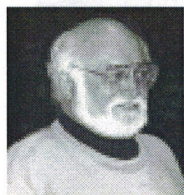
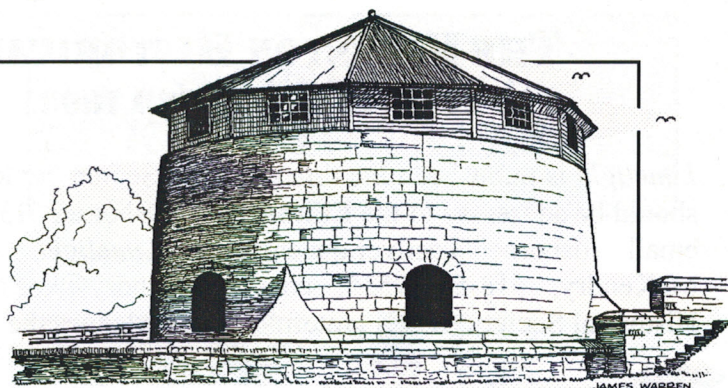


# LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER of the  
KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last month I made much of the fact that KHS is extending its outreach beyond the lecture hall. I am pleased to report that we have been invited to participate in a proposal being developed by architect, Tony Barlow, and leading community activist, Helen Finley, with the assistance of KEDCO and Kingston Cultural Initiatives (KCI): the Kingston Heritage & Design Resource Centre.

The central premise is that Kingston is a "Special Place" because of its remarkable collection of its distinctive assemblage of architecture, a remarkably intact downtown core, and a unique identity. The point is made that the recent growth of tourism is a signal demonstration of these attractions. Equally important, permanent residents value their lived-in place for the aesthetics of the city fabric and the rich quality of life.

While much of this may be attributed to energetic actions by several forward-looking individuals and agencies such as LACAC, much remains to be done. The KH&DRC is intended to raise Kingston's public awareness of the city's built heritage and ambience and the need to

continually be on the *qui vive* to prevent its erosion through ignorance and neglect.

To this end, the proposed KH&DRC will be located downtown as a place for education, information, problem solving, and entertainment and will be a meeting place for professionals, volunteer groups, and local societies. In this way, the KH&DRC would: ★sustain an awareness of Kingston's architectural treasures ★nurture a pride in our built heritage and sense of place ★serve as design and construction resource for property owners and developers alike ★provide an attractive setting for a semi-permanent exhibition exploring and interpreting the evolution of architectural and urban form in Kingston ★house a record of Kingston's built heritage ★develop a reference library of historical, architectural and technical material ★present a visual display of 'do's and 'don'ts' of restoration, infill and building, in this architecturally significant historic city ★develop a relevant and current web site. How could KHS not be interested in allying with such a worthwhile endeavour?

*Brian S. Osborne*

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING:**  
**WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER at 7:30PM**  
in the Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library

**Donald R. Forsdyke**

*"Darwin's Kingston Research Associate, George John Romanes"*

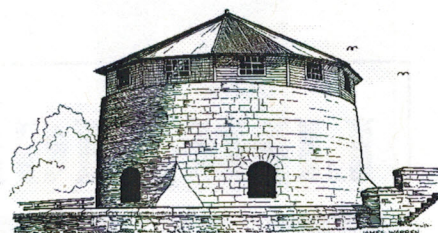
**ALL WELCOME! REFRESHMENTS**  
*please see more on p. 5*

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# THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## ESTABLISHED 1893



Murney Tower by James Warren

*Limelight* is published nine times a year - September to May. Submissions should be addressed to the **Editor**, Brian Osborne, 613-533-6042, email [osborneb@qsilver.queensu.ca](mailto:osborneb@qsilver.queensu.ca). *Limelight* designer, Jennifer McKendry, 613-544-9535, email [mckendry@kos.net](mailto:mckendry@kos.net). The Kingston Historical Society (KHS) gratefully acknowledges the support of *Limelight's* sponsors.



KHS holds monthly talks or events, usually at 7:30 PM on the third Wednesday of the month, September to May, usually in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library on Johnson St at Bagot St. Special annual events include a dinner and talk honouring the birthday of Sir John A. Macdonald in January and a ceremony marking his death in June. **New members are welcome!** - individual \$35, family \$40, institutional \$40, student \$25; memberships include *Historic Kingston*, published annually by KHS.

**Kingston Historical Society**  
Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6

website [www.heritagekingston.org](http://www.heritagekingston.org)

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## Margaret & Bernard Burdsall Celebrate their 60th Anniversary

On 28 June this year, Margaret and Bernard Burdsall celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Margaret, aided and abetted by Bernard, served KHS for many years. When I first became Treasurer, Margaret and Bernard were looking after a host of problems associated with storage, distribution, selling and invoicing of *Historic Kingston* and supplying me as Treasurer with all the associated financial results. All I had to do was make entries in a ledger. As if this were not enough, Margaret took on upkeep of the Membership records, including follow-up on receipt of dues



photo courtesy Kingston Whig-Standard

and fielded odd requests like accounting for the fate (sold, donated, etc.) of the 250 copies of Margaret Cohoe's book on Sir John A. She made all of this look easy. In addition, Margaret gave support as a volunteer to several other Kingston organisations.

Unfortunately, I could not attend their recent celebration but I do want to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the support and assistance given to me by Margaret and Bernard in my role as Treasurer. Heartfelt thanks and many more anniversaries.

*Prepared by Desmond O'Meara  
and warmly endorsed by all members of KHS*





## SNAPSHOTS OF KINGSTON'S PAST

Thanks to Ross McKenzie



Detail from just left of centre on the horizon (see arrow). The large dome is City Hall and to the right is the bell tower of St George's with the Fire Hall tower in front.

An interesting photograph of Kingston has recently been acquired by the Royal Military College of Canada Museum. This was a commercially produced photograph by Sheldon & Davies. It is mounted on cardboard and is approximately 10 cm x 19 cm in size. The view looks west across the northern end of Point Frederick towards the City. The photographer was apparently set up about where the Barrierfield Cut is today. The buildings shown on Point Frederick all predate the creation of RMC and most were demolished about 1875 to make way for new College structures. The cottage standing to the south of the roadway was erected in 1868. There may well be other clues that will allow for a more precise dating, such as the appearance of the City Hall as it was modified after the fire of 1865 and the existence of the Fire Hall, 251 Ontario St., of 1873 (*see detail*). It seems that the photo dates between 1873 and 1875.



## ONTARIO VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS



Mary Clarke, Emma Molson, Bea Corbett, Jack Grenville

**H**earty congratulations are extended to six members of the KHS who have been recent recipients of Ontario Volunteer Awards in recognition of their volunteer service to the community. **Emma Molson**, **George Henderson** and **Jack Grenville** were recognized for their long commitment to planning the annual John A. Macdonald graveside ceremony; **Mary Clarke** for loyal service as a member of

Council and the Welcoming Committee; **Bea Corbett** for her contributions to the affairs of Council and the Awards Committee; and **Marjorie Simmons** for her contributions to myriad aspects of KHS activities and particularly her unflagging willingness to provide guidance to public enquiries on genealogical matters. Unfortunately, Marjorie and George were unable to attend the public award ceremony held on 24 September.

### *AN INVITATION*

The Saint Andrew's Society of Kingston has extended a "very warm welcome" to all members of KHS to join them on the occasion of their annual **St Andrew's Ball**, "an evening of Scottish culture and fare." The event will be held at Kingston's downtown Holiday Inn, at 6:30 PM, Saturday **22 November**. The guest speaker will be Royce Graham, a former local educator. The ticket price is \$50 per person. For more information, contact Douglas Smith (548-3727) or Maureen Bale (546-2825).



## DARWIN'S KINGSTON RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, GEORGE JOHN ROMANES: BUT WHO WAS THE KINGSTON LADY?

**T**wo prominent intellectuals, Grant Allen and George John Romanes, were born in Kingston in 1848 and had much in common. Both were sons of Queen's College professors, both were interested in biology, both spent most of their lives in England where they went to major universities: Allen to Oxford, Romanes to Cambridge. A difference was that Allen had to make his living by writing, whereas Romanes was wealthy. Thus, Allen mainly wrote novels, whereas Romanes wrote scientific papers and

books and, in 1874, became Darwin's research associate.

*In his twenties, Romanes and his elder brother had been taken in by a spiritualist and there was some disparaging correspondence with Darwin.*

Darwin was well aware that there were major inconsistencies in his 1859 theory of the origin of species by natural selection, which had been independently conceived by Alfred Wallace. Prior to his death in 1882, Darwin probably spent more time discussing these

inconsistencies with Romanes than anyone else. In 1886, Romanes presented a theory of the origin of species by "physiological selection" to the Linnean Society. He claimed to have resolved the inconsistencies, but invoked abstract elements (e.g. "a peculiarity of the reproductive system"), which were incomprehensible to his Victorian contemporaries. He was strongly attacked by the elder statesmen of science - including Wallace.

In his twenties, Romanes and his elder brother had been taken in by a spiritualist and there was some disparaging correspondence with Darwin. Later Romanes was critical of Wallace's advocacy of spiritualism. Romanes' brother sent the correspondence to a Kingston friend. This lady showed it to Wallace when he visited Kingston on a lecture tour in 1887. Wallace later used the material to attack Romanes, who died of a brain tumour in 1894. Recent genome project research has led to a new reinterpretation of Darwin's theory suggesting that Romanes' "physiological selection" was correct. (Prepared by Donald Forsdyke)




Donald Forsdyke will be further exploring this fascinating story in the next meeting of KHS on **15 October**.





The Kingston Historical Society extends a warm welcome to this year's sponsors of *Limelight*.



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## LANDSCAPES/INSCAPES

### THE LINES HOUSE 1785 - 1988

by Shirley Gibson-Langille



talking among themselves, all called her 'Snowball,' but she was always Mrs Chapman to me. Her son operated the elevator in Steacy's Department Store. My friends and I liked them. They always smiled at us and gave us a treat on Halloween.

I felt that it was important to do this drawing of the Lines House because a developer had bought it and was going to put up condominiums. A group, headed by Margaret Angus and the Frontenac Historic Foundation, had the house moved to the foot of North Street. Another \$50,000 provincial grant was supposed to come for renovation. The new tenant, 'Information Kingston,' was slated to move in on 1 April 1988. However no one in the ministry would commit themselves.

I did a second drawing of the house after it was moved to its new isolated location (*below left*). It was boarded up for security but already it had been reported that "street-people" had been living there. Then, on 2 April 1988, just before midnight, a taxi driver detected the fire. It was too late to save the Lines House. It had been arson! Word spread and a real sadness hung over Kingston, especially for all those who had worked so hard to save it!

Again, I went down to draw the Lines House as it looked after the fire (*below right*). It was all so tragic and a very unhappy ending for sure! I decided I would try to remember it as it was in my first drawing and in my mind's eye as a child!

**I** did my first drawing of the Lines House in August 1985 (*above*). It was located on Ontario Street at the foot of Earl Street. It was built by Nathaniel Lines, an Englishman, who worked as an official of the colonial government in Kingston serving as an interpreter for native people. The house was mentioned in 1785, making it the oldest house in Ontario. The house later served as a tavern, a boarding house, and as a private dwelling.

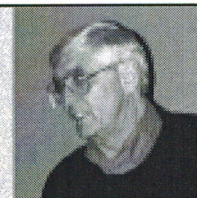
As a child in the mid 1940s, I lived on the corner of King and Earl Streets. I remember that a small black lady with curly white hair and her handsome son lived there. The neighbours, when





## SPEAKERS' CORNER

with Alan MacLachlan



On 17 September, **Harvey Medland** presented the first address of KHS's fall-winter program: "The Antarctic Adventures of Kingston's Tom MacLeod." It was an outstanding success and some 100 members and friends of KHS were engrossed by the exploits, shenanigans, and bravery of Thomas "Mac" McLeod. With the aid of slides from the Antarctic expeditions, our speaker developed a colourful account of Mac's adventures with his 37 years at sea, his role in the Shackleton expedition, and his last 37 years as a resident of Kingston. Following an excellent question period, the Society enjoyed refreshments and discussion of the evening's presentation.



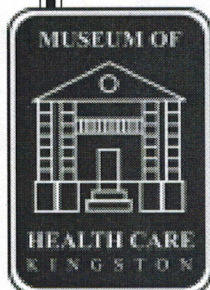
Harvey Medland and Carmel Purcell,  
a long-time friend of Tom McLeod.  
Photo by Jennifer McKendry

The presentation of 15 October at 7:30PM will also address how a Kingstonian gained fame outside of Canada and his association with a notable historical figure. Dr **Donald Roy Forsdyke** of Queen's University will be speaking on John George Romanes, a Kingstonian, and his involvement with Charles Darwin and his Theory of Evolution, a summary of which is provided on page 5 of this month's *Limelight*.

On 19 November, Dr **Lubomyr Luciuk** of the Royal Military College will speak about the role of Fort Henry as an internment facility for aliens and other prisoners of war during two wars.

*Note:* Unfortunately, the "TWO SISTERS IN THE WILDERNESS" tour planned for 4 October was cancelled because of insufficient numbers. However, because of the interest that was expressed by members and others, it is proposed that we try again in the fall of 2004. Please look for notices in the spring and fall 2004 *Limelights*.

**The Museum of Health Care at Kingston** is located in the Ann Baillie Building, a National Historic Site, on George Street. Its next public event is an evening with this year's Margaret Angus Research Fellow, Dr Phaedra Livingstone. Phaedra spent her summer looking at the Museum's collection of patent medicine trade-cards to see how this pioneer form of medical advertising portrayed women and their quest for health. She'll be giving an illustrated talk on her research, entitled "**Snake Oil and Mother's Milk**," followed by discussion and refreshments, at the Museum on **Wednesday, 22 October, at 7:30PM**. For more information contact Nancy Churchman at 613-548-2419, or churchmn@kgh.kari.net. All are welcome, and admission is free.





# Award

## NOMINATION FORM

The **Kingston Historical Society Award**, created in commemoration of the One-Hundredth Anniversary of the founding of the Kingston Historical Society in 1893, is presented from time to time to worthy individuals, groups or institutions in recognition of outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of local history.

The Awards Committee will be preparing its recommendations to the KHS Council concerning awards for 2003. In keeping with normal practice, members of the Society are again asked to participate in these deliberations by nominating individuals or organizations who are worthy candidates. Nominations should be put forward using this form. Completed forms may be mailed to the Awards Committee, Kingston Historical Society, Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V8 or passed directly to the Chair of the Committee, Dr J.G. Pike, 150 Macdonnell Street, Kingston ON K7L 4B8, deadline for receipt **19 November 2003**. It is requested that as much information as possible be presented in support of each nomination (detail which may appear obvious to the nominator may not be so to members of the Awards Committee).

Name, Address & Phone Number of Nominator:

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Name, Address & Phone Number of Nominee:

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Please add your specific comments in support of your nomination:

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Continue overleaf if necessary