

Kingston Historical Society Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 19th February 2025

The Kingston Historical Society Donors' List 2024

The Kingston Historical Society is very grateful to the following individuals who have contributed to the Society's activities through their generous donations in 2024:

Allan Graphics, Anonymous, Robert Banks, Eva & Jack Barnes, David Buck, Steven Davidson, Don & Pat Forsdyke, Hazel Fotheringham, John Grenville (2), Sandra Hamp-Lane, Eleanor MacDonald, Duncan MacDowall , Alan MacLachlan, Denis Magnusson, Peter Miliken, Jay Nuttall, Father Brian Price (2), Maurice Richardson, Nicole Sminis, Maurice Smith, Ken Watson

The Kingston Historical Society Sponsors' List 2024

The Kingston Historical Society is very grateful to the following sponsors who have contributed to the Society's activities in 2024.:

Cataraqui Cemetery and Funeral Services, Cooke's Fine Food and Coffee, Doane Grant Thornton, Homestead, James Reid Funeral Home, Kingsbridge Retirement Community, Marc F. Raymond Opticians and Novel Idea.

Presentation of the KHS Award

1. Call to Order: P. Charbonneau
2. Period of Remembrance: P. Charbonneau
3. Approval of the agenda: P. Charbonneau
4. Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2024: P. Charbonneau
5. Business arising from the minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2024: P. Charbonneau
6. Approval of the minutes of the Special General Meeting of Sept. 18, 2024
7. President's remarks: P. Charbonneau
8. Reports from Officers, Council and Committees---2024: P. Charbonneau
 - a) The President's Report
 - b) The Secretary's Report
 - c) The Awards Committee Report
 - d) The Editor's Report: *Historic Kingston*
 - e) The Editor's Report: *Limelight*
 - f) The KHS High School History Awards Report
 - g) The Membership Report
 - h) The Murney Tower National Historic Site Committee Report
 - i) The Program Report
 - j) The Publicity Report
 - k) The Sir John A. Macdonald June 6 Graveside Ceremony Committee Report
 - l) The Web Site Committee Report

9. The Treasurer's Report and presentation of Financial Statements: P. Ginn
10. Ratification of business conducted by Council during the operating year 2024: P. Ginn
11. Presentation of the General & Murney Tower budgets for 2025: P. Ginn
12. Appointment of Doane Grant Thornton: P. Ginn
13. Appointment of non-Council member to review financial records for 2025: P. Ginn
14. Nominations and election of Board: V. Durant
15. New business: P. Charbonneau
16. Closing remarks: P. Charbonneau
17. Adjournment: P. Charbonneau

Video

aptnLUMI presents the Ghost Hunters of the Grand River: season 3, episode 1, entitled "Murney Tower". Three Six Nations men from the Grand River have acquired specialized equipment that they use to detect and communicate with ghosts. They talked our own Dr. Simge Erdogan-O'Conner to help them communicate with past residents of the Murney Tower. Come with your skepticism, see and hear of her experience

Kingston Historical Society Award 2025: Alan MacLachlan

In commemoration of the one hundred and thirty-first anniversary of the founding of the Kingston Historical Society in 1893, this award is presented in recognition of outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of local history.

The Kingston Historical Society recognizes Alan MacLachlan in appreciation of his tireless efforts in support of the Kingston Historical Society and local Kingston history, over a period of 25 years. Alan MacLachlan served the Society, first as an eager councillor, then as President and Past President. After his service with the Executive of the Society, Alan MacLachlan continued his work on Council and is best recognized as the manager of the June 6th, Sir John A. Macdonald grave site ceremonies. During the 12 years he held this position he worked diligently to make this commemoration of an important Kingston historical event, often under trying circumstances as Sir John A. later became a figure of National controversy. He ensured that Kingston VIPs such as the Mayor, local MP, MPPs as well as the Fort Henry Guard were on site to add to the significance and importance of the ceremony. He was instrumental in bringing to the event speakers of national and political importance; each of these speakers added to the threads of the history of Kingston. Perhaps the most important quality of Alan was his level headedness in decision making and his wonderful sense of humour. There is no question that Alan MacLachlan enriched the Kingston Historical Society and Kingston during his time, and he is richly deserving of this award.

Signed and sealed at Kingston, Ontario this 31st day of December 2024

Paul J. Charbonneau President

MINUTES Of the AGM 2024

Prior to commencement of the business portion of the evening, Paul Charbonneau, via ZOOM, read the citation for the Kingston Historical Society Award which was presented in person to the volunteers of the Greats Lakes Museum by Peter Gower.

1. Call to Order: P. Charbonneau

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 pm. Number of members in attendance: 27

2. Period of Remembrance: P. Charbonneau

A brief period of remembrance was held for those members who passed away in 2023.

3. Motion to approve the agenda: P. Charbonneau

M/S: Warren Everett/Betty Andrews Carried

4. Motion to approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2023: P. Charbonneau

M/S: Duncan McDowall/Anne Richardson Carried

5. Business arising from the Annual General Meeting 2023: P. Charbonneau

a) High School History Awards: Paul Van Nest

Paul informed members of the history of the creation of the award, its criteria, and the names of the 2023 winners. The response from schools for the 2024 awards has been very positive. All 9 schools are very much looking forward to the awards.

6. President's remarks: P. Charbonneau

Paul reflected on the many accomplishments of the Society---the High School History Awards, the Heritage Event, the excellent guest speakers every month, the June 6 ceremony and more. He expressed his appreciation for the volunteer hours of Council, especially those of Warren Everett and Dr. Tabitha Renaud who would be leaving Council after many years of service. Paul also acknowledged the work of Simge Erdogan-O'Connor, the curator/manager of the Murney Tower Museum, and of the current intern.

7. Reports from Officers, Council and Committees: P.Charbonneau

- a) The President's Report P. Charbonneau
- b) The Secretary's Report D. Richardson
- c) The Awards Committee Report P. Charbonneau
- d) The Editor's Report: *Historic Kingston* P. Gower
- e) The Editor's Report: *Limelight* B. Andrews
- f) The Membership Committee Report P. Van Nest
- g) The Murney Tower National Historic Site Committee Report T. Renaud
- h) The Program Report D. McDowall
- i) The Publicity Report V. Durant
- j) The Sir John A. Macdonald June 6 Graveside Ceremony Committee Report A. MacLachlan
- k) The Web Site Committee Report P. Gower

Motion to approve the committee reports:

M/S: Warren Everett/Anne Richardson Carried

8. New By-laws: P. Gower

Peter explained that the Ontario Government had begun the process of revising the rules around not-for-profit organizations, of which our Society is one, some 15 years ago. The legislation has been passed and is scheduled to come into effect in the Fall of 2024. As such, Peter has revised our rules to comply with the new law. At this point, the revisions have been forwarded to Queen's Law for their feedback. Once our version has been approved by them, the revisions will be presented to the Society members for their approval.

9. The Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Financial Statements: P. Ginn

Motion to approve the 2023 Treasurer's Report and the Financial Statements prepared by Peter Ginn:

M/S: Peter Ginn/Duncan McDowall Carried

10. Motion to ratify the business conducted by Council during the operating year 2023: P.Ginn

M/S: Peter Ginn/Alan Boyce Carried

11. Presentation of the General & Murney Tower budgets for 2024 as approved by Council: P. Ginn

Peter explained the anticipated revenues and expenses for 2024, which had been approved by Council. 8

12. Motion to retain Grant Thornton to prepare the Society's 2024 financial statements: P. Ginn

M/S: Peter Ginn/Vincent Durant Carried

13. Motion to appoint Doug Petty as a non-Council member to review the financial records of the Society for 2024, and to report to the members at the 2025 AGM: P. Ginn

M/S: Peter Ginn/Paul Van Nest Carried

14. Nomination and election of Officers and Council: V. Durant

Nominations for the position of Councillor-at-Large:

Dr. Craig Pettis, nominated by Paul Van Nest, Seconded by Alan MacLachlan

There being no other nominations, the nominations were declared closed through a motion presented by Paul Van Nest, seconded by Alan MacLachlan. Carried

Craig Pettis acclaimed

b) Proposed slate of Council for 2024-2025

Executive Officers

President Paul Charbonneau

Vice-President Peter Gower

Secretary Don Richardson

Treasurer Peter Ginn

Past-President Vincent Durant

Elected Councillors

Betty Andrews , Alan MacLachlan, Dr. Duncan McDowall, Dr. Craig Pettis , Liana Shaw, Paul Van Nest

The following Councillors will have the portfolios as indicated:

Chair, Murney Tower Museum Committee Liana Shaw

Editor, *Historic Kingston* Peter Gower Editor, *Limelight* Betty Andrews

Webmaster Peter Gower

The names appearing above are people who have agreed to serve on the Kingston Historical Society Council for the 2024-2025 year.

Nominations Committee members: Vincent Durant (Chair), Peter Gower, Sandra Durant

Motion to approve the slate of officers for 2024-2025 as submitted by Vincent Durant:

M/S: Susan Everett/Anne Richardson Carried

15. **New business:** P. Charbonneau

None

16. **Closing remarks:** P. Charbonneau

Paul stated that it had been an honour to serve as president for the past two years, and thanked those who had helped him in carrying out his duties. He stated, too, that he was looking forward to next year, and the work that would be done by the Society.

17. **Adjournment:** P. Charbonneau

Motion to adjourn at 7:42 pm.

Moved: Vincent Durant Carried

Minutes recorded by Don Richardson, Secretary

Minutes of a Special General Meeting of the Society held on 18 September 2024

All members had been notified of the meeting both electronically and in print. 30 were in attendance, either in person in the Kingsbridge Retirement Community lounge, or on Zoom.

The meeting was called to order following the talk by President Paul Charbonneau at approximately 8.15.

He announced that the only item of business was consideration of the new By- Law #2 which had been publicly available on the web site for three weeks and mailed to those without internet access with *Limelight*.

He asked Vice President Peter Gower to review the changes, and then asked for questions from the floor. These were answered.

There being no further questions, he asked for a mover and a seconder for the motion: "That the Kingston Historical Society approve By-law No. 2 as printed, without amendment"

The motion was moved by Peter Gower, and seconded by Peter Ginn.

The motion was put to the vote and approved unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8.30, on a motion by Duncan McDowall, approved unanimously.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS, COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES---2024

a) **The President's Report---2024**

As I complete my Presidency of this eminent society and pass the leadership on, I am reflective of just how important this society and others like it are to the thread of our great city. Canada's First Capital has a unique and prominent position in our shared history. What would that history lack in substance if not for the thousands of members, since our inception in 1893, who have contributed and supported it.

"If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a life." – Author Unknown

Thank you to everyone associated with the Kingston Historical Society for touching my life; I am richer for it. The one hundred and thirtieth year at the Kingston Historical Society has been full of many accomplishments and rewarding achievements. Our annual speakers program brought many interesting voices and subjects to our stage; the 2024 edition of *Historic Kingston* will arrive soon for you to read and enjoy. The *Limelight* Newsletter continues to entertain and delight each month; I know I look forward to it hitting my inbox. And of course, our most significant project, the Murney Tower, has continued to delight visitors and share the significant contributions it made to Kingston life. We did, however, have to say goodbye to our museum Director, Dr. Simge Erdogan-O'Connor; we wish her well in her continuance of a stellar career.

Once again, this year, the highlight of the Annual General Meeting will be the presentation of the Kingston Historical Society Award to an individual and organization who has contributed to the preservation of local Kingston history. I very much look forward to presenting this in person to a very deserving individual.

I want to give a huge shout-out and thank two (2) Directors who will not be returning to Council in 2025: Alan MacLachlan and Vincent Durant. Thank you for sharing your gift of volunteerism with us for many years.

William Shakespeare wrote "The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."

Respectfully submitted by

Paul J. Charbonneau, President

b) The Secretary's Report---2024

During the past year, the duties of the secretary consisted of preparing the agendas, recording the minutes and then distributing approved minutes for the meetings of Council to members of Council; preparing the agenda for the annual general meeting, and recording those minutes; preparing for the annual general meeting by editing and assembling reports from members of Council; recording the minutes of the annual general meeting of 2024; updating the lists of donors, sponsors, awards recipients and past presidents for the AGM document; providing documentation for grant applications; completing Province of Ontario reports; assisting the president and treasurer in carrying out their duties as needed and, on occasion, corresponding through email or standard post with members of the public on behalf of the Society. In addition to these duties, assistance was provided to the Murney Tower Committee in the hiring of interns and with other human resources activities. Respectfully submitted by

Don Richardson, Secretary

c) The Awards Committee Report---2024

The Kingston Historical Society (KHS) Awards Committee is pleased to have received nominations for this year and make a recommendation to the Council.

The role of the committee is to recognize individual and organizational contributions to the preservation of local Kingston history. The committee has received nominations for the 2024 award, and it will be presented at the Kingston Historical Society Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The Government of Ontario Volunteer Service Awards held an in-person awards ceremony in Kingston:
Awards received

Betty Andrews 20 years

Vincent Durant 5 years

Alan MacLachlan 20 years

Duncan McDowall 5 years

Tabitha Renaud 5 years

We will be nominating members of KHS who meet the criteria for this acknowledgement of varying years of service to the Society in 2025.

Respectfully submitted by

Paul J. Charbonneau

Chair, Awards Committee

d) The Editor's Report, *Historic Kingston* 73---2024

Historic Kingston 73, featuring the *Keewatin* on the cover, was published in February for distribution at the Heritage Lecture. It is hoped that *Historic Kingston* 74 will be available for the 2025 Heritage Lecture. Its cover shows the Murney Tower during the solar eclipse. Dr. Riehl's paper (from September 2023) is not included, as it was no longer available as promised. John Grenville's paper Edward R. Beckwith (1879-1963), from November 2024, will be published in *Historic Kingston* 75. There is a steady flow of requests for copies of past papers, usually sold as pdfs from researchers whose libraries do not have the original copies. My thanks to all presenters who continue to be prompt when submitting their papers, and to Betty Andrews who proofreads meticulously and picks out everything I have not noticed.

Respectfully submitted by Peter Gower, Editor, *Historic Kingston*

e) The Editor's Report, *Limelight*---2024

Limelight is the newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society, published in nine monthly issues from September to May. Allan Graphics is the printer. Forty copies of *Limelight* were mailed each month, with the other members receiving *Limelight* by email. Featured monthly in *Limelight* were ads for the KHS sponsors, notifications of deaths of members, a welcome to new members, a message from President Paul Charbonneau, the report on the month's speaker by Program Chair Dr. Duncan McDowall, the announcement of the presenter for the next meeting and a Murney Tower activity update, as well as reports on the progress of the fund raising campaign for the 100th anniversary of the Murney Tower in 2025. In March the Great Lakes Museum volunteers were noted as the award winners for the KHS annual award and in September the student winners of the recently-initiated history award were announced. In September Secker, Ross and Perry was replaced by Grant Thornton as a sponsor. In September *Limelight* was published in a twelve-page edition rather than the usual 8-page edition. This year, Dr. Jennifer McKendry's Still Standing column featured the Fairfield-Gutzeit House, the house at 81 King Street and the Douglas Library, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2024. A three-part series on the newly-opened Bellevue House was submitted by Bruce Macmillan. Articles and opinion pieces of local historical interest appeared, as well as mention of recently-published books by members and other local historians. The reissue of a KHS publication, *To Build a Good Neighbourhood, Grenville Park, the First Fifty Years*, by Phyllida Kent, was announced. The column, *Ear to the Ground* by Elizabeth Durno, reporting on events of interest to history buffs, which began in 2023, continued. A highlight of this year's local events reported on was the opening to the public by the Great Lakes Museum of their newly-acquired S.S. Keewatin. The Heritage event in February and the June 6 gathering, commemorating Canada's first prime minister Sir John A. Macdonald, received coverage. Thanks to Webmaster Peter Gower who posts *Limelight* to the KHS website and to Membership Chair Paul Van Nest who proofreads each issue, posts the website link to those who receive *Limelight* by email, and supplies labels for mailing *Limelight* to members who receive a hard copy.

Respectfully submitted by Betty Andrews, Editor, *Limelight*

f) The KHS High School Awards Report---2024

This year our Society presented our 2nd annual History Award to graduating students from Kingston's nine secondary schools. The criteria for their selection are as follows:

This award is presented to a graduating student in each of the nine City of Kingston Secondary Schools who has shown an aptitude and passion for history in any of its many forms. As performance in grade 12-level Canadian and/or world history course(s) will be a factor, the student's teachers will

have input into the selection of the successful recipient. The criteria may also include the candidate's intention of pursuing further education in the humanities and/or social sciences. By history, we include its many forms, such as archaeology, anthropology, cultural heritage, social history, museums, etc.

Congratulations to this year's graduates who received our award:

Limestone School Board:

Bayridge Quinn O'Brien

Frontenac Ari Leroux

LaSalle Grace Gibson

Loyalist Christopher Bakyta

Kingston Rayyan Mounib

Algonquin and Lakeshore Separate School Board:

Holy Cross Ava Burns

Regiopolis Danica Samson

Francophone schools:

École Secondaire Catholique Marie-Rivier Colesen Lebrun

École Secondaire Publique Mille-Îles. Seham Kettaneh

Members of the Society who volunteered to present our \$150 award this year were Jean Baxter, Grant LeDrew, Kat MacDonald, Alan MacLachlan, Michael Murphy, Duncan McDowell and Paul Van Nest. All of us were warmly welcomed at our respective schools and all made our presentation on stage. Please consider volunteering for a school next year (your choice at this point); email pvan nest@cogeco.ca or phone 613-532-1903.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Van Nest, Chair, KHS High History Awards

g) The Membership Report---2024

Our hybrid Monthly Heritage Meetings have been well attended both in person (25+) and online (15+). The technology will continue to improve as I, assisted by Craig Pettis and Al Boyce, work with the technology provided by the Kingsbridge Retirement Community facility and whatever we might add.

From the history of our membership in the chart below, you'll see that we still hover around 200 in membership. Council will continue to pursue new avenues of promoting our membership to the public, Queen's, RMC, and other clubs and societies. We are moving into the social media domain as well this coming year, thereby hoping to attract a new demographic to our membership – spread the word.

Type of Membership	2025 *	2024	2023	2022	2021
Individuals	23	97	94	86	83
Families (each counted as 2)	18	68	64	90	86
Students	0	5	1	2	4
Life Members	7	7	10	10	11
Institutions	1	11	10	11	12
Sponsors	0	8	9	7	6
TOTAL	49	196	188	206	202

*31 Dec 2024

We have attracted 9 new members between September and December: 3 personal and 3 families. Their names have been posted monthly in our Fall *Limelights*. One quarter of last year's membership have already renewed for 2025 before December 31st. Invoices to Institutions and Sponsors are emailed in early January.

Finally, we would like to pay tribute to our loyal sponsors: Cataraqui Cemetery, Cooke's Fine Foods, Doan Grant Thompson, Homestead Realty, James Reid Funeral Home, Kingsbridge Retirement Community, Marc Raymond Opticians, and Novel Idea.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Van Nest, Chair, Membership

h) The Murney Tower National Historic Site Committee Report---2024

2024 was a remarkable year at the Murney Tower Museum! On May 20th, we proudly reopened our doors to the public, and over the following four months, we welcomed approximately 13,000 visitors. This year marked the launch of the Centennial Initiative, an ambitious effort to transform the museum's upcoming 100th anniversary into a Kingston-wide celebration of local history, arts, and heritage.

Our commitment to accessibility grew tremendously in 2024. We introduced a French audio tour, two new interactive exhibits, and a French Access Guide—key steps toward making the museum more inclusive and engaging for disabled communities in Kingston.

The Murney Tower Museum was as dynamic as ever, extending its reach beyond its walls. We participated in classrooms, community events, public celebrations, and even outdoor spaces like streets and parks—bringing local arts, history, and culture to where our communities gather.

As we reflect on 2024, we cherish the countless memorable moments shared with our visitors, whether they were local families discovering their city's rich history, regional school groups exploring our interactive exhibits, or international tourists captivated by the stories housed within our historic walls. Each encounter reaffirmed the museum's role as a cornerstone of Kingston's heritage and a bridge connecting people through shared experiences of art, culture, and history. Looking ahead, we are excited to continue building on this success by expanding our programs, introducing new initiatives, and creating even more opportunities for connection and learning. 16

Year at a Glance: In Numbers

- 13,000 visitors
- 244 guided tour participants
- 14,000 website clicks
- 750 special event participants
- 600 students

- 2,200 social media followers

As I reflect on my first year as Chair, I am so inspired by the incredible strides we've made in sharing our rich history with the community. In 2024, we launched a major fundraising effort for our upcoming 100th anniversary and saw the first of our celebratory projects take shape. We continued to prioritize accessibility and inclusivity while hosting special events for all ages.

This year, art and history intertwined as Murney's acoustics inspired an experimental sound performance, and the gun platform hosted a folk concert to close the season. At year's end, a scaled-down replica of Murney Tower, joined by some of our youngest visitors, proudly floated down Princess Street in our debut at the Santa Claus Parade.

As we celebrate these accomplishments, we also bid farewell to Dr. Simge Erdogan-O'Connor, whose five years of exceptional leadership profoundly shaped the museum. Under her guidance, the museum was modernized and rebranded, its operations improved, and its strategic priorities redefined. Simge's innovative leadership raised the museum's profile and established its place in Kingston's heritage landscape. We will miss her greatly and wish her all the best!

Looking ahead to our 100th year celebrations, I am excited for what the future holds. I am deeply grateful for the unwavering support of the Kingston Historical Society, Parks Canada and our staff, volunteers, and community.

Together, we are bringing history to life.

Respectfully submitted by

Liana Shaw, Chair, Murney Tower Committee

i) The Program Report---2024

The Kingston Historical Society lectures in 2024 were presented in hybrid fashion: live presentation in the comfortable Theatre Lounge of the Kingsbridge Retirement Community (950 Centennial Drive), accompanied by refreshments, AND via Zoom simultaneously. Society members were emailed the Zoom link on the Friday before each lecture. Lectures were also open to the public. Lectures were subsequently posted on YouTube by the weekend following each presentation and later published in the Society's annual journal. Special thanks to Paul Van Nest, Peter Gower, Craig Pettis, Betty Andrews and Vincent Durant for their support of the program.

Wednesday, January 17th: Professor Gordon Dueck of the Queen's history department talked about the cultural history of the Black community in Kingston: "**Barbers in Blackface? African-Canadian Musicians in Fin-de-Siecle Kingston.**"

Sunday, February 18th @ 2:00 pm in the Memorial Hall of City Hall: In conjunction with the Frontenac Heritage Foundation, the Society celebrated Family Day/Heritage Month in Ontario with a lecture by architectural historian Dr. Jennifer McKendry, a talk showcasing her latest book *Architects Working in the Kingston Region 1920-2000*. Books were available for purchase and a high tea will be served.

Wednesday, February 21st: The Annual General Meeting included the presentation of the Society's award to the Volunteers of the Great Lakes Museum through their Museum Manager and Curator, Doug Cowie. In turn, he was asked to speak briefly about their achievements over the years.

Wednesday, March 20th: Kingston railway historian Eric Gagnon discussed his extensive railway research: "**Two Miles, Two Tracks, Two Railways, To Obscurity.**" Eric's books – *Smoke on the Waterfront* and *Stories on the Waterfront* – have focused on the railway's impact on Kingston's economy.

Wednesday, April 17th: Queen's doctoral student Margaret Ross talked about the problem of "vice" in late nineteenth Kingston and the City's attempt to control its sex trade. "**Your Town is Rotten': Prostitution, Profit and the Governing of Vice in Kingston, Ontario, 1860-1920s,**" recently published in the *Journal of the History of Sexuality*.

Wednesday, May 15th: Military historian and first Deputy-Director of History and Heritage at the Department of National Defence Ian Macpherson McCulloch talked on his 2022 book *John Bradstreet's Raid 1758*. The raid, which saw French-held Fort Frontenac fall to Bradstreet's troops, proved a pivotal point in the so-called French and Indian War.

Thursday, June 6th: The Society hosted the annual commemoration of Sir John A. Macdonald in Christ Church Cataraqui Anglican Church, because of the inclement weather.

Wednesday, September 18th: Peter Gower talked on **The ups and downs of the Kingston Historical Society's first 131 years ... and the future?**

Wednesday, October 16th: William Galbraith drew on his biography *John Buchan: Model Governor General* to illustrate the life and Canadian impact of the famous Scottish author of *The Thirty-Nine Steps*.

Wednesday, November 20th: Well-known local architectural historian and archaeologist John Grenville discussed the legacy of architect **Ernest R. Beckwith (1879-1963)**, who worked in Kingston as City engineer and architect.

Respectfully submitted by Duncan McDowall, Chair, Program

j) **The Publicity Report---2024**

Overview:

The role of the KHS Publicity Chair is to notify and publicize events and initiatives organized by the Kingston Historical Society through local media, newspapers, radio, television and through newsletters of other like organizations

General:

- 1) In conjunction with the Program chair and other appropriate committee chairs develop announcements or press releases. Event announcements should be sent to the media one week in advance of the event.
- 2) Contact should be made regularly with media outlets to aid in the publishing of announcements and to keep abreast of the policies of each media outlet.
- 3) The chair should maintain a file of all clippings of all published announcements
- 4) To report to KHS Council on all matters relating to Publicity, as appropriate.

Respectfully submitted by Vincent Durant, Chair, Publicity

k) The Sir John A. Macdonald June 6 Graveside Ceremony Committee Report---2024

The forecast was for rain on 6 June and the service was moved indoors. We were very fortunate that Archdeacon Bill Clarke had offered us the historic, and recently de-sanctified, Christ Church Cataraqui on the southwest edge of the Cataraqui Cemetery as the inclement weather venue. As in the past several years, Don Richardson served as the MC.

The service began with the national anthem led for the first time by the KHS trio: Duncan McDowell, Paul Van Nest and Bill Clarke. A warm welcome was extended to the 50 attendees by Craig Boals, the manager of the Cataraqui Cemetery. Archdeacon Bill Clarke gave a religious reading and a prayer. Peter Gower, the KHS Vice-president, fittingly garbed in full Scottish highland outfit, welcomed everyone on behalf of the KHS and the Commemoration Service Committee. He then introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Stephen Smith, an historian with Parks Canada. Dr. Smith gave an engaging address titled "Macdonald's Four Lives at Bellevue House". Councillor and deputy mayor of Kingston, Gary Oosterhof, laid a commemorative wreath on behalf of the City of Kingston. (It is interesting to note that Sir John was an alderman for Kingston in 1843.) Anne Richardson then laid a wreath on behalf of the Kingston Historical Society. Both were escorted by Peter Gower.

This was followed by the playing of the Lament by piper Doug Green. Warren Everett then invited those assembled to join in a toast to Sir John. The service ended with closing remarks from MC Don Richardson. He expressed thanks to all those involved in making the commemorative service a wonderful testament to Canada's first Prime Minister and major mover in the creation of Canada. The service closed with the singing of 'God Save The King'.

The Society appreciates the photographic services of Eva Barnes. Many people participating voiced the sentiment that it was an excellent commemoration of our first prime minister, and a marvelous alternate historic location. We are indebted to Craig Pettis for producing the video. We hope to see you next year at the 2025 June 6 service commemorating the death of Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first prime minister, and hope that there will be no heavenly moisture.

Respectfully submitted by Alan MacLachlan, Chair, June 6 Committee

1) The Web Site Committee Report---2024

Our web page continues to receive questions on the Society, Kingston, genealogy and many other topics from all over, to some of which we can give answers. We receive requests for the Zoom link to talks from those who have seen them advertised, sometimes from far away, although we do not always know where our viewers are. The page has YouTube links to all of the talks given since 2021, and acts as a virtual meeting place since we now have so few times when we get together as a group. Suggestions for additions to the page are welcomed.

Respectfully submitted by Peter Gower, Webmaster

8. The Treasurer's Report---2024

The generosity again this year of members and others through donations contributed significantly to the Society's 2024 solid financial year. Interest on investments also contributed to the Society's strong revenue in 2024. Expenditures were lower than budgeted for, so the Society ended the year with an operating surplus.

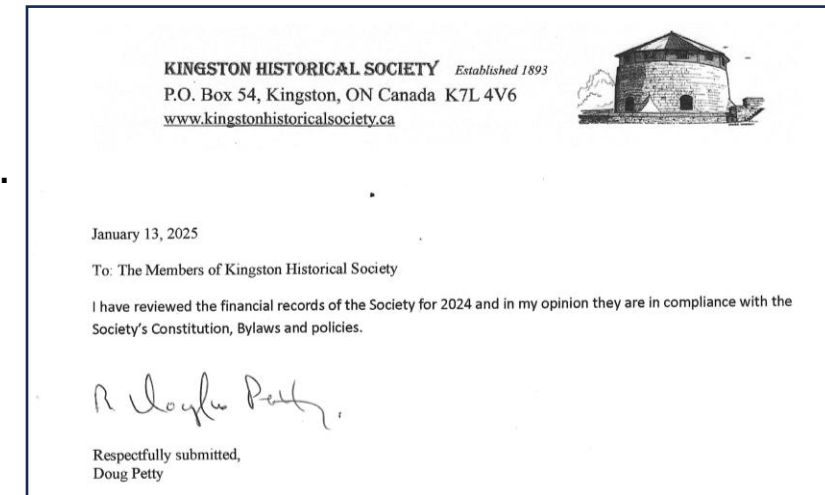
Under the leadership of our Murney Tower Museum Director a number of special events increased the Tower revenues. In addition, interest on investments meant the Tower finished the year with an operating surplus. The Tower Museum will celebrate its centennial in 2025 . Special Events are planned and some began in 2024. Donations in support of these activities were sought in 2024 and nearly \$20,000 gathered to support the centennial celebrations.

Thanks to grants from the federal government, the City of Kingston's Heritage fund, the staff required to operate the Tower Museum and related activities were funded without dipping into reserves. Additional grants covered the costs of special initiatives. The Tower has ended the year with an operating surplus.

Overall, the Society is in a strong financial position. Details are set out in more detail in the Financial Statements prepared by the staff of Doane Grant Thornton.

Doug Petty was designated to review the 2024 financial records for the Society at year end. His report is attached.

Respectfully submitted by Peter Ginn, Treasurer



Statement of Operations

Year ended December 31	General Fund	Murney Tower Fund	Total 2024	Total 2023
Revenues				
Heritage Organization Development grant	\$ 1,545	\$ -	\$ 1,545	\$ 1,545
Community Services Recovery Fund grant	-	4,000	4,000	8,000
City of Kingston Heritage Fund grant	-	63,309	63,309	66,313
Canada Summer Jobs grant	-	15,459	15,459	14,549
Youth Canada Works grant	-	14,215	14,215	11,202
Memberships	6,295	-	6,295	6,899
Donations	3,560	22,701	26,261	31,521
Donations - Centennial	-	4,713	4,713	-
Sponsorships and other grants	2,095	-	2,095	2,100
Investment income	3,826	3,603	7,429	4,842
Special events	-	3,261	3,261	3,472
Publications	1,395	-	1,395	721
Gift shop	-	329	329	102
	<u>18,716</u>	<u>131,590</u>	<u>150,306</u>	<u>151,266</u>

Statement of Operations

Year ended December 31	General Fund	Murney Tower Fund	Total 2024	Total 2023
Advertising and promotion	693	2,460	3,153	4,013
Bank charges	-	107	107	93
Centennial expenditures	-	4,713	4,713	-
Consultants - audio tour	-	-	-	7,334
Education	-	1,108	1,108	-
Exhibit	-	3,363	3,363	11,175
Insurance	461	1,383	1,844	1,812
Inventory writeoff	-	660	660	-
Memberships	153	88	241	266
Newsletter	1,725	-	1,725	2,080
Office and miscellaneous	547	3,329	3,876	6,636
Accounting	1,282	3,895	5,177	5,423
Programming	477	-	477	612
Publications	2,850	-	2,850	3,220
Rent/ storage (Note 6)	550	4,771	5,321	5,306
Salaries and benefits	-	94,933	94,933	84,962
Special events	2,014	1,950	3,964	1,230
Student awards and sponsorships	1,600	-	1,600	1,600
Telephone/ wifi/ security	-	1,888	1,888	2,210
Website	390	360	750	843
	<u>12,742</u>	<u>125,008</u>	<u>137,750</u>	<u>138,815</u>
Excess of revenues over expenses for the year	<u>\$ 5,974</u>	<u>\$ 6,582</u>	<u>\$ 12,556</u>	<u>\$ 12,451</u>

9. Ratification of business conducted by Council during the operating year 2024: P. Ginn

10. Presentation of the General & Murney Tower budgets for 2025: P. Ginn

Kingston Historical Society 2025 Budget

Operating Revenue	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Sponsorships	\$2,095	\$1,800
Donations	\$3,060	\$1,500
Memberships	\$6,295	\$6,100
Sale of Publications	\$1,395	\$750
Heritage Event	\$500	\$500
Misc. Rev. (Auctions, Awards event, etc.)		
Interest (bank & Invest)	\$3,826	\$3,770
Transfer from reserves		\$2,950
HODG Grant	\$1,545	\$1,545
TOTAL	\$18,716	\$18,915

Operating Expenditures

	2024	2025
	Actual	Budget
Heritage Fair	\$250	\$250
Memberships (KAM,FHF, OHS)	\$153	\$200
Public Relations	\$693	\$800
Website Mtce.	\$390	\$450
Awards		\$200
June 6th Event	\$1,104	\$1,500
Facility Rentals+Speaker	\$477	\$1,000
Limelight	\$1,725	\$2,000
Publication incl. Historic Kingston	\$2,850	\$3,000
Heritage Event	\$910	\$1,000
Accounting	\$1,282	\$1,350
Gen Admin	\$547	\$1,000
Storage	\$550	\$600
Student Awards	\$1,350	\$1,350
Plaque		\$3,000
Insurance	\$461	\$500
TOTAL	<u>\$12,742</u>	<u>\$18,200</u>
Surplus/ Deficit	\$ 5,974	\$ 715

Murney Tower Revenue/ Expenditures 2025

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Actual 2024</u>	<u>Approved 2025</u>
Gift Shop	\$329	\$100
Donations MT	\$22,701	\$25,000
KAM/ Heritage Grant	\$63,309	\$46,615
Grants	\$4,000	
Interest	\$3,603	\$2,760
Events	\$3,261	\$3,500
Young Canada Works	\$14,215	\$8,879
Transfer from reserves		\$4,000
Canada Summer Jobs Grant	\$15,459	\$15,500
Centennial Donations	\$4,713	
TOTAL Funds available	131,590	106,354

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Actual 2024</u>	<u>Approved 2025</u>
Lease - Parks Canada	\$104	\$104
Comm./Security	\$1,888	\$2,000
Prof. Develop./ Training	\$1,108	\$500
Costumes/Uniforms		\$500
Advertising/ KAM/OMA	\$2,548	\$2,200
Storage	\$4,667	\$5,400
Misc. Expenses	\$3,436	\$3,000
Website	\$360	\$300
Curator/Manager	\$57,599	\$47,500
Accounting	\$3,895	\$4,000
Exhibits	\$3,363	\$100
Special Events/ Outreach	\$1,950	\$2,000
Insurance	\$1,383	\$1,500
Inventory Writeoff	\$660	
Collection Mgmt.		
Grant Projects		
Wages/ benefits	\$37,334	\$37,000
Centennial Event	\$4,713	
	<u>\$127,032</u>	<u>\$108,129</u>
Murney Tower Surplus/ Deficit		-\$ 1,775

Centennial

Revenue

Donations

Carry over donations

Kingston Heritage grant

Transfer from reserves

Total Revenue

Approved
2025

\$15,771

\$5,000

\$5,000

\$20,771

Expenses

Book

Art Exhibition

Historical Film

Gala Dinner

Book Launch event

Murney Fest event & Soft Opening

Marketing and Merchandise

Assistant

Total Expenses

\$9,250

\$6,000

\$500

\$3,000

\$3,000

\$21,750

11. Appointment of Doane Grant Thornton: P. Ginn

12. Appointment of non-Council member to review financial records or 2025: P. Ginn

13. Nominations and Election of Board: V. Durant

Proposed slate of Board for 2025-2026

Betty Andrews

Paul Charbonneau

Peter Gower

Peter Ginn

Kat MacDonald

Duncan McDowall

Craig Pettis

Don Richardson

Liana Shaw

Ann Stevens

Paul Van Nest

The names appearing above are people who have agreed to serve on the *Kingston Historical Society* Board of Directors for the 2025-2026 year.

Nominations Committee members: Vincent Durant, Peter Gower, Sandra Durant

Respectfully submitted by Vincent Durant , Chair, Nominations Committee

14. New Business: P. Charbonneau

15. Closing remarks: P. Charbonneau

16. Adjournment: P. Charbonneau

Video

aptnLUMI presents the Ghost Hunters of the Grand River: season 3, episode 1, entitled “Murney Tower”. Three Six Nations men from the Grand River have acquired specialized equipment that they use to detect and communicate with ghosts. They talked our own Dr. Simge Erdogan-O’Conner to help them communicate with past residents of the Murney Tower. Come with your skepticism, see and hear of her experience