

**Kingston Historical Society** *Founded 1893*

P.O. Box 54, KINGSTON, ON CANADA K7L 4V6

WWW.KINGSTONHISTORICALSOCIETY.CA



## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Kingsbridge Retirement Community Meeting Room

950 Centennial Drive

Kingston, ON K7M 0G8

In-person and ZOOM teleconference

# **The Kingston Historical Society**

## **Annual General Meeting**

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## **The Kingston Historical Society Donors' List 2025**

The Kingston Historical Society is very grateful to the following individuals who have contributed to the Society's activities through their generous donations in 2025.

Anonymous  
McDougall Insurance Brokerage  
Betty Andrews  
Eva & Jack Barnes (2)  
Shari Beattie  
Ray Buell  
Kim Carter  
Steven Davidson  
Hans Dringenberg  
Dr. Donald Forsdyke (2)  
Hazel Fotheringham  
Alan MacLachlan  
Sheila McHenry  
Jennifer McKendry  
Jay Nuttall  
Olga Oleinkow  
Gary Oswald  
William Patterson  
Father Brian Price (2)  
Marilyne Raymond  
Don & Anne Richardson (2)  
Marc Shaw  
Nicole Smimis  
Ken Watson  
Carol White

## **The Murney Tower Centennial Celebrations Donors' List 2025**

The Kingston Historical Society is very grateful to the following individuals and organizations who contributed to the success of the Murney Tower centennial celebration activities through their generous donations in 2025.

### **Major**

Homestead  
James Reid Funeral Home  
Ontario Power Generation  
Kingston Community Credit Union  
Michael Palmer  
Tourism Kingston

### **Individual Donors**

Bruce Cossar  
Sandra and Vincent Durant  
Peter Burpee  
Jeffrey Brison  
Burkon & See Investment Group  
Hans Dringenberg  
Peter Gower  
John Grenville & Sue Bazely  
Carolyn Heald  
Katie-Marie McNeill  
Ed McNally  
Olga Oleinikow  
Michael Palmer  
Paul Van Nest  
Peter Radley  
Rogers and Trainor Commercial Realty Inc.  
Liana Shaw  
Johanna Strong

## **The Kingston Historical Society Sponsors' List 2025**

The Kingston Historical Society very much appreciates the financial support of the following organizations, which have contributed to the Society's endeavours through their generous sponsorships in 2025.

Cataraqui Cemetery  
Cooke's Fine Foods and Coffee  
Doan Grant Thornton (accounting)  
Homestead Land Holdings Ltd.  
James Reid Funeral Home  
Kingsbridge Retirement Community  
Marc F. Raymond Opticians Ltd.  
Novel Idea

# **The Kingston Historical Society**

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

## **AGENDA**

Presentation of the KHS Award

1. Call to Order: P. Gower
2. Period of Remembrance: P. Gower
3. Approval of the agenda: P. Gower
4. Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2025: P. Gower
5. Business arising from the minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2025: P. Gower
6. President's remarks: P. Gower
7. Reports from Officers, the Board and Committees---2025: P. Gower
  - a) The President's Report
  - b) The Secretary's Report
  - c) The Awards Committee Report
  - d) The Communications Report
  - e) The Editor's Report: *Historic Kingston*
  - f) The Editor's Report: *Limelight*
  - g) The KHS High School History Awards Report
  - h) The Membership Report
  - i) The Murney Tower National Historic Site Committee Report
  - j) The Program Report
  - k) The Sir John A. Macdonald June 6 Graveside Ceremony Committee Report
  - l) The Web Site Report
8. The Treasurer's Report and presentation of Financial Statements: P. Ginn
9. Ratification of business conducted by the Board during the operating year 2025 P. Ginn
10. Presentation of the General & Murney Tower Budgets for 2026: P. Ginn
11. Appointment of Doane Grant Thornton: P. Ginn
12. Appointment of non-Board member to review financial records for 2026: P. Ginn
13. Nominations and election of the Board: P. Gower
14. New business: P. Gower
15. Closing remarks: P. Gower
16. Adjournment: P. Gower

# *The Kingston Historical Society*

Annual General Meeting  
Wednesday, February 19, 2025  
7:00 p.m.

Kingsbridge Retirement Community  
950 Centennial Drive  
Kingston ON  
K7M 0G8  
And ZOOM teleconference

## **MINUTES**

Prior to commencement of the business portion of the evening, Peter Gower read the citation for the Kingston Historical Society Award which was presented to Alan MacLachlan. Accepting on his behalf was Don Richardson.

### **7. Call to Order:** P. Gower

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

Number of members in attendance: 27

### **2. Period of Remembrance:** P. Gower

A brief period of remembrance was held for those members who passed away in 2024.

### **3. Motion to approve the agenda:** P. Gower

M/S: Anne Richardson/Peter Ginn

Carried

### **4. Motion to approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2024:** P. Gower

M/S: Liana Shaw/Paul Van Nest

Carried

### **5. Business arising from the Annual General Meeting 2024:** P. Gower

None

### **6. Approval of the minutes of the Special General Meeting of Sept. 2024:** P. Gower

M/S: Peter Ginn/Randall Thomlinson

Carried

### **7. President's remarks:** P. Charbonneau

Due to the technical problems, Paul was unable to make remarks.

### **8. Reports from Officers, Council and Committees:** P. Gower

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: <i>Historic Kingston</i>	P. Gower
e) The Editor's Report: <i>Limelight</i>	B. Andrews
f) The High School History Awards	P. Van Nest
g) The Membership Committee Report	P. Van Nest
h) The Murney Tower National Historic Site Committee Report	L. Shaw
i) The Program Report	D. McDowall
j) The Publicity Report	V. Durant
k) The Sir John A. Macdonald June 6 Graveside Ceremony Committee Report	A. MacLachlan
l) The Web Site Committee Report	P. Gower

**Motion to approve the committee reports:**

M/S: Duncan McDowall/Anne Richardson Carried

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

**Motion to accept the 2024 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 2024: P. Ginn**

M/S: Peter Ginn/Betty Andrews Carried

**11. Presentation of the General & Murney Tower budgets for 2025 as approved by Council: P. Ginn**

**12. Motion to retain Doane Grant Thornton to prepare the Society's 2025 financial statements: P. Ginn**

M/S: Peter Ginn/Randall Thomlinson Carried

**13. Motion to appoint Doug Petty as a non-Council member to review the financial records of the Society for 2025, and to report to the members at the 2026 AGM: P. Ginn**

M/S: Peter Ginn/Paul Van Nest Carried

**14. Nomination and election of the Board: V. Durant**

**Proposed slate of the Board for 2025-2026**

Betty Andrews  
Paul Charbonneau  
Peter Gower  
Peter Ginn  
Kat MacDonald  
Dr. Duncan McDowall  
Dr. Craig Pettis  
Don Richardson  
Liana Shaw  
Ann Stevens  
Paul Van Nest

**Motion to approve the slate of members of the Board for 2025-2026 as submitted by Vincent Durant:**



M/S: Eva Barnes/Anne Richardson

Carried

15. **New business:** P. Gower

None

16. **Closing remarks:** P. Gower

Peter thanked those in attendance.

17. **Adjournment:** P. Gower

Motion to adjourn at 7:47 pm.

Moved: Randall Thomlinson

Carried

Minutes recorded by

Don Richardson, Secretary

## **7. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS, THE BOARD AND COMMITTEES---2025**

### **a) The President's Report---2025**

One year ago, we said goodbye to two Board members and welcomed Kat McDonald to the KHS Board. At the first executive meeting, she was acclaimed Vice-president, and has carried out that role with myself, as President, and Don Richardson and Peter Ginn continuing as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Craig Pettis became Webmaster and Ann Stevens took over the portfolio of Communications.

Amongst the year's activities, as well as the monthly talks so ably managed by Duncan McDowall, has been our celebration of our running the Murney Tower for 100 years; operating a museum and welcoming about 10,000 visitors each summer, and the professionalization of the management of the Tower. This will be discussed in the Tower report below, but our staff must be thanked for their constant concern to promote the Tower and to improve it as a museum.

We finally approved the new 'constitution', a change mandated by the province. We have dutifully followed By Law 2, as it is officially known, without difficulty and without comment from the province.

For the first time in many years, the June 6<sup>th</sup> commemoration of Sir John A. Macdonald's death was not organized by Alan MacLachlan, and was a much smaller, but successful commemoration. With Alan's death, we have lost much expertise, and we hope to return to the quality of remembrances he organized as soon as possible.

A group of members also attended the birthday celebration of Macdonald organized by the local Conservative Party – with speaker Duncan McDowall.

The end of June saw another presentation of a KHS award to a student at each of the city's nine high schools. These were well received by staff and students, and thanks are due to those who volunteered to present them in person.

For those of you downsizing and wondering what to do with your valuable collection of history books, hope may be in sight. We have contacted the local public library and offered to help fill their shelves – and even to start a west-end collection in the Isabel Turner library of non-borrowable books, similar to the collection in the local history room downtown. They will respond as plans for the reopening of the Isabel Turner branch progress.

The collected documents of the Society dating from 1967 to 2000 are now in the Queen's Archives (the earlier years are already here) and will be available for consultation once they are catalogued.

We sail into our 133<sup>rd</sup> year with a stable membership, an excellent program of talks, and great plans for the Tower! What more could we ask for!

Respectfully submitted by  
Peter Gower, President

### **b) The Secretary's Report---2025**

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 the Board to its members; 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 the Board; recording the minutes of the annual general meeting of 2025; 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.

Respectfully submitted by  
Don Richardson, Secretary

**c) The Awards Committee Report---2025**

The role of the committee is to recognize individual and organizational contributions to the preservation of local Kingston history. The Kingston Historical Society (KHS) Awards Committee is pleased to have received nominations for this year and to have made a recommendation to the Board.

The 2025 award will be presented at the Kingston Historical Society Annual General Meeting on February 18.

The Government of Ontario Volunteer Service Awards held an in-person awards ceremony in Kingston. One member of the Kingston Historical Society received recognition for his dedication to our Society:

Organization Name/ Nom de l’organisation : Kingston Historical Society

NAME OF RECIPIENT	AWARD
Alan MacLachlan	20 years

We will be nominating members of KHS who meet the criteria for this acknowledgement of varying years of service to the Society in 2026.

Respectfully submitted by  
Paul J. Charbonneau  
Chair, Awards Committee

**d) The Communications Report---2025**

Overview:

The KHS Communications Chair notifies media of KHS events and initiatives.

General:

Each month, a news release was sent to area media and other special names on the list given to me by the outgoing publicity chair.

A monthly appearance on CableNet, “Kingston’s Limestone Lens” interview program, was scheduled and, so far, has paid off since this started in September 2025. There are at least three more broadcasts we can do in the next three months.

#### Challenges:

The fragmenting of local media businesses has complicated media relations. No longer is it easy to just ‘send a public service announcement’ and anticipate that it would be run. We need to refine our approach to local media and identify groups outside mass media to get our message out. We need to identify and reach out to interest groups (such as high school history teachers) to improve our reach.

We also need to figure out a way to amp up our Facebook page. But I also think we need to figure out a way to access other ways of generating publicity outside of the ‘normal’ media outlets.

#### Recommendations:

- \* That several board members sit down to draft a media relations strategy. I would do this along with perhaps Liana and Kat.
- \* That a report be done prior to the end of this season, in June 2026, which would identify areas where the KHS could reach out for coverage. And ‘coverage’ needs to identify special interest groups in the area, not just journalists in mainstream media.
- \* That we re-launch a new and updated Facebook page and identify other avenues we can explore.

Respectfully submitted by  
Ann Stevens, Chair, Communications

#### e) **The Editor’s Report, *Historic Kingston*---2025**

Volume 74 was published in February 2025 on schedule. Volume 75 is at the printers and we hope it will be ready during February. Mailing a copy now costs about \$6.50, and so I am very thankful to the team of deliverers who personally put one copy of about 80 copies into mailboxes in Kingston. We also face the problem of paying tariffs on the dozen copies sent to the United States; even the Post Office isn’t quite sure how that works.

Susan Smith left us a copy of her book on the Thousand Islands after her talk, “to raffle”. Since we rarely get together as a group, I am instead including a Golden Ticket inside one copy of *Historic Kingston*. If it is your copy, congratulations, and there are instructions on how to claim the book. Good Luck!!

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

## f) The Editor's Report, *Limelight*---2025

*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 printed each month with most members receiving their copies of the newsletter by email.

Featured monthly in *Limelight* were ads for the KHS sponsors, the announcement of the presenter for the next meeting, notification of deaths of members, a welcome to new members, a message from President Peter Gower, the report on the monthly speaker by Program Chair Dr. Duncan McDowall, a report on events of interest to history buffs in *Ear to the Ground* by Elizabeth Durno and a Murney Tower activity update by Liana Shaw.

Celebrations surrounding the centennial year of the Tower Museum being run by the KHS were featured in the MT column this year.

Occasional columns include Dr. Jennifer McKendry's *Still Standing*. This year her articles were on 1 Baiden Street, 158-162 Earl Street, the Davis Tannery, the Smith-Robinson building, the Wilson building and the Armouries.

There were also book reports and opinion pieces of local historical interest and mention of recently-published books by members and other local historians.

Announcements appeared for the special events in February, Heritage Month, and June, when the death of our first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, is commemorated.

The Kingston Historical Society Award recipient for 2025, Alan MacLachlan, was honoured in *Limelight*, as were the recipients of the KHS Award for History given to a student graduating from each local high school.

The series of lectures for 2026 was outlined in the December issue.

Webmaster Craig Pettis posted *Limelight* to the KHS website. Membership Chair Paul Van Nest proofread each issue, posted the website link to those who receive *Limelight* by email, and supplied labels for mailing *Limelight* to members who receive a hard copy.

Treasurer Peter Ginn paid the bills.

Respectfully submitted by  
Betty Andrews, Editor, *Limelight*

## **g) The KHS High School Awards Report---2025**

Annually each Kingston high school selects a graduating student based on the following criteria:

*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.*

The award is a certificate from the society and a cheque for \$150.

Our congratulations to the following awardees:

Bayridge Secondary School	Gabriel Johnson
Ecole Secondaire Catholique Marie-Rivier	Elie Hueglin
Ecole Secondaire Publique Mille-Îles	Axle Waters
Frontenac Secondary School	Noah Tulkan-Bateson
Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School	Emily VanDyke
Kingston Secondary School	Abby Sutherland-Class
LaSalle Secondary School	Megan Gifford
Loyalist Secondary School	Jack Graham
Regiopolis-Notre Dame Catholic High School	Ava Chubb

Our society owes special thanks to our members who presented these awards at each school's graduation ceremony: Grant LeDrew, Duncan McDowall, Peter Radley, Don Richardson, Liana Shaw, Ann Stevens, and Paul Van Nest. Our presence means so much to the schools as well as the awardees. Consider volunteering for next year's presentations, most which take place on the last Thursday in June.

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

## h) The Membership Report---2025

Type of Membership	2025	2024	2023	2022
Individuals	103	97	94	86
Families (each counted as 2)	66	68	64	90
Students	2	5	1	2
Life Members	7	7	10	10
Institutions	10	11	10	11
Sponsors	8	8	9	7
TOTAL	193	196	188	206

Membership has been steady at just under 200, perhaps our post-Covid steady state. We welcomed 21 new members and lost 17 (non-renewals and deaths). We always have a few changes from Family to Personal memberships (loss of 7) and vice-versa (gain of 4). From membership at 196 on January 1, 2025, these changes net +1, predicting 197 while the actual is 193. (Forgive me.)

We lost an inordinate number of members due to death: Stewart Renfrew, Susanne Kilpatrick, Donald Smithies, John Meisel, Brian Johnson, Eileen Huber, Carol Davy, Helen Coffey, Jack Pike, and Alan MacLachlan: a total of 10 or 5% of our membership.

We have again been supported generously by eight sponsors: Cataraqui Cemetery, Cooke's Fine Foods, Doane Grant Thornton (accounting), Homestead Land Holding Ltd., James Reid Funeral Home, Kingsbridge Retirement Community, Marc F. Raymond Opticians Ltd., and Novel Idea Kingston. In turn, please support them whenever you can.

Respectfully submitted by  
Paul Van Nest, Chair, Membership

## i) The Murney Tower National Historic Site Committee Report---2025

### Year at-a-Glance

2025 marked the centennial of Murney Tower Museum's opening in 1925. The museum welcomed visitors for its landmark season beginning May 17th and, over four months, welcomed more than 10,000 visitors from Kingston, across Canada, and abroad. This centennial season honoured the museum's long history while deepening its relationships with local audiences and community partners, creating new opportunities for public engagement, reflection, and celebration.

Community support made it possible to deliver two major centennial projects. *The Time-Travelling Adventures of Mr. Murney*, a children's book developed with Ontario-based illustrator Alex Lowe, introduced young audiences to Kingston's history through storytelling and imagination. "Echoes: Reimagining Murney Tower", a collaborative exhibition presented in partnership with Modern Fuel Artist-Run Centre, featured works by Kingston artists that explored the tower's past, present, and future through contemporary perspectives on heritage, memory, and place.

Throughout the year, the museum strengthened its connections with the community through a wide range of centennial events and public programs. These included a formal opening celebration, a commemorative cruise on Lake Ontario, a full-day outdoor festival in Macdonald Park, and family-focused programming inspired by the children's book. In addition to regular museum visitation, more than 800 people participated in offsite and after-hours events throughout the centennial season. Together, these events brought together volunteers, community partners, elected officials, and residents, highlighting the depth of local investment in the museum and its role in Kingston's cultural life.

Beyond centennial celebrations, 2025 was a year of institutional growth and collaboration. The museum expanded public programming, enhanced collections stewardship, advanced accessibility initiatives, and deepened partnerships across Kingston's heritage sector. As it enters its second century, the Murney Tower Museum remains committed to preserving and interpreting Kingston's military and social history while continuing to serve as a vibrant community gathering place.

#### Year at-a-Glance: Numbers

- 10,113 visitors
- 13,612 website visits
- 333 guided tour participants
- 1,825 social media followers
- 87 students

Respectfully submitted by  
Liana Shaw, Chair, Murney Tower Committee

#### j) **The Program Report---2025**

All lectures (except on February 16<sup>th</sup>) were held on Wednesday evenings in the lounge at the Kingsbridge Retirement Community (950 Centennial Drive off Princess) at 7:00 pm with simultaneous ZOOM and subsequent YouTube posting. Special thanks are due to Paul Van Nest and Craig Pettis for their very competent oversight of the technical arrangements.

January 15, 2025: Dr. Duncan McDowall on "HMCS Thiepval: Kingston's Little Ship That Could." A tale of a World War I warship built on Kingston shores that found fame and eventual misadventure on the high seas.

February 16, 2025: A celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Society's curatorship of Kingston's historic Murney Tower featuring a lecture by the Museum's Director Dr. Simge Erdogan. Lecture followed by a high tea. Held at the Fort Henry Reception Centre.

March 19, 2025: Professor Ralph Boston of Queen's biology department spoke on "A History of the Mississauga People North of Kingston". Professor Boston's research sought to set the Queen's University Biological Station in the context of the Indigenous People who inhabited the area long before white settlement.



April 16, 2025: Dr. Sandy Campbell, emerita professor of women's studies at Carleton University, spoke on "Kingston's Kathleen Hammond, the Lusitania and the White Plague", a story of World War I happiness and tragedy.

May 21, 2025: Christine Lavalley, a St. Lawrence College librarian, writer and literary scholar, talked about her research into nineteenth-century Canadian author Julia Beckwith Hart, whose pioneering novel – St. Ursula's Convent --was partially set in Kingston and is said to be the first indigenous work of Canadian fiction.

June 6, 2025: The Kingston Historical Society hosted its annual commemoration of the 1891 death of our first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, at his grave site in Cataraqui Cemetery. The guest speaker was Roy MacSkimming on reconciling our new sensibilities about Macdonald with his storied history.

September 17, 2025: Susan Smith, the long-time editor of *Thousand Islands Life* on-line magazine and author of The First Summer People: The Thousand Islands 1650-1910, reflected on the history and heritage of the Thousand Islands, the iconic stretch of the St. Lawrence just east of Kingston.

October 15, 2025: Paul Van Nest, a local historian, related the World War II experience of his cousin, Glenn Brooks, an eastern Ontario farm boy who served as a tail gunner on an RCAF bomber until his death over Germany in 1944. Brooks' letters home offered Van Nest a prism through which to probe the innermost experience of men at war and their ongoing impact of their loss on those left behind.

November 19: Warren Everett, military historian and collector of military medals, reflected on the significance of military decorations not just for the immediate recipient, but also for the society he/she served. Warren brought samples from his expansive collection.

For further information about any of these lectures, please contact Duncan McDowall ([duncanmcdowall@hotmail.com](mailto:duncanmcdowall@hotmail.com)) or consult the KHS website. Suggestions for future lectures are always welcomed.

Respectfully submitted by  
Duncan McDowall, Chair, Program

#### **k) The Sir John A. Macdonald June 6 Graveside Ceremony Committee Report---2025**

For over five decades members of the Kingston Historical Society have joined with the broader Kingston community to commemorate the death of 6 June 1891 of Sir John a Macdonald Canada's first prime minister. This tradition perpetuates earlier gatherings at Macdonald's graveside organized by the Kingston Conservative Party and the federal government dating back to the 1890's. Macdonald's graveside is now recognized under a federal government heritage program designed "to ensure the conservation and awareness in dignity and respect" of bygone prime ministers who have had a profound impact on the history of our country". Past June 6<sup>th</sup> commemorations have been graced by prominent academics and distinguished national leaders such as the Rt. Hon. Brian Mulroney and the Hon. Murray Sinclair.

The 2025 graveside ceremony was accompanied by familiar traditions such as a piper, the laying of wreaths and a religious benediction, all presided over by the Society's bilingual secretary, Don Richardson. The 2025 invited speaker was journalist and much-published author Roy MacSkimming whose eloquent analysis of Macdonald's ongoing relevance in Canadian society is reprinted in the 2025 volume of *Historic Kingston*.

Thus, for an hour on a sunny spring afternoon our thoughts turned to what lies at the heart of the Canadian experience, a reflection made all the more palpable by the growing tension in Canada's relations with its increasingly erratic and belligerent neighbour to the south, something which would have struck our first prime minister as an ever-present challenge to our unfolding nationhood.

Respectfully submitted by  
Duncan McDowall

### **l) The Web Site Committee Report---2025**

The web site design remains unchanged. We use Word Press as our website content management system. Word Press will supply us with statistics as to who uses our web site and which pages are most popular. The most recent statistics tell us that the Meetings & Events page is the most frequently used page followed by *Historic Kingston*, Membership, Publications, About Us, *Limelight*, Murney Tower, sponsors and our Contact Page. All pages are being viewed, which is reassuring. In order to receive more data analysis, such as how long each page is viewed, we would need to pay for this upgrade. Suffice it to say, our website is being used.

Updates are sent to the webmaster regularly, and these are added to the web site. We continue to use Brian Chard as our consultant and trouble shooter. Any suggestions for upgrades for improvements are most welcome.

Respectively submitted by  
Craig Pettis, Webmaster

### **8. The Treasurer's Report---2025**

The generosity again this year of members and others through donations contributed significantly to the Society's 2025 solid financial year. Interest on investments also contributed to the Society's strong revenue in 2025. Expenditures were in line with the budget, so the Society ended the year with an operating surplus.

Under the leadership of our Murney Tower Museum team, a number of special centennial and other events increased the tower revenues. There was also a significant uptick in admission/donations in 2025 and from a reinvigorated gift shop. Interest on investments helped the tower finish the year with an operating surplus. Donations supporting the museum's centennial exceeded the costs and these funds have been folded into the 2025 revenue stream. The surplus generated in 2025 will help to support tower operations

in 2026. New funding sources will need to be forthcoming beyond 2026 to maintain the current operations of the tower museum.

Thanks to grants from the federal government and the City of Kingston's Heritage Fund, the staff required to operate the tower museum and related activities were funded without dipping into reserves in 2025. The tower has ended 2025 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 2025 financial records for the Society at year end. His report is contained below.

Respectively submitted by  
Peter Ginn, Treasurer

**KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY** *Established 1893*  
P.O. Box 54, Kingston, ON Canada K7L 4V6  
[www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca)



January 9, 2026

To: The Members of Kingston Historical Society

I have reviewed the financial records of the Society for 2025 and in my opinion they are in compliance with the Society's Constitution, Bylaws and policies.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Doug Petty".

Respectfully submitted,  
Doug Petty

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

**10. Ratification of business conducted by the Board during the operating year 2025: P. Ginn**

**11. Presentation of the General & Murney Tower Budgets for 2026: P. Ginn**

**12. Appointment of Doane Grant Thornton: P. Ginn**

**13. Appointment of non-Board member to review financial records or 2026:** P. Ginn

**14. Nominations and election of the Board:**

Proposed slate of the Board for 2026-2027

Betty Andrews  
Paul Charbonneau  
Peter Gower  
Peter Ginn  
Kat MacDonald  
Dr. Duncan McDowall  
Dr. 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 2026-2027 year.

**15. New Business:** P. Gower

**16. Closing remarks:** P. Gower

**17. Adjournment:** P. Gower

## APPENDIX A

### The Kingston Historical Society

#### Recipients of KHS Awards

- 1993 **Dr. W. Breck**: historian; active member  
**Shirley Gibson-Langille**: artist, active member  
**Dr. George F. G. Stanley**: historian and executive member
- 1994 **Dr. William Angus**: historian, active member  
**Frederick A. McConnell**: curator, historical animator, executive member  
**Dr. Richard A. Preston**: historian, museologist, executive member
- 1995 **Dr. Margaret S. Angus**: historian, author, government advisor
- 1996 **Canadian Forces Communications and Electronics Museum**  
**Margaret Cohoe**: historian, teacher, active member  
**Gary Schult**: teacher, heritage fair organizer
- 1997 **A.G. (Joe) Boucher**: past president (posthumous)  
**Isobel and Bogart Trumpour**: past-presidents
- 1998 **Brigadier-Gen William Patterson**: author, historic site historian  
**Donald Redmond**: editor, Historic Kingston, librarian, executive member  
**Carol White**: teacher, consultant history curricula
- 1999 **J. William Fittell**: journalist, sports historian, past-president  
**Gordon D. Smithson**: founding president, Pittsburgh Historical Society
- 2000 **Cataraqui Cemetery Company**: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of founding  
**Marjorie Simmons**: historian, genealogist, executive member
- 2001 **George F. Henderson**: archivist, long-time chair Macdonald grave site ceremony  
**Maurice D. Smith**: historian, museologist
- 2002 **Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation**: 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of founding  
**Jennifer McKendry**: architectural historian, author; active member
- 2003 **Downtown Kingston Business Improvement Area**: advocate of building preservation  
**Ingbert J. Huber**: retired master stone-cutter, **Helmut L. Graf**: retired master mason
- 2004 **John K. D'Esteere**: preserver of marine lore, ship builder  
**George W. Vosper**: public official, preservation activist, museum benefactor
- 2005 **Kevin E. Reed**: teacher, driving force behind KCVI War Memorial  
**Robert C. Cardwell**: active in local historical and heritage groups and events
- 2006 **The Kingston Whig Standard**: in recognition of special Canada Day supplement  
*The People Who Built Kingston*  
**Ann Lukits**: in recognition of the major role in the production of *The People Who Built Kingston*  
**Patricia Fleming**: author, preserver of local social history
- 2007 **Kim Donovan**: builder, preservationist  
**Brian Stuart Osborne**: community builder, historical geographer; author, past-president

- John (Jack) Gibson Pike:** teacher, active member, museologist
- 2008 **Ken Watson:** author, historic site historian, society web master  
**Henk Wevers:** ship builder, museum benefactor  
**Peter Gower:** author, historian, active member
- 2009 **Beatrice Corbett:** author, active member, Navy Park developer  
**Arthur Britton Smith:** author, Benefactor
- 2010 **Captain Brian Johnson:** author, active member  
**Donna Ivey:** author, active member  
**Norma Kelly:** author, active member.
- 2011 **Robert J. Andrews:** author, educator, and active member  
**Edward R. Grenda:** Past President, researcher, active member
- 2012 **Dr. James Low:** founder, Museum of Health Care at Kingston  
**Queen's University Archives:** for the preservation and management of historical materials
- 2013 **Canada's Penitentiary Museum:** for its national presence in interpreting the history of the Canadian penal system  
**The Royal Military College of Canada Museum:** for its many contributions to the preservation and interpretation of local Kingston history
- 2014 **John Fielding:** for his major contribution in improving the teaching of history, and for his 10 years as editor of *Limelight*
- 2015 **Oscar Malan:** for his keen interest in Kingston history, and his willingness to support local historical authors  
**Doug and Marianne Thompson:** for their interest in the Lower Burial Ground, and for their diligence in raising funds to restore parts of it, and to raise public awareness of such an important Kingston landmark
- 2016 **Professor Emeritus Duncan McDowall:** educator, author, speaker for his contributions to the preservation, understanding and interpretation of local Kingston history.  
**Joanne Stanbridge:** for developing and producing a number of projects which have helped publicize and popularize local history in Kingston and Frontenac County.
- 2017 **Major Warren Everett** (retired): author, for his long and outstanding service to the Kingston Historical Society in numerous roles, and for his leadership role in the Hill 70 Memorial Project which created a perpetual monument and a highly respected high school resource kit.  
**John Grenville:** for his long-time commitment to recording and highlighting Kingston's history as an author and as Chair of a long list of committees dedicated to improving people's knowledge and appreciation of historical issues of import to the citizens of Kingston.
- 2018 **Paul Banfield:** archivist, Queen's University, for his contributions to the acquisition, management, and preservation of local Kingston history.

**Laura Murray:** director of the Swamp Ward and Inner Harbour History Project which has done much to inform Kingston residents about this intriguing part of Kingston's history.

**Susanna McLeod:** writer, for her long-time historical contributions to the Kingston Whig-Standard which have informed and delighted Kingstonians for more than a decade.

2019 **Bill Stevenson** for the creation of the Vintage Kingston Facebook page which offers a public platform for sharing historic ephemera related to Kingston and its environs.  
**City of Kingston Volunteer Tour Guide Program** for providing free guided tours of City Hall for over 20 years.

2020 Cancelled because of COVID-19 provincial regulations.

2021 **Susan Hannah and Bob Hilderley:** Bob was a long-time president of Quarry Press (later The Kingston Press), and Susan later joined this venture. They encouraged Kingston authors and were responsible for printing many books specific to Kingston's history. They produced two wonderful editions of Kingston's calendar, and their contribution to Kingston's writers of history has been invaluable.

**Paul Robertson:** Currently the curator for the city of Kingston, Paul has a long and illustrious career in journalism, history and museum technology, and has done a great deal to oversee Kingston's wonderful collection of art and artifacts. Through his work and determination, Paul has reinforced our city's storied history and culture.

2022 **Dr. Tabitha Renaud** for her academic achievements; her research into first contact between Aboriginal peoples and early Europeans; her involvement in Kingston historical organizations, and her innovative endeavours as Director of Murney Tower Museum.

2023 **The Volunteers of the Museum of the Great Lakes** for over 40 years of numerous accomplishments, hard work and enthusiasm in creating a museum which is recognized in Kingston and far beyond.

2024 **Alan MacLachlan** in appreciation of his tireless efforts in support of Kingston history and of the Kingston Historical Society as Councillor, President, Past President and Secretary. Alan is best recognized as the manager of the June 6<sup>th</sup>, Sir John A. Macdonald grave-site ceremonies.

2025 **Mark Bennett** as the Guard Commander for the Fort Henry Guard; longtime supporter of KHS; assistance with the June 6 SJA ceremony; supporter of the Murney Tower, and recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

**Paul Van Nest** for his long service to the Kingston Historical Society as membership Chair; initiator of the KHS High School History Awards; organizer and leader of City history walks; KHS presenter and contributor to *Historic Kingston*.

## Appendix B

### The Kingston Historical Society

#### Presidents

1893-94	Very Rev. Buxton B. Smith
1894-95	Rev. Samuel Houston
1895-96	Dr. J.L.H. Neilson
1896-97	Dr. R.T. Walkem, Q.C.
1897-98	Professor George D. Ferguson
1898-99	Professor Adam Shortt
1900-01	Dr. E.H. Smythe, Q.C.
1901-02	Rev. Conway Cartwright
1902-03	Dr. R.T. Walkem
1903-05	Col. M.H. Twitchell
1906-11	Dr. R.V. Rogers, K.C.
1911-12	J.M. Farrell, Esq.
1912-14	Rev. Canon G.L. Starr
1914-16	Professor G.D. Ferguson
1916-21	Rt. Rev. Edward J. Bidwell, Bishop of Ontario
1921-26	Major General Sir Archibald Macdonnell
1926-29	Professor Duncan A. McArthur
1929-32	H.F. Price, Esq.
1932-35	Professor D.A. McArthur
1935-41	Professor Reginald G. Trotter
1941-51	Lt. Col. Courtlandt M. Strange (Acting President)
1951-58	Lt. Col. Courtlandt M. Strange
1958-61	Professor G.F.G. Stanley
1961-72	Lt. Col. Louis J. Flynn
1972-74	Dr. Margaret Angus
1974-76	Mr. Bogart Trumpour
1976-78	Mr. Allan Cohoe
1978-80	Mr. Neil A. Patterson
1980-82	Mrs. Isobel Trumpour
1982-84	Mr. Ray Haslewood
1984-86	Mrs. Anne MacDermaid
1986-88	Mr. Kevin Quinn
1988-90	Dr. Wallace G. Breck
1990-92	Mrs. Isobel Trumpour
1992-94	Mr. Frank Milledge
1994-96	Mr. J.W. Fittsell



1996-97	Mr. A.G. Boucher
1997-98	Major Louis Grimshaw
1998-2000	Dr. Desmond O'Meara
2000-02	Major Warren Everett
2002-05	Dr. Brian S. Osborne
2005-07	Mr. Maurice D. Smith
2007-09	Mr. Edward R. Grenda
2009-11	Mr. Alan MacLachlan
2011-13	Mr. Gordon Sinclair
2013-16	Mr. Peter Gower
2016-17	Major Louis Grimshaw
2017-18	Dr. Marcus Letourneau
2018-20	Major Warren Everett
2020-22	Mr. Vincent Durant
2022-25	Mr. Paul Charbonneau