

# LIMELIGHT

The Kingston Historical Society

Kingston, Ontario

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*A piper resplendent in full Scottish regalia and members of the Fort Henry Guard added to the solemn pageantry of the Sir John A. Macdonald commemoration service held at Cataract Cemetery National Historic Site on June 6th. The Kingston Historical Society presents its annual tribute at the final resting place of Canada's first Prime Minister. Author John Boyko was the guest speaker. Photos page 5.*

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

### *Artful Dressing: The Fashion of Agnes Etherington*

Carolyn Dowdell, PhD candidate

**Wednesday, September 17th, 7:30 pm**

**Agnes Etherington Art Centre  
University Avenue at Bader Lane  
Queen's University**

**Note: free campus parking after 5 pm.  
The centre is on bus routes 2, 6, 18 and 19**

## *September Meeting at the Agnes*

Our first KHS meeting of the autumn season, on Wednesday, September 17th at 7:30 pm, welcomes members and guests to Queen's University's beautiful Agnes Etherington Art Centre.

Speaker Carolyn Dowdell, a PhD candidate in Art History, will present a lecture about the stunning and well-attended exhibit which she curated at the gallery this past summer. The Agnes Etherington Art Centre has an extensive collection of historical clothing representing Kingston's past. Included are many fine ensembles that belonged to Agnes Etherington herself (1880-1954), a remarkable individual known not only for her passionate development of art and music at Queen's University but also for her affinity for elegant couture clothing.

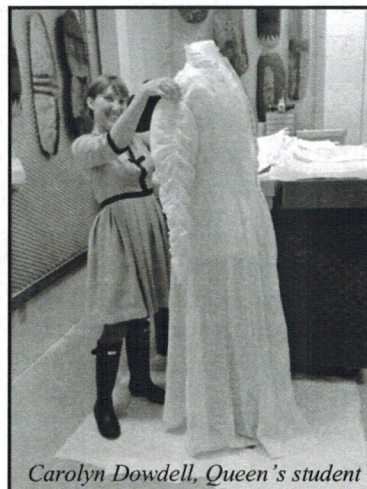
The exhibit, *Artful Dressing: The Fashion of Agnes Etherington*, includes a luxurious black and gold evening gown from 1912 to 1914, her wedding dress from 1921, as well as the classic green dress she wore when society portraitist and Kingston artist Grant Macdonald famously captured her image on canvas. Tours this summer have featured selections of art she donated to the university and a walk through her home, which is now structurally part of the art centre.

This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about Agnes McCausland Richardson Etherington who contributed so much to the life of Kingston and the art of our country.

*Photos courtesy of the Agnes Etherington Art Centre*

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*Carolyn Dowdell, Queen's student*



*Evening splendour 1912-1914*



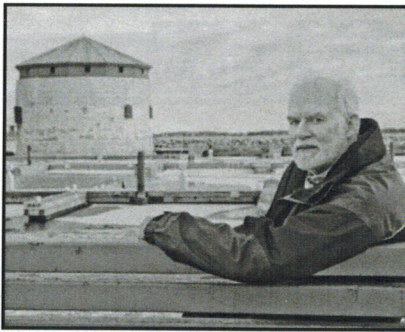


photo by Kristen Ritchie

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, Peter Gower

Welcome to the new year of activities presented by the Kingston Historical Society. We are just beginning a long series of commemorations, all the way to 2023, when we celebrate the 350th anniversary of the founding of Kingston. This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Sir John A. Macdonald, one of Kingston's most formidable sons, and Canada's first Prime Minister. And it has been 100 years since the beginning of the Great War. In 2017 we celebrate Canada's 150th birthday. I am confident there will be much activity around these themes as the Society moves forward.

We enjoyed wonderful weather and an excellent speech at the Macdonald graveside commemoration service on June 6th. Many thanks to all who work together so diligently, year after year, to sustain this special KHS and Kingston tradition. Our appreciation is also extended to the highly qualified interpreters who ran our Murney Tower Museum this summer. If you did not have a chance to stop by, please put it onto your calendar for next summer as a "must see and show to visitors".

When we first meet on September 17th at the **Agnes Etherington Art Centre**, you will have stories to tell about your historical experiences and trips this summer. And, of course, you had two *Historic Kingston* publications to read. Marcus Letourneau now takes over the editorship. Your Council is planning a festive and celebratory awards gathering in December. The traditional Sir John A. Macdonald dinner, which will take place on the 10th of January 2015 at RMC, this time on a Saturday evening, *not* the usual 11th, will be unique, to mark the bicentennial. Some delightful special enhancements are being planned, including live period music for your listening pleasure and stately pageantry at the pre-dinner reception. And our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for February. If you have creative suggestions around any of these events, please let us know. Looking forward to chatting with you at our Wednesday evening meetings. *Peter*



Agnes Etherington with her bridal party 1921

## 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, Eva Barnes, by fax to (613) 546-4308 or via e-mail to [eva\\_barnes@sympatico.ca](mailto:eva_barnes@sympatico.ca). Phone contact: (613) 546-4300. Reprinting 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**.

**MEETINGS** are held usually at 7:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month, September to May, in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library on Johnson Street at Bagot. Refreshments are served. Annual events include a formal fine-dining experience with a special presentation honouring the birthday of Sir John A. Macdonald, usually on January 11th, and a commemoration marking his death at the Cataraqui Cemetery National Historic Site on June 6th. Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first Prime Minister, was born in 1815 and passed away in 1891.

**NEW MEMBERS** are 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, and receiving *Limelight*, our newsletter, as well as *Historic Kingston*, the journal published annually by the KHS.

### MAILING ADDRESS

Kingston Historical Society  
P.O. Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6  
[kingstonhs@gmail.com](mailto:kingstonhs@gmail.com)  
[www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca)



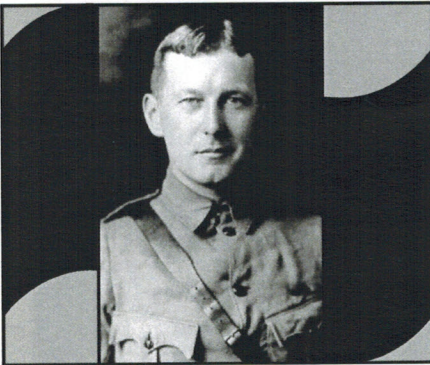
# **KHS October Meeting, Wednesday the 15th**

7:30 pm in the upstairs Wilson Room  
Kingston Frontenac Public Library  
130 Johnson Street at Bagot

## ***An Informal Look at Kingston in 1914***

Peter Gower presents  
a textured overview of the city as seen by the rich and the poor,  
the residents and the visitors, a century ago.

*Downtown Kingston 1914*



# **KHS November Meeting, Wednesday the 19th**

7:30 pm in the Wilson Room

## ***Second Ypres and John McCrea***

Paul Van Nest commemorates Armistice Day  
with an account of the first major battle for Canadian troops  
in World War I, the Second Battle of Ypres, in which gas was used.  
Major John McCrea commanded a medical station behind those lines.  
His famous poem, *In Flanders Fields*, was inspired by the death  
of his friend, Lt. Helmer, an RMC graduate.

The Kingston Historical Society cordially invites you to attend

## ***The Bicentennial Tribute Banquet***

a special dinner celebrating the 200th anniversary  
of the birth of Sir John A. Macdonald

***Saturday evening, January 10th, 2015 at 6:00 pm***

***Senior Staff Mess, Royal Military College***

Fine dining, period music interlude, historical pageantry,  
an appearance by Sir John A. and Lady Agnes Macdonald,  
visiting dignitaries and an honoured special guest speaker  
(to be confirmed). Further details in November.

*Eva Barnes photo courtesy of Bellevue House*



***Creative ideas for speakers and Society activities are always welcome...***

***Councillor Ron Ridley is the Chair of Programming, [ron.ridley@sympatico.ca](mailto:ron.ridley@sympatico.ca)***

## **OUR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2014**

**President:** Peter Gower  
**Vice President:** to be filled  
**Secretary:** Don Richardson  
**Treasurer:** Randall Levi  
**Past President:** Gordon Sinclair

### **Councillors:**

Nancy Day, Warren Everett, Peter Ginn,  
Ben Holthof, Alan MacLachlan, Ron Ridley,  
Paul Van Nest, John Whitely

### **By Appointment:**

***Historic Kingston:*** Duncan McDowall (2014) Marcus Letourneau (2015)

***Limelight:*** Eva Barnes Murney Tower: Graeme Watson





Mayor Gerretsen, Graeme Watson  
and Thomas Watson

## The Murney Tower Museum

welcomed visitors to its season-opening on May 16th. A partnership was formed in the 1920s between the Department of the Interior (now Parks Canada) and the KHS, which officially opened the site as a museum in 1925. It operates under the wing of the Society to this day.



Mayor Mark Gerretsen chats with students  
from École Catholique Cathédrale



Chris Whyman, Kingston's Town Crier  
and Paul Dyck as Sir John A.

## Canada Day, July 1st, in Kingston

The steps of historic City Hall (built in 1843 when Kingston was the capital of the United Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada) become a stage for festive historical celebrations every July 1st. Representatives from all levels of government greet the public, and community volunteering awards are given in recognition of outstanding civic service. The Red and White Parade is a highlight, as is a visit from "Sir John A." and his compatriots.

Eva Barnes photos



Salon Theatre Productions

# COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

# meetings and events

Saturday, Sept 20th

**ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING**, Kingston Branch, Wilson Room, Main Library, 130 Johnson Street, at 10:00 am. Speaker: Christine Woodcock, genealogy educator. Topic: *In Search of Your Scottish Ancestors: Search Your Roots; Discover Your Heritage* Further details at [www.ogs.on.ca/kingston](http://www.ogs.on.ca/kingston).

Friday, Sept 26th

Saturday, Sept 27th

**15th ART FOR HERITAGE SHOW AND SALE** at St. George's Cathedral, Johnson St. at King. Opening reception Friday, 6:30 to 9:00 pm, admission \$20. Free admission on Saturday, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. This show raises funds, through the sale of art by local Kingston painters, specifically to maintain the Cathedral's heritage buildings.

Friday, Sept 26th

Saturday, Sept 27th

## THE ORIGINS OF DOMESTIC GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE IN OTTAWA

Colloquium, exhibit and tours. Lectures by Dr. T. Brittain-Catlin, University of Kent School of Architecture; David Jeanes, VP, Heritage Ottawa; Ian Badgley, Archaeologist, National Capital Commission Info: [www.carleton.ca/history](http://www.carleton.ca/history) or [Bruce.Elliott@carleton.ca](mailto:Bruce.Elliott@carleton.ca)

Saturday, Oct 18th

**ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING**, Kingston Branch, Wilson Room, at 10:00 am. Jane Foster and Shelley Respondek speak about the newly reopened Lennox and Addington County Museum and Archives [www.ogs.on.ca/kingston](http://www.ogs.on.ca/kingston)

# KHS LIMELIGHT ON THE INTERNET

# an experiment

## Are you on the internet?

Council hopes to reduce printing and mailing costs for **Limelight** this fall. If you would like to participate in an experiment with the distribution of our newsletter electronically via the KHS website, please send an e-note to our Membership Chair, **Paul Van Nest** at [pvannest@cogeco.ca](mailto:pvannest@cogeco.ca) Comments about receiving the hard copy paper version through Canada Post would be welcomed also. **Limelight** would be uploaded to a "for members only" page. With just a click, you would access the full version of the newsletter.



**JUNE 6th, 2014**

## **KHS COMMEMORATION SERVICE**

*photos by Peter Ginn*



*John Boyko*

### **123rd Anniversary of the Passing of Sir John A. Macdonald, June 6th, 1891**

#### **Cataraqui Cemetery National Historic Site**

John Boyko, Canadian historian and acclaimed author, delivered an inspiring and thought-provoking address as the guest speaker this year. He spoke about how Macdonald's extraordinarily tenacious negotiating skills helped save Canada after the American Civil War in 1871.

The service this year was favoured by perfect, early summer weather. Chair Alan MacLachlan, once again, created a memorable and moving event honouring our First Prime Minister with respectful dignity at his final resting place. Special thanks go to the many people and organizations contributing to the successful continuation of this Kingston tradition.



## **KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARDS**

***nominations***

Since 1993, the 100th anniversary of the KHS, annual awards have been given to individuals, groups and institutions to recognize outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of local history. Society members are encouraged to nominate those meeting the criteria for the award. Please do so in writing, by letter or email, giving contact details for your nominee, and as much information as possible about your reasons for nomination. Please submit your nomination to Chairperson, KHS Awards Committee, Box 54, Kingston, ON, K7L 4V8 or via e-mail to the Chairperson at [sampa@cogeco.ca](mailto:sampa@cogeco.ca) no later than **October 31st, 2014**. Awards are presented at our special KHS pre-Christmas gathering in December.



## EXPERIENCING HISTORY

## The Spencerville Regency Ball

*Limelight* articles about personal visits to historical sites and events by KHS members are received with much pleasure. Member Brian Porter has responded to the invitation with an account of his exploration, together with his wife Renee, of Regency period dances, social graces and dress in Spencerville in May. (Ed.)

Grace and gallantry were on display for the third annual **Spencerville Regency Ball**, in the village's old stone Town Hall, on the weekend of May 23/24, 2014. Mrs. Spencer's Regency Ball was organized once again by Vicki Cameron, known as "Belle of the Ball", and attracted English Country Dancers from Toronto, Ottawa, Brockville and Ogdensburg N.Y.

Dance master David Smukler, from Syracuse New York, led the dance workshops on Friday evening and Saturday morning, with clear and patient explanation. At the Ball he guided the dancers through historic dances such as *Braes of Dornoch* (1757), *Trip to Tunbridge* (1793), *The Dusty Miller* (1726), *Leather Lake House* (1788) and *Barbarini's Tambourine* (1745).

Live music of the period was played by the trio *Flora Burn* from Syracuse, with Eileen Nicholson on violin, Laurel Sharp on oboe, recorders and whistles, and Roberta Truscello on piano. These dedicated musicians played for all dance workshops, callers' workshops and the Ball.

The dancers, elegantly attired in their Jane Austen-era ensembles, enjoyed an evening of lively English Country Dancing, interrupted after two hours for a light repast, before continuing for another hour.

Historic dances and dance melodies are being kept alive here in Eastern Ontario.

For additional information check the website [www.spencervilleECD.com](http://www.spencervilleECD.com)  
and [www.davidsmukler.syracusecountrydancers.org](http://www.davidsmukler.syracusecountrydancers.org)



## CORRESPONDENCE

## letters and emails to the KHS

May 2nd, 2014

Jean-Christophe Panzer wrote to Peter Gower to thank the Kingston Historical Society for its sponsorship at the **Kingston Regional Heritage Fair**, and for providing the gold medal which was awarded to him for his history project.

July 28th, 2014

Martha Wall of **Wade's Island on Dog Lake** near Battersea, a long time summer resident, wishes to research the history of the area for the local Cottage Association. Information is limited, and there are very few leads in the main library or the Storrington branch. Suggestions and help regarding research would be gratefully received. [wall@wallbooks.com](mailto:wall@wallbooks.com) (416) 984-8940

## NEW BOOKS

## announcements

Respected researcher and local historian, Jennifer McKendry, will be releasing her latest publication in the fall: **MODERN ARCHITECTURE IN KINGSTON: A Survey of 20th Century Buildings**. Copies will be available to KHS members at an upcoming meeting. *Novel Idea* will also offer the book for purchase.

John Fielding will be writing a review for the November issue of *Limelight* of Richard Feltoe's latest book, in a series of six, about the War of 1812. **The Ashes of War** looks at the post-war military, political, social and economic impact of the war. Release date: August 27th, Dundurn Press of Toronto. [dundurn.com](http://dundurn.com)

**Shadows in the Tree**, a fact-based historical fiction by Jennifer DeBruin UE, explores the human story within the exodus of United Empire Loyalists to their settlement along the St. Lawrence River. General Store Publishing House, Renfrew, ON. 1-800-465-6072 Retail \$20. [www.jenniferdebruin.com](http://www.jenniferdebruin.com)



## SPEAKER'S CORNER

*article by Ron Ridley*

The May meeting of the Society featured Professor Joe Scanlon, ably assisted by two doctoral students, Casey Hurrell and Nicole Marion, who spoke on the influenza pandemic that took place at the end of the First World War. This team's approach to research on the epidemic relied upon looking at three Ontario locations: Kenora, St. Thomas and Kingston. They examined newspapers and church records of each of the communities.

Initially, the threat of the epidemic was downplayed, followed by the closing of schools, churches, theatres and other locations of assembly in order to prevent communication of the disease. Since many men were overseas in the military, an appeal went out to women volunteers to nurse the sick. Many people remained at home in an era of paid medical services. Kingston, however, opened an emergency hospital and both Hotel Dieu and KGH admitted ward patients, meaning more people died in hospital than at home, as occurred also in other communities. Although many people perished, it appears that dealing with the sick was more of a logistical problem.

Although known as the Spanish flu, recent research has revealed that the source of the disease was from the American west and was spread by military troop movements as they were transported overseas, and then returned to North America at the end of the Great War.

Professor Scanlon and his team answered a number of questions regarding the epidemic following the presentation.

*photos by Peter Ginn and Eva Barnes*



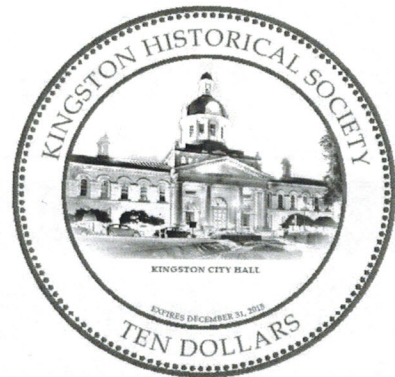
## SPECIAL KHS PROJECTS

### *Sir John A. Macdonald Commemorative Coin*



*To celebrate the bicentennial of the birth of the late and great Sir John A. Macdonald, KHS will be selling a handsome special edition minted coin, beginning in November 2014 through 2015. The coin will be nickel-plated and priced at \$10. The coin project will be launched at our meeting on November 19th. Bring your \$10 that evening, and you can be among the first to purchase this unique historical keepsake.*

Gordon Sinclair, Project Coordinator



## KUDOS AND THANKS

### *Commemorating the Great War*

Peter Gower, our KHS President, has developed a driving tour highlighting the historic sites associated with the First World War in Kingston. The route consists of 26 locations over 36 kilometres. The accompanying booklet is a comprehensive work, full of surprising photos that can be compared to scenes seen today.

Poignant personal stories from the war years add a special dimension. Research revealed that the famous song K-K-K-Katy was written by Geoffrey O'Hara in 1917 while he was staying at a cottage in Collins Bay and visiting relatives in Kingston. His pretty and vivacious cousin was Katy Richardson, who lived at 194 Johnson Street. The song was polished at the cottage piano and played at a garden party at A.M. Rankin's home. Young Katy died in 1922. Both Katy and Geoffrey are buried in the Cataraqui Cemetery.

This project commemorates the 550 men and women from the Kingston area who went away to war and never returned. Copies may be purchased at Novel Idea Bookstore (156 Princess Street), the Visitor Information Centre across from City Hall, and many Kingston museums.

E.B.



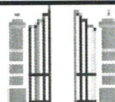
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