

# Limelight

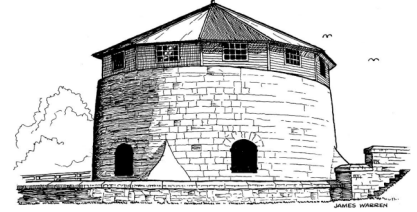
Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

Kingston Ontario Canada

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January 2025



The Kingston Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.



## Kingston Historical Society Meeting

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

presented live at 7pm, in the theatre lounge of the

**Kingsbridge Retirement Community** at 950 Centennial Drive

and simultaneously offered via >>>Zoom

*Members will be emailed the Zoom link. Non-members may email [kingstonhs@gmail.com](mailto:kingstonhs@gmail.com) for the link before 6 pm, January 15.*



**Dr. Duncan McDowall presents:**

**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.

It is noted with regret, the death of Norma Kelly on December 21, 2024, a long-time member of the Kingston Historical Society.

# THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 1893

## MAILING ADDRESS:

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*Please forward submissions to the Editor* [betty.andrews@gmail.com](mailto:betty.andrews@gmail.com)

*Reprinting of articles from the Limelight must be accompanied by an acknowledgment of the Society, the issue and date. Photo credits and by-lines must be retained.*

Featured Sponsor

The Kingston Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Kingston Association of Museums, Art Galleries and Historic Sites and the City of Kingston.



*The KHS gratefully acknowledges the support of its sponsors in producing Limelight.*



President: Paul Charbonneau Vice President: Peter Gower Past President: Vincent Durant Treasurer: Peter Ginn Secretary: Don Richardson  
Councillors: Betty Andrews, Editor of Limelight; Craig Pettis, Member-at-large; Alan MacLachlan, Sir John A. Macdonald Commemoration Event Chair;  
Dr. Duncan McDowall, Programme Chair; Liana Shaw, Director of Murney Tower; Paul Van Nest, Membership Chair;  
Peter Gower, Editor of Historic Kingston and Webmaster

## President's Message

by Paul Charbonneau

“January is the month for dreaming.” – Jean Hersey

What will you dream of; a new job, a new relationship, a new addition

to your family, a trip to relax or adventure, to explore. Whatever it may be will be your new history so make it great.

At KHS, our Annual General Meeting on February 19 will see some changes to our Council. We are always looking for new talent to offer their gift of volunteering to the Society. If you are interested in joining Council, please contact: Vincent Durant [kingstonhs@gmail.com](mailto:kingstonhs@gmail.com) with his name as the Subject.

Be sure to “Save The Date” of February 16, 2025, for the Heritage Event sponsored by the Kingston Historical Society and the Frontenac Heritage Foundation: High Tea at historic Fort Henry: what a great way to celebrate Heritage Month! Not to mention, a look back at 100 years of Murney Tower Museum, our little gem.

“History is not what was, it is.” — William Faulkner



## Still Standing

### Looking at Regional Architecture with Dr. Jennifer McKendry

#### 158 – 162 EARL STREET: THREE FIRST-CLASS BRICK HOUSES

IMPORTANT SALE OF REAL ESTATE, BY AUCTION. THAT VERY DESIRABLE PROPERTY known as *MOZART TERRACE* on Earl Street, recently built by Wm. Burrows, Esq., will be sold at the Subscriber's Sale Room, on Monday Next, March 13<sup>th</sup>, [1876], at 12 o'clock noon. The Property consists of 3 FIRST CLASS BRICK HOUSES (with stone basements,) consisting 8 to 9 Rooms, each with Pantries, &c., with good Yards, enclosed Wood Sheds and Closets...The Buildings are comparatively new [built in 1867] and in good condition. Mr. Burrows having spared no expense in keeping them in thorough repair. The locality is most desirable and the houses convenient and comfortable. Each house is divided by a stone and brick wall from foundation to roof.

CHAS. McMILLAN, Auctioneer, March 6, 1876. *The British Whig*

It has been long known that this handsome row was built shortly after the owner, William Burrows (1826-1910), purchased in the summer of 1866 this angled property (Earl and West Streets converge). But not so clear was that it was initially a simple rectangular footprint without the key element of the tower.

**NEW MUSIC STORE!**  
81 KING STREET.



WILLIAM BURROWS has now opened the above Store with an entire New Stock of Musical Merchandise, consisting of new and select Sheet Music, Piano Fortes, Melodeons, Musical Instruments of all kinds, Strings, fittings &c., &c., and a complete assortment of Plain and Fancy Stationery, School Books, &c.

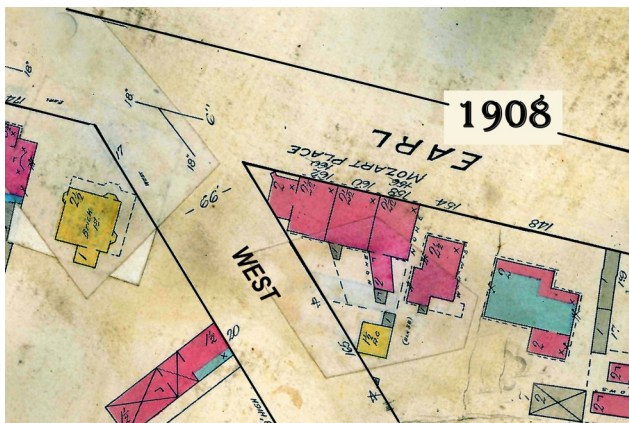
A share of patronage is respectfully solicited.

Kingston Daily News, 16 Jan., 1865

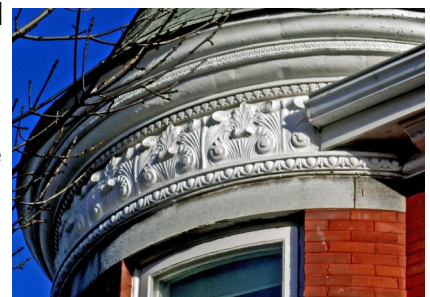
Why was it initially known as Mozart Place (by the 1890s, an alternative name, Mozart Terrace, was in use)? The Mozart aspect was a kind of advertisement for Burrows, who ran a music store on King Street near Princess in the 1860s and whose daughter taught music lessons in the Earl Street row.



By 1903, architect William Newlands was living with his son, John C. Newlands, who was his draughtsman, in 160 Earl Street. Hence it is no surprise that the Newlands firm was the contractor when owner James Campbell wanted, in 1897, to add a wing and tower to 162 Earl Street. George Newlands was the mason in charge of constructing this "pressed brick and terracotta" structure. The existing unit at 162 was remodeled.



The choice of a round tower was a splendid solution to deal with the angled corner at Earl and West streets. It made a dynamic statement animating an otherwise conventional townhouse row. Up-to-date in style with its hint of medieval revival, the tower varied the roofline and added a welcome vertical aspect.



# Looking Back

## Snippets from *THEN* the KHS newsletter of former days

**January 1993** FYI In 1970, our Society assumed responsibility for the annual memorial service for Sir John A. Macdonald...and carried out the restoration of his gravesite in 1980.

**February 1993** Beverley Lazier presented a bleak report of the financial state of our Murney Tower Museum...Increasing costs and declining attendance suggest that drastic action will be needed to keep it alive.

**March 1993** we are pleased to announce that the Kingston Historical Society has paid off the debts of the Murney Tower Museum...

### From the archives

At Bellevue House, at the 2011 launch of *The Sir John A. Macdonald Music Book: We'll Hand Down His Name in History and Song*, by Donna M. Ivey

Bellevue House staff with Donna Ivey, Norma Kelly, Reneé Porter and Brian Porter as Sir John.



## Bishop Strachan

From the book: The Parish Register of Kingston, Upper Canada 1785-1811

Originally published by British Whig Publishing Company, Limited 1921

...Chief among the personages mentioned in the Register are Major-General Sir Isaac Brock, Col. Samuel Smith, subsequently an Administrator of the Province, **Bishop Strachan**, still unordained and a schoolmaster at Kingston...

Bishop Strachan... began his Canadian career as the schoolmaster of Kingston. He was also tutor to the children of the Hon. Richard Cartwright, becoming godfather to Stephen. It was in Kingston that he trained two future Chief Justices (James Stuart, of Lower Canada, and John Beverley Robinson, of Upper Canada) together with the Hon. Andrew Stuart, who at the time of his death, in 1840, was Solicitor-General of Lower Canada. It was there too that Strachan won the reputation which attracted pupils to his school in Cornwall from the date of his ordination, in 1803, to the time of his removal to York, in the summer of 1812. With Kingston Strachan remained in close touch during his Cornwall period and afterwards, very kindly references to the city and its first Rector being found in the journal of his first Episcopal visitation of the Diocese of Toronto in 1840. He would have liked to succeed Dr. Stuart in the rectorship in 1811, but, on learning that Mrs. Stuart desired the appointment of her son, George Okill Stuart, he begged his friends to cease making any efforts in his behalf...

To Dr. Stuart, Strachan looked up as his "spiritual father," as he himself phrased it in a letter to the Revd. Thomas Chalmers, D.D. ...

With Stuart the young schoolmaster, who had already attended some classes in the Faculty of Divinity at St. Andrew's University, continued to read theology; and by him he was prepared for ordination. Long after Stuart's death Strachan used to call him the "Father of the Church in Upper Canada," a title which he well deserved, not only because of his own labours but also because of the fatherly counsel and oversight which he bestowed upon his younger brethren in the ministry.

Through Messrs. Cartwright and Hamilton, whose commercial, social, and political connections extended from Quebec to Detroit and beyond, Strachan's standing in the community was assured from the moment of his arrival in Upper Canada. His marriage, which was a very happy one, allied him to the Loyalists and to



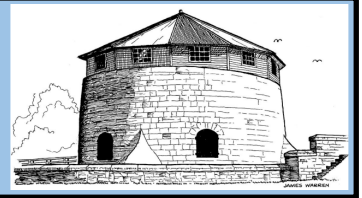
the Hon. James McGill of Montreal, Mrs. Strachan having been the widow of Mr. Andrew McGill (a partner of his brother James) and a daughter of Dr. Wood of Cornwall. This Loyalist connection was further strengthened by the marriage of three of his children with members of the Jones family of Brockville and of the Robinson family of Toronto. These connections, added to his native abilities and boundless energy, to say nothing of the devotion of his pupils in Kingston, Cornwall, and York, and the signal service which he rendered to the country during the war of 1812, gave him a well deserved influence and authority in the community. This authority and influence his political opponents of the Twenties and Thirties felt to be irksome but they did not fully appreciate the strength of the foundations upon which they rested or the consummate skill with which they were exercised.

Rev. Dr. John Strachan, first Bishop of Toronto.  
John Connon / Thomas Connon, Photographer

# Murney Tower

## Operated by the Kingston Historical Society

[www.murneytower.com](http://www.murneytower.com)



### Murney Tower Update

Murney Tower Museum's 2024 intern, Alexa Grandy, became the acting Museum Coordinator on December 7th, replacing Dr. Simge Erdogan O'Connor, who has taken the role of Director of the Museum of Health Care at Kingston.

#### Alexa Grandy



**Liana Shaw**, Director of Murney Tower, writes: We're excited to welcome Alexa Grandy as the Murney Tower Museum's new Museum Coordinator! Alexa is a recent graduate of Fleming College's Museum Management and Curatorship program and holds a BA Honours in Canadian Studies from Trent University. She's passionate about Canadian social history and cultural heritage, and has a knack for uncovering and sharing unique stories.

Alexa is no stranger to Murney Tower—she spent last summer as Simge's intern, working closely with our former curator and learning the ropes. During her internship, she developed and delivered heritage programs, assisted with artifact care, and helped promote the museum and provide memorable visitor experiences.

We're thrilled to have Alexa's enthusiasm and fresh perspective at the museum. Be sure to stop by and say hello—she's looking forward to reconnecting with the community and diving into her new role!

**Bridge**—The temporary bridge to the tower is ready for use. The permanent bridge will be installed a few years from now.

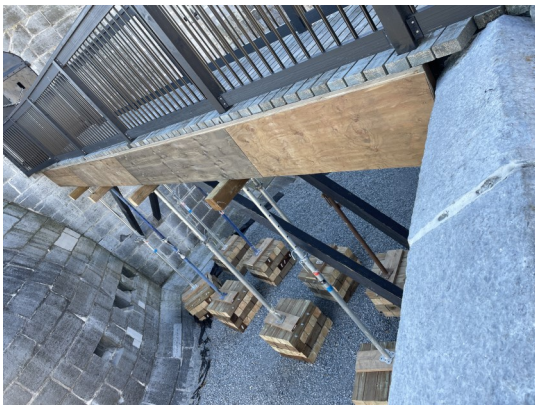


Photo by Alexa Grandy

### Centennial Projects

**Art Competition:** Nine works of art were submitted to the juried competition,

*Echoes: Reimagining Murney Tower*,

held in collaboration with the Modern Fuel Artist-Run Centre. The art will be exhibited at the Modern Fuel Gallery at the Tett Centre in April before moving to the Murney Tower site in the summer of 2025.

**Book:** The book launch for

*The Time-travelling Adventures of Mr. Murney*,

written by Alex Lowe for the museum's centennial, will take place at the Central Branch of the Public Library on March 8, 2025, from 2-4pm.

# Murney Tower 1925 - 2025

Membership includes the annual journal 'Historic Kingston' and 9 issues of the newsletter 'Limelight', some sponsor discounts and some special event discounts.

'Historic Kingston' may be purchased by non-members for \$25.

### **Please Renew Your Membership for 2025 now**

\$40 for individual membership;  \$50 for family;  \$10 for student;  \$50 for institution; and  \$300 for sponsor.

Donation: Amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Charitable receipts for amounts exceeding \$19.99 with our thanks.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to receive my Limelight online \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Mail this completed application form and a cheque made out to the 'Kingston Historical Society' to  
*Kingston Historical Society, Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6*

2. Online with Visa or MasterCard or PayPal: <https://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca/membership/>

3. eTransfer to [treasurer@kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:treasurer@kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca)

Paul Van Nest, Membership Chair, KHS, 613-532-1903 (text or phone), [pvannest@cogeco.ca](mailto:pvannest@cogeco.ca)

***Ear to the ground***

***by Elizabeth Durno***

*Reporting on events of interest to history buffs*

**Great Lakes Museum**—Keep an eye out for the Nautical Nights Speaker series starting in January. The Great Lakes Museum has not announced January's speaker but the information will be available shortly at [marmuseum.ca](http://marmuseum.ca) or by calling 613 542 2261.

Did you know that the **Canadian Museum of Women's History**, as yet unhoused, incorporated in 2021, is an Affiliated Member of the International Association of Women's Museums? CMWH is also an institutional member of the Kingston Association of Museums Art Galleries and Historic Sites(KAM).

For their January 18th 10:00 a.m. meeting, the **Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society** will feature a "Show & Tell" where several members will show a family treasure and tell its story or share some other anecdote or perhaps a research tool which has been of value while researching their family history. Go to [kingston.ogs.ca](http://kingston.ogs.ca) for the zoom link.

At the inaugural meeting of the 32nd season of the **Civil War Round Table of Greater Kingston**, Dr. Cheryl A. Wells will delve into how a controversial Irish writer reportedly sought out a Tennessee slaveholding woman who came, in the postbellum era, to symbolize the sacrificial glory of the Old South and help perpetuate the Lost Cause. Beginning on Princess Street in Kingston, meandering through the plantations of the Old South, the horrors of the Civil War, and the politics of death, memory, and memorialization, Dr. Wells' talk, *The Widow of the South: Carrie McGavock*, will be held January 9, 2025, at 7:30 pm at the Kingston Seniors Centre located at 56 Francis Street, Simcoe Room.

# Heritage Event

Of

the Kingston Historical Society and the Frontenac Heritage Foundation  
will take place on

**Sunday, February 16, 2025, from 2–4.**

at the Great Hall in the Fort Henry Interpretation Centre

Doors open at 1:30pm....ample parking .... A high tea will be served.

**Dr. Simge Erdogan-O'Connor**

will present

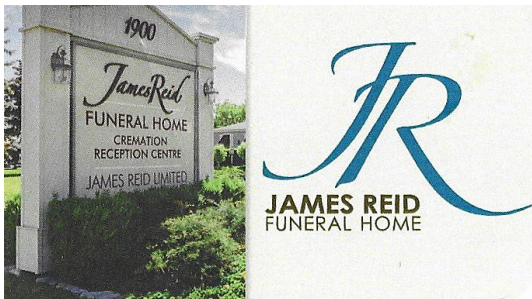
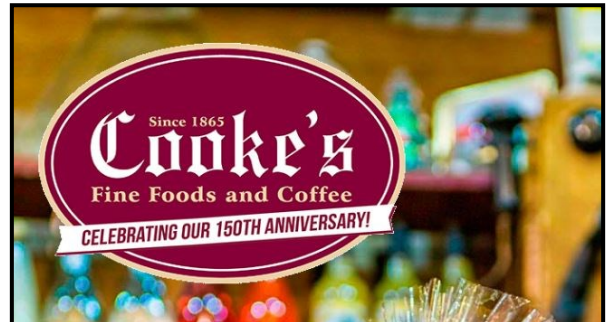
***100 Years of Murney Tower Museum:***

***Tracing the Legacy of Kingston's Iconic Landmark***

**HOMESTEAD**



**Grant Thornton**



**Kingsbridge**   
Retirement Community *by Signature*

