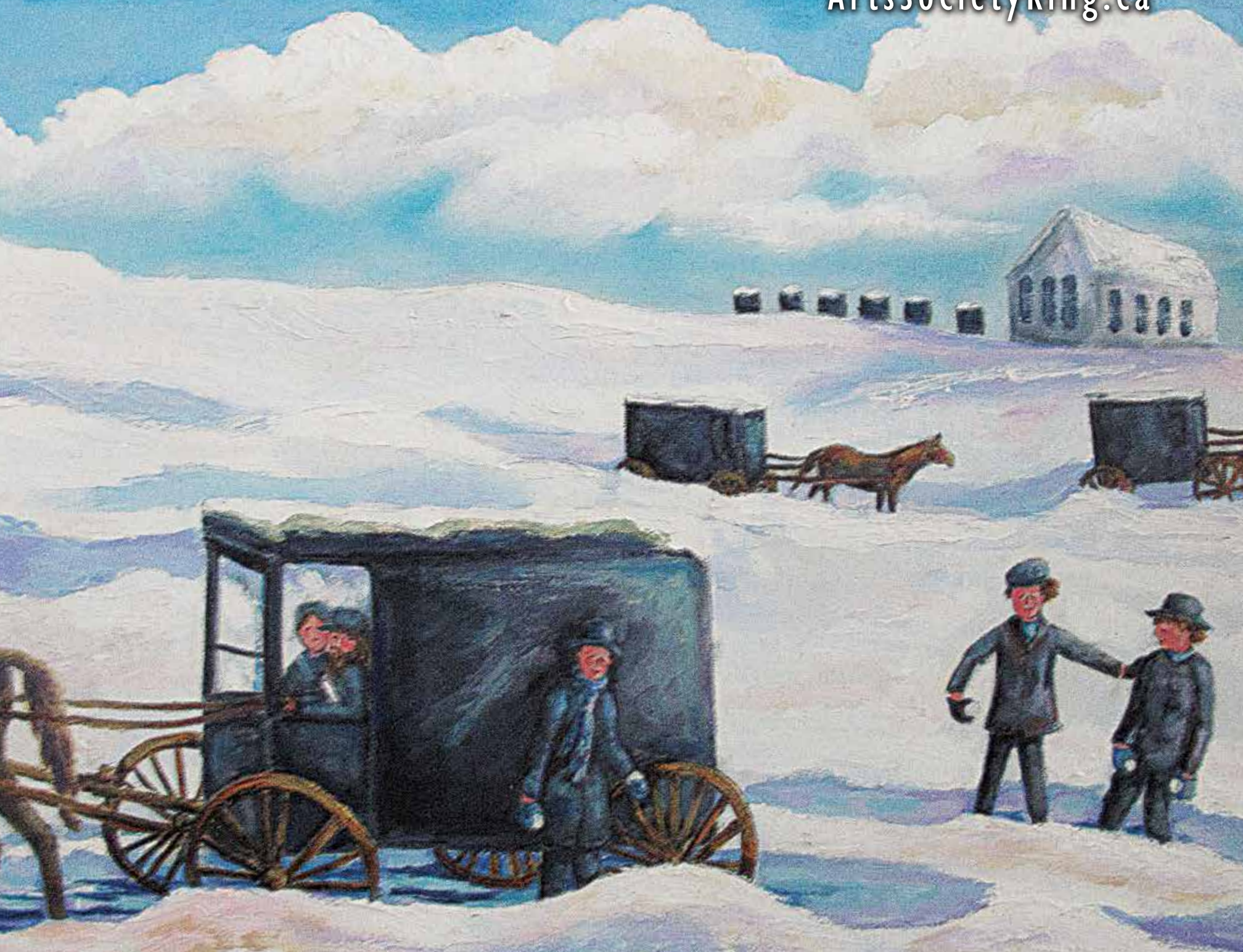


Enriching King Township through arts and culture for all

King MOSAIC

winter 2017

ArtsSocietyKing.ca



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Schomberg | Snowball | Strange | and surrounding area



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PICKERING COLLEGE

- Irene Bayer
- Louise Di'lorio
- Kathleen Fry
- Madison Gane
- Teri Hastings
- Kelly Mathews
- Janet McLeod-Wortel
- Hendrika Ono
- Dorita Peer
- Mary Scott
- Kalli Secord
- Daniela Traverso-Galati
- Cheryl Uhrig
- Art Weis

Arts Society King Presents



**Dancers
Without
Borders**



Artist: Janet McLeod Wortel



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KING'S
HERITAGE



FEATURED CONTRIBUTOR:



Photo by: Dorita Peer

Kelly Mathews

Kelly is a volunteer extraordinaire in King Township. She is a member of several Boards: Ontario Camps Association, King Township Historical Society (KTHS), (appointed member) King Township Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC), Honorary Member of King Township Women of Influence Giving Circle, and Oak Ridges Trail Association, (ORTA), member of Aurora Canada 150 ad hoc committee, and Aurora Historical Society, Volunteer Co-ordinator of Doors Open King, and Volunteer Conference Chair of Ontario Camps Association. You may recognize her name as record holder for the fastest hike across the entire Oak Ridges Moraine, (300 kms), in just over 7 days, (fall, 2016), raising over \$9,000 for 2 favourite charities: ORTA and the Seneca College King Campus building fund.

On top of that, Kelly is a regular contributor to King MOSAIC magazine, providing news and event updates from the HAC and the KTHS for the Heritage page. She has also written 2 books about local King history. Read more about Kelly on page 17 of this issue.



OUR COVER

The cover of the winter issue of King MOSAIC is titled *Church Is Out* by Cheryl Uhrig. It depicts Mennonite boys letting off steam on their way home from church on a bright sunny morning. "I'm drawn to the simplicity of their life and their uncluttered farm landscapes. I find it comforting," says Cheryl. Read more about this versatile artist on page 4 of this issue.

LESS is MORE

by Irene Bayer and Sue Iaboni

• Dog Walker, by Cheryl Uhrig



LIFE IS FULL OF SLICES, EVENTS, moments in time; like a single-panel cartoon or photograph. We observe or imagine these slices of life thousands of times a day: a dog pulling its walker down the street, a group of total strangers drawn together around a single painting in a gallery, a whimsical inuksuk coming to life playing road hockey. These are the images that grab Cheryl Uhrig and she can't wait to sketch them – and retell them through an illustration, on canvas or in a cartoon.

Cheryl's love of art started early. After her mom passed, she found a box filled with her

homemade cards, pictures, cartoons and stories. Her mom was her biggest fan and always encouraged her to keep up with her art and writing. But it was her writing that turned her to a career in advertising as a copywriter and Creative Director at Toronto ad agencies and the CBC. It was especially rewarding to sell programs and ideas at the CBC rather than just a retail product. But after her son was born she stayed home and worked as a freelance copywriter.

When son Michael was quite young he became attached to the family's adopted dog, Truf-

fles. He followed her everywhere, pulling her tail and tweaking her nose. Thankfully Truffles took this constant attention in stride. But this comical interaction inspired Cheryl to combine her two passions, visual art and writing, into a children's book called *Please Don't Bug the Dog*. That book, its success, and the fun she had creating both the words and pictures motivated her to return to her art.

Cheryl has not looked back: She says: "I'm sixty-two and still playing with crayons, paints and markers... life does not get much better." Every day she does something creative – whether contract work, pleasure painting or just jotting ideas down for the next project. Boredom has never been an issue for Cheryl.

Flipping back and forth in different mediums, subjects and styles means Cheryl often has several projects on the go at one time. She often chooses a Mennonite scene because her grandparents on her dad's side were Mennonite. And growing up in Kitchener Waterloo, it is still not uncommon to see old order Mennonites at the market or riding in their horse and buggies. Mennonites have their own version of the arts – quilting, woodworking and home-made preserves and baked goods; art which is not only beautiful but also useful to other members of their close-knit community.

Ironically Cheryl's chosen field of advertising has helped her create the simplicity of the Mennonite way of life in her paintings. In both worlds, "less is more." She is drawn to the simplicity of the Mennonite life and their uncluttered farm landscapes. Her scenes have an innocence to them; to convey that feeling she



• Inuksuk, by Cheryl Uhrig

uses simple brush strokes, primary colors, and their connection with nature. Most paintings are oil and acrylic. Cartoons are usually done in pen, ink and markers.

What does Cheryl want people to take away from her work? "An emotion – be it a feeling of calm, enjoyment – or in the case of my cartoons, a good chuckle!"

EDITOR'S NOTE: Cheryl is a regular contributor to King MOSAiC Magazine. She illustrates *Biologist at the Table*, (a quarterly food column by Art Weis) page 21, she often creates interactive material for the HCC page. And in this issue, she has written a simple yet touching holiday story about wrapping paper, found on page 23. In her story, more is actually more!

• Strangers In an Art Gallery, by Cheryl Uhrig



Stewards in the Vinyard; the Laskay Women's Institute

by Louise Di'lorio

A LITTLE OVER A HUNDRED YEARS AGO - on February 12, 1897 - at a Ladies' Night meeting of the Farmer's Institute in Stoney Creek, Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless admonished the male farmers: "you are in the midst of a campaign to improve the health of your animals. I am here to tell you the health of your wives and children is more important!" One week later, one hundred and one women gathered at the local Squires Hall where they held the inaugural meeting of the Women's Institute.

It is said that "in almost every place visited by one of the lady speakers, an Institute was formed at once." In March, 1908, the ladies from Laskay and Nobleton joined together to form their new branch, with meetings to be held in alternate villages, but "winter weather with bad roads and long-distance travel by horses and sleighs hampered attendance at meetings." The women of Laskay held a special meeting in Laskay Hall on July 2nd, 1908, and agreed to form their own branch.

Laskay Hall, was originally built by Branch 220 of the Sons of Temperance. With stub-

born pride, the Temperance motto "Love, Purity, Fidelity" still hangs above the Hall door. The Hall was renovated and enlarged several times, and when the Laskay Temperance branch was closed in 1910, the Laskay Women's Institute assumed ownership.

Concerts were held to raise money for repairs, and in 1915, the back taxes were finally paid, and new shingles were purchased for the roof. In 1917 the Institute hired workmen to paint the Hall and varnish the woodwork, and they bought new cups and saucers. In 1925, the Hall was jacked up, sills were put in, and the members bought a piano. A chimney was built, as were cupboards, and a good hardwood floor was laid down in 1933. In 1945, extensive renovations were needed, and over the next nine years, the members of the Laskay branch held bazaars, strawberry and oyster suppers, collections, and euchre nights until enough money was raised to begin work in the spring of 1954.



Photo credit: "from the Tweedsmuir Histories"

"Many of the women were farmers' wives or daughters, with no formal education above public school, but they had living tips and skills which were willingly shared."

Mary Scott was delighted to meet women with a wide variety of interests and aptitudes when she joined the Laskay Women's Institute in the 1940s: "Newcomers like me were always made to feel welcome. The Laskay W.I. included a few former teachers, doctors' and ministers' wives, nurses and secretaries - a real cross section of the Laskay/Strange and Kinghorn community at that time... The purpose of the W.I. Institute was to serve the needs of the community, on a volunteer basis, and to encourage and teach healthy and safe farm living practices. ... Laskay Women's Institute was a VERY IMPORTANT part of my life... being a schoolteacher I was EXPECTED to contribute to the programs and activities... Many of the women were farmers' wives or daughters, with no formal education above public school, but they had living tips and skills which were willingly shared."

The Laskay branch welcomed the challenges that lay ahead: "We can never sit back and rest on the laurels of our Mothers and Grandmothers; but having started life with such advantages we must advance a little further, to give the world more in the way of useful service. Since we are but stewards in the vineyard, let us build a solid foundation for the coming generation so the world can be a better place because we have passed this way."

By the 1970s, membership in the Women's Institutes had declined dramatically. In 1987, Mary Scott, then in her seventies but the youngest member left in the Laskay W.I., made arrangements to retire the once-thriving branch. She was well aware of how much had changed in her rural world: "Over the years Laskay changed from being a farm community to a small village community, where women

worked outside the community, and were no longer interested in W.I. programs geared to educating farm women."

In 1988 Laskay Hall was purchased by King Township and run by a Board of Management made up of local volunteers, and in 1990 the Hall was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. In 2017, increased traffic, a lack of suitable parking, and a decline in community use, encouraged the Township to think about a new future for the venerable old Hall. On August 30th, the Hall was gently picked up and moved to its new home at the King Township Heritage and Cultural Centre, where it will once again be a welcoming home for education, history, music, art, and laughter. Many King residents, including ninety-something Mary Scott, came out to watch the move, with a mixture of sadness and excitement. This sturdy proud Hall has much more to offer its community - it is the living legacy of the wonderful women of the Laskay Women's Institute, the stewards in the vineyard who did indeed provide a solid foundation for the next generation.



Laskay Hall in its new location at the HCC

Trees of Giving

NOV. 25 - DEC. 16

Trees decorated by various King Community Groups
Vote for you favourite!

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Each dollar contributed counts as a vote.
\$1 = 1 vote or \$5 = 5 votes

All proceeds go directly to the
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Dragonfly Collection
by Karen

King Presents... a variety of *artistic gifts*

by Sue Iaboni

AS DECEMBER ARRIVES, the giving season is upon us. Even those whose background is not Christian cannot help but surrender to the shopping mode. And as our Mayor often reminds us: "This is the perfect season to "shop locally!"

So ASK decided to investigate two of our local artists who might be able to help with this. We head out to the Woodlands Art Studio, the home and the studio of the creative husband and wife team: Dan Glassco and Karen Hunter. Driving through the tree-lined driveway to the house, we note that it is surrounded by lush greenery; a woodland paradise. Inside the house, Dan and Karen's work is on display: a gorgeous wild apple hall table, paintings on the walls, and then... an aquarium? This is the first of many surprises this talented pair will be revealing as we talk.

Both seem eager to tell their stories, but Dan goes first because it's His aquarium; filled with Africa Cichlids and other exotic fish. He fondly remembers a pet store in his childhood neighbourhood where, at age 12, he was captivated by a baby piranha, and convinced the store owner to tell his mother it was a goldfish so that she would buy it for him. He bought lots of other fish and eventually the entire store, where he continued selling fish for 3 years, and specializing in aquarium set-up and service for almost 30.

Dan's formal education took another path; towards George Brown cooking school. After graduating, he worked for such well-known restaurants as Bardi's Steak House and Le Papillion. He says he especially enjoyed baking and creating desserts. He does not mention cooking fish. In a few years the logistical issues of the restaurant business got to him. And in 2014 he gave up the aquarium business and moved north with Karen. He looked for something else creative to do and ended up working for his brother at a saw mill. And there he remembered another childhood passion - wood.

It was while playing in a backyard tree-house that Dan's eye was first caught by the grains of the wood. He especially loves working with wild apple, larch, sumac; unusual woods for such an artist. Now that he lives in the country he considers himself a full circle woodworker - growing/nurturing the trees and then using them to create other products. His best-sellers are furniture, but he is well-known for making early First Nations canoe paddles from curly birch, and cutting boards from "heirloom wood." During the recent Schomberg Street Gallery, he sold several beautifully hand-carved canes to some of our visitors who used them as they walked along Main

Street. He also creates unique pens, shaving brushes, and cigar holders.

Karen has been waiting in the background, eager to share her story too. A perfect segue presents itself - she once made jewellery from wood! It was likely her association with Dan that created this opportunity - they have been together for over 40 years. They met when they were young teens going to summer camp, lounging together in the sauna and admiring the wood grains in the walls. Or so they say.

Karen knew her future lay in the arts back in kindergarten when her teacher wrote "creative" in the anecdotal column. She attended OCAD in the eighties, where she enrolled in the design department and dabbled in such creative fields as glass-blowing, enamelling, weaving and ceramics. Her first arts-related position was with a brass giftware company in the Beach, downtown Toronto. She created Christmas ornaments and jewellery for the store, and in her spare time, she and other employees were given access to the studio where she could do her own creating. And learning.

In 1989, during a visit to San Francisco, Karen first laid eyes on niobium, a beautiful metal that transforms itself into glowing shades of pinks, greens and blues. She transformed herself into a scientist and her future suddenly looked very bright.

Working with a piece of niobium, Karen demonstrates how the colours in this metal are released through a bath in TSP (known to many as Trisodium Phosphate, an all-purpose cleaner). The metal goes through an electrochemical process,

whereby anodes are added to the TSP and the level of voltage in the TSP bath determines the colour that will be produced.

Karen creates blue on one edge of an earring, then turns the earring, moves the dial up, and voila - pink!

A recent project demonstrates another quality of Karen the artist - patience. She shows the process she used to create small dragonflies, which were then inserted into a Canadian \$20 silver coin, a collectors' item sold by the Canadian Mint. Each tiny dragonfly was drawn on a metal which had been texturized with a hammer. Then it was cut out with a miniature saw, sanded around

the edges, then coloured by dipping in the TPS bath, and dried. This process for just one dragonfly is painstaking. But Karen did this 6,015 times to complete the order.

This multi-talented team proudly show off their state-of-the-art equipment: Karen's fusion welder, hydraulic press, anodizing machine; Dan's arsenal of wood-working tools: drill press, grinders, and an entire wall displaying chisels. For the grand finale, they lead the way to their display area; a feast for the eyes of gleaming woods, colourful textiles, shimmering metals. Their artistic gifts will easily satisfy any shopping cravings during the holiday season.



Paddles by Dan



On behalf of King Township council, I'm pleased to welcome you to the winter edition of Mosaic.

As you start thinking about your holiday plans, I'd encourage you to think about shopping locally.

All three of our urban centres – King City, Schomberg and Nobleton – have a great assortment of shops and services that will help you cross people off your gift list. Whether you're looking for something to place under a Christmas tree or an establishment to host a holiday party, you'll find something in King.

There are also plenty of free events in King to enjoy during the holiday season.

"A Main Street Christmas" is being held Sat., Dec. 2 in Schomberg and is presented by the Schomberg Village Association.

Schomberg gets all dressed up and invites everyone to come and enjoy a fun-filled family event along historic Main Street from 3 pm to 9 pm. Visit the Craft Show in the Community Hall, enjoy the parades, jugglers, musicians and singers while enjoying some delicious food. Admission is \$5 per adult and includes admission to the Craft Show.

The Schomberg Santa Claus Parade at 4 pm kicks off with creative floats, costumed walkers and music to get you into the Christmas spirit!

The Spectacular Farmers' Parade of Lights begins at 8 pm with dozens of farming machinery decorated with Christmas Lights slowly making their way along the street...with Santa on the biggest machine of all!

Nobleton will hold its Tree Lighting Ceremony and Toy Drive on Sun., Dec. 3 from 5 pm to 8 pm at the Nobleton Gazebo (8 Sheardown Dr.). Come have a cup of hot cocoa or other Christmas goodies donated by our local merchants, while having your picture taken with Santa, or listening to the local children's choirs sing some carols on lit-up tractors. Remember to bring an unwrapped toy for the kids in need in Nobleton or purchase a personalized ornament to hang on the community tree for \$2.



All toys and monetary donations collected are given to the Nobleton Christmas Drive, a local charity that has been fulfilling children's Christmas wishes for the past 20 years, right here in town.

Admission is free, although an unwrapped toy or monetary donations are much appreciated.

No matter what you plan on doing this month, have a safe and happy holiday season.

Best wishes,

Mayor Steve Pellegrini

KING TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE EVENTS

A MAIN STREET CHRISTMAS IN SCHOMBERG

Sat., Dec. 2 – 3 pm to 9 pm
Main Street, Schomberg

NOBLETON TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY AND TOY DRIVE

Sun., Dec. 3 – from 5 pm to 8 pm
Nobleton Gazebo, 8 Sheardown Drive

DECK THE TRAILS WITH SEEDS AND BERRIES HIKE

Celebrate the holiday season by making pine cone bird feeders to set out along the Cold Creek trails.
Sat., Dec. 9 – from 10 am to 11:30 am

COLD CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

(meet at Visitors Centre),

14125 11th Concession, Nobleton

Registration: Guided Hike registration is required.

Please contact 905-833-5321 ext. 5226
or e-mail kmclellan@king.ca to register.

KING TREES OF GIVING

Running until Dec. 16 King Township Museum Exhibit featuring trees decorated by various King Community groups. Vote for your favourite tree by donating \$1 per vote with all proceeds going to the King Township Food Bank.

FAMILY DAY WINTERFEST

Mon., Feb. 19 – 11 am to 3 pm
Cold Creek Conservation Area,
14125 11th Concession, Nobleton

MAPLE SYRUPFEST

Sat., March 10 – 10 am to 2 pm
Cold Creek Conservation Area



SustainableKing

If you are a member of a community group that's working on a new project or initiative that helps to further the vision, goals, strategies and actions identified in King's Community Sustainability Plan you may be eligible to receive funding or resource support from the Township through the Sustainable King Grant Program.

The Sustainable King Grant Guidelines and Application Form can be accessed at www.sustainableking.com.

King's Sustainability Plan is focused on implementing sustainable actions and leveraging the resources of our community. We must work together to ensure the plan's success!

Learn more about the Plan's fourteen priorities in addition to the Plan's themes, goals and strategies by visiting www.sustainableking.com.

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Elephants, Gorillas, Flamingos & Horses — Fed By King Township

by Dorita Peer with Irene Bayer

There is a lot going on at Nobleton Feed Mill these days. The Budweth brothers, David and Alf, are cooking up a storm under a cool new brand name, Züküdlä, a spin on Zulu for zoo food, their newest project. About elephants? Turns out their comparative species, nutritionally, are horses. Gorillas? Well, their stool can be just a bit too watery for the genteel public. Gorilla Muffins to the rescue! And if you want your bearded dragon to have nice, strong bones, then the crickets you feed her better get Cricket Max for breakfast.

Their German immigrant father started out priming tobacco and fishing in Port Dover so he could buy a farm. The Budweths were the mill's best customers when Alf, Sr. bought it in 1978. Back then, hogs and beef were king. Today, it is the finicky athletes galloping King's green meadows which are the mainstay of the business: the warehouse ships a tractor trailer load of horse feed a day, making them the premier independent feed company in the horse busi-

ness. The Budweths' contribution has earned them awards and a seat on the Royal Winter Fair board.

The spirit of entrepreneurial adventurism begun by their father lives on in his sons. According to Alf, Jr. they just fell into the business. Back in 1982, David had an idea to buy a round baler, the first in King. It and the tractor cost a hefty sum he did not have. He not only fulfilled his promise to pay the seller out of his first earnings custom baling that season, but netted himself a tidy profit. David went on to study business at York. Alf is a Guelph alumnus and a lecturer there. He describes in detail how they dig into the science and delve into solutions for whatever challenges come their way. Crafting nutrition, Alf puts it. Sourcing the best ingredients can mean going as far as Belgium, and production using in human grade facilities. Nothing gets out there that has not been perfected. Decades later, the brothers have the same passion for hard work and innovation. They enjoy meeting people and learning from them and teaching new tricks to an industry as old as human history. Community involvement also means both are volunteer firefighters and have, to date this year, answered 371 calls, including horse rescues.

Irene Bayer has known the family from the days when her Pandabayer Farm show hunters were good customers. "There was the neighbourhood pig roast at the Budweth's. Margaret's tarts were to kill for!" she says, and that the 10th Concession in King during the 70's was full of interesting characters. Farmers, horse show people, harness makers. The names drop

like pennies from heaven. Their kids went visiting back and forth between farms. "The Budweth children used to come over and swim in our pool. One day, my seven-year-old daughter walked all the way to the Budweth's. I thought she'd run away from home! She came home with a black and white kitten we had for fifteen years."

The mill in Nobleton opened in 1945, but unlike the Schomberg building, is not designated heritage. As the community slowly turns suburban, what does the future promise? "We have no desire to move," David answers with confidence. There is a facelift coming. A wish to resonate with the community brands their plans as "Practical solutions for country living". Beside the well-stocked store, the mill works faithfully, with two mixers on site and three more at the warehouse up the road and the brothers want to continue expanding their horizons. From cows and pigs, to equine athletes, to zoo animals, to pets and songbirds, and beyond, the Budweth standard is unimpeachable.

What do you think makes flamingos pink? The perfect shade of feed, of course.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dorita Peer is a regular contributor to King MOSAic magazine. She also devotes time to creating beautiful ceramic sculptures and watercolour paintings. She recently showed her art at an ASK art exhibit at the Heritage and Cultural Centre. ASK welcomes other members to consider showing their art in our creative spaces around King Township.



Illustration by Dorita Peer



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DANCERS without BORDERS

by Hendrika Ono

imagine enjoying the delights of global cultures without ever leaving King Township. And you can, simply by passing through the portal of Riki Adivi's house. Folk gather for free every Tuesday evening, 7 pm at 13620 Weston Road, where Riki shares her home and her abiding love of folk dancing. Her house resonates with international music and friendly laughter as Riki teaches dance steps from around the world and everyone joins in. While traditional music and dance forms vary, they are a part of every culture and sharing them enriches our lives. Not only does folk dance bring exercise and enjoyment, it can help us appreciate and celebrate the diversity of world communities.

Folk dancing has been with us for a very long time. It is deeply rooted in respective cultural histories. Because folk dance originated with the "folk" of a community rather than the social elite, there is relatively little written about it. Instead, people preserved and honoured their cultural heritage by passing the baton of dance traditions from generation to generation. And King Township now enjoys the opportunity to experience these traditions as shared by Riki.

Riki grew up in Israel and discovered the joy of Israeli folk dancing at the age of thirteen. Folk dance was one of her required courses and she immediately fell

in love. Every aspect of it appeals to her. "The energy of the music inspires movement," says Riki. "And it's a participation activity that is accessible to people of all ages. Since the purpose is not to perform in front of an audience, we don't have to worry about being professional dancers. Also, gathering together in a circle and holding hands while dancing is a powerful

learn the music and spirit of other cultures. Her love of folk dance inspires her to be more than just an active dance participant. She is an enthusiastic ambassador, bringing the experience of folk dance to enrich the heart of her respective communities. In 2002, she moved from Israel to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA. Riki didn't know it at the time but the picturesque hamlet was a precursor for her future move to King City. The charming motto of Chapel Hill, "the southern part of heaven," could apply easily to our township as well. When Riki was unable to obtain her green card, the family reluctantly moved. They arrived in Richmond Hill in 2006, and United States' loss is our gain. After discovering the Ontario Folk Dancing Association, and joining Toronto classes, she resolved to open a new local chapter at the Richmond Hill Welcome Centre. Although she moved to King City in 2015, Riki still teaches in Richmond Hill and Toronto.

Moving to her current residence in King City is the fulfillment of a long-time dream for Riki. She and her husband had been actively scouting for a property with enough space to host folk dancing in their own home. Riki's heart was dancing when her husband showed her the old St.

experience. Best of all, people arrive as strangers and leave as friends."

For Riki, folk dance is much more than exercise. It is an opportunity to enjoy and

inspire
dance
fun
community
friends

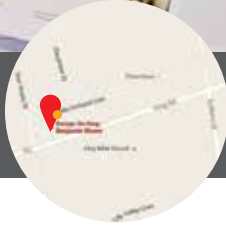
Andrew's Presbyterian Church* for sale on Weston Road. Here was Providence, providing the perfect gathering place for community folk dancing. Riki and her family are the fourth owners to live in the decommissioned church. They cherish and respect the heritage of the property. Riki feels the house is happy when it is full of culture and company. To this end, she freely offers her space and time to those who are interested. While her focus is folk dancing, Riki acknowledges that the space is well suited for musical gatherings. She is willing to consider hosting small ensemble groups as well.

Riki is continually expanding her own dance repertoire. For many years, she has been enjoying annual folk dancing camps in Canada and the US. Here she replenishes her wellspring of folk dance steps and enthusiasm. She returns renewed and ready to share with her own neighbourhood. She is an example of an exceptional community leader. With boundless generosity, she volunteers her time, space and expertise, bringing people of all ages and cultures together. In an often-divided world, both folk dance and Riki are profoundly unifying forces.

Editor's note: *St. Andrews Presbyterian Church on Weston Road was originally built to serve the people of the village of Strange. This church is not to be confused with a similar church on Dufferin Street, built around the same time and in the same style, in the village of Eversley.*



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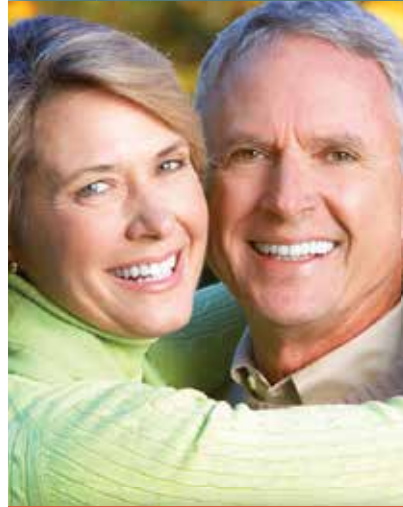
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thank you

With 2017 coming to a close, Arts Society King wishes to thank our vast community of friends, supporters, donors, sponsors and partners.

This includes but is not limited to 11 volunteer Board Directors, 96+ professional artists, many, many generous donors, 22+ partners, and over 20 generous event sponsors. THANK YOU CHAMPION AND GOLD DONORS Sue and Peter Iaboni, Ann Marie and Marc Neeb, Lynda and Owen Rogers, Denny and Dennis Starritt, Phyllis and Len Vernon, Louise and Peter Walter, State Farm Anna Raeli, and Trisan Construction.

THANK YOU CORPORATE SPONSORS BMO Bank of Montreal, Magna International, and Oak Ridges Retirement Community.

Last but certainly not least, thank you KING TOWNSHIP for your partnership and collaboration, and we look forward to exciting times ahead; together.



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Arts Society KING Partnerships, Collaborations and Exciting Times Ahead

by Teri Hastings, Arts Society King

Arts Society King (ASK) is DELIGHTED to welcome 2018. Our mission to promote, support and advocate for arts and culture through effective partnerships and innovative events and programs, has never been clearer or stronger.

We are all familiar with the word 'partnership' which is a word commonly used in business. In our case, ASK has focused on collaborations with others who share our common goals and vision. Partnerships are a key mainstay to ASK's success and we have welcomed many of them over the years. One in particular has been pivotal to our success.

King Township is Arts Society King's significant partner and together we have enriched King Township through arts and culture for all. Our municipality is unanimously recognized as a

leader in York Region as they understand the boundless value arts and culture can bring to a community; to life in King.

In 2017, ASK produced a major student art exhibit featuring all three King Township Secondary Schools, more LIVE concerts, an open-mic style poetry event, an adventure car rally, Studio Tour King, Schomberg Street Gallery, and delivered an enlightened presentation featuring icon Linda Lundström. Every single ASK event was successful as a result of partnerships.

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presented by



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March 1 - 30, 2018

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VISIT Please visit the ASK website and facebook page. Meet artists, sneak a peak at upcoming ASK events and enjoy archived editions of MOSAiC. www.ArtsSocietyKing.ca and www.facebook.com/artssocietyking

Events in and Around King Township

by Teri Hastings, Arts Society King



To December 16 - The King Heritage and Cultural Centre presents 'Trees of Giving' an exhibit featuring Christmas trees decorated by local community groups. Vote for your favourite tree with \$1 with proceeds going to the King Township Food Bank. kingmuseum@king.ca

To December 16 - The King Heritage and Cultural Centre hosts 'Portraits of Giving' a special photograph exhibit recognizing outstanding leaders within York Region who give back to their community. Open Tuesdays - Saturdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and admission is free. kingmuseum@king.ca



.....
: Schomberg Street Gallery
: Artists Sunni Anne and Robert

December 1 - The King Township Historical Society will host their annual Christmas concert featuring Canadian fiddle music historian Anne Lederman and friends, All Saints Anglican Church, 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$20 each or \$15 for KTHS members. Contact Diana at 905-859-3965.

December 2 - The Schomberg Village Association presents a 'Main Street Christmas' from 3:00 to 9:00 pm. Enjoy a fun-filled family event along historic main street and visit the craft show in the Community Hall, enjoy the parades, jugglers, musician, singers and delicious food. amainstreetchristmas.com

December 2 - All Saints' Anglican Church Country Christmas Market from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Superb Christmas baking, artisan crafts and a raffle! Home cooked luncheon, tickets \$15, 2 sittings. 905 833-5432

December 3 - Christmas in Nobleton, Gazebo from 4:00 to 8:00 pm at 4 Sheardown Drive. Join in the family fun and festivities at the Annual Nobleton Tree Lighting as it brings the holiday spirit to life each year. Enjoy local food, sing carols, and support your community. Donations to the Nobleton

Christmas Drive welcome. For more information please email events@king.ca.

December 10 - King City Seniors Christmas Open House from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Entertainment and sing-along to get into the holiday spirit. Contact Vince at 905-833-6305 for additional information.

December 15 - All Saints' Anglican Church 'Lessons and Carols', 7:00 pm. Traditional candlelight service, beautiful organ music, choir, guest vocalists and readings about the Christmas Story. Call 905 833-5432 or 905 859-3965 for additional information.

December 23 - The Schomberg Skating Club welcomes the community to a 'Friends and Family' skate, 9:05 - 9:50 am, Trisan Centre. Helmets required. schombergskatingclub.ca

December 31 - King City Seniors New Year's Eve Celebration, 6:30pm. Dinner and dancing to ring out the old year and ring in 2018. Contact Vince 905-833-6305 for additional information.

January 3 - February 23 - 'Dashing Through The Snow...' exhibit at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre, open Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm with complimentary admission. Step back in time and explore the various artifacts that allowed locals to endure the long, cold winter months! kingmuseum.king.ca

January 8 - King City Seniors Annual General Meeting, 2:00 pm. Year end report and election of board for 2018. Contact Vince 905-833-6305 for additional information.

January 15 - King Township presents a 'Portraits Workshop', 6 weeks, 1:00 - 4:00 pm, King Heritage and Cultural Centre, age 18 years +. Register with Parks, Recreation and Culture or visit king.ca.

January 16 - King Township presents 'Cartooning For Kids', 8 weeks, 6:00 - 7:00 pm, Trisan Centre, ages 6-12. Register with Parks, Recreation and Culture or visit king.ca.

January 18 - King Township presents a 'Youth Animation' Workshop, 8 weeks, 6:00 - 7:00 pm, Nobleton Arena, ages 13-18. Register with Parks, Recreation and Culture or visit king.ca.

January 20 - King Township presents a 'Paint and Wine Workshop', 7:00 - 9:00 pm, King Heritage and Cultural Centre, ages 19+. Need a night to unwind with friends? Join us for a night where you can chat, paint and sip a beverage while creating your own masterpiece. Register with Parks, Recreation and Culture or visit king.ca.

January 20 - March 24 (Every Saturday) - The King Heritage and Cultural Centre present 'Saturday Art Club' and welcome children ages 6-12 for drop-in arts and crafts, \$7. kingmuseum@king.ca

January 21 - Arts Society King presents the RETURN of the previously SOLD OUT 'The Art of Scotch', King Heritage and Cultural Centre, 2:00 - 5:00 pm. Enjoy 5 NEW scotches, a presentation by a scotch sommelier, nibbles and fun. \$70 (all inclusive) per person and worth every drop. ArtsSocietyKing.ca



.....
: The Schmied's and Friends Table



.....
: The Rogers Table



.....
: Catherine and Dorita



Please contact all groups directly for location and ticket information as some fees apply and may not be listed. Some details may be subject to change.

January 24 - Arts Society King will host the King Township Community Groups Meeting at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre, 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Gather with fellow community partners and stakeholders to spark collaborations and discuss your organizations plans for 2018. THE THEME FOR 2018 IS PARTNERSHIPS - JOIN US. ArtsSocietyKing.ca

January 27 - King Township will host an Astronomy Moonlight Snowshoe, 7:00 pm, Cold Creek Conservation. Also happening on February 24 and March 24, \$5 and all ages welcome. environmentalstewardship@king.ca

February 11 - King Township presents a Community Skate at Dufferin Marsh, 3:00 - 6:00 pm. Enjoy skating on the pond and warm your toes in an open bon fire. king.ca

February 17 - King Township presents a 'Jewellery Making Workshop', 1:00 - 3:00 pm, King Heritage and Cultural Centre, ages 14-18 years. Register with Parks, Recreation and Culture or visit king.ca.

February 19 - Family Day across King Township, various times and all ages; enjoy participating in exciting activities including; the annual learn to curl at the Trisan Centre in Schomberg, free snowshoe and cross country ski rentals at Cold Creek Conservation Area, and fun Family Day activities in King City! For more information please email events@king.ca.

March 1 - 30 - Arts Society King presents 'King Township Secondary Students Art Exhibit' at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre, open Tuesday's-Saturday's, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. The exhibit celebrates the talented senior art students of Country Day School, King City Secondary School and Villanova College and is an art exhibit for the entire community to enjoy. Join us for the opening reception on March 1. ArtsSocietyKing.ca

March 1 - Arts Society King student art exhibit opening reception, 7:00 - 8:30 pm at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre. Everyone welcome to attend to meet the young artists and celebrate their creative accomplishments. New component this year is 'Best in Show' award which will be voted by the audience. Refreshments served, complimentary attendance. ArtsSocietyKing.ca

March 1 - Arts Society King publishes MOSAiC Magazine, Spring 2018. Copies distributed in the King Weekly Sentinel or available at area shops, cafes and municipal buildings. ArtsSocietyKing.ca

March 5 - King Township Historical Society Annual General Meeting, King, Heritage and Cultural Centre, 12:00 - 4:00 pm. Enjoy a potluck lunch, meeting and guest speaker: www.kingtowshiphistoricalsociety.com

March 10 - King Township presents 'Maple Syrupfest' at Cold Creek Conservation Area, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Enjoy a pancake breakfast, learn about syrup tapping and the rich history that brought us this sweet treat. king.ca

March 12 - 16 - The King Heritage and Cultural Centre will host 'March Break Drop in Art Club', perfect for ages 6-12 to drop-in for funky crafts. \$7 per child. kingmuseum@king.ca

March 24 - King Township presents a 'Furniture Repurposing' Workshop, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, King Heritage and Cultural Centre, ages 18+. If you are looking to freshen up or distress a piece of furniture for a new look, then this is the perfect workshop for you! Come and learn the best practices and products to use when repurposing your furniture! Register with Parks, Recreation and Culture or visit king.ca.

March 24 - King Township celebrates 'Earth Hour' with a variety of activities including a Candlelit Dinner, and a Lantern Hike, 8:30 - 9:30 pm. environmentalstewardship@king.ca

March 24 - The Dufferin Marsh Lantern Walk and Bonfire to celebrate Earth Hour, 8:30 - 9:30 pm, duferinmarsh.ca

March 26 - The Nobleton & King City Garden Club will host their monthly meeting, 8:00 pm. Join this friendly group and learn more about gardening. lking@hotmail.com or klavis@cambridgedesign.ca

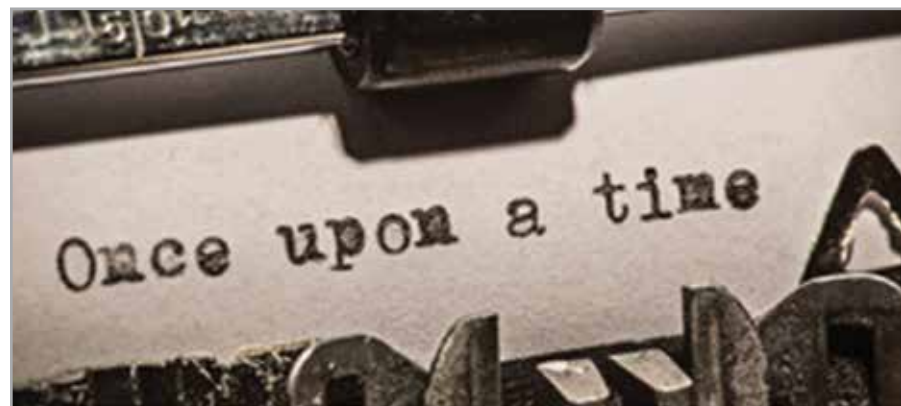
March 27 - The Schomberg Skating Club welcomes the community to a 'Friends and Family' skate, 5:40 - 6:25 pm, Trisan Centre. Helmets required. schombergskatingclub.ca



**Schomberg Street Gallery
Artist and event Chair Tom Wray**



**Schomberg Street Gallery
Artist Lucy Quintero and friends**



After 10 years, Write Now @ King! is going on sabbatical. Member writers will be taking a break to work on their own writing projects, as well as designing a new meeting format and creating some exciting special events in partnership with ASK and the King Township Public Library. Special thanks to librarian Sharon Bentley who has been the group's chief supporter. Stay tuned for notices and updates in the coming months.



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Crossing Heritage Thresholds

by Kelly Mathews

Simply put... doors open means "free or unrestricted means of admission or access." What could be more welcoming than that? That's exactly what 15 venues did on Saturday September 23rd across King Township. For the over 600 people who braved the unseasonal +40 Celsius-humidex weather, complete with heat advisory, there were many heritage treasures to be enjoyed. By simply crossing these thresholds, visitors had the opportunity to go back in time and experience the rich heritage that thrives in King Township. This year, the event included venues from Nobleton, Kettleby, King City and Schomberg, and showcased everything including a wonderful and rare glimpse into an active masonic lodge, a private residence, a monastery, a feed mill, and, many local businesses that operate within facilities of heritage appeal. It goes without saying that this event would not be possible without the amazing volunteers; thank you for being so generous and giving of your time.



Thomas Ferguson (b.1820 – d. 1898)
2207 King Road in King City,
owned currently by Mrs. Isabelle
Helena Cameron. Winner of the
King Heritage Award.



And the winner of the King Heritage Awards is:

Recognizing that buildings are key contributors to community character, the King Heritage Award was resurrected by the current King Heritage Advisory Committee as a way to recognize those in the community who do an exceptional job of maintaining the heritage charm and character of their homes and/or properties; adding to the overall bucolic landscape in King Township. A property does not need to be listed or designated to be considered for this award.

The community sent in their nominations over the summer. After careful deliberation and review of the nominations, the Heritage Committee selected **2207 King Road in King City**, owned currently by Mrs. Isabelle Helena Cameron, as the winner! The house was built by Thomas Ferguson (b.1820 – d. 1898) in 1872 to serve as his retirement residence. Thomas was the son of Thomas Ferguson and Catherine Kerr. The owners have done an exceptional job at

ensuring the spirit of the period has been lovingly maintained.

On Monday October 30th there was a presentation at the King Council Chambers where the winning property owner received an original framed print of their property from the Mayor and Council. A second original print will be housed in the Town office. The artist, whose identity has been kept top-secret over the past several months, was none other than King resident, Donna Greenstein.

Utilizing a local artist to acknowledge the winning property, the King Heritage Award wonderfully blends and acknowledges the importance of arts, culture and heritage in our community! One could argue, it is these things that differentiate townships from one another and create a sense of identity.

Kelly Mathews: Putting the Story into History

By Dorita Peer

don't know about you but high school history was dusty, musty stuff. Names, dates, places. Yawn. If only Kelly Mathews had taught my high school history class! She has a love affair with history. And she is madly in love with King Township. "People here care what's going on." She is on the Historical Society board and the Heritage Advisory Committee. But Kelly Mathews, author and historian, has a BA in kinesiology and works in Outdoor Ed at Seneca College, where part of her role is to weave a great story. "History should be a weekend, cup-o'-tea, rainy-day, fire-in-the-fireplace kind of read."

Her passion for research and her talent for storytelling have already resulted in two published books. Eaton Hall, Pride of King Township tells all on the good folks of "Canada's Downton Abby." How that book came

about is quite a story itself: her blog got noticed by a Michigan author who asked her to give him a tour of the estate and urged her to turn all that impressive knowledge into a book. For the delighted publishers, Kelly was a shoo-in to author *The Road to Marylake*, which she completed to the day on the 150th Anniversary of Canadian Confederation. Even when she handed in a manuscript twice the length of what The History Press had commissioned, they were overjoyed.

And that's how it's done, all you budding writers! Ignore the rules and the advice to do as others have done. "Half the art of writing is how you come into it," Kelly says. She means untainted and allowing yourself to make mistakes. But do not imagine that Kelly is anything but conscientious and meticulous to the nth degree. "It's scary pre-

senting information as fact." Only when all her research has been gathered does the writing begin; then come the many rounds of content edits. Twin sister, Kimberly, whose training is museum and curatorial studies, helps. Today's savvy reader expects accuracy and will shoot you an email if Lake Rousseau got typeset as Rousseau. In non-fiction, it is all up to the author. No editorial interpolation or revision.

As for how she got the notion to write, it was simple -- with respect to both the Marylake and Eaton Hall properties, she wanted to know "what happened, on what day and by whom," and to weave those stories into book form. And good advice from Dad: "Write the book you want to read." What next? Potentially, a definitive history of King Township -- when she recovers, she says.

Writing is no hobby for Kelly. It takes up more time than her full-time job. Her good friends understand the times she becomes unavailable. And she will pause to watch her favourite: Coronation Street. When she writes she feels free, alive, happy and smart -- her words. She could as easily be describing her writing.

Why write? "When I die, something will be left behind." History -- my own father called it gossip. Well, who doesn't enjoy a juicy story about our fascinating fellows? Kelly says that "to appreciate other people's histories, it helps to have some history of your own." In her colourful, richly detailed and authentic stories about the intriguing Canadians behind Marylake and Eaton Hall, Kelly Mathews has already created a buzz.



Caption

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**we've added an ugly sweater competition to this fun workshop too, prizes for best family and individual!!

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BIOLOGIST AT THE TABLE

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Art Weis is Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Toronto, and former director of the Koffler Scientific Reserve at Jokers Hill.

A Christmas Tree in a Bottle

I may be an outlier, but to me gin is the perfect holiday drink.

Eggnog, spiked with rum, is a fine and festive libation when decorating the tree or opening presents. But once the wrapping paper is cleared away, gin becomes the go to ingredient, and essential to mark the passing of the old year and arrival of the new. This fondness for gin traces to a memorable New Year's Eve party thrown by my sister Marge. Upon returning home from her first semester at university, she summoned high school friends and new classmates to celebrate their ascent to sophistication and maturity—they were closing in on 20, after all.

Marge flaunted this new-found refinement by serving Gin Gimlets, a simple concoction of gin and Rose's Lime Juice, served over ice. A bit sour; a bit bitter and a bit sweet, it goes down smoothly. At about 11:37 that evening her friend Bob noticed that the lime juice was running low. Out of consideration of the ladies who might want another gimlet or two, he conserved by taking his gin neat. My 16-year-old self, impressed with this act of gallantry, followed suit. We took a sip. Bob proclaimed "It tastes like a Christmas Tree!" I was thinking "rocket fuel", but knew exactly what he meant. (How the heck did Marge talk my mom and dad into letting her throw that party?)

The origin of gin is steeped in speculation, but all agree it started by steeping juniper berries in wine or spirits. A concoction known as jenever was enjoyed by the Dutch as early as the 1300's. It was made by distilling malt wine—a low quality, bubble-free beer—to a 50% alcohol content. Distilling technology being in its infancy, the product contained many less-than-tasty compounds. They masked the foul flavors by adding a number of "botanicals". Chief among them were juniper berries,

which impart the Christmas Tree flavor. These berries are called jeneverbes in Dutch, hence the name jenever. When the British allied with The Dutch Republic in the fight against the Spanish Hapsburgs, their soldiers learned to take a nip of jenever before battle, calling the drink "Dutch Courage". When the Dutch-born William and Mary ascended the British throne, jenever—its name now shortened to gin—became all the rage. Dram being cheaper than ale, dram shops popped up all over London, serving home brewed gins to the poorer classes. These varied greatly in ingredients, quality, and toxicity. A few substituted turpentine for juniper. This "Gin Craze" prompted regulation favoring commercial producers that used new distillation technology. Each had their own mix of botanicals, but juniper berries remained atop everyone's list.

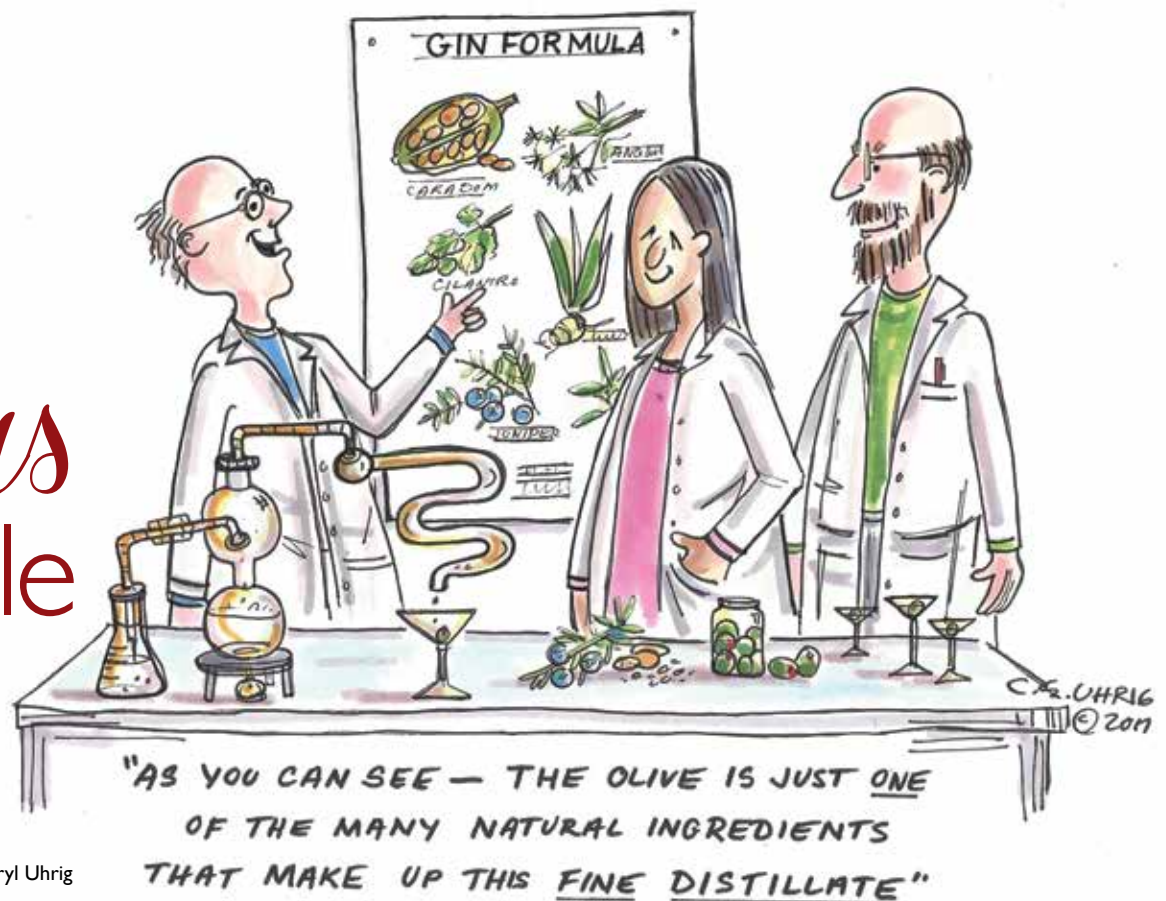
As a botanist I am obliged to inform you that juniper berries are not true berries. Rather, they are the female cone (like a pine cone) of the juniper tree. Their unusually fleshy scales merge to give them a berry-like appearance. They are rich in a class of flavorful plant chemicals called monoterpenes, the most salient being α -pinene. This chemical also gives pine, fir and spruce foliage their aromas. Other monoterpenes impart the berry with flavors described as citrus, nutmeg or mint. Still others lend woody or spicy notes. Local soil and climate influences the concentration and blend of these compounds in the berry, and so for consistency, some distillers rely on single juniper suppliers, who gather berries only from their

own trees or harvest them from local forests.

Recent years have seen a gin renaissance. Small craft distilleries have popped up, including several in Ontario, using mixtures of new and classic botanicals to explore the flavor landscape. But juniper has remained prominent in the new wares I have tried. And well that it has.

Throughout the ages, people have cele-

brated the health-giving properties of juniper berries. The Olympians of classical Greece ate them for increased stamina. Medieval herbalists recommended them to purify the blood. And in our century, Cree elders prescribe them for symptoms of diabetes. As so, raising a glass of gin in the toast "to your health" is not just expressing an aspiration; it's taking action!



— Illustration by Cheryl Uhrig

GIN COCKTAILS

There seems no end of gin cocktails for warm weather. Gin and tonic, the perennial favorite, originated among the British colonial officials in India. They used the gin to mask the bitter taste of the quinine (key ingredient in tonic water) they took against malaria.

The Martini (three parts gin, one part dry vermouth, garnished with a green olive) is a year round drink. The cocktail book published by the Savoy Hotel in the 1930's admonishes the reader to shake Martinis with great vigor—the goal is to wake up the flavor, not rock it to sleep.

For winter holidays, I have my version of the Gin Fizz. To an 8 oz. glass pour 1 oz. of gin. Add 1 tsp. of powdered sugar and a squeeze of lime juice. Toss in three sprigs of fresh thyme, and crunch with a muddler or the back of a spoon, then stir until the sugar is dissolved. Add ice, and fill to the top with club soda, and garnish with more thyme. I always leave a gin fizz by the fireplace for Santa, with good result.

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**Season's
Greetings**
from all the staff at

King Weekly Sentinel



ON UNTIL JANUARY 21, 2018, the McMichael Canadian Art Collection proudly presents the extraordinary works of Alex Janvier, one of Canada's most acclaimed contemporary artists. Organized by the National Gallery of Canada (NGC), the *Alex Janvier* exhibition celebrates this innovative artist's lifetime of creativity, and recounts his love of Dene culture and devotion to the re-empowerment of Indigenous art. As the largest and most comprehensive retrospective on the artist to date, this exhibition establishes Janvier as an important figure in the development of modern Indigenous art in Canada.

Through more than 100 remarkable paintings and drawings chosen from a prolific 65-year career, Alex Janvier features works from both private and public collections across Canada, and includes well-recognized masterpieces completed by the artist alongside an incredible installation of 34 circular paintings—a constellation of Janvier's works spanning more than 35 years that can be viewed as a metaphor for the cycle of life.

Organized by Greg Hill, Audain Senior Curator, Indigenous Art, at the NGC, this touring exhibition also highlights Janvier's integral role in the advancement and celebration of Indigenous art in mainstream Canadian culture. Reflecting the geocultural landscape of his northern Alberta home, Janvier's works on paper, canvas and linen reference the culture and history of Indigenous Peoples, including his own experience of the effects of colonization and residential schools, where he was forbidden to speak his own language.

In conjunction with this incredible retrospective, there are many exciting exhibitions at the gallery, including *Annie Pootoogook: Cutting Ice*, which runs until February 11, 2018. This show delivers an intimate view of the life and legacy of this celebrated Inuk artist. Featuring over 50 drawings alongside works by her contemporaries, visitors can discover this award-winning artist's candid and contem-



The McMichael showcases major retrospective of acclaimed contemporary artist Alex Janvier

by Daniela Traverso-Galati

porary depictions of life in Cape Dorset.

Now extended by popular demand until March 18, 2018, *The Group of Seven Guitar Project* which features 7 one-of-a-kind guitars, crafted by 7 renowned guitar makers, inspired by 7 iconic artists.

Visitors can also immerse themselves in *Pas- sion Over Reason: Tom Thomson and Joyce Wieland*,

which is on view until November 19. This exhibition features more than 80 Thomson master- works alongside provocative works of art by Joyce Wieland, and includes a series of commis- sioned artworks by contemporary artist Zachari Logan, the McMichael's Artist-in-Residence in the Tom Thomson Shack this past summer.

Make a date with art and nature, and visit the McMichael to experience artworks that repre- sent and celebrate *The Art of Canada**.

For more information on exhibitions and programs, visit mcmichael.com.

**THE ART OF CANADA* is an official mark of the McMichael Canadian Art Collection.

Cozy Up By the Fire by Kalli Secord

Can you believe it's that time of year again?! During the winter months, we find ourselves inside more and more; often finding solace in a warm blanket with a great book, ideally in front of a toasty fire. Let Library staff help you stock up on some great reads, with this year's edition of **Cozy Up by the Fire!**

Staff Picks!

✓ ADELE REID suggests *Road Apples* a music CD by The Tragically Hip.

Yes, you can still borrow music CD's from the Library! I actually borrowed *Road Apples* (again!) at the beginning of October, before the beloved Gord Downie passed away on October 17th. This is my favourite Hip album – having listened to it repeatedly on a road trip with my little sister, as well as on a very stormy night with no power in a small cabin on my little Sony Walkman – it brings up many memories. This music

was the anthem of my youth...songs that still touch my Canadian heart.

✓ SANDRA MICELI suggests *Mr. Churchill's Secretary* by Susan Elia MacNeal.

This is the first book in the Maggie Hope mystery series; set in 1940 London just as Britain is entering World War 2. Maggie has arrived in Britain to sell an old house she inherited from her grandmother but ends up living in the home with an eclectic collection of roommates. One of these new friends arranges for Maggie to find employment as secretary for Winston Churchill.

Initially, despite her incredible mathematical abilities, Maggie is relegated to taking dictation but soon begins deciphering codes, flushing out enemy agents and discovering shocking family secrets. The plot moves along nicely, characters have time to develop and there are a satisfying number of "twists" along the way. This is a good "first of a series" book and if you enjoy it there are more to come.

✓ KIM CAMPBELL suggests *Gods in Alabama* by Joshilyn Jackson.

I found it to be full of quirky characters and a somewhat bizarre story. In the first chapter you find that the main character has made a deal with God. She will give up her slutty ways, and leave town if He will hide the body of a boy she just killed. The story continues with more crazy twists and turns as she returns to her racist Aunt's house

with her black beau. I loved this book and I am always on the lookout for more books by Jackson, I have yet to be disappointed by this author.

✓ WENDY-SUE BISHOP suggests *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah.

One of my favourites is *The Nightingale*. This book captures the epic panorama of WW2 and really focuses on 'the women's war'. The two protagonists are sisters: Vianne, who is happily married living in the French countryside, and her younger sister Isabelle, rebellious, passionate, always searching for a purpose. As France becomes Nazi occupied, the two sisters strive to survive in their own way. This heartbreaking story celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women. It is a novel for everyone, a novel for a lifetime. I quite enjoy reading stories in this era (WW2) and genre.

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THE Wrapping Paper

by Cheryl E. Uhrig

The first week in December my two older brothers and I always met to plan our Christmas shopping

Dumping out our piggy banks on the floor; we'd count our money and make a list. Bath salts for mom, Old Spice for dad, spatulas for our grandmothers and white linen handkerchiefs for our grandfathers. My brothers did the main shopping. It was my job to buy the wrapping paper:

Two blocks from home there was a store called Zehrs. The top floor sold groceries. In the basement was a mini department store. They carried everything from tools, towels and housewares to stationary and toys. I often went there with my mom. At Christmas time they sold plain green and red tissue paper for twenty-five cents a package.

For years, my brothers and I managed our Christmas shopping on a pretty small budget. But our gifts were always well received. After the gifts were unwrapped, Dad would gather up what was left of the flimsy tissue wrapping paper and toss it in the fire.

Then my oldest brother got a job. He got a real job, working for a men's clothing store downtown. Aside from his allowance he was now making big bucks. So that year, when we met to plan our annual Christmas shopping, he generously added the bulk of his pay to the pot. Thanks to his hard work we could buy some really special Christmas gifts. A Pyrex baking set for mom. A shirt for dad. Tea towel sets for our grandmothers. Ties for our grandfathers. My brothers would buy the gifts, and once again, I was in charge of wrapping paper.

As he doled out the money for our shopping, my brother did not have anything smaller, so he handed me a twenty-dollar bill and asked me

“When you held a roll under the light, the foil made the paper appear to twinkle and dance.”

to “buy the paper, and bring back the change.”

So down I went to the basement at Zehrs. But this year, beside the stack of dull red and green tissue paper was a brand new display of wrapping paper. It was the most beautiful paper I had ever seen. Rolls and rolls of bold pink, purple and green coloured paper with thin gold foil stripes, and fancy flocked paper with silver foil highlights. When you held a roll under the light, the foil made the paper appear to twinkle and dance. There would be no dull red and green tissue paper this year! I carefully picked out three of my favourite rolls and took them to the cashier

“Are you sure you want to buy this paper?” she asked.

“Oh yes!” I said, and plunked the crisp twenty-dollar bill my brother had given me down on the counter. She carefully wrapped the three rolls of paper up in tissue paper, placed them in a large bag and handed me the change. I could hardly wait to show my brothers the paper. “It’s wonderful” they said. “Much nicer than the tissue paper,” they agreed. Then I pulled out my little purse and handed my brother the change – one dollar and five cents. “That’s it?” he blurted out in shock. “You spent nearly twenty dollars on three rolls of wrapping paper?”

To their credit, my brothers did not make me take them back or yell at me. But they both helped me measure and carefully cut and wrap each gift.

Christmas morning there they sat. Six very special presents under the tree. Each wrapped in the most magnificent wrapping paper ever. When Dad turned on the Christmas tree lights their foil highlights confidently twinkled and shone back as bright as the tinsel and ornaments above.

My mom was the first to notice. “Oh my gosh is that the designer paper from downstairs at Zehrs?”

“Yes don’t you just love it? I blurted out proudly. “It is lovely paper,” she said. Sizing up the situation, my mom gave my brothers a knowing and sympathetic look. She then suggested that because it was such fine paper, we should save it. Mom instructed everyone to carefully unwrap their gifts. It was clear, mom really liked that paper. So my dad and grandparents each handed their paper over to mom, who carefully folded each piece and placed it in dad’s shirt box. With a big bold marker, she wrote, ‘EXTRA Special Christmas Wrapping’ on the lid.

As the years went on, the salvageable pieces of this wonderful wrapping paper got smaller and smaller until the last trace of foil was gone. Eventually we were old enough to do our own shopping. I went back to buying the plain green and red tissue paper. But every year, when I sit down to wrap my gifts, I remember the EXTRA special wrapping paper with the gold and silver foil stripes. And all the years our family continued to enjoy it!



– Illustration by Cheryl Uhrig



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