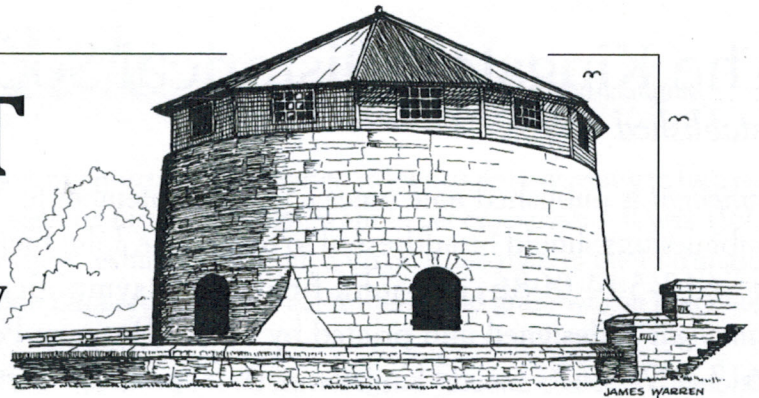


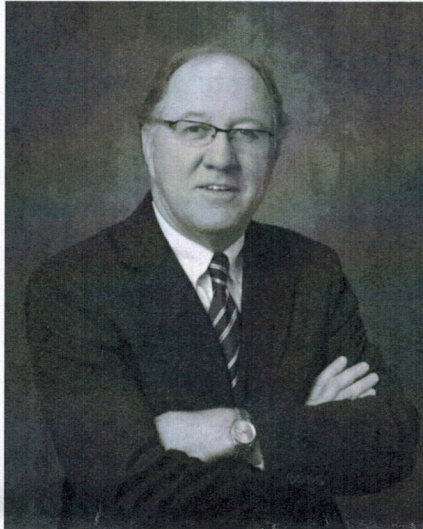
LIMELIGHT

Newsletter of the
Kingston Historical Society

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



All of a sudden the War of 1812 is of topical interest, and to a wider audience than perhaps ever before. A recent excellent 2-hour PBS presentation offered a remarkably balanced account of the war. An article in a recent (October 17) Maclean's magazine presented a first-rate summary of the conflict. The Globe and Mail has entered the media melee with its own take on the war and its effect on our country. To top it off the federal Ministry of Heritage announced recently the establishment of a fund to support 1812 events over the next two years. This is likely only the beginning of a media salvo over the next while.

Of interest locally will be the re-enactments next summer of two actions during the war:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| June 18 11:00 | attack on Gananoque by troops from Sacket's Harbor (September 1812) |
| June 29–July 1 | Flight of the Royal George – Bath to Kingston (November 1812) |

The St. Lawrence War of 1812 Bicentennial Alliance sponsors these events. While no substitute for scholarship, they will surely be colourful, exciting, and will stimulate interest in the conflict.

All of this activity convinces our committee planning our October 27, 2012 conference of its timeliness. While it will have somewhat different focus than these re-enactment events, it promises to be a great day indeed.

In this issue...

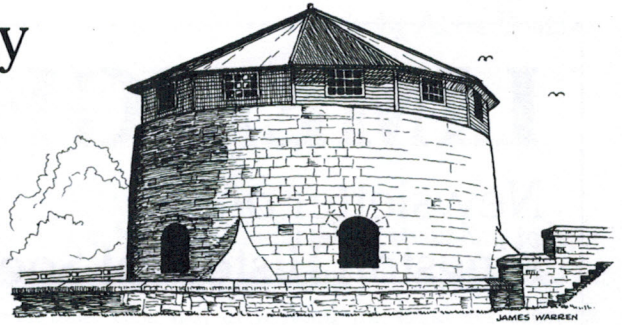
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Two upcoming KHS events warrant mention here. Our Christmas Party is Wednesday, December 7 at 6:00 at the Renaissance Event Venue on Queen Street. We hope to see you all there. The Sir John A. Macdonald dinner Wednesday January 11 at RMC has become a premier winter event in Kingston. Order your tickets soon to avoid disappointment.

The Kingston Historical Society

established 1893

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Murney Tower by James Warren

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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.

Kingston Historical Society

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69 Brock Street

613-549-5635

Announcements

Shirley Gibson-Langille An exhibition of paintings "Wheels Of Time" Opening Saturday December 3rd, 2011 1 p.m-5 p.m Show continues thru December 29th 2011 in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Frontenac Public Library, 130 Johnson Street. See a collection of scenes with old wagons, cars, trucks, tractors, farm equipment, spinning wheels, sewing machines, washers...At the Opening enjoy live entertainment, ghosts of the past and refreshments. A percentage of sales go to University Hospitals Kingston Foundation.

Contact: Shirley Gibson-Langille 613 549-8360 Website: <http://shirleygibsonlangille.homestead.com>

Quarry Heritage Books and Novel Idea invite you to attend the book launching of *Kingston: Building on the Past for the Future*

by **Brian S. Osborne** and **Donald Swainson** on Sunday, November 20, 2011 from 1:00-3:30 p.m. at the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes, Ontario Street, Kingston, Ontario

Book Signing – Novel Idea, Princess at Bagot Streets on Saturday, December 3rd – 12:00 to 2:00 PM

Kingston and The Islands, Then & Now By **Peter Milliken, Arthur Milnes** and **Jennifer McKendry**

Feel free to bring books to have the authors' signatures added.

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Colonel Bowen Van Straubenzee

Written by Warren Everett



Located on the south wall of the nave of St. George's Cathedral is an elaborate brass plaque mounted on grey marble dedicated to Colonel Bowen Van Straubenzee. The large plaque takes the shape of a shield surmounted by a wreath of maple leaves and the Van Straubenzee family crest. In the centre of the crest is an ostrich proper under a coronet, all surrounded by a garter inscribed "Fortes Creantur Fortibus" - The Brave Beget the Brave. Around the shield are the battle honours, Umballa, Crimea, Taku Forts, Batoche, Pekin, Punjab and Mooltan.

Colonel Van Straubenzee was the son of General Sir Charles Thomas Van Straubenzee (1812–1892) part of a very prominent military family in England. His great-grandfather, Philip William Casimir Van Straubenzee, Captain in the Dutch guards, came to England about 1745, and became a naturalized citizen by act of parliament. The family maintains close ties with Royal Family and a Van Straubenzee was an attendant at the recent marriage of Prince William.

Colonel Bowen Van Straubenzee was born at Spennithorne, England in 1829. Following service in the Crimean War, Colonel Van Straubenzee served with the 9th Regiment of Foot when it garrisoned Fort Henry from 1856 to 1857. While on duty at the Fort, he met and married Annie Macaulay Cartwright, the daughter of a prominent Kingston family. After duty in Kingston, he served in India and in the 2nd China War. He returned to Canada around 1867, eventually settling in Kingston. In 1876 he was appointed to the Canadian Militia and served as Deputy Adjutant General for the 3rd Military District, Kingston until 1893. He commanded the Infantry Brigade in the 1885 North West Rebellion, directing the assault on Batoche.

Four of Colonel Van Straubenzee sons followed in his family's footsteps and served in the military. Three of the sons, Arthur and Casimir and Bowen attended and taught at RMC. All four served in WWI. Lieutenant Colonel Charles Turner Van Straubenzee, MID, served in South Africa and commanded the Royal Canadian Dragoons in WWI. He was killed on 9 October 1918. His grandson, Lieutenant Charles Casimir Van Straubenzee was killed on UN duty at Rafah, Egypt on May 10, 1957. Surely this was a family that exemplified their motto!

The Van Straubenzees were members St. John's Anglican Church, Portsmouth. However, in keeping with the tradition of the memorials to soldiers, a plaque was installed in the Cathedral. A plaque also hangs on the walls of St. John's and the church hall is dedicated to the family. In later years the family lived at Kirkleatham on what is now the site of Ongwanada and the Health Unit. The home was named after Jane Cholmely Turner of Kirkleatham, his maternal great-grandmother.

Colonel Van Straubenzee died on 8 November, 1898. His funeral was held at St. John's Portsmouth. According to the Daily Whig many mourners paid their respect to the old soldier. "The bright light poured in through coloured windows, and its soft radiance was in harmony with the mournful occasion".

**THIS
MONTH'S
MEETING**

Wednesday, 16 November 7:30 PM

The Kingston-Cairo Connection: Adventures in Egypt

Mark B. Trumppour

Wilson Room, Kingston Frontenac Public Library, Johnson St. at Bagot

Refreshments

All Welcome

Along the Old Road

By Stewart Renfrew

Map supplied by Jennifer McKendry

I must confess an error in my last few efforts on the Old Road. I have been referring to places like 660 Hillview Road. I looked at a recent map and apparently they have changed the name of that stretch of the road to "Old Hillview Road." I don't know where or when but it was always just Hillview road from the time they began mail delivery when my parents lived there and it was the mailing address for their next door neighbour as recently as a year ago. It seems bureaucracy can never let the Old Road alone. On the other hand it does make it a little easier for me to explain the locations along the road in this part of the story.

A couple of doors down from 660, Old Hillview Road meets Hillview Road as it leaves the path of the Old Road turning up the hill, ruining our toboggan run, and through what had been the old barnyard and the "little orchard" to meet up with what is now Tacoma Blvd. In short it goes into the Hillview subdivision. As it passes through the old barnyard it runs behind the old farm house at 1693 Hillview Road.

This beautiful old limestone house looking West and slightly South over the village of Collins Bay from its vantage point at the top of the hill is hidden from view to people passing by. In fact all that one can see easily is some of the rear of the house. Its architectural style indicates that it was probably built in the 1850's, by James Henry Smith or his decedents who owned the farm at that time.



[I should note here that I owe many of my comments about the buildings along the 'Old Road' to a 1991 publication published by the students of the late Geoffery Spragge as part of their course at the School of Urban and Regional Planning at Queen's University.]

I well remember the house because as a kid I played with the children of the families who owned it and had a free run of the place. There was a big playroom above the kitchen/dining room on the side wing, I sometimes wonder now if the room was as big as my childhood eyes remember it. There was also a carriage shed as part of that wing. The main part of the house is a typical Georgian farmhouse like so many in the area. It really is an imposing and lovely old house set at the top of the hill looking over the village and well back above the road. There was a plantation of apple trees between the house and the road but that land now has three suburban houses. Right in front was a large white pine that seemed to me to set the place off perfectly. The old fashioned mounting block in front of the carriage shed is gone now.

There was a very faded red building near the barn behind the farmhouse. The story was that it had been, originally, a schoolhouse. It was painted a faded red, but it seemed rather tall and large for a schoolhouse, to me. They kept turkeys there for a while and then it became derelict. If it was the schoolhouse it would have been moved to that spot from a location at now 757 Hillview road just to the west of the place where Hillview drive starts its climb up the hill. So far I have been able to find nothing but rumour about this schoolhouse.

The properties I have been describing to this point were all part of lot three of the second concession of Kingston Township. At the point where the, now, Mona Drive, named after the wife of Mr. Holder who built 660 Hillview Road, we cross over into Lot Two of the Second Concession.



Kingston Historical Society Annual Holiday Party

Wednesday, 7 December 2011

Renaissance Event Venue - 285 Queen Street (the c. 1837 historic church)

Social Hour 6 – 7 pm KHS, Awards Presentation 7 – 8 pm,

FESTIVE SNACKS TO FOLLOW

Donation of \$10 requested

12th Annual Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner

Our guest speaker for this year's Sir John A. Macdonald Anniversary Dinner, Wednesday January 11 2012, will be Mr. Peter Milliken, retired MP for Kingston and The Islands and Speaker of the House of Commons. His talk will be:

Sir John A. Macdonald and the Kingston Heritage

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 to:

Sir John A Macdonald Dinner

c/o W. Everett

253 Willingdon Ave

Kingston, Ontario

K7L 4J2

*pd by chg
23 Nov.*

All reservations must be received no later than **December 21, 2010.**



Sir John A. Macdonald Anniversary Dinner, Wednesday January 11, 2012

Name(s): _____

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.

A Wagon Wheel Tale

By Shirley Gibson-Langille

Some paintings don't start off to be much of a story. In fact, one of my expeditions started to look as if it was going to be a real dud as I had wasted most of my painting time looking for something historically significant to get on canvass. It was 1992, and I was working towards my "Brush up on Portland Township" exhibition. I ended up on some road in the Hartington area where I found this lovely wagon. I met the owner, Claude Leonard, who told me it was an old grain-wagon that dated back to 1908.

I had so much fun drawing the wagon and it was a real bonus when, unexpectedly, a raccoon clambered onto the wagon and posed for me. I happily put him in the picture and left. Since my show, this drawing has hung on my hall wall, along with forty or more others.



Eighteen years later, I decided to put a new furnace in my house in the room off my hall. Two men came and were working there with the door open. The younger man, Ken, said to me, "I keep looking at the little wagon picture over there. It looks just like the one my grandfather had." I asked him who his grandfather was. Can you believe it was Claude Leonard! Now, you know by now that I don't believe in coincidences and this was starting to sound like a story. So, I decided to go back to Hartington to find the Leonard farm

When I found it at 4057 Boyce Road I was thrilled to see the sign in front: "Century Farm 1867-1967." I knocked on the door of the old farm house and met Stephen Leonard, the sixth generation to live there. I asked about Claude Leonard and Stephen pointed to a sign on the oldest barn that was next to the huge red roofed barn that had been built in 1909. It read, "THE LEONARD HOMESTEAD MEADOWVIEW RANCH & WOODLOT--CENTURY FARM --Joseph Leonard 1810-1897, Thomas Leonard 1849-1913, Leroy Leonard 1884-1956, Claude Leonard 1917-1995, Winston Leonard 1944-2004, and Stephen Leonard 1966--" The Meacham Atlas of 1878 records the 100 acre farm as being on Concession VII Lot 8 and that Joseph Leonard was the occupant.

Stephen said there had been a log home there originally and that It had once been a flourishing milk-farm. Later, when the cheese factories left and things changed, they went into raising beef cattle and, at one time, they had even raised foxes. Now, the 100 acres are mostly used for haying. As on many old farms today, the barns stand silent except for the odd bird singing away while flying in and out.

Before driving off, I looked back at the farm and reflected on how the wheels of one old wagon had brought me to this "Century Leonard Farm" and prompted another story for me to share. I realized, however, that the real story could only be in our imagination. What a unique family chronicle this farm had experienced: 151 years of the life and times of the several generations of Leonards who had toiled, lived, loved, laughed, cried, and died there. For Stephen Leonard and the future generations, I wish you all the very best that life can offer.

Speakers' Corner

by Alicia Boutilier

Brockville 1, Kingston 0: The Evolution of Municipal Government in Upper Canada

Presented by C. Richard Tindal

Photos by Peter Ginn



C. Richard Tindal

In his provocatively titled presentation, Dr. Richard Tindal talked about how today's local government structures, operating systems, and prevailing values are rooted in history. The origins of local government rose out of a need for local services, as Loyalists settled and lived close to each other, in the aftermath of the American Revolution. In 1788, what is today southern Ontario was divided into four large districts: Hesse, Nassau, Mecklenburg, and Lunenburg. Kingston was located in Mecklenburg and hosted the first district meeting. With the creation of Upper Canada shortly thereafter and an elected legislative assembly, there was a new vehicle to work through. Districts were further divided into counties to create ridings or constituencies to elect members of the new legislative assembly. One of the first bills passed by the new Assembly was the Parish and Town Officers Act, providing for annual meetings for the election of local officers. Pressure for more local government continued in the early 19th century. In 1828, both Belleville and Kingston sought incorporation, but Brockville beat them to it (hence Tindal's title). With the election of its first Board of Police (essentially a council), in 1832, Brockville became Ontario's first incorporated self-governing town. Finally, six years later, the Town of Kingston was incorporated in 1838.

Under turn of the twentieth century reforms, municipal government was viewed as a more business-like affair, with a number of structures set in place that still exist today, such as a reduction in the size of council, move toward elections at large, and delegation of important or sensitive issues to boards or commissions. After a fascinating discussion of how Canadian mayors are somewhere in between the US model of strong mayors with considerable singular power and the British model of ceremonial "weak" mayors, Tindal touched upon the Ontario Municipal Act of 2001, which provided municipal governments with broad spheres of jurisdiction and blanket power, giving them greater independence and autonomy within the province, should they choose to exercise it.

Throughout his talk, Tindal drew upon his considerable knowledge about local government, having taught, researched, consulted and written about the subject for more than 40 years. Tindal has been a Professor of Government at St. Lawrence College, Kingston, and an occasional Visiting Professor in the School of Policy Studies at Queen's University, and has

developed and taught courses, via the Internet, for the University of Alberta and Dalhousie University. His most recent books (with Susan Tindal) are *Guide to Good Municipal Governance of 2007* and *Local Government in Canada*, entering its 8th edition in 2012.

After quite a lively question period, Richard Tindal was presented with the Kingston Historical Society's esteemed Murney Tower pin by Paul Robertson, the new City Curator for the City of Kingston.



Kingston Heritage Ambassadors Eva Barnes and Carolyn Dowdell delight KHS members.

