



# Outlook

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## Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald Returns Triumphant to Belleville Addresses Huge Crowd at Maranatha

By Bill Kennedy

After exactly two hundred years since his birth in Scotland and almost a century and a half since his last visit to Belleville, Canada's first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, made a triumphant return here on January 20 to address the Hastings County Historical Society at the city's Maranatha Church on College Street. Sir John A. Macdonald and his wife Lady Agnes were brilliantly portrayed by Brian and Renee Porter of Brockville.



Sir John A. Macdonald and his wife Lady Agnes cut the cake at the Historical Society's January public presentation.

Photo by Bill Kennedy

Back in 1876 when 15,000 people turned out to hear him speak at a political rally and picnic at Belleville's Agricultural Grounds, *The Mail* reported that the crowd "left little room for doubt that their loyal hearts beat in honest sympathy with Sir John Macdonald's and that they loved the man with a fervor which has never been evinced towards any other Canadian statesman." As for Sir John himself, he thought it was "the most magnificent political demonstration I ever saw. It would be difficult to surpass it in any country." He himself had been told, he said, that when the Conservatives were in power, cows gave more milk and chickens laid more eggs to the dozen.

Macdonald reminisced about his enjoyable boyhood days in the Quinte area and recalled that when he got into politics one of the big challenges the colony faced was making its voice heard between the two mighty empires of Great Britain and the United States. The year before Confederation, in 1866, it was the opinion of the *New York Times* that once the colony's experiment with British federation failed, as it was bound to do, it and its five million inhabitants would gradually be absorbed into the U.S.A.

Macdonald, British to the core, was determined that Canada would not, as he put it, become the Arctic fringe to the American blanket, and set out on the great unifying adventure of building a railway across the country to the Pacific. It was a project he didn't believe he would live to see completed, but when he said that one day he would be content to look down on its success, his opponent commented that it was far more likely he would be looking up! In fact, as Macdonald would be able to say, he saw it horizontally for he did survive to see the last spike driven and to ride by rail all the way to British Columbia.

Macdonald, who believed in a strong constitutional monarchy, was a Member of Parliament from 1844 until his death in 1891. There is a story that during his tenure, his party told him that he had to do something about the excessive consumption of alcohol by one of his ministers, D'Arcy McGee. Macdonald didn't know how to handle the problem until finally one day he went to him and said, "Look, McGee, this government can't afford two drunkards. You've got to stop." Contemporary accounts, even

by his opponents, paint Macdonald as a man of high intelligence, generosity of spirit, boyish exuberance and a great conversationalist. There were other less flattering descriptions, of course, but in the big picture, Macdonald today is considered a critical piece of our national heritage. The January event saw one of the largest turn-outs ever for a Historical Society gathering with well over two hundred people in attendance.



**Birthday cake celebrating 200 years from the date John A. Macdonald was born**

*Photo by Bill Kennedy*



## Toils of Early Circuit Riders

*By Hal and Olive Wilson*

In the early days of the Methodist Episcopal Church, circuit visits were made by clergy to Upper Canada, including the Bay of Quinte area. There church services were held, and marriages, baptisms and prayers for the dead were offered. Some circuits were of six weeks' duration and others of four weeks' duration. Means of transportation was by horse.

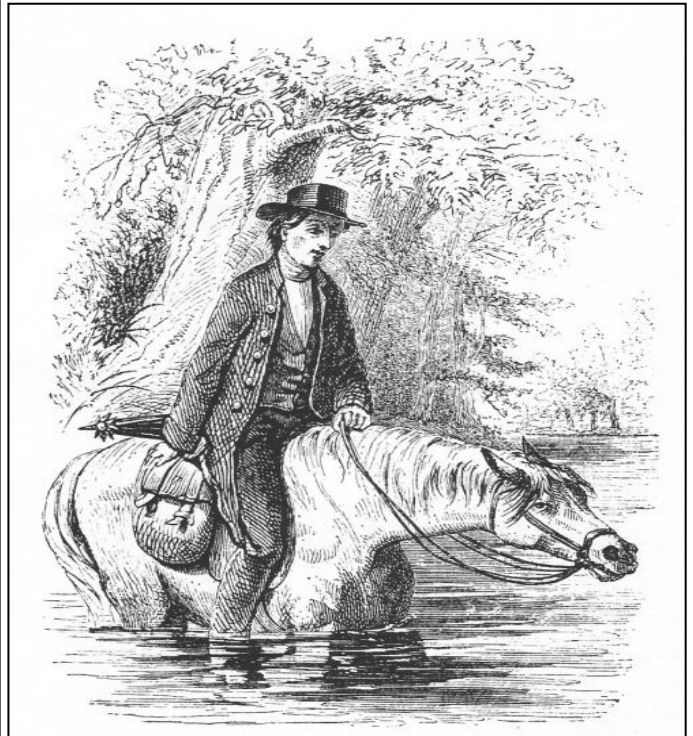
The Reverend Elijah Woolsey and the Reverend Darius Dunham are excellent examples of the hard-working, dedicated men known as circuit riders or itinerant preachers who sacrificed their time, talents, health and home comforts to take the gospel to outlying areas.

The following are excerpts from *Heroes of Methodism* by The Reverend J.B. Wakeley, 11<sup>th</sup> edition, Toronto, William Briggs, 1855, pages 296–301.

“Dunham and Elijah Woolsey.

In an interesting little book ... called the ‘Supernumerary,’ ... Mr. Woolsey gives an account of Mr. Dunham and his perilous journey to Canada, in those days which tried men’s souls and bodies. It throws a light on the character of the heroic Dunham, and

shows us, also, what the early pioneers suffered in going into the wilderness in pursuit of the ‘lost sheep of the house of Israel.’ I prefer to give it in Mr. Woolsey’s own language:



‘At the conference in 1794, D. Dunham came from Canada, and asked me if I would go with him to the province. I consented. ... J. Coleman was appointed to go with us. So after conference we set out for Canada. ... At Albany we laid in our provisions for the journey. When we came to Schenectady we found that the company with whom we had intended to go had taken their departure. So we tarried a week, and provided ourselves with a boat. Two men had engaged to go with us, and to work their passage up the Mohawk; but an enemy to the Methodists persuaded them to relinquish their engagement with us, which they did, and went with him. ... We had to work our own passage. When we came to the first rapids, which by the Dutch people are called “knock ‘em stiff,” we had our difficulties. When we had almost ascended the rapids, the boat turned round, and down the stream she went, much more rapidly than she went up. We tried again; and when we had almost conquered the difficulty, the boat turned again. ... So away went the boat. ... and I swam to shore. The next day we ‘doubled the cape,’ and that day made a voyage of ten miles. ... Next morning ... a man and his son hailed us ... and wished to know if they might work their passage to Rome. ... Brother Dunham told them if they were civil men, and would behave accordingly, they might. ... So we soon started, but ... one of them began to swear profanely. We told him if he did not cease swearing we



would set them ashore. ... some things did not please him, and he began swearing again ... Brother D. ... steered the boat toward the shore, and gave him his bundle, and told him to go, saying that he would not have a swearer on board. ... We had rain and snow for fifteen days out of nineteen during that journey. When we were going down the Oswego River, two men hailed us from the shore, and desired to work their passage, about twenty miles. It was very stormy ... I was ... glad to rest a little; so we took them in. ... Toward evening we saw a small log-house, and went to it. We found the woman sick in bed, and the man in poor health; they had three children, and but very little to eat. Here we lodged all night. ... Brother Dunham, being a physician, administered some medicine to the woman, which greatly relieved her. ... We had a very pleasant and edifying interview with the family that evening, in religious conversation, singing, and prayer. When we discovered that they were so destitute of provisions, we divided our little stock, and shared with them of all that we had. ... This was the only time, during our journey of nineteen days, that we found a house to shelter us; and it was good for that family that they entertained the strangers, for we were in truth as angels of mercy to them: they must have suffered greatly had we not called on them.

‘At night I have often hunted for a stone or a stick for a pillow, and in the morning, when I took hold of the oar or setting pole, I had to do it as gently as I could, by reason of the soreness of my hands, which were much blistered and bruised in rowing the boat. ... When we arrived at the Fort of Oswego, on Lake Ontario, we were searched to see if we were not ‘running goods,’ as they called it. This affair being adjusted without difficulty—for we were neither spies nor smugglers—we were now ready to embark on the lake; but, the wind blowing high, we were detained two days longer. At length there was a calm, and we ventured out on the broad lake; and when we had gone about twenty miles, the wind rose again, and blew right ahead, so that we had to change our course, and steer for the Black River country. The wind was boisterous, and the waves dashed terribly against our little bark; and before we reached the shore we struck a rock, and split our boat; a circumstance which made sailing still more dangerous and unpleasant. ... The next day we embarked again on the lake, but the wind was right ahead, which caused us to turn our course. We made for Salmon River, where we put in for that day; and early in the morning of the next day we started again. ... We went round Stony Point, and into Hungary Bay, and landed on Grenadier Island. ... we kindled a fire, hung on the tea-kettle, cooked some victuals, ate our supper, attended family worship, and retired to rest. ... Here we were detained until we were brought to an allowance of bread, having only one biscuit a day. I would have given considerable for a piece of bread as big

as my hand. ... We ate our last biscuit about the middle of the day we left the island, and got into harbour on the mainland about eleven o’clock at night. ... We put up that night at the house of our kind friend, Mr. Parrott. ... We took care not to eat too much that night. ... We retired to rest on feather beds, but it was a restless night to us all. Brother Coleman had a mind to leave the bed and take to the floor ... but our slumbers were not half so sweet as on the sandy beach and pebbly shore, when we were rocked by the wind and lulled by the rippling waves.

‘My companions and I were called to part. Brother Dunham went to Niagara circuit, Brother Coleman to Bay Quinte, and I to Oswegothe; and we were so far apart that we could not often meet. In going to Canada we were nineteen days, in returning thirteen.’



## Reid’s Dairy—A Canadian Success Story

### Part 1: From War-Torn Europe to Peaceful Belleville

*By Richard Hughes*

When we pick up a litre of milk in the familiar blue-and-red package with the smiling cow, we all know that it comes from the large modern dairy facility on Bell Boulevard, fairy-tale tower in front. Reid’s Dairy is the largest milk and dairy producer between Kingston and Toronto and is locally owned by the Quickert family. But few of us, enjoying the ice cream or loonie shakes, are aware of the amazing history of this business—its origins in war-torn Germany and its solid rise to prominence while all other local dairies were dying.

The seeds of the business were sown in the eastern German state of Silesia (now part of Poland) in the early 1930s when 22-year-old Arthur Quickert sought to learn a trade at a time when Germany was suffering severe economic problems and the Communists and National Socialists were fighting for control of the country. Inflation was so rapid that people were paid twice a day, so they could rush out and buy food as the money would have no value the next day. Arthur was able to obtain a job at a dairy and cheese plant. In only a few years, he went to Master Dairy School, became manager of a dairy and married Elizabeth.

In 1939, war broke out, and Arthur carried on managing large dairy facilities in Silesia in the brutal atmosphere of fear and violence. Also, in this period, the family grew with the arrival of three children: Siegfried, Armin and Nick. In January 1945, Arthur was ordered without

his family to a dairy some distance from his home and forbidden to leave. With Allied bombers constantly attacking the cities and the feared Russian army rapidly advancing from the east, Elizabeth and the three children were forced to escape with thousands of their neighbours towards the western part of Germany. Soon after, two German soldiers commandeered the truck from Arthur's dairy, forged his name on their own orders and forced him to drive them towards the west on roads clogged with millions of refugees. Arthur made it into western Germany, and in the relative safety of the Allies, the family was reunited. He returned to the dairy business and in the postwar years was very successful. However, in 1951, the family decided that their future was to be found in Canada. The Canadian government had advertised in the local paper that skilled, hard-working Germans were welcome. At the immigration office, the Quickerts asked to go to a smaller city in Ontario in a dairy region. The officer pondered the wall map and put his finger on Belleville.



**The Quickert Family: Siegfried and Corrie, Beverley and Nick, Marilyn and Armin and their parents, Elizabeth and Arthur (seated)** *Photo Courtesy of the Quickert Family*

In a stormy October of 1951, the family set sail. They were tossed on the wild ocean, everyone seasick, but after surviving the Russian tanks and bombs, they were sure they could survive the Atlantic. They traveled by train from Quebec to Oshawa, then to a settlement camp in Whitby and finally back to Belleville. They were met at the station by an immigration officer and by Jack Parrott and were driven to the Parrott farm on Highway 2 where Arthur was to look after the cows. However, Arthur Quickert was a dairy and cheese production manager, not a farmer. After a few days, the family was moved to Paul's Motel opposite the hospital and informed that a position had been found at Black Diamond Cheese located in the basement of the giant cold storage building on Pinnacle Street. Everything started to fall into place. They found a new home, a Front Street apartment. Arthur was

working long hours at Black Diamond Cheese, Elizabeth was a sewing machine operator at Deacon Brothers shirt factory and the kids were in school and managing their own newspaper routes.

Through hard work and careful savings, the family soon had their own house, a new car and after only three years, Arthur was general manager and director of Black Diamond Cheese. Over the next few years, the three boys, Siegfried, Armin and Nick, graduated from university, married and set about their own careers. Life was moving along well for the whole family and Arthur, now in his fifties, decided that it was time to take another major leap forward and purchase his own milk and cheese business. They had passed from the ravages and terror of war in Germany to a successful and growing career and family in Canada in just over one decade. The foundations of what would become Reid's Dairy were well and truly set. The following chapter, in the next issue, will tell that story.



## ON 'THE HOME FRONT'

February to mid-March, 1915

*By Laurel Bishop*

**February 2:** "In order that the premises of the Canning factory, in this city, situated on Church street, may be prepared for the reception of the troops for the Third Contingent, it is necessary that 25,000 cases of canned goods be shipped away. The shipping of same has been left in the hands of Mr. T.H. Coppin, the genial and efficient G.T.R. station agent here ... it will require, at least 25 cars to take the shipment away." (page 3)

**February 4:** "The Intelligencer offers the opportunity of procuring the National Songs, Hymns, and Anthems of the Allied Nations (with music for piano), in the original version ... National airs of Britain, Belgium, France, Japan, Russia, Servia, and the two Canadian patriotic songs – 'The Maple Leaf' and 'O! Canada' ... for 10 cents, or for 12 cents if to be wrapped and sent by post." (page 4)

**February 6:** "The official opening of Madoc Armouries will be held on Friday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> at 2.30 p.m. by Major General Hughes and officers of the 49<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Hastings Rifles. ... In the evening a grand military concert will be given in the armouries by the 49<sup>th</sup> Regimental Band, assisted by Mr. A.M. Chapman, of Belleville, and other artists. ... Madoc Review" (page 7)

**February 8:** "Military Wrist Watche. That friend of yours going to the front will surely appreciate having a

reliable time piece with him. It will be treasured in the future as a reminder of the donor. ... This month we offer special prices to any one in service uniform. Angus McFee, Jeweler, Optician. The Store with the Big Clock.” (page 2)

**February 11:** “The ground floor of the Canning factory will be utilized for the dining room, and some 30 feet at the south will be partitioned off for a kitchen. The second and third floors will be utilized for sleeping apartments. Bunks are being prepared and plumbers are at present engaged in placing in lavatories and bath rooms. When completed the interior will be in an excellent condition for the men.” (page 2)

**February 13:** “Amazing Things Happen During Holiday Truce. Most Extraordinary Christmas on Record with Fighting Men Fraternizing Between the Trenches. London. ... We are having the most extraordinary Christmas day imaginable, ... a sort of unarranged and quite unauthorized but perfectly understood and scrupulously observed truce exists between us and our friends in front. A regular soldiers’ peace. The thing started last night soon after dusk when the Germans started ‘Merry Christmas, Englishmen’, to us. Of course, our fellows shouted back, and presently large numbers of both sides had left their trenches unarmed, and met in the debatable, shot-riddled, no-man’s land between the lines ... one could see dim shapes wandering about or standing round in groups, English and Germans, where it would have been death to have shown a whisker an hour or so before.” (page 4)

**February 22:** “Pat’s Letter. Devizes, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, 1915. Dear Mamma:—Well, we got our Christmas box at last, and talk about being glad! ... We have gotten much benefit and fun from the jumping-jacks and tin whistles you put in. You ought to hear Ted play ‘Tipperary’ on his. O yes! And those views of Belleville that you sent are great. I have shown them all around and, believe me, I am some publicity agent. I had everybody in the stables interested in these views ... I was conducting a kind of illustrated lecture on ‘Beautiful Belleville’ and they were all gathered round me listening and watching most intently.” (page 3)

**February 23:** “A Letter From Leo Ross. Devizes, Jan. 29, 1915. Dear Mother.—Just a line to let you know that I have heard we are to go to the base in France next Monday. ... We are painting our guns and transport wagons all colors of the rainbow, in order to hide them from observation by the enemy. We are also painting our steel a brown color, for the same reason, so you can see things begin to look like business, and about time too. Our identification card is a circular and is supposed to hang about our neck. It is like this: Gunner Jas. Leo Ross, C. 40488, 2<sup>nd</sup> Artillery Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, C.F.A., Roman Catholic. And is of a brick red color. ... With love—Your son,

Leo Ross” (page 3)

**March 5:** “Artillery Recruits Wanted. Men are wanted at once for 3<sup>rd</sup> contingent artillery for overseas service. The artillery offers many advantages over other branches of the service. Qualifications:—Age—18–45. Height—5’ 3” and over. Chest—Not less than 33 ½”. Pay at the rate of \$1.10 daily and 75c. For subsistence, (Sundays included) from date of enlistment.” (page 2)

**March 8:** “Shorncliffe Camp Greets the Second Contingent from Canada. ... London. March 8.—The four thousand men of the second Canadian expeditionary force who have reached England will be quartered at Shorncliffe camp, which is a big improvement over Salisbury Plain, and the men will be more comfortably quartered than the Canadians who came across in October. ... The Canadians were given an enthusiastic reception when they reached Liverpool on Thursday night.” (page 1)

**March 13:** “Belleville Patriotic Association. 113 citizens of Belleville have each made one or more individual contributions, ranging from \$200 to 50c each. ... In addition to the above list of 113 citizens, there are 52 groups of contributors, comprising Brotherhoods, Lodges, Fraternities, Societies, ... Woman’s Clubs, Staffs of Colleges and of Schools, Companies, etc., who have each made contributions ranging from \$516., down to \$5.00. ... There is still, however, a large portion of Belleville’s population of 11,000 who have not yet signified what they intend to contribute to the Patriotic Fund.” (page 13)

**March 15:** “France, Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> Feb., 1915. Dear Dad: Well, we have had our baptism of fire and have just returned for a few hours’ rest. We were up in the first line trenches, some of which are only 100 yards from the Germans. It was great. ... The country around here is in an awful state, bearing tragic witness to the great struggle that has lasted for weeks. ... All the Belleville 15<sup>th</sup> and 49<sup>th</sup> boys are fine and untouched so far. ... Good-bye and dear love to you all, Dick.” (page 1)



## Ancient Egypt comes to Belleville!

By Melissa Wakeling

Egypt, Gift of the Nile is a travelling exhibition on display at Glanmore National Historic Site, 257 Bridge Street East, Belleville from February 13<sup>th</sup> to April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Museum visitors will explore an ancient civilization that flourished for thousands of years with this



exciting exhibition visiting Belleville from the Royal Ontario Museum.

The Nile River Valley of 5,000 years ago was the birthplace of a remarkable civilization. Protected from foreign invasion by vast deserts and sustained by fertile soil along the river, the ancient Egyptians developed from a simple agricultural community into a sophisticated society. Under a system of divine kingship, this Egyptian civilization lasted thousands of years and contributed strongly to the later cultures of the Mediterranean and Europe.

The exhibit explores the architecture, family life, personal grooming and adornment, education, religious and funerary beliefs of this fascinating culture. The exhibit includes a life-size sarcophagus as well as dozens of artifacts, some dating back to 2000 B.C. Hands-on stations will encourage visitors to snap an Egyptian selfie, write their name in hieroglyphics, and more.

Throughout the duration of the exhibition, school programs exploring the importance this civilization will be offered with programs designed specifically for grades K to 2 and 4 to 6. Special Egyptian themed activities will be offered during March Break.

Egypt, Gift of the Nile will be on display from February 13 to April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Glanmore National Historic Site, 257 Bridge Street East, Belleville. Visit [www.glanmore.ca](http://www.glanmore.ca) for more information or call [613-962-2329](tel:613-962-2329).

## Heritage Week

February 17—20, 2015 1 pm to 4:30 pm

Glanmore National Historic Site is celebrating Heritage Week! Join in special themed guided tours offered at 2 pm daily from February 17th to 20th. Plus, be one of the first to see the special exhibit visiting from the ROM, Egypt, Gift of the Nile. Regular admission applies. **Please Note: Glanmore will be closed in observance of Family Day, February 16th, 2015.**



## News from the Archives

By Sharon White

### Acquisitions in 2014

Last year, the Archives received eighty-five new donations of material to add to its collections. Most were small donations—some, only one postcard or a few documents or photos—others, several boxes full. All offers of donations are appreciated! Thank you to all our donors, who make it possible for us to preserve the docu-

mentary history of Belleville and Hastings County.

Several organizations deposited their records in the Archives—for example, the Quinte Field Naturalists donated their older minutes, newsletters, and other documents that are no longer needed for current activities. These records will be preserved in archival boxes, entered in our database of archival descriptions, and made available to members of QFN and other researchers who wish to learn more about this group or “nature” in Hastings and Prince Edward Counties.

Other records from or about companies or organizations received at the Archives in 2014 include: the older minutes of the Belleville Public Library Board; historical items about the Belleville and District Chamber of Commerce; videotapes and digital copies of Heritage Belleville’s 1998 downtown streetscape project; additional correspondence from Phil Etter and the Merchant Navy Veterans Association; records from the South Hastings Film Council; two “Books of Remembrance” from the East Hastings District Women’s Institute; information about Corby Distilleries; photos of the Stephens-Adamson Company plant and Wharf Street Debating Club; and cancelled cheques drawn on the Toronto Dominion Bank, Belleville, in 1898, from the “Island Creamery” (can anyone tell us where this was?). A few planning studies from the City of Belleville’s Recreation, Culture & Community Services Department were also transferred to the Archives.

A number of organizations have initiated discussions about transferring their older records to the Archives in the future. We are planning for an influx of more archival materials after we move to our new home.

Books for the reference library made up a large portion of the donations in 2014. Belleville Public Library gave the Archives many publications, Gerry Boyce contributed books from his personal library and we received five boxes of Mika Publishing books from Allan Thompson. More notes about other new acquisitions in the next issue.

The Community Archives welcomes offers of donation—the wealth of our collections depends on the generosity of our donors. Contact Archivist Sharon White to ask about donating your personal or family archives, or the records of a business or organization.

### Thank You, Belleville Public Library

The Belleville Public Library gave the Archives its largest donation of new material in 2014, and also gave some used-but-good equipment (library shelving and two file cabinets). We are grateful that the Library staff provided us with the opportunity to select from many of the books and subject-based vertical files weeded out of

their Canadiana Room collections. We took in many books of interest for local history as well as some municipal studies and reports, family histories, Tweedsmuir books (mainly photocopies) from various Women's Institutes, and about twenty feet of files. (Note to researchers: the Library is keeping many of the Canadiana Room items.) The Library also bequeathed us their collection of historical maps, some older newspapers, and a few original photos, to be preserved in an archival environment.

The Community Archives will be moving into the north half of the second floor of the Belleville Public Library building before the end of 2015. The Library staff have been clearing out the collections and shelving from this area in preparation for the renovations, expected to begin this spring. Project updates and some of the architect's posters with design sketches of the layout can be seen there now.



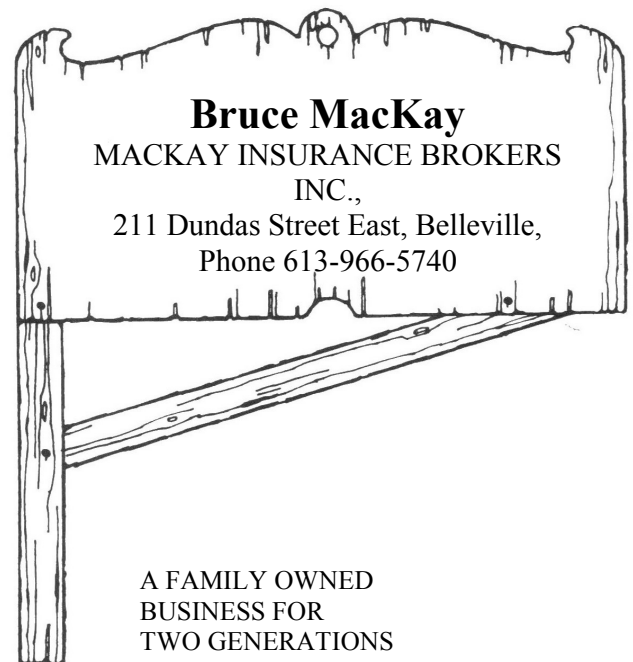
**Archives posters of the plans for the Big Move are available for public viewing on the second floor of the library.**

*Photos by Nick White*

The Library staff have been wonderful to the Archives—very helpful and welcoming in all regards. Efforts will be made to minimize the disruption of the Library services during the Archives' construction project, and Library CEO Trevor Pross is developing detailed plans for the renovation period. We look forward to further developing our good relationship with this great new partner.



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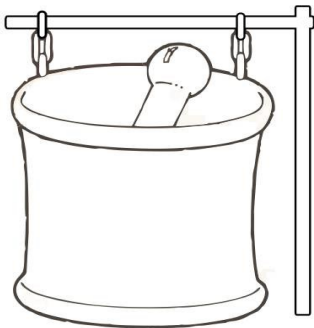
Come away for the day and discover where he grew up, where he practiced law, where he lived and died. Tour Old Hay Bay Church, Bellevue House and Kingston City Hall

**Saturday, June 6, 2015**

Bus departs at 8:30 am from northeast parking area of Bayview Mall, off Bridge Street East. Cost \$70. Includes lunch and cost of guided tours

Tickets and Information: Call Mary-Lynne Morgan 613-961-7091

*Book early, this tour will sell out.*



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## Hastings County Historical Society Presentation

**Topic: The History and Heritage of  
the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte**  
**Speaker: Amy Cowie**

**Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2015**  
**Time: 7:30 p.m.**

**Location: Maranatha**  
100 College Street West, Belleville

**Bring a friend!**  
**Website: [www.hastingshistory.ca](http://www.hastingshistory.ca)**  
**Email: [president@hastingshistory.ca](mailto:president@hastingshistory.ca)**

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Heritage Centre Phone No.	613-962-1110

Hastings County Historical Society is based at the old township office in Cannifton. Please address mail to 154 Cannifton Rd. North, General Delivery, Cannifton, ON, K0K 1K0. *Outlook* is published eight months of the year for members and friends of the Society. Submissions can be sent to [outlook.hastingshistory@gmail.com](mailto:outlook.hastingshistory@gmail.com)

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