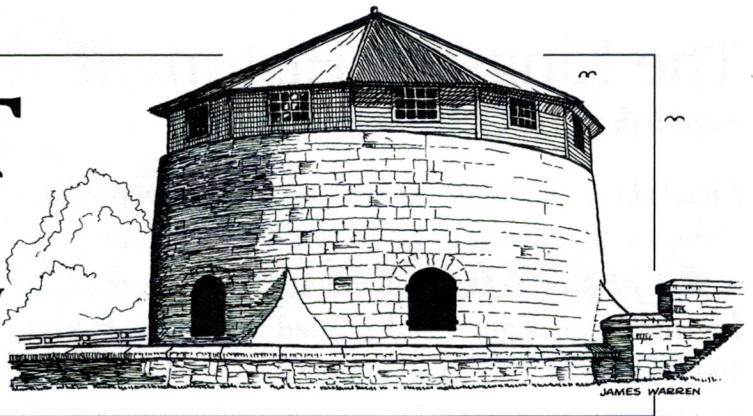


# LIMELIGHT

Newsletter of the  
Kingston Historical Society

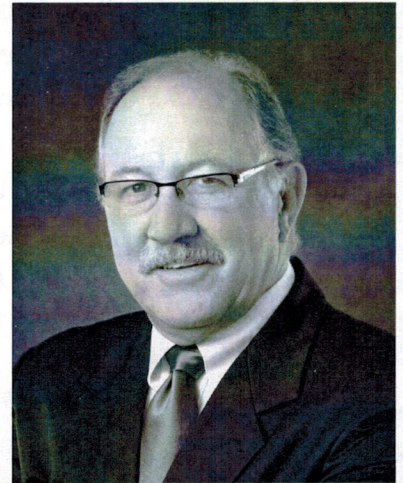
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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we enter 2013, allow me one of the many to wish you a Happy New Year. I hope holidays spent with friends and family was all you expected and more.

Everywhere we look at this time of the year we see “The Year in Review” type of programming on local and national media outlets. We'll all have to wait until our Annual General Meeting February 20 to have our own “Year in Review”, but suffice to say, it's been quite a year! Provocative speakers, a publishing sell-out, our 1812 conference, and a website that's come into its own are some of the marvellous activities undertaken by the Kingston Historical Society during 2012.



One such activity early in 2013, of course, is the John A. Macdonald Dinner January 11. This has become a premier Kingston winter event, and this year's iteration will be no exception. Organizer Warren Everett is to be commended for continuing with such style this great KHS tradition. Internationally recognized sculptor Ruth Abernethy will be our speaker this year. She will be speaking about her Macdonald project in Picton. Also included is the usual array of toasts and head table repartee, so it promises to be an exceptional evening.

The Annual Christmas Party held again this year at the commodious Renaissance Venue December 5 was a smashing success. The highlights were the KHS awards presented to James Low and to Queen's University Archives. These awards are presented annually and recognize outstanding contributions to local and regional historical initiatives by individuals and organizations. Thank you to Council members Alicia Boutilier for coordinating the event and to Peter Ginn for chairing the Awards Committee.

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# The Kingston Historical Society

established 1893

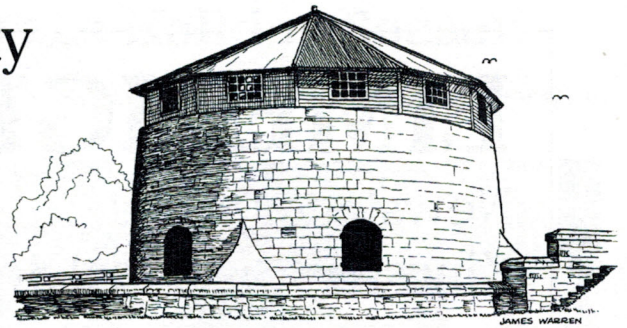
*Limelight* is published nine times a year - September to May. Submissions should be addressed to the Editor, John Fielding at 613-544-0086 or johnffielding@gmail.com.

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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 Street at Bagot Street. 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!** Membership rates are \$50 individual, \$60 family, \$60 institutional or \$25 student. Memberships include *Historic Kingston*, published annually by The Kingston Historical Society.



Murney Tower by James Warren

## Kingston Historical Society

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## Executive

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Peter Gower, *Vice President*  
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Anne Richardson  
Douglas Petty

Hazel Fotheringham, *Editor, Historic Kingston*  
Warren Everett, *Chair, Murney Tower Committee*  
John Fielding, *Editor, Limelight*



The Kingston Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Ministry of Culture of the Government of Ontario

**Wednesday, 16 January 2013**

**7:30 PM**

**THIS  
MONTH'S  
MEETING**

**God Save the King?:**

**The Evolution of Loyalty in the Limestone City, 1819-1841**  
**Stephen Smith**

Wilson Room, Kingston Frontenac Public Library, Johnson St. at Bagot  
Refreshments All Welcome

# **KHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE**

At the KHS AGM on Wednesday, February 20, 2013, at 7:30 PM, in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library, the Society's Nominating Committee will present a slate of Candidates for the term of March 2013 to February 2014.

As specified in the Constitution, the new Council will appoint the following: Editor of Historic Kingston, Editor of the newsletter (Limelight), and Chair of the Murney Tower national Historic Site Committee. Further the new Council will appoint chairs of other Society committees (Finance, membership, Programme, Publications, Website, Publicity, Grants, Sir John A. 6 June Commemoration, Sir John A. Banquet, and others)

Any member in good standing may nominate any other member of the Society in good standing for any office. Incumbents may be nominated for any or all of the positions to be filled. Members wishing to nominate a candidate for any position as a member of the Executive or Council may do so from the floor at the AGM, by submitting written nominations to Alan MacLachlan, 20 Oakridge Avenue, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 4S9, or by handing them to any member of the present Executive or Council before February 6, 2013. Submission of a nomination carries the assumption that the nominee is willing to stand for election and serve, and that this has been verified by the nominator.

Please participate in this extremely important event to ensure the continuing health and efficiency of the Society.

Alan MacLachlan  
Past President & Chair, Nominating Committee

## **History Related Announcement**

Saturday, January 26, 2013. Kingston Branch, United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada meets at St. Paul's church hall, corner Montreal and Queen Streets. Potluck lunch 11:30 for 12:00, meeting 1:00 pm. Speaker: Dr. Jane Errington, Queen's/RMC history professor. Further info: Carol 613-549-2256. Visitors always welcome.

# BRING BACK THE WHIG!

For more than a century, *The Kingston Whig-Standard* and the Kingston Historical Society have enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship and have similar mandates: One to collect, analyze and report current news and one to preserve, interpret and present past news.

The Society's only public outlet for the dissemination of pronouncements and speaker's presentations since its founding in 1893, has been the news columns of *The British Whig* and the dailies that eventually amalgamated into *The Whig-Standard* in 1926. However, since 1952, KHS has published *Historic Kingston*, a highly esteemed annual journal that, this year, quietly celebrated its jubilee edition, complete with a generously illustrated colour edition to brighten local and international essays.

In the days when the Davies family published the city's leading daily paper, the late Arthur Davies was a particularly good friend and supporter of KHS. In 1965, the *Whig*, in association with the Society, published a 60-page booklet entitled *Historic Sites and Monuments of Kingston and District* that grew into the Society's 244-page *Illustrated Guide to Monuments, Memorials & Markers* in 2000.

Over the years, *Whig* employees have made admirable contributions to the Society's program. General manager Jim Sutcliffe served as treasurer, Emma Molson of the business office was a valuable contributor for decades and Neil Patterson of the advertising staff served as KHS president, presented several papers and went on to head the Ontario Historical Society. I followed in their footsteps and count myself lucky among those who prefer to get their local news—old and new—by print and on the pages of what has been called “The Oldest Daily Newspaper in Canada.”

There are many good reasons why history lovers should be aware of, and concerned with, the health, welfare and future of its hometown daily. Inveterate newspaper readers have watched the steady decline in the size and quality of provincial newspapers in general and the *Whig* in particular and the reduction in the editorial staff that numbered 69 in the golden, award-winning days of the paper under publisher Michael Davies. Outside of the Sir John A. Macdonald gravesite service, a KHS event or topic has rarely attracted a local reporter. However, despite declining space, the *Whig* provides a very prominent historical presence now. The opposite editorial page periodically features sterling, in-depth historical essays by Sarah Gibson, Susanna McLeod and Brian Johnston.

It has been said that a community gets the kind of newspaper it deserves. Only 10 percent of irate readers who say they are going to write a critical letter to the editor actually do. Still fewer than that, I imagine, ever praise “the local rag,” or “The Sub-Standard” and yet there are flashes of good journalism, in civic, courts, sports, books and food and entertainment coverage amidst the extensive “canned copy” from the Sun chain.

If readers continue to accept what editors and publishers deliver then nothing will change. Few readers ever

## THE SCRIBBLER. J.W. (Bill) Fittsell



take the time to praise or pummel the local press. One will never know what formal complaints have been made to the owners of *The Whig-Standard* over the past score of years under the corporate publication of Southam, Hollinger (Conrad Black), Osprey and Sun Media/Quebecor. Newspaper editors generally refrain from publishing letters that don't reflect positively on their actions.

The case in point is the current Quebec corporate operator. Under its direction, drastic cuts in the size, quality and depth of coverage have been made and the Whig's press-run has dwindled to a low of 20,000 copies. It's an industry-wide dilemma, of course, as readers and advertising revenue decline in the face of the rise of social media. But the firm's only answer appears to be "downsizing" of staff, many of them veterans with 30 or more years' experience. And most of the staff cuts, made without a bang or a whimper, provoke little public reaction.

That is, until the Nov. 13 announcement that 40 members of the press and mailing rooms would be dismissed as of Jan. 13, 2013. I sent a letter to the editor and learned job loss number had increased to 65. Weeks later, Sun Media inserted a tiny classified advertisement in the Whig, seeking "hardworking and dependable" candidates for labour intensive work on early morning shifts. The International Typographical Union members, I understand, will fight to protect these mailing room jobs.

Pressroom employees, however, are out in the cold as the newspaper in future will reportedly be printed in Toronto and shipped to Kingston. It's difficult to conceive that a city that once claimed the title of "Canada's First Capital," will be without a major printing press for the first time in 200 years.

On Dec. 20, 2012, shocked by the abrupt firing of key employees, I personally e-mailed a protest to Chris Krygiel, Sun Media's Vice-President of Human Resources, who forwarded it to Ontario Sales V.P., Michael Power, with the hopes of getting corporate answers on the future of the newspaper in Kingston. With no press in town, will this city have to be content with a daily online edition or one or two pages of local news wrapped around scads of flyers?

In the meantime, a small, volunteer group of Whig readers has made it possible for other concerned citizens to join a "Preserve Our Paper" initiative. Society members who advocate and support a quality newspaper for Kingston may add their names to an online POW petition at [https://www.change.org/petitions/chris-krygiel-sun-media-s-vp-human-resources-sun-media-quebecor-bring-back-the-kingston-whig-standard-stop-staff-cuts?utm\\_campaign=mailto\\_link&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=share\\_petition](https://www.change.org/petitions/chris-krygiel-sun-media-s-vp-human-resources-sun-media-quebecor-bring-back-the-kingston-whig-standard-stop-staff-cuts?utm_campaign=mailto_link&utm_medium=email&utm_source=share_petition)

(Bill Fittsell, a KHS past president, served as a reporter, editor and columnist of *The Whig-Standard* from 1961 to 2004. He can be reached at [fittsellb@kingston.net](mailto:fittsellb@kingston.net)).

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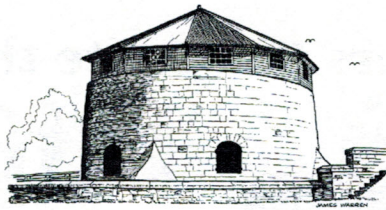
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# KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARD 2012

## DR. JAMES A. LOW

Dr. Low received his early medical education at the University of Toronto and joined the faculty of the Queen's University in 1965. He served as Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the latter institution for twenty years. Upon retirement from professional duties, Dr. Low undertook the implementation of a long standing dream, namely, the creation of a museum dedicated to telling and preserving the story of health and health care. The founding and continued development of the Museum of Health Care at Kingston, now housed in a National Historic Site building dedicated to the history of nursing training in Canada, is largely the result of the broad vision, seemingly limitless energy, and unrelenting dedication and perseverance of Dr. Low. The current status of the museum, the only museum of its type in Canada, its large collection of medically related artefacts and archival material and its many imaginative outreach programs are the legacy of the wise guidance and direction provided by Dr. Low as he departs after two decades in the post as the Museum's executive director. The Kingston Historical Society is most pleased to recognize Dr. Low's contribution to the understanding and preservation of our local history.



## QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Although archival material has been held in the Queen's libraries from the institution's early days, a formal archive was not established until 1960, when the first University Archivist was appointed. During the ensuing five decades the Queens University Archives has enlarged its holdings to include some ten kilometres of shelved documents, two million photographs, tens of thousands of architectural plans and drawings, and thousands of sound recordings and moving images. Most importantly, it boasts a highly trained staff, fully versed in modern archival management and conservation techniques, and, particularly, in the efficient provision of guidance and support to professional scholars and members of the public alike. A program of changing physical displays in the public study areas and web exhibits, relating to events and individuals of topical interest and to secondary school curricula, have proven to be of great value and interest to the public. The Kingston Historical Society is proud to recognize the existence of such a valuable and accessible resource centre within the Kingston community.

# KHS Society Members Celebrate the Holiday Season

*Written by John Fielding with photos by Alison and Peter Ginn*



*Guests were welcomed at the door by Alicia Bouilier who is shown here with Dorothy Farr and Anne Richardson*

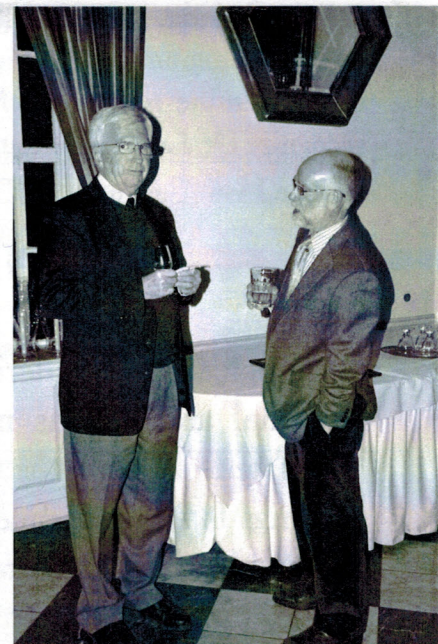


*It was a busy evening for Peter Ginn. Here he presents the KHS Award to Paul Banfield of the Queen's University Archives*



*Peter Ginn presented the KHS Award to Dr. James A Low*

*Society faithful Ron Ridley and Douglas Petty exchange best wishes for the Holiday Season*



Again this year the Kingston Historical Society Holiday Party of December 5th was a nicely organized and cheerfully festive affair held in the attractively furnished and appropriately decorated Renaissance Event Venue on Queen Street. With ample time for members and guests to enjoy chatting, and socializing, punctuated by wishes of good cheer from the well-stocked bar. Just a little past seven, past president Alan MacLachlan called everyone to their seats to introduce Peter Ginn, chair of the awards committee.

Peter had the honour of announcing this year's Kingston Historical Society Award recipients – Dr. James A Low and Queen's University Archives– to the pleasure and approbation of all assembled. Chief Archivist Paul Banfield received the award on behalf of the staff of the Queen's University Archives. As you see here, the cameras flashed fast and furious. After the ceremony, all enjoyed hot and cold appetizers set out and passed around. Good cheer was had by all!