



Nautical Nights

2020 Winter Speaker Series

The Marine Museum of the Great Lakes and
the Kingston Yacht Club

At Kingston Yacht Club
1 Maitland Street, Kingston, ON K7L 2V3

The **Marine Museum of the Great Lakes** in partnership with the **Kingston Yacht Club** (KYC) is hosting a new **Nautical Nights Winter Speaker Series**. The 2020 series will begin Wednesday 16 January at KYC at 7:00PM and will continue for six Wednesday evenings until 25 March. We invite you to explore our rich local and regional maritime heritage, presented by six fascinating speakers covering topics from the changing ecosystems to maritime exploration and heroic female sailors.

January 15 – Suzanne Pasternak

Minerva

Suzanne, a professional storyteller, playwright and composer, shares the story of 17-year-old heroine, Minerva McCrimmon. Minerva was the ship's cook and Captain's daughter of the Lake Ontario schooner *David Andrews*, as well being a gifted navigator and a wizard on the water. The schooner was unpredictable and difficult to handle and no man aboard the ship could handle her except for Minerva. Suzanne recounts the story of its encounter with a Great Lake's storm and the incredible efforts of Minerva to save the ship's crew.

February 12 – Phil Jenkins

Long Point to Pointe-des-Monts: A Postcard Voyage down the St Lawrence

In the course of researching his book *River Song: Sailing the History of the St Lawrence*, Phil Jenkins collected postcards, some over a hundred years old, along the length of the river. These postcards form the stepping stones of his engaging talk, prompting anecdotes and tales from history that illuminate the contribution the river has made to the narrative of pre and post-colonial Canada, and earned it the title 'mighty'. He will include a song or two written while sailing the St Lawrence on the tall ship *Mist of Avalon*.

February 26 – Dr Erika Behrisch-Elce

Lady Franklin and the Lost Franklin Expedition

Lady Franklin, fearless widow of lost polar explorer Sir John Franklin, was one of Victorian England's most intriguing rabble-rousers. She remains a polarising figure often portrayed as a conniving strategist, but this presentation considers Lady Franklin as more than the "Penelope of England". Drawing on decades of research on Lady Franklin's life and letters, Erika Behrisch-Elce explores the writer's dance of history and fiction, the power of storytelling to move mountains, and the private tragedies that unfold beneath public adventures. Erika is an associate professor in the Department of English, Culture and Communication at the Royal Military College of Canada. She has published two books on Lady Franklin, one academic (2009) and one novel (2018); the novel was named one of *Canadian Geographic's* "best books of the year".

March 11 – Marc Seguin

The Cruise of the Breeze: Yachting on Lake Ontario with the Royal Artillery, 1863

Marc, a local historian and author of two books, shares the story Great Lakes yachting through the journals of Royal Artillery Lieutenant Henry Baines, who set out with two other officers and friends on a pleasure cruise around Lake Ontario in 1863. Henry's illustrated journals recount many incidents on the cruise including several days that he and his shipmates spent in Kingston. They also made several stops at American ports even though they had been sent to North America to defend Canada against a possible U.S. Army invasion.

March 25 – Dr John Casselman

Water Levels, Fish and Fisheries

John Casselman, a biologist at Queen's University, addresses the impact of water levels on fish and fisheries, along with its impact on human endeavours, using the Lake Ontario-St Lawrence River ecosystem as the basis for the discussion.

April 8 – David More and Miranda Riley (previously scheduled for Wed. 29 January)

Kingston's Royal Dockyard, 1784-1853

During the War of 1812, the Naval Dockyard in Kingston, where the Royal Military College now stands, created wooden warships as large and powerful as any to be found in Britain's blue water Royal Navy. The bones of several lie in Kingston waters and are now officially National Heritage Sites. This presentation, partnering local historian David More with Miranda Riley, Curator of the RMC Museum, will acquaint you with the interesting history of a major naval dockyard that once employed more than 500 men and women at a time when the population of Kingston was only about 1,500 people.

Join us at KYC for this winter speaker series featuring local historians, authors and biologists exploring maritime heritage and current environmental impacts. Arrive at 6:30 to enjoy a cocktail before an hour presentation from local experts starting at 7:00 pm. Admission is by donation.

If you are unable to attend these events, you can follow along on Facebook and Instagram: @marinemuseumkingston, or on Twitter: @mmgk.

For more information, please contact:

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