

Kingston Historical Society

2025 Lecture Series

All lectures (except on February 16th) will be held on Wednesday evenings at the lounge at the Kingsbridge Retirement Community (950 Centennial off Princess) at 7:00pm with simultaneous ZOOM and subsequent YouTube posting.

January 15, 2025: Dr. Duncan McDowall on “*HMCS Thiepval: Kingston’s Little Ship That Could.*” A tale of a World War I warship built on Kingston shores that found fame and eventual misadventure on the high seas.

February 16, 2025: A celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Society’s curatorship of Kingston historic Murney Tower featuring a lecture by the Museum’s Director **Dr. Simge Erdogan**. Lecture to be followed by a high tea. Details and location to follow on the KHS website.

March 19, 2025: Professor Ralph Boston of Queen’s biology department will speak on “*A History of the Mississauga People North of Kingston*”. Professor Boston’s research seeks to set the Queen's University Biological Station in the context of the Indigenous People who inhabited the area long before white settlement.

April 16, 2025: Dr. Sandy Campbell, emerita professor of women’s studies at Carleton University will speak on “*Kingston’s Kathleen Hammond, the Lusitania and the White Plague*”, a story of World War I happiness and tragedy.

May 21, 2025: Christine Lavallee, a St. Lawrence College librarian, writer and literary scholar, will talk about her research into nineteenth-century Canadian author Julia Beckwith Hart, whose pioneering novel – *St. Ursula’s Convent* --was partially set in Kingston and is said to be the first indigenous work of Canadian fiction.

June 6, 2025: The Kingston Historical Society will host its annual commemoration of the 1891 death of our first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, at his grave site in Cataraqui Cemetery. Speaker and details to be announced in *Limelight* and on the KHS website.

September 17, 2025: Susan Smith, the long-time editor of *Thousand Islands Life* on-line magazine and author of *The First Summer People: The Thousand Islands 1650-1910*, will reflect on the history and heritage of the Thousand Islands, the iconic stretch of the St. Lawrence just east of Kingston.

October 15, 2025: Paul Van Nest, a local historian, will relate the World War II experience of his cousin Glenn Brooks, an eastern Ontario farm boy who served as a tail gunner on an RCAF bomber until his death over Germany in 1944. Brooks’ letters home offer Van Nest a prism through which to probe the innermost experience of men at war and their ongoing impact of their loss on those left behind.

November 19: Warren Everett, military historian and collector of military medals, will reflect on the significance of military decorations not just for the immediate recipient, but also for the society he/she served. Warren will bring samples from his expansive collection.

For further information about any of these lectures, please contact Duncan McDowall (duncanmcdowall@hotmail.com) or Vincent Durant (vincentdurant@icloud.com).