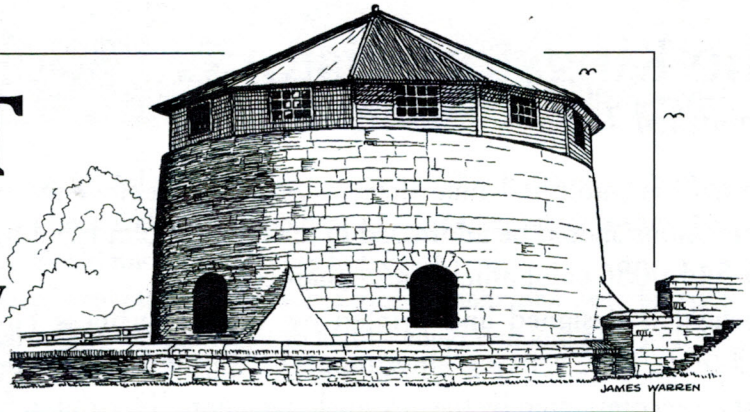


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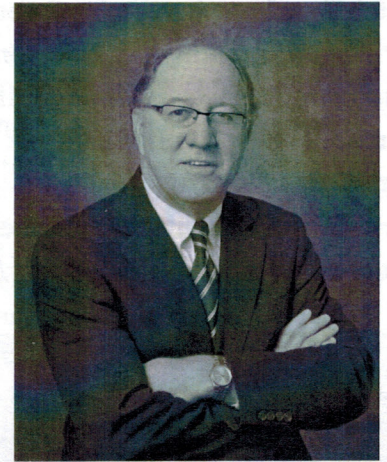
Newsletter of the
Kingston Historical Society

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As 2012 opens before us, an array of events celebrating the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 whets the appetite of historians professional and amateur, those both serious and perhaps more casual of interest. Both locally and in many other locations throughout the province of Ontario, one will find many events throughout the year, and into next year. Members are encouraged to travel the province and sample some of these events in the Niagara peninsula and in southwestern Ontario in particular. Start by googling "War of 1812" and see where it leads you.



Thanks once again to Warren Everett for his superb job in organizing our recent Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner January 11. I know he is already starting to plan for next year's event.

Our Annual General Meeting is set for Wednesday, February 15 in the Wilson Room. This will provide us with an opportunity to review our year just completed, and look forward to the year ahead. We will, sadly, say farewell to a few councillors who will not be returning for the following year, and welcome some newcomers. It is hard to believe that almost a year has passed since I took over as your president, and it's been a busy, fulfilling year indeed.

Please note the sponsors whose advertisements grace the pages of Limelight. Our sponsors are all local business people who support the work of the Society through their financial contributions. We very much appreciate the ongoing support from these businesses in our community.

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Gordon Sinclair

The Kingston Historical Society

established 1893

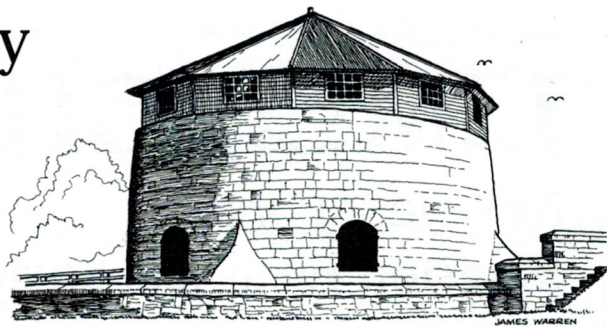
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KHS holds monthly talks or events, usually at 7:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month, September to May, usually in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library on Johnson Street at Bagot Street. Special annual events include a dinner and talk 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 \$40 individual, \$50 family, \$50 institutional or \$25 student. Memberships include *Historic Kingston*, published annually by The Kingston Historical Society.



Murney Tower by James Warren

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Does Digital = Disposable? (Part 2)

Written by Jeremy Heil

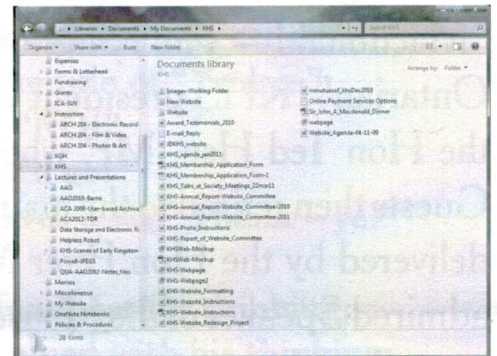
In December, I illustrated just a few of the problems we face when trying to preserve digital records over time. As promised, I'm back to provide a few pointers on what you, as a records creator, can do to preserve your files for yourself, your children, your grandchildren and beyond.

Choose the right equipment

Keeping accessible records starts from the first day you turn on your new computer. The operating system and software you choose for creating documents will have an impact on how easy it will be to view those files five years later. You are certainly familiar with the .doc (Word) and .wpd (WordPerfect) file types as perhaps the most common word processing formats. Because of their popularity, your chances are good that Microsoft and Corel will try to find ways to allow you to read these files in the future – but your fate rests in their hands. Saving your files as OpenDocument text (.odf) can create an extra level of certainty, as this is a word processing format developed and supported as a world standard. Standard formats for other types of files include .tif (digital images – scans or other post-photographic images), .dng (photographs), .wav (sound files) and .m2v (video). If your video camera or recorder allows you to save in these formats, you will have fewer worries in the long run.

Keep control of your files

You can save yourself a lot of headaches down the road by naming your files in a reliable and descriptive manner, and sorting them into appropriate folders. Did you take 100 photos of family at your niece's birthday party? Name them "Nieces_Birthday-2012" (the computer will number them individually) and place them all in a similarly named folder. Better still (and if you have the time), name the people in the photos in the file name, e.g. "Aunt_Joan_and_Uncle_Dan.jpg," stored in the "Nieces_Birthday" folder. Organizing your Word documents and e-mail in a similar way (by project, correspondent, or however else) will also help you keep track of everything you create or receive. And don't forget to empty your trash – this will keep your computer clutter free for only your important documents!



Make copies and store them separately

Keeping two or three copies on separate media helps hedge your bets against one CD deteriorating, or a USB key getting accidentally erased. Most modern computers make it easy to produce backups just by plugging in an external hard drive. Take advantage of this feature, but feel free to burn important photos and documents to CDs as well. To ensure more complete security, store your backup drive at work or another family members' house (maybe you can do a backup swap) – this will ensure that should anything happen (fire, flood, etc.), your computer will have a clone safely stored elsewhere. You can even take advantage of online network storage, like the iCloud, to back up important files.

Revisit your old files

This is your chance to reminisce! As you take a walk down memory lane, you're not only remembering past events, you're also taking note of whether the path is in need of repair. Does your CD give you an error message when you try to click on a jpeg? You can resort to finding a copy of the image from one of your other backups. If this is one time you did not get the chance to make a backup, find an expert in data recovery. Corrupted files may not always be salvageable, but if it's important, it may be worth a try. As file formats age, some software may even have difficulty finding a way to open the files. It's at this point you can also take stock of any other obsolete file formats in your personal archives. These files can be migrated (opened and resaved) into a modern file format for easier access, but this process does require some additional level of skill and care to ensure you are not losing vital information from the original document (nonetheless, always hold on to the original format as well – just in case).

Hopefully this little bit of advice gives you all something to think about. Creating records in a digital world takes no effort at all, but keeping them requires a little work from time to time. I am happy to answer your questions, too – go to the "Does Digital = Disposable?" article on Queen's Archives blog at <http://queensarchives.wordpress.com/> and post in our comments.

Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner

By Alicia Boutilier
with photos by Peter Ginn

The annual Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner, celebrating the birthday of our first prime minister, is always a much-anticipated affair and this year's sold-out event was no exception. On 11 January, the Senior Staff Mess at RMC was abuzz with social activity. After the piper's calls, guests sought their places at tables elegantly decorated with regimental silver of the 1st battalion of the Prince of Wales Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians). The delicious meal ended with several toasts from the head table by the following honoured guests: the new RMC Commandant Brigadier-General Eric Tremblay to the Queen; Jeff Blair, representing the Kingston Historical Society, to "Macdonald – The Scot"; City Councillor Jim Neill to "Macdonald – The Kingstonian"; the Hon John Gerretsen, MPP, to "Macdonald – The Ontarian"; KHS president Gordon Sinclair to "Macdonald – The Canadian" (on behalf of the Hon Ted Hsu, MP, who was unable to attend); and Sir John A. Macdonald himself. Guests then retired to the main salon of the Mess to hear an engaging, and rather amusing, talk delivered by the Hon Peter Milliken, who recently retired as the longest-serving and much admired Speaker of the House of Commons.





ODE TO THE STATUE OF SIR JOHN A.

*in the birthday spirit of the limerick/poetry reading
held every January during the statue ceremony
in Kingston's City Park*

**A lawyer from Kingston's fair city,
A Scot, who was raucous and witty:
John A. took a stand
And united our land ...
But he's not here today ... such a pity!**

**The mood of the country was cranky,
For none liked the title of "Yankee":
Macdonald said "NO!"
"With Britain we'll go!"
For this he deserves a big "Thank – ye!"**

**Sir John had a fondness for drinking;
He said that it helped with his thinking:
Eliza would pour
And he'd ask for more...
But it kept our new nation from sinking.**

**The CPR railroad's grand notion
Stoked every Macdonald emotion:
The plan was quite mad,
And the politics bad ...
But it joined us from ocean to ocean.**

**Building a country was daunting,
With issues that proved to be haunting:
But Macdonald the man
Said, "Indeed we can!"
And succeeded, with little left wanting.**

-Eva Barnes



THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Wednesday, 15 February 2012 7:30 PM
The Kingston Historical Society Annual General Meeting

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

Refreshments

All Welcome

The SLATE of CANDIDATES for the 2012 KHS COUNCIL

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SECRETARY: (Vacant At This Time)
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3. GINN, Peter
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6. RICHARDSON, Anne
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HISTORIC KINGSTON EDITOR: FOTHERINGHAM, Hazel
LIMELIGHT EDITOR: FIELDING, John
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There will be a motion presented to increase membership fees by \$10, effective the 2013 membership year. This increase is necessary to assist in balancing the Society's books in the short- and medium- term."



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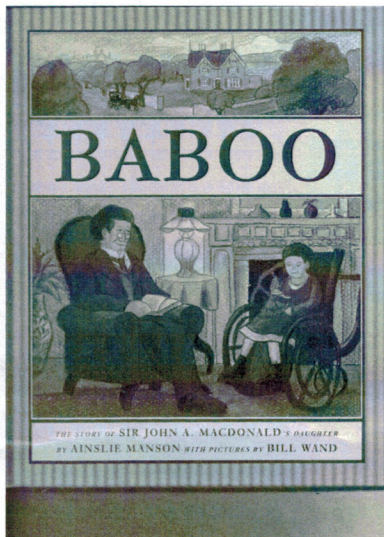
F A S H I O N F O R M E N

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This picture book for young children and interested adults portrays Sir John's relationship with his 3rd child, Mary, who was born to Sir John and Lady Agnes in Ottawa in 1869. Mary was born with hydrocephalus, a brain injury which meant she would never be able to walk, would have difficulty speaking and would find it hard to use her hands.

After losing his first son by Isabella, at the tender age of one, and having to 'board' his second son Hugh John, with his sister & her husband, he and Agnes delighted in the proximity of Earnscliffe to Parliament so that he could visit and play with Mary everyday after his time in the House. He read to her, played games with her and included her in her wheel during family parties in their house.

Mary loved to write and receive letters but until her father gave her a life-changing birthday present of a new invention, a typewriter, she had to dictate her letters, After that she wrote all her own letters, using only her left index finger and two middle fingers of her right hand. This took a great deal of time but Mary had a great deal of patience!



Mary had quite a busy social life, visiting Parliament to hear her father speak, visiting her Grandmaman in Riviere-du-Loup, Quebec, helping out at a charity bazaar at Rideau Hall and attending parties and dances at Earnscliffe.

She was 22 when her father died in 1891. She & her mother were very lonely in Ottawa without him and eventually moved to London, England where Mary was able to enjoy the museums, the aquarium, Chrystal Park and, best of all, the theatre.. After several winters in Alassio, Italy she returned to London. Her mother died when she was 51. After that Mary lived with her maid-companion, Sarah Coward, who was a great friend. She died at 64 and is buried in Hove, England near Brighton.

Ainslie Manson credits much of this information to the remarkable research on Mary conducted by Margaret M. Cihoe {Peggy} who was a very active genealogist in Kingston and visited Sarah's daughter on a trip to England.

Bill Wand's art work is very appealing, showing Mary snuggling in bed with her father every morning and participating in many activities with him while in her wheel chair. She lived an exceptionally long time for a handicapped person at the turn of the 20th century.

Although Baboo is now out of print it is available in all of the Kingston Frontenac Public Libraries and we are hopeful that it will be reprinted in the future.

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Speakers' Corner

Bruce Carruthers: Father of Canadian Military Communications

Presented by David McCarey

written by Alicia Boutilier
photos by Betty Andrews

For a refreshing change of venue, the Kingston Historical Society's January meeting took place at the Military Communications and Electronics Museum at CFB Kingston, with the Museum's own Education Coordinator as guest speaker. True to the title of his talk, McCarey described how Major Wallace Bruce Matthews Carruthers (1863–1910), a graduate of the Royal Military College, became the founder of the Canadian Signalling Corps, which preceded the present-day Military Communications and Electronics Branch. To provide context for his “star” subject, McCarey began with a fascinating overview of the history of military communication and signaling methods. While some inventions barely saw the light of day, many continue to be in use, despite the digital age.

Carruthers served in the South African War (also known as the Boer War) of 1899–1902, first as a sergeant in the 2nd (Special Service) battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry and later a lieutenant in the 2nd regiment, Canadian Mounted Rifles. The war's employment of a number of signaling systems made him realize that signallers would benefit from systematic training. When Carruthers returned to Canada a war hero, his advocacy resulted in the establishment of the first independent Signal Corps of the British Empire. In 1904, Carruthers was appointed inspector of signaling, with the rank of major and based in Kingston, and spent the rest of his days actively engaged with the community. Carruthers was buried in Cataraqui Cemetery, which—as Edward Grenda announced at the end of the meeting—has just received official designation as a National Historic Site of Canada.



At the end of his talk, David McCarey was presented with the Kingston Historical Society's honoured Murney Tower pin by Peter Ginn, KHS Councillor and Carruthers descendant. Guests then had an opportunity to visit the Museum displays and ask further questions about the Father of Military Communications.

UPCOMING TALK:

21 March 2012

John Fielding presents “British Home Children in Canada: A Personal, Communal, and National Story”

Location: Kingston Frontenac Public Library (Wilson Room), 130 Johnson Street

AND DON'T FORGET:

15 February 2012

Kingston Historical Society Annual General Meeting

Location: Kingston Frontenac Public Library (Wilson Room), 130 Johnson Street