



# QUEEN'S COLLEGE VILLAGE ROAD NASSAU, THE BAHAMAS

## PRESS RELEASE

### 'THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE FLAG FLIES AT HALF-MAST'



Students and Staff returned to the Queen's College Village Road Campus on Monday, February 26, 2018, to find the Flags of The Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church and Queen's College flying at half-mast. It was a sobering return for the Queen's College family after the mid-term break.

Sir Durward and Queen's College were inseparable. Our students will not easily forget the glorious winter day on December 04, 2017 when The Royal Bahamas Police Force Band marched the full length of the main driveway, performing in spectacular fashion, to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of one of the school's most well-loved alumni.

The students lined the driveway and stretched their arms and hands to greet the Guest of Honour, Sir Durward, and his wife Lady Holly. Sir Durward was accompanied by Her Excellency, Dame Marguerite Pindling, Governor General of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas and The Hon. Dr. Hubert A. Minnis, Prime Minister.

It was a special day! It was a day of intense joy and great celebration. Sir Durward and his wife had come to Queen's College to celebrate his centenary year. The students danced, they sang, they gave Sir Durward the salute, they put on their sailor caps and they performed better than they had ever performed.



(L to R): Mrs. Sylvia Beneby, Vice Principal, Head of Primary Years, Mrs. Virginia Minnis, Vice Principal, Head of Foundation Years, Dr. Reginald W. Eldon, Director, Division of Education & Training, Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church, Mr. Percy Knowles, Brother of Sir Durward, Rev. Carla Culmer, President, Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church, Her Excellency, Dame Marguerite Pindling, Governor General of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Sir Durward Knowles, Honouree, Mr. Randy Knowles, Son, Mrs. Charlotte Albury, Daughter, Rev. Kenris Carey, President Emerita, Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church, Lady Holly Knowles, Wife of Honouree, The Hon. Dr. Hubert A. Minnis, Prime Minister, The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Miss Andrea U. Gibson, Principal, Mrs. Shawn Turnquest, Vice Principal, Head of High School



Sir Durward Knowles, Honouree poses in front of Bahamian Sloop 'Sea Wolf' on Queen's College Campus on the occasion of his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

(L to R): Dr. Reginald W. Eldon, Director of Education & Training, Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church, Lady Holly Knowles, Wife of Honouree, Sir Durward Knowles, Honouree, Mrs. Charlotte Albury, Daughter, Rev. Carla Culmer, President, Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church, Miss Andrea U. Gibson, Principal, Queen's College

Everyone at Queen's College knew that the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration had to be the best event ever put on by the school. The celebration was a tangible offering of gratitude for all that Sir Durward had given to Q.C.



Sir Durward Knowles  
Queen's College  
Hall of Fame Inductee  
January 11, 2008

On January 11, 2008, Sir Durward Knowles was inducted into the QUEEN'S COLLEGE HALL OF FAME. His global accolades and his national accomplishments helped make him a 'Giant of a Man' and for years he led the Development Office of Queen's College from a position of force and pride. He always wanted the best for the school. He displayed an eagerness for futuristic thought and progressive development. As old as he was, his energy outlasted most members of The Foundation Committee and his persuasion and persistence overwhelmed as well as encouraged.

Sir Durward's commitment to Queen's College was based on what the school had done for him. Although the times he served as Foundation Chair were vastly different to the days he sat in the classroom as a student, he credited much of his success to the foundation he received in his early years at Q.C.



Opening of New Early Learning Centre Building  
Queen's College  
December 14, 2006

*(L to R): Mrs. Virginia Minnis, Vice Principal, Head of Foundation Years, Sir Durward Knowles, Rev. Kenris L. Carey, President Emerita, Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church, Miss Andrea U. Gibson, Principal*

He desired for current students the same stability, opportunity and possibilities he had encountered. His contributions to Queen's College were always directed toward this goal.

Sir Durward did more for Queen's College than give financial donations. He worked to establish a framework of possibilities for the school. He was capable of listening long enough to determine what would make projects successful and what would cause them to fail. His tolerance failed when people refused to work aggressively towards the Q.C. Goals. He was a 'Comet of Distinction': A working, glowing, brilliant and capable Comet. What a joy he was and what joy he created!

At the beginning of the first week in The Bahamas without Sir Durward, we pause to give thanks to God for this 'giant of a man with a servant's heart'.

We offer our sympathies and condolences to Lady Holly Knowles; his children Jill, Randy had Charlotte; his sister and brothers.

Queen's College will hold a Memorial Service for Sir Durward Knowles at a future date. At this time students, staff and faculty will come together to honour one of the greatest Comets of all time. May he rest in peace.

Andrea U. Gibson  
Principal