (chef)

Speakers



Marilyn Simonds
(author, editor)

Join one of the town halls running October to December.
No registration is required.
These events will invite you to participate in inspiring conversations with local arts and culture personalities.

If you require any special accessibility please contact: CultureTalks@ontario.ca

On October 21st, **Jean Rae Baxter** enlightened and educated us with her talk on “**The Education of a Leader: Joseph Brant and the School that became Dartmouth College.**” Joseph Brant. She noted that Joseph Brant is one of the most puzzling and complex figures in North American history. Depending on who is writing about him, he is presented as an officer and a gentleman, or as a civilized savage, or as a man of learning, or as a diplomat and ambassador for his people, or as a loyal friend of Britain. She talked about his birth in Ohio, in 1743, where his family was hunting. Joseph is also known by his Mohawk name Thayendanegea. His was by no means a leading family but after her husband's death his mother married into a prominent family, and Joseph and sister Molly took on their step-father's name: **Brant**.

He was first at war at age 13 at the battle of Lake George, and was terrified. Later he became noticed by Sir William Johnson, who visited their house (and took Molly as his consort), and saw Joseph as a future leader. Johnson had the opportunity to send Joseph to the Moor Indian Charity School and Joseph did well. He was studious and devout, and he was seen as a future Christian missionary by the Headmaster. Sir William, however, was becoming hostile to Wheelock's Congregationalist brand of Christianity, his educational goals and his harsh methods, and so moved Joseph to a new school in Fort Hunter, which soon closed. Joseph's education ended. Joseph married Peggy, and farmed close to Canajoharie, but still looked upon himself as a warrior.

Brant met John Stuart who had come to Fort Hunter as an Anglican missionary and held services for all. When Peggy died in 1771, leaving Joseph with two children, they moved into John Stuart's house. During this period, Stuart and Brant collaborated in translating the Gospel of Mark into Mohawk and to writing a guide to the Catechism and a short history of the Bible in Mohawk. But their friendship faltered when Stuart refused to marry Joseph to Peggy's sister. Brant lived briefly in Kingston, along with Stuart and his sister Molly, but by 1788 he was at Brant's Ford, west of York. Brant did persuade Stuart to visit Brant's Ford and baptize people there.

John Wheelock moved the Moor Indian Charity School to the Hanover, New Hampshire, enlarged it, and renamed it Dartmouth College. Joseph Brant never forgot what he owed to the school. By 1799 Wheelock's son John had taken over as President of both the Moor School and the College. Joseph kept in frequent touch with John Wheelock. He wrote to him, “Nothing can ever efface from my memory the persevering attention your revered father paid to my education, when I was in the place my sons now are. Though I was an unprofitable pupil in many ways, yet my worldly affairs have been much benefitted by the instruction I have received.”

Brant made sure there was a school in Brantford, and Dartmouth graduates, and Johnson's grandson taught there. Joseph Brant died in 1807, having set a wonderful example of what one can achieve through perseverance.

Written and submitted by Peter Gower

Editor's Note: “Champlain hunts at Dog Lake” by Stephen Monty of Battersea, Ontario — it was not possible to fit this story in this issue, but it is in the rotation.

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the pig with a peel

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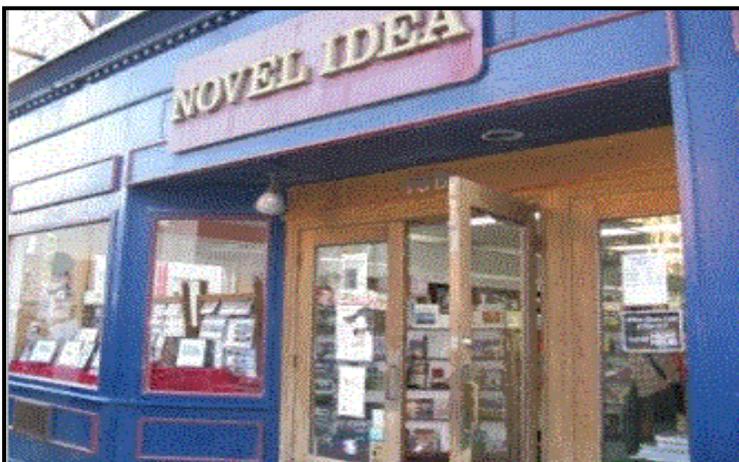
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