



The Frontenac Club Inn, located in downtown Kingston, is a historically designated limestone building. Today the Inn stands at the corner of King and William Street, a seemingly continuous building constructed in the 1840's. The Frontenac Club Inn is in fact three separately constructed buildings. The first section, closest to Ontario Street on William Street, was built in 1826 for members of the Cartwright Family. The second part of the building was built in 1845 for the Bank of Montreal. Knowing a great location when they saw one, they built one of the first banks in Upper Canada on the corner of King and William Street, leaving a small patch of land between the two buildings.

The Bank was located on the ground floor, with the second floor used as the personal residence of the bank manager and his family. The third floor housed the male bank tellers. This was just as Kingston ended its brief reign as the capital city of Canada. An exciting time for Kingston. Soon, the Bank of Montreal needed to move to a larger premises. And, the Bank no longer mandating employee's to live on site.

In 1906, the Bank relocated just a few blocks down on King Street, adjacent to Market Square at City Hall. The original bank building was then sold to the Frontenac Club. Established by leading Kingstonians, garrison officers, faculty of Queen's University and the Royal Military College, along with members of the 14th Battalion (Princess of Wales' Own Rifles) Officer's Club. The Frontenac Club's guest book provides an informative perspective of Kingston's history, with legendary guests and national heroes from around the world. The complete set of guest registries have been donated to Queen's University.

Eight of the guest rooms at the Inn are named after individuals who were guests at the Frontenac Club. Those members are: Alexander Graham Bell, the great inventor; American poet and Pulitzer-prize winner Carl Sandburg; General Arthur Currie, famed military general; Titanic survivor Lady Duff-Gordon; Sir Sanford Fleming, Canadian engineer and inventor, known for proposing worldwide standard time zones. The 10th Prime Minister of Canada, William Lyon Mackenzie King, politician and a regular guest at the Club; and Opera singer Mary Gardini.

In the early 1900's, under the direction of the Frontenac Club, the space between the two existing buildings was constructed to house entertainment rooms, notably adding a bowling lane and billiards room. The facade of the new building blends perfectly, due to the use of limestone unearthed from the ground beneath the buildings. The Club was a major social scene in Kingston, but sadly the Frontenac Club closed its doors in the early 1930's, a victim of the Depression.

In 1935, the Club was sold to the Vosper family, remaining with the family for the next 60 odd years. During that period the building was converted into apartments, to a host of Kingston writers, artists and students. Three of the guest rooms at the Inn are named after those who lived in this eclectic building. They include writer Micheal Ondaatje, singer Colleen Peterson and long time resident Nancy Chisolm.

Renovated by Beare Weatherup and Susan Shaw, fourth owners of the building in the past 156 years, the Frontenac Club Inn was established in 2000. Located in Kingston's historic downtown, the Frontenac Club Inn offers visitors fourteen guest rooms, including delicious breakfasts, in a relaxed and comfortable setting. One suite at the Inn has recently been named in honour of guests of the FCI, gold winning pairs skaters Shen Xue and Zhao Hongbo of China, who stayed at the Inn before their triumphant win at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. The Shen Zhao Suite is named after them. The Cooke Suite is named in honour of former residents of the building and the owners of Cookes Fine Foods, a wonderful shop in Kingston. This Inn is proud to serve the Frontenac Club Inn specialty blend of coffee, made exclusively for the Inn by Cookes, every morning.

Kingston has changed quite a bit in the last 150 years, but the limestone walls of the Frontenac Club Inn carry on into the 21st century better than ever.

**Frontenac Club Inn \* 613. 547. 6167 \* [www.frontenacclub.com](http://www.frontenacclub.com)  
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