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spring 2021

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We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

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**KIM SILLCOX**



Kim Sillcox has served as the Director of Communications & Marketing for The Country Day School for the past eight years and as a member of the Board of Directors for the King Township Historical Society for the past three. She is passionate about sharing the history of both CDS and King with her readers and enjoys sharing good food, books, and travel and adventure with family and friends in her free time. Read her article - The Benyon Family History on page 17.



MEMORIES OF KING

**OUR COVER JOSÉE SAVARIA**

Josée's advice to artists looking to establish themselves, is to "Work, and work hard. Do not give up. Start over and work hard again; success takes time." One of eight artists, Josee was invited to represent the Embassy of Canada, in the Netherlands. She has participated in the One of Kind Show for 20 years, is a regular at the Schomberg Street Gallery, McMichael Autumn Art Show, and the Toronto Outdoor Art Show, and is a proud member of the Arts Society of King. To view more of Josée artworks, or for further information, go to [www.josesavaria.com](http://www.josesavaria.com). Read the feature artist story on page 4.



THE POWER OF PHOTOS



BENYON FAMILY CELEBRATES 200 YEARS IN KING CITY

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# GENUINE MIRAGE

by Deborah Jolly

: À la plage

Josée Savaria's artworks exude **hope, promise, and happiness**, each so very welcome this spring!

Her work is immediately recognizable and yet never the same. Whimsy, pattern, colour, and movement are her hallmarks, all directly reflective of her travels and her incredibly unique expression of the physical world around her.

Growing up on the shores of the St. Lawrence River, Josée's paintings are an extension, perhaps even a mirror representation, of her inner self. Her love of sea and land was embedded in her youth and further enhanced by travels and work with her oceanographer husband. As an accomplished graphic designer from Montreal, and mother of a young son, Josée and her husband moved to Newmarket 25+ years ago. In fact, trading her graphic design profession to paint full time was part of their agreement to move. "It was a brave move and we have not looked back."

"Through art, I revisit my travels, transposing feelings and images held in memory and I paint my interpretation of this. When I am near the water, I not only see fish in the water, but I can also feel fish all around me. So, I paint fish in the sky because their feeling is everywhere to me." So too are her fanciful mosaics of underground flowers, leaves, and a multitude of curlicues. So honest and genuine they are, you may never again see the earth's crust in browns, tans, and greens alone.

Mirage (cover image) is a classic assertion of her enduring mixed media style and is a

perfect representation of King Township in spring. Gracefully overarching colours and movement taunt the viewer to pause within smaller, layered, elements, to rest and take in the full power of her artworks. Each artwork, defined by its own pattern, and each pattern defined by its own tiny squares of intrigue. And these delicate intricacies painted within larger works are bursting with significance as each series represents a new country visited.

Feeling fortunate to have participated in her husband's marine, ocean, and land research, Josée paints what she sees, in her own spirit and with innocence and fantasy that are all her own. Without intention, when observing and counting fish, turtles, or bird species, it seems they always find their way, first into her heart and later, her art. "Brazil, South Africa, Australia, and the Caribbean, each bring something new to my sketch book; vast mountains, waters and skies with profoundly different blues, animals, colours, landscapes, each providing different weight or meaning to hold for a new body of work to later emerge."

Elephant, zebra, and animal patterns were present in her series after a trip to south Africa, seashells after time spent on Florida shores, and fish swimming in the sky, from many a coastal visit. It was last year when an early return from St. Petersburg, Florida, prompted by Covid-19, that Josée's Ocean Series came to be. "Our hometown grocery stores had empty shelves

and, artistically, I felt stuck and moody; it took time to get back on track." Yearning for the ocean, and armed with an established artist's resolve, she allowed her mood to dictate what was to come next; thankfully. Josee emerged with brilliant seas of blue rising magnificently on her canvas (À la plage) and a sumptuous series that demonstrate how she makes colour and light play so well together.

Weekday afternoons, "when the light is simply perfect for creating new works", is where you will find Josée painting in her home studio alongside her furry companion, a Welsh Terrier named Soa. Transferring images of leaves from her own photographs she creates each 'tree', and the rest is meticulously painted, applying immense, joy-filled, interpretation. "The smile on peoples faces, when they see my art is my joy, and knowing that I make a difference; to see that my relationship with even a tiny 8" x 8" canvas is treasured by others, matters to me." Indeed, her artworks do feel larger than the paintings themselves.

Within, Josée is most at home during on her morning kayak with a school of dolphins, the birds around her, and quietly, genuinely, observing nature. While painting, talk radio fuels her boundless curiosity for new information. She is influenced by the works of Alfred Pellán and Henri Matisse and is an avid cook who appreciates relaxing with online Scrabble or a good movie.

"What is next?" has taken on new meaning for many artists and non-artists alike. "I do not know what to expect next and I do not like regrets, so I am ready for anything! I will look for new opportunities to connect my artwork with others and know that whatever comes is ok. The pandemic has taught me a great deal about patience and more so, the importance of touch. We must take full advantage of life, when and how we can. Florida can wait until we have a vaccine, but I cannot wait to hug and hold my granddaughters again." Sound words from a sound and beautiful artist, who paints flowers beneath the earth and fish in the sky, that will now, and forever forward, make only perfect sense.



: La magie du paysage

# WHAT'S *New* AT THE KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE



## *Treasured* STORIES OF KING

By late 2020, with the continued closure of the KHCC, staff were brainstorming about new ways to communicate with the public and bring the KHCC online. You can imagine our surprise when the phone rang and we first learned about Treasured.

Treasured is a local software company innovating in the Canadian Arts & Culture Community. The Treasured Platform is a modern all-in-one hub for editing, collaborating, publishing, and promoting stories and exhibits online. They offer an affordable way for cultural storytellers (individual curators, museums, galleries, genealogists, authors) to publish online exhibitions seamlessly across any device or web browser.

The caller was Treasured Co-Founder (and KingTownship resident), Vito Giovanetti, who was reaching out to pitch a Pilot Project; Giovanetti suggested a partnership, in which the KHCC would develop an online exhibit on Treasured in exchange for teaching their team about the museum industry. Giovanetti

followed up with an email and video detailing more information about the company. KHCC staff jumped at the opportunity to be involved in the project!

KHCC staff, Erika Baird and Liza Mallyon, spent the next few weeks meeting regularly to learn the program and share our insights with the Treasured Team. We also needed to decide on what type of exhibit we wanted to curate. Although other museums had opted to take existing exhibits and switch them to an online platform, but we knew that we wanted to use this opportunity to tell new stories.

**The result of all this is our new online exhibit: Stories of King.**

Stories of King is a compilation of intriguing tales of people and events from throughout the Township's history. Stories that deserved to be told - runaway slaves, Love stories, a disappearance and more - all within our borders.

Stories of King is now available online at [www.king.ca/KHCC](http://www.king.ca/KHCC). For more information on Treasured visit [treasured.ca](http://treasured.ca).

## *Immersive* WALKING TOUR APP COMING TO SCHOMBERG

by Liza Mallyon, Collections & Exhibitions Coordinator, Township of King

The brainchild of co-founders Andrew Farris and Christopher Reid, On This Spot is an interactive, digital walking tour app that premiered in the summer of 2016. On This Spot aims to engage its audience in history in new and innovative ways. The team works with local business associations, museums and historical societies to develop tours that best represent each area. Then the app guides people through themed walking tours and explores the often hidden local history of each community.

Each stop on the walking tour relates to a modern location where a historic photo was taken. App users can view a then-and-now photo comparison of each location, visit the modern business within and learn about the history of the area and that spot in particular. The technology even allows the user to place themselves in the historic photo – how cool is that? The blended modern/historic photos are also available for purchase on the On This Spot store.

In addition to these 15 primary stops highlighting current day businesses operating out of heritage buildings, the app includes other nearby stops of interest including museums, historic buildings, works of art and even scenic views. The app promotes local businesses including restaurants, services and unique local shopping opportunities.

Based in Vancouver, On This Spot has rapidly expanded across Canada and is

coming soon to King! The Township's first tour will be developed for Schomberg as an action-outcome of the Main Street Revitalization Project in partnership with the Economic Development Division and is funded by Digital Main Street/ FutureProof Lab. The On This Spot team is currently working with King's Economic Development division, the King Heritage & Cultural Centre and local historians to research and select tour stops for the Schomberg Main Street tour. The app will have a soft launch on February 15th and a full launch in time for the warm weather this spring.

Andrew Farris of OTS sums it up this way: "Our dream is that one day anyone can open the On This Spot app wherever they are and immediately step into the history that surrounds them. We believe in this project because there is great value in understanding history, and being able to put yourself in the shoes of people in the past. It is only through knowledge of what came before that we can truly understand the society we live in today, and the possibilities for our future."

We couldn't agree more and look forward to this interactive app highlighting Schomberg's iconic main street. Be sure to download the On This Spot app onto your device and watch for King's debut. Questions? Please contact the King Heritage & Cultural Centre at 905-833-2331 or [kingmuseum@king.ca](mailto:kingmuseum@king.ca).



: Historic Schomberg Main St.  
: – Baptist Church & Market Building



: Historic Schomberg Main St.  
: – Post Office

always lived here and can tell us about the many changes that have taken place. Maybe you remember something we don't even know about so we can't even suggest it!

**There are so many Memories that make up King Township, and we want to hear them!**

Anyone can share their Memories but we'd like to speak with seniors first. Seniors who live (or have lived) in King Township are encouraged to start digging into their memory banks to share their stories in a Covid-friendly manner. Oral histories will be collected virtually, from a distance, or you can just take a pen to paper! Whatever keeps you safest and helps you remember most. Family members are encouraged to take part by conducting interviews with their parents and

grandparents (don't worry – we'll teach you how!).

Led by long-time Archives volunteers Elsa-Ann Pickard and Louise Di Iorio, the Memories project seeks to engage seniors in social activities, while adding to the historical record. During these last months, many have spent time reminiscing about better days, and we want to save those memories for the benefit of future generations.

Stories collected will be added to the King Township Archives to be used for research, exhibits, and online content. Consent forms will be given to all participants and their families.

This project will commence, pending funding, in April 2021. For more information, or to get involved either as a storyteller or a volunteer, please contact [kingmuseum@king.ca](mailto:kingmuseum@king.ca)



: This author,  
: Nobleton  
: Skating Club,  
: 1999

## *Memories of King:* A PHYSICAL DISTANCING ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

by Erika Baird, Heritage & Cultural Supervisor, Township of King

Do you remember what your first memory of King was?

Growing up in Bolton, mine came relatively early. I took figure skating lessons at the Nobleton Arena. I was dressed in a black tutu, and my brother was a bumblebee. It was my first time skating without a helmet and I remember the freeing feeling (and how nervous my mom was!).

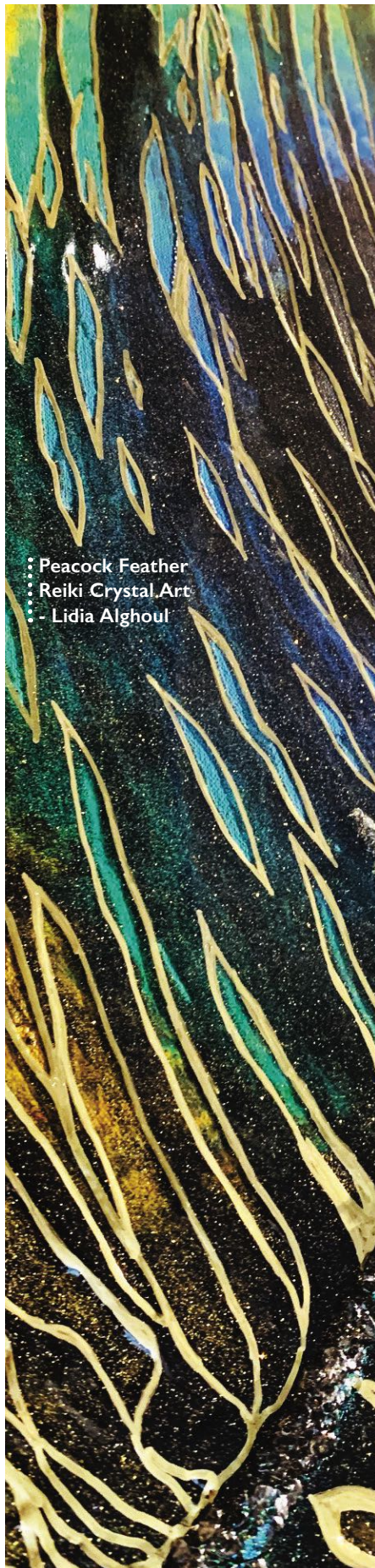
Now given that this event took place in the recent past of 1999, it's not necessarily history, but it will be one day.

Maybe you remember when you moved to town, or when the 400 was built. Maybe you've

# UNDEAD POETS

## I HAVE KNOWN

by Dorita Peer



• Peacock Feather  
• Reiki Crystal Art  
• - Lidia Alghoul

Poetry was the velvet weaponry of revolution when 22-year-old U.S. poet laureate, Amanda Gorman, stood before a great nation and broke its trance. Poetry is the complimentary opposite of elegant science, the physics of expression that gives onto the infinite overworld of consciousness. Poetry has a key to open that portal.

My father was a poet. That's how he wooed my mother, and that's how I was conceived, between the lines. This is one he wrote for me (translated from Hungarian):

*A flower lies in the grass  
Petals a tender shade of blue  
Forget-me-not its name while  
it still lived, before her hand  
flung it there, why?  
I cannot fathom. I dare not ask.  
My daughter is the one who  
understands about flowers.*

Some of my best friends were poets, are poets, their metaphoric minds bringing us into an uncommon intimacy. Some got published. Many will never be, their gems filed away somewhere or nowhere. I warmed myself by their fires at readings everywhere. One of them was an old soul, Mike Rowbottom, who founded the Corner Coffee House (later The Moving Finger in my hands) reading series. From his poem, Bearer of Light:

*Carry your life's flame in a thimble  
Guard it with joy  
For this is the most  
Precious possession you own*

*Nurture life's sparks with joy  
Against the backdrops of suffering  
Warm yourself and others  
With your flickering passion*

*Also lift the veil of darkness  
From the minds of fellow travellers  
With your enthusiasm  
Enter the emptiness of yourself as a friend  
For all shadows are illusions*

Once a lutenist, the bard, Pete Acker, is one who left his mark, like Zorro, as he parried and thrust against schizophrenia. He describes his life's work after his fall in this excerpt:

*My Job as a Poet is to wait,  
and wait  
my senses ready at all edges of the moment  
and in the dimensions of the year  
for people and things  
to tell me their secrets*

## Word Has It...



• Mike Rowbottom -  
• photo credit: Greg King,  
• www.gregking.ca

The suave sometime actor, Bob Brookes, penned these besotted words over a glass of red wine:

*Our thoughts converged like limbs  
intertwined frantically seeking some other being  
to give meaning to ourselves and our lives  
the shadows we cast on each other  
like clouds passing overhead  
letting flickers of sunlight and hope  
into the meaning of our landscape*

Star Phish is the stage/pen name of one of three children on the autism spectrum born to a high school friend, Ann, whose mother, Meryl, sent me poetic letters from Wales after they moved back home. When I asked Star Phish about her life in London, she emailed me back:

*downover the railings level leaden afternoon  
the sound of something snapping  
ah'll be sailing  
planes of looted longed for then ill slumped days and grottyrust handlebars  
striking out of dustless planes in thin cuts in the film  
streets are ribbons and brick and wood  
the past  
still like vacant*

The venerable Claire Alexander was a long-time member of WriteNow!@King, an academic and a meticulous editor. In an inspired event that brought artists together with poets, she riffed on Judi Johnson's painting, Birch Trees, with her impressions:

*My childhood birches  
seem to run  
beyond my sight  
to find the sun*

*but still their feet  
are shod in white  
like woolly slippers  
for the night*

*and I look down  
and see the fold  
where shadows bend  
because they're cold*

From Meryl Havard, these closing sentiments:

*The life that I have is all that I have  
The life that I have is yours  
The love that I have of the life that I have  
Is yours and yours and yours.*

And now, dear reader,  
*the quill is in your inkwell...*



On behalf of King Township council, welcome to the Spring edition of Mosaic.

It's hard to believe it's been a year since the COVID-19 pandemic started to disrupt our lives. Thankfully vaccinations are now available and the general population will have access to them over the spring and summer months.

I'm pleased to report that King Township council approved a zero per cent increase in net levy requirements—the portion of the tax bill that goes to the Township—to support the 2021 operating and capital budgets.

The past year has been extraordinarily difficult on all of our residents. Many of them have seen their work hours cut during the COVID-19 pandemic, while others have been laid off. We could not ask them to pay more on the Township's portion of their tax bill.

Despite the additional costs of introducing new technology to maintain service levels during the pandemic, staff have looked for efficiencies in other areas in order to keep the Township's portion of the tax bill flat.

I'm extremely proud of the work council and staff have done to continue offering not only our essential services like Fire and Emergency Services, waste collection and road and sidewalk maintenance, but we've been able to offer new services. This includes virtual recreation programs, a brand new website with many new online services and curbside pickup of blue and green bins.

Some of the highlights from the capital budget include:

- Improvements to various Community Parks (\$2 million) -- Blue Heron, Kettle Lake; Tomlinson Gardens, Nobleton Lions Community Park, Tasca Community Park, St. Andrews, OSIN Park
- Schomberg Community Hall renovation and accessibility upgrade (\$1 million)
- Road-related infrastructure repairs and conversion of gravel roads (\$2.5 million)
- Nobleton Sewers Phase 3 (\$14.6 million)

In addition to infrastructure investment, property tax dollars pay for a wide range of programs and services including snow removal from roads and sidewalks, road and bridge repairs and maintenance, fire and emergency services, parks, arenas and four library branches.

For the most up-to-date information on how COVID-19 is impacting King Township's programs and services, please visit [covid19.king.ca](https://www.king.ca/covid19).



*Sincerely,*

Steve Pellegrini  
Mayor, King Township

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Pellegrini". The signature is fluid and cursive.



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# Around the Neighbourhood

• Aerial view of Gellatly Farm

# Memories — OF KING —

by Julia Galt

Carol Gellatly Field's 19th century farmstead looks much the same as it did when her great-grandfather, Peter Gellatly, first cleared the land of its towering 100-foot white pines.

The original white farmhouse, built in 1860, still stands proudly atop the hill. Artifacts from the past— an old butter churn, a handmade clock, a small oil lantern— grace the wooden halls, bearing witness to times long passed. Feet from the back door stands the restored gambrel barn, while crops sway lazily— as they have for nearly two centuries— over the neighbouring hillside. For Carol Field, it's a tale— and view— as old as time.

Field is the fourth generation Gellatly to call the Keele Street farmstead home. Born in Toronto in the early 1940s, Field and her family moved to the then-vacant family farm when she was just six weeks old. Present for much of King's shift from rural farmscape to growing residential haven, she recalls a time in the township's history when hydro, indoor plumbing, refrigerators, and central heating were far-off luxuries.

To preserve her memories for future generations, Field has written the autobiographical *Memories of King*, a look at King Township in the 1940s, 50s, and beyond.

"I'd love for people to know what it was like living in King Township back then," said Field. "I really admire the old-timers. They were very wise, smart, and creative, and though life was hard they managed to solve a lot of problems."

*Memories of King* recounts Field's formative years, a time when her family "went to bed early, and got up early with the sun". She ruminates upon the farm's connection to hydro in 1946 ("Hurrah! Hurrah!"), horse and buggy transportation ("Magical, enchanted trips"), and the perils of Keele Street's then-dirt road

("Some neighbours had a reputation for driving very fast... like my dad"). School consisted of 8 different grades taught from the same one-room schoolhouse, while the two-and-a-half mile walk to class— rain or shine— could take over an hour. Chores like selling eggs to the neighbours, feeding and watering the family's smaller animals, and gardening took up much of Field's spare time. *Memories of King* describes an idyllic agricultural community, where much of life centred around the rigours of school, church, and farm.

But despite the apparent simplicity of King Township, entertainment was never in short supply. Field recalls the nail-biting excitement of the murderous Boyd Gang's 1951 prison escape, from the police's search of the family's barn to learning, upon their capture, that they'd been less than a mile from the Gellatly house.

In another story, she recounts "playing hooky" with five of the neighbourhood's kids, meandering through forests, farmland, and fields before being caught, hours later, by her frustrated father.

Other stories touch upon the area's religion ("many residents followed the 'Golden Rule'- do unto others as you would have them do unto you"), health ("we did not go to the doctor then— the doctor came to us"), and lifestyle ("perhaps 90% of us lived on farms, and grew much of the food we ate").

"I've had so many friends tell me that they relate to my memories, that they've had similar experiences growing up," said Field. "It's brought us a lot closer together, knowing that we've gone through the same experiences."

Taking a more modern look at the changes King has undergone through the years, *Memories of King* also recounts the removal of the old-growth trees that once lined King and Keele Street, the widening and paving of roads in the 1970s to act as thoroughfares to Highway 400, and the introduction, in the 2000s, of the "big pipe". As a member of one of the dozen or so early farming families still in King, Field has seen it all firsthand.

"King was a place where people met each other at the post office, at the bank, at the grocery store. I think it was a very special time, when I was growing up," said Field. "Today, it's so different. But you need to go along with progress."

Also included in *Memories of King* is a document certifying the Gellatly farm's Century Farm status, written by Field's mother Edna Gellatly in 1990. Betty Cowan, a local artist, provides illustrations to go along with each story.

"I've had a lot of encouragement to write a second volume," said Field, who has sold all 300 copies of *Memories of King*'s first print. "It really seems to make people happy."

With 40 different topics already on the go, Field hopes to have the second book completed by the end of 2021.

"I quite feel like a bit of a celebrity," laughed Field. "It's been rather nice, having all these kind words coming my way."

*Memories of King* is available for purchase at the King City Guardian Pharmacy and through Field ([fieldcarol@aol.com](mailto:fieldcarol@aol.com)) for \$5.00 a copy.



• Carol Field and her new book  
• "Memories of King"

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# The POWER of PHOTOS

PHOTOS EVOKE EMOTIONAL REACTIONS.

THE JOY THEY GENERATE AND THE STORIES THEY TELL BEHIND AND IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA.

by Meline Beach

They can inspire imagination, have calming effects and create connections. Photos document a life's journey, keep vivid memories alive and encourage us to see the world from a different perspective.

Modern day technology has enabled amateur photographers to snap and share scenes of their life and the world around them using common devices like smartphones and social media. Nowadays, it's not uncommon to share photos of your baking, favourite meals, pets, children and nature. This act emits feelings of confidence and pride and stimulates an equal sense of joy – in taking, sharing and viewing photos – be it framed on walls at home, on a desk in the workplace, inside a wallet or posted online.

Former King Township councillor and resident Jeff Laidlaw has been posting photos from his personal collection of various scenes around King on the Schomberg Community Facebook page for the past few months. He is identified as a visual storyteller on Facebook and his photos generate a number of likes, shares and comments, and often creates online conversations about what the photo is of and where it was taken. Jeff is a self-taught photographer by circumstance. "It was a diversionary tactic by my parents who were throwing a 21st birthday party for my eldest sister and wanted to keep a nuisance younger brother from bugging the guests," says Jeff, who was 12 years old at that time. "They gave me a camera and asked me to take pictures of the party. It worked and there were some pretty good pictures."

Nowadays, Jeff primarily captures landscapes as a hobby – an interest honed from his involvement with the King Township Museum, the Heritage

Committee and Communities in Bloom. He has over 10,000 photos of King Township from as early as 1960 and into the 2000s – across all seasons and whatever the weather.

While he currently lives in Canmore, Alberta, Jeff remains fond of King Township for its historical and utilitarian roots, its unique beauty and agrarian life, most notably livestock dominated by horses and cattle. His favourite image is of the stone footbridge on the Eaton estate property from fall 2007, for its elegant, old world simplistic beauty and comforting romantic style.

"I loved to explore King and would often just go out for a drive with no specific destination in mind, just to see what I might find," says Jeff, who's drawn to basic views with endless variety in lighting, colours, ambiance and mood, irrespective of technical imperfections. "I'm fascinated by the history of places; how they got to be where they are today, the people, the times and how that all fits into the sense of community."

Jeff's photos have captured plenty of change across King's landscape over the years, which he fears risks the loss of societal connections, challenged by developments against the township's natural beauty.

"My attempt in sharing photos is simply to give people a point of unity, a focal point of pride and common heritage, an appreciation for what they have and to move forward more carefully," says Jeff. "Amazingly to me, people seem to be responding. I'm pleased to supply entertainment and happy to stimulate discussion and encourage interactions."

His photos are doing exactly that. Whether they are of barns, farms, animals, rolling hills and familiar events from days of yonder, Jeff's photos

have sparked memories of our community and drawn admiration for its natural settings. Within his collection of everyday life and landscape photos are a series of barn images of different colours, styles and structures.

"I think my fascination with barns is not so much about the barn itself but more about its context, composite and open land, fields, paddocks, and livestock," says Jeff. "I love the way of life a barn represents; simplicity and good old fashioned hard work – you get out of it pretty much exactly what you put in, no more, no less."

One photo of a barn, surrounded by fields of corn and hay located on the southwest corner of Lloydtown-Aurora Road and Concession 8, drew out an interesting story of a family farm managed across five generations.

Thanks to Glenna Gould, great, great, granddaughter of the original owner, the history of the Hulse family farmstead, which includes a barn, farmhouse, brick bungalow and a variety of livestock, is well documented.

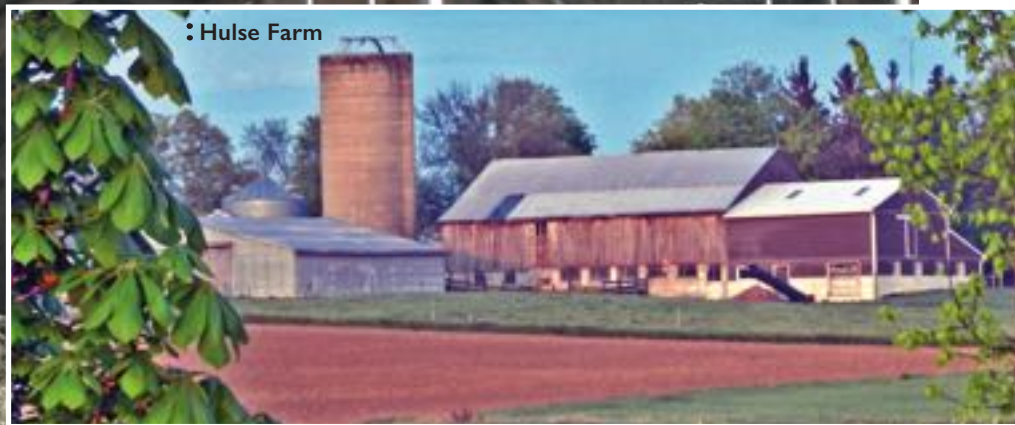
The story starts with original owner Matthew Hulse who purchased 90 acres at Lot 30 for \$5,500 in 1886. He had five cattle, 15 sheep, six hogs and four horses. According to old Census records, he paid \$15.18 in taxes. His son Robert inherited the farm and purchased 10 more acres in the northeast corner for \$500 in 1903. All 100 acres were deeded to Robert's son Matthew Irwin (known as Irwin) in 1930, who soon thereafter bought his first registered Holstein – the first of his 100 percent homebred herd. Irwin's only child, Glen, ran a successful plumbing company and didn't have any interest in dairy farming, however, his children (four girls and one boy) helped with farm chores. Patti,

one of Glen's daughters, learned everything about dairy farming from her grandfather, Irwin. When Irwin passed away in 1976, Patti took over the herd and her brother Fred managed the fieldwork. In 1989, Patti bought a farm in Grey County and moved the dairy cattle to her new farm, where she currently milks well over 100 cows. Today, Patti is an award-winning top Canadian Master Breeder. Fred now owns the farm, which went from a dairy to a free-range beef cattle operation, and includes chickens, a resident goat and pig as pets, a family dog and five decades of memories.

While the handcrafted barn has gone through various stages of renovations over the years, its weathered character and purpose have remained true. Inside, you'll find loads of hay all around and in the loft used to feed livestock year-round, axed notches on solid anchor beams and initials of various family members inscribed on a collar tie. The level below is reserved to shelter cattle. While you can see the crisp winter sun pierce through the cracks between the boards in the roof, the barn offers a sense of cozy warmth and comfort. Captured up close or from a distance, there is a dose of nostalgia and a certain beauty of these rural structures.

According to the 2016 Census of Agriculture and Statistics Canada, there are 29, 535 acres of farmland across King and 242 farms (57 of which are labelled as horse and equine farms) – an increase of 1.3 percent from 2011. Based on these statistics, there are plenty of natural vistas available to capture on camera, share with others, learn about and experience more joy.

To view Jeff's recent photos, visit [www.viewbug.com/member/jefflaidlaw](http://www.viewbug.com/member/jefflaidlaw).





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# Let me ASK you...



**JOHN PANOPOULOS**



**KAREN HUNTER**



**MARY MORGANELLI**

This issue, we're focusing on three artists with very different mediums – from sculptures to acrylic paintings to jewelry.

This issue, we're focusing on three artists with very different mediums – from sculptures to acrylic paintings to jewelry. John Panopoulos has been a working artist for more than 35 years in a multi-faceted design career with a diverse arts background. Inspired by several pivotal journeys to Iceland, Ireland and Greece, his creations include large water features, immense stone benches, focal garden features, entrance tables, coffee tables and more. Mary Morganelli immigrated from Italy where her love for art developed at an early age. Her artwork was put aside to start a family, but recently she revived her passion by taking private lessons. She paints whatever inspires her, including portraits, landscapes, flowers, animals, automobiles, and more. Karen Hunter studied at the Ontario College of Art and has applied her skills to various forms, including creating beautiful jewelry pieces which combine her love of colour and working with metal.

featuring John Panopoulos, Karen Hunter and Mary Morganelli

by Patti Skrypek

## What is the best thing about being an artist?

**John** – It's the enjoyment of creating a one-of-a-kind piece that never existed before.

**Karen** – The freedom to give into my creative impulses and the enjoyment someone takes from seeing and/or wearing my art.

**Mary** – Art gives meaning to our life and colour heals our souls. I believe artists are risk takers. Art teaches us how to see the world through imagination. Creativity is appreciated primarily for its beauty, emotional power and it brings a smile.

## What is the hardest part of creating your art?

**John** – There are infinite probabilities for an art piece. It's choosing which one to manifest.

**Karen** – Choosing what to work on.

**Mary** – Coming up with a new creative idea, knowing that it is the best you have done, and someone will appreciate your creation. Sometimes we need to get our inner feelings out on canvas or paper but the "juices" are not flowing as you would like. So I put it aside and go back to it later.

## How do you know when a piece is finished?

**John** – When I feel it's done, I always, always, always walk away and leave it alone. The answer is clear when I return.

**Karen** – Practice and experience, and sometimes I just know.

**Mary** – Sometimes it is so hard to determine when it's finished. But I use my intuition and, when I'm satisfied, I know that it is done.

## What inspired you to pursue art?

**John** – I have always had the urge to be creative and sculpting is my latest muse.

**Karen** – I started doing art at a very young age and have done many different forms including pottery, copper enamelling, weaving, glassblowing, painting, blacksmithing. Along the way, I found my love of working with metal – silversmithing. I attended the Ontario College of Art, now called OCAD University, from 1981-1985, graduating from the design department. I took workshops before and after college and, in 1990, learned about the metal niobium which combined my love of metal and colour. In 2005, I started watercolour painting and, in 2011, I started quilting, both of which allow me to explore my love of colour.

**Mary** – Art is a creation of love, peace and definitely a stress reliever. I work in an office during the day and I usually paint at the end of the day (after dinner) to wind down after a busy day.

## Which artists are you most influenced by?

**John** – Maybe not influenced by but certainly inspired by artists who have carved out their own path of unconventional art.

**Karen** – My mother is a self-taught spinner and weaver. She showed me that I could do anything that I put my mind to. I feel fortunate that both my parents encouraged and supported me to do what I love.

**Mary** – Mainly the Group of Seven, especially Tom Thompson.



: King Farm by Mary Morganelli



: Dragonfly series by Karen Hunter

## Is it hard to part with one of your pieces?

**John** – When someone connects with a piece of my art that I have put my heart and soul into, I'm more than happy to see them take it home.

**Karen** – No, I'm happy that people are going to enjoy my work.

**Mary** – No, it is in someone's home who appreciates my painting.

## What advice would you give to your younger self?

**John** – Don't doubt your ideas just because someone else doesn't see your vision.

**Karen** – Learn more about running a business!

**Mary** – I started painting in my teens and stopped to raise a family. I restarted painting in my sixties, so I'd say "don't wait so long to start your painting career."



: Ouroboros by John Panopoulos

: Marianne Broome



# STUDIO TOUR KING 2021 GOES VIRTUAL

by Kathleen Rodgers



## Events in and Around King Township **just**

by Arts Society King

**MARCH TO JUNE, 2021 – WRITENOW!@KING** Ongoing Virtually - First and Third Thursday of Every Month 2 – 4 pm - New and experienced writers alike are invited to participate in **stimulating writing exercises**, hearing guest speakers share their knowledge, read their works, and receive feedback from peers. A collaboration between Arts Society King and King Township Public Library. For information contact [ksecord@kinglibrary.ca](mailto:ksecord@kinglibrary.ca)

**MARCH 22, 2021 – NOBLETON AND KING CITY GARDEN CLUB – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)** via ZOOM Call Time: 7:00 pm - Annual meeting to discuss last year's business and create excitement for this year's program. New members are cordially invited. Please email our club for more information: [nobletonkingcitygardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:nobletonkingcitygardenclub@gmail.com)

**APRIL 1 - 4, 2021 – 'GOOD TO BE BACK' EVENT!** Olde Mill Art Gallery & Shoppe, 357 Main St., Schomberg 11 – 5 pm each day or by appointment. Daily Artist demonstrations, Mother's Day Gift Basket draw and the opportunity to view each of the artists' most current art pieces, will all be on display at the Gallery. For further info call Pat Earl at 647-523-3275. See us on Facebook: [@oldemillartgalleryandshoppe](https://www.facebook.com/oldemillartgalleryandshoppe)

**APRIL 12 TO 25, 2021; PREVIEW APRIL 5 TO 11 - STUDIO TOUR KING 2021 (VIRTUAL)** Various Artists' Studios & Websites - 10:00 am to 5:00 pm - Join an art experience by visiting artists virtually in their home studios throughout King Township! For more information please visit **Arts Society King's** website at [ArtsSocietyKing.ca](http://ArtsSocietyKing.ca) or email [info@artssocietyking.ca](mailto:info@artssocietyking.ca) and visit [facebook.com/studiotourking](https://www.facebook.com/studiotourking)

**APRIL TO JUNE, 2021 – SPRING SKATING** Nobleton Skating Club. Mondays and Wednesdays, 5 – 8 pm. **Spring Canskate Sessions** with the Nobleton Skating Club at the Trisan Centre, Schomberg. Canskate with small group sizes, and skaters are with a coach for the entire class. For more information [NobletonSkatingClub.com](http://NobletonSkatingClub.com) or email [nobletonskatingclub@outlook.com](mailto:nobletonskatingclub@outlook.com)

**MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021 – GARDENING YOUR FRONT YARD: PROJECTS AND IDEAS FOR BIG & SMALL SPACES** Nobleton and King City Garden Club, Nobleton Community Hall – 19 Old King Rd., Nobleton Time: 7:30 – 9:00 pm - Tara Nolan will cover topics ranging from sustainable ideas, like rain gardens and eco-friendly grass alternatives, to planting for pollinators and sneaking veggies into your front yard perennial garden. Learn to tackle easy projects, like planting a sedum carpet on a driveway, building a side table for your front yard patio where you can grow lettuce, putting together a pollinator palace, and turning a window well into a raised bed. Start thinking about what you want to do now, and get ready to dig in once spring arrives. For more information email [nobletonkingcitygardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:nobletonkingcitygardenclub@gmail.com)

**MAY 1 TO JULY 31, 2021 – ARTIST EXHIBITION AND SALE** Carrying Place Golf & Country Club. Artwork of some Arts Society King members will be showing their art for **Exhibition and Sale** in the clubhouse. Members of the community are welcome to enjoy the display as Covid protocols allow. 16750 Weston Road, King For more information visit [ArtsSocietyKing.ca](http://ArtsSocietyKing.ca) or email [info@artssocietyking.ca](mailto:info@artssocietyking.ca)

**MAY 8, 2021 – BEST OF THE BEST GARAGE SALE** All Saints Anglican Church, King City 9:00 am – Noon This open air sale replaces the unique and popular annual **Church Rummage Sale** with the same large variety of quality household goods, clothes, books, dvd's and jewellery – Covid protocols will be observed. Church Parking Lot – 12935 Keele Street. Further info: [allsaints3@bellnet.ca](mailto:allsaints3@bellnet.ca)

**MAY 25, 2021 – ALL POTTED UP** Nobleton King City Garden Club, Nobleton Community Hall – 19 Old King Rd., Nobleton Time: 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm - Heinke Thiessen, "Patios, balconies or beside the front door can be the perfect place to grow your favourite plants in containers be they petunias or potatoes. Whether decorative, edible or a combination, you can express your personal style with fun and unique containers in all four seasons. This presentation will cover container basics as well as design and placement."

## Visiting the country is a wonderful way to spend a weekend.

It offers the opportunity to explore quaint villages and the studios of the local artists and artisans whose artwork often reflects the landscape around them. In the King Township, each spring brings the Studio Tour King towards the end of April. Unfortunately due to the pandemic and Public Health restrictions, the studio tour cannot be in person but will be held virtually. The 16th Studio Tour King has been extended and will take place from **April 12 to 25** with the **preview from April 5 to 11**. The studio tour may include fine paintings (in acrylic, oil, and watercolour), woodworking, photography, fibre arts, metal works, mixed media, etc.

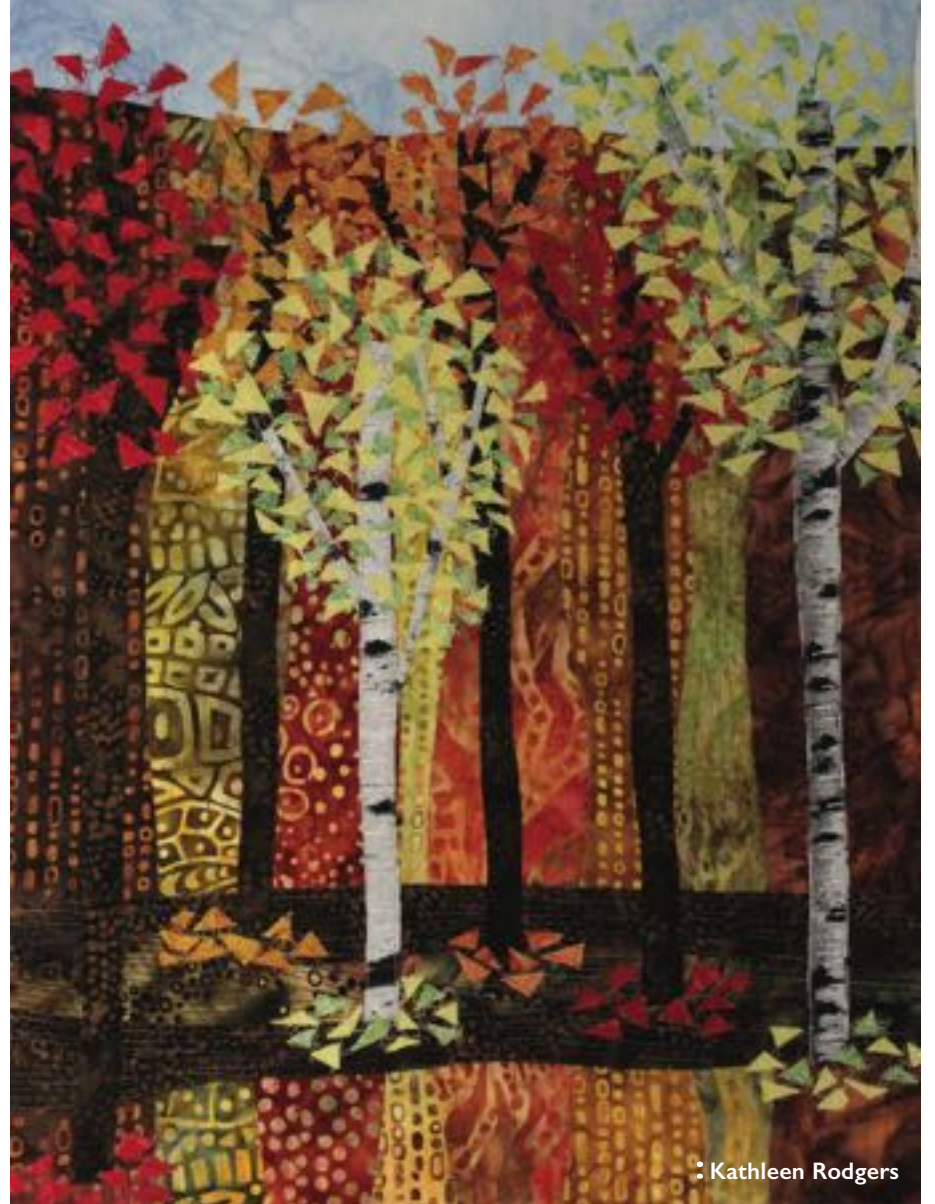
**Studio Tour King** will feature many artists and artisans in studios around King Township including King City, Nobelton and Schomberg. Their information can be found on the Arts Society King (ASK) website at [www.ArtsSocietyKing.ca](http://www.ArtsSocietyKing.ca) as of **April 5th**. Go to the ASK website, click on **EVENTS** then **VIRTUAL STUDIO TOUR 2021** to see the participating artists, their biographies and up to twelve photos of their artwork for sale. There will be a link to his/her website and social media accounts for additional artwork available. If you are interested in purchasing any item, please contact the artist directly for their payment options and to arrange for delivery of the item.

Here are a few of the artists who will be participating this year:

**MARIANNE BROOME** was born in England but spent much of her childhood in Malaysia. The stunning scenery and abundance of exotic animals and plants heightened her love of nature and a keen interest in drawing and painting. Marianne settled in Canada in 1980 and lives in Schomberg, Ontario. Marianne's art education in England was furthered by courses in Canada. She is a full-time artist and a sought after art instructor for both acrylics and watercolours. Her stunning paintings of flowers, landscapes and abstracts have been exhibited in many juried exhibitions in which she has received numerous awards, including several "Best in Show". Her work has been commissioned for publishing and used for tapestry designs, greeting cards and fine porcelain. Her website is [www.naturesedgestudio.ca](http://www.naturesedgestudio.ca).

**INGE DAM** is a handweaver and has been weaving since 1982. In her work, she uses natural materials such as silk and cotton, dyeing most of them. She specializes in weaving scarves, and making small bags and greeting cards from her leftover handwoven and handdyed fabric. Sometimes, Inge finds inspiration for her work in nature but most often she finds inspiration from working with many different colours and combining them with complex weave structures. Her website is [www.ingedam.net](http://www.ingedam.net).

**JACKIE ENGLAND's** love of horses, as well as cats, dogs, nature and wildlife, are prominent subjects in her art repertoire. She also took up the art of creating unique hand-designed bears that have appeared in numerous shows and gift shops throughout Ontario. Her bears have also been featured in bear magazines throughout Canada, the United States and Britain. Eventually, her interest in horses turned to painting them (and other subjects) and, under the tutelage of Welsh artist/instructor, Michael Spillane (Spillane Studio of Fine Arts), she began a journey to realize her artistic ambitions of drawing and painting the subjects she truly loves. Her first step is to create realistic drawings in fine detail before moving to canvas to paint. The drawing process gives her insight into the heart of the subject and provides for a good overall composition. Her pencil becomes an imaginary horse grooming tool as she "feels" her way into the drawing. She has worked in various mediums over the years, such as pastel, watercolour, gouache, acrylic, graphite and oil, but tends to focus a lot on oil painting due to the intense colours that can be achieved. She is always striving to create photo-realistic paintings – especially for her equestrian subjects. Her greatest wish is that upon viewing these paintings, the viewer will see what she sees in her mind's eye as she brings these gorgeous creatures to life on the canvas.



: Kathleen Rodgers



: Ivanka Pipinikova



: Stephen Sloan

(continued on page 17)



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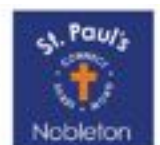
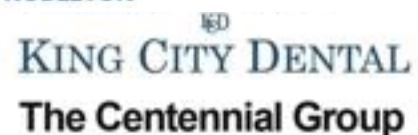


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**HANS MARTIN** retired after a career in Atmospheric Physics in 1998 and in 2003 took up watercolour painting. He enrolled in well-known artist Donnah Cameron's watercolour classes in Newmarket until a few years ago when she moved. In time he became familiar with various art organizations including SOYRA and ASK. He has participated in several shows and other special events. He has won several watercolour awards including two honourable mentions and three first prizes.

**IVANKA PIPINIKOVA** has been an artist since she first started drawing and painting as a child. In school, she used to participate in competitions, and won several awards in recognition of her artistic talent. Many years later, Ivanka found herself rediscovering her love of creating art when she signed up for oil painting classes with Vladimir Ribatchok in 2009. She hasn't stopped painting since. She is an Artist member of Willowdale Group of Artists since 2011. Her paintings were chosen to be on display at the Annual Spring Juried Art Shows every year since 2012. Other shows include Annual Fall shows and Sunnybrook Hospital art show. In 2014 she joined the King Craft Studio. She became an Artist member of King City ASK in 2014 and she has been taking part in ASK Studio Tour every year since 2014. In 2015 she joined SOYRA and has been participating with her art in the annual shows at the Aurora Cultural Center. For the last 3 years, her artwork has been chosen for the Aurora Town Hall juried shows. In 2018 and 2019 she took part in North York Visual Arts Fall Show. She mainly paints with oils, but she is continuously exploring and experimenting with other mediums. Constantly growing and evolving as an artist, Ivanka aims to create beautiful, impactful art that conveys the feeling and mood of a moment in a way that the viewer can become a part of it. Her website is <https://ivankampblog.wordpress.com>.

**LUCY QUIN** finds inspiration in the endless wonder of the seasons and the beautiful scenery that Canada offers. From Ontario farm fields and Provincial Parks to the East and West coast, Visual artist Lucy Quin is enchanted by



: Inge  
: Dam

the Canadian landscape. Canadian Seasons were for her a new road and have had a dramatic impact on the direction she has taken as an artist. She prefers to paint in the classic style used by Tonalist/Luminist artists, with a contemporary approach that combined with the spirituality she finds in nature allows her to create works that are mood evoking and timeless. Her website is [www.lucyquin.com](http://www.lucyquin.com).

After exploring traditional quilt blocks for 20+ years, **KATHLEEN RODGERS** became interested in creating fibre art designs based on colour and shape for Art Quilts, table runners and lap quilts using her own hand-dyed and hand-painted fabrics and batiks. She has participated in group fibre art exhibits and numerous studio tours for several years, including the International Women's Day Show (OMAH) and the Fibre Content travelling exhibit (2018). She had her first solo show at Burr House Gallery and Tearoom in November 2019. Her website is [www.kathleenrogersartisan.ca](http://www.kathleenrogersartisan.ca)

A native of Toronto, Canada, **STEVE SILVERMAN** is a Canadian award-winning, fine art photographer with a keen and unique artistic vision. His love and appreciation for black and white photography is reflected in his dramatic landscapes and engaging cityscapes from across Canada. Steve's photos are metaphorical - an implied comparison creating a link between the mundane and the sublime, a visual interpretation of the world around him. He uses strong tonal contrast, texture, and mood to express his artistic vision. His photos are easily recognizable by his use of strong leading lines combined with the interplay of light and shadows to create depth, giving a two-dimensional image the illusion of three dimensions. Steve's photos have been published in books and magazines. He is also a guest speaker at local camera clubs.

Steve works in conjunction with several Canadian and international galleries and publishers on a variety of corporate and home decor fine art projects. His website is [www.monochromevision.com](http://www.monochromevision.com).

As a lifelong photography enthusiast, **STEPHEN SLOAN** hopes his work brings you some of the joy he has found in creating it. He enjoys the entire process of creating a photographic print, from the press of the shutter all the way through to the translation to the print media. He has worked with both film and digital, in the darkroom and in front of my computer. He likes to work with various print media and his interest in subjects and techniques varies greatly as he enjoys constantly learning and challenging himself. While Stephen strives to satisfy his need to express himself with every image that reaches the printed stage, delivering an image that also evokes an emotional response, prompts a memory or even inspires a viewer is an even greater reward. His website is [www.considerthis.company](http://www.considerthis.company).

If you are looking for something to do in April after a long cold winter, visit some art studios virtually to support the local artists and artisans. Some artists offer classes so it may be an opportunity to try something new! Who knows maybe one day you will be participating in a studio tour!

The artists look forward to "seeing" you and sharing their work with you on this year's Studio Tour King 2021! We hope to be an in-person event in 2022!!



: Steve Silverman



: Hans Martin



: Jackie England



: Lucy Quin

• The daughters of  
• James Barnes Benyon  
• Sr. and Lydia Love,  
• circa 1903

## BEYNON FAMILY CELEBRATES 200 YEARS IN KING

Story by Kim Sillcox, member of the King Township Historical Society

LAST SUMMER, ONE OF KING TOWNSHIP'S ORIGINAL FAMILIES CELEBRATED THEIR 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARRIVING IN KING.

According to Marilyn Beynon, wife of the late Bob Beynon, their family reunion was a modest affair with about 30 family members and hosted by her son Rob Beynon, a 6th generation descendent of John Beynon. Rob held the event at his farm – Broadview – the only remaining Beynon farm which has been in the family since 1841. Formerly a Guernsey cattle farm, Rob now farms mostly cash crops. John Beynon and his wife Jane Whitten, immigrated to Canada from Ireland in November 1819 with their eight children (including an elder son, James from a previous marriage), and went on to settle in King as farmers. Three more children were born in Canada between 1822 and 1831.

According to an article that appeared in The York Pioneer, 2010, John was a distant cousin of William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania and his position in the Orange Order was the major reason for his emigration. Originally a Bannon, he changed the spelling of his family name and

sold his property, "repudiating Orangeism en route to Canada."

The family established itself in King by acquiring a number of farms (there are at least six on record). Five of their sons' names appear on the original deeds for different farms along Bathurst Street, north and south of the King-Vaughan Line based on an 1878 map of Richmond Hill. All of John and Jane Beynon's children married, except one and three found partners among the local Love family, of which 'Love's Corners' is named. Others married members of the Philips family, another local farming family. When the postal service arrived in 1871, the name was changed to Temperanceville and early records show a strong Beynon family association with the Methodist Church there. Eventually, three more churches were built on that same acre of land on the southwest corner of Lot 66, Concession 1, the trustees of which included three of John's sons: James Barnes, Jonathan and Thomas Beynon. According to the family

history, at least three family members went on to become Methodist ministers and a daughter of James Barnes Sr., Ann Beynon, served as a missionary in Africa for many years.

The family built some historic homes on their farms, including Lakeview, a two-storey white frame house overlooking a small lake on the south half of Lot 2, II, and The Maples (later Wildridge) – on the south half of Lot 3, II, a brick home built by William Thomas Beynon in 1889. The descendants of John and Jane Beynon have gone on to leave positive marks on their communities. In addition to farmers and ministers, they became writers, suffragists, nurses, lawyers, teachers and artists.

Their progeny include two granddaughters of James Barnes Beynon Sr. Lillian Kathleen Beynon was educated as a teacher and then became a writer with the Manitoba Free Press and Prairie Farmer in 1907. Her sister, Francis Beynon, became editor of the women's page for The Grain Grower's Guide (these pages became instruments in the fight for women's rights). Both were ahead of their time; Lillian went on to produce plays, short stories and one novel New Secret and Francis is best known for her novel Aleta Dey in 1919. Aleta Day was republished

in London, England in 1988, and in 1984, a play by Wendy Lill, The Fighting Days, with Francis as heroine, toured Manitoba, ran for three weeks in Toronto and was performed at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa in 1985.

The great-granddaughter of James Barnes Sr., Dorothy Ann Macham, worked as a nurse at Women's College Hospital before enlisting in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. She received an Associate Royal Red Cross presented by George VI at Buckingham Palace in 1943. Retiring in 1945 with the rank of Major, she returned to Canada and became superintendent of Women's College Hospital for the next 30 years. After receiving the Order of Canada in 1980, a further honour came in 2001 when Sunnybrook and Women's Hospitals opened a veteran facility named The Dorothy Macham Home.

John Whitten Beynon's descendants include Dennis Beynon Lee, Toronto poet and children's writer perhaps best known for his early works, Alligator Pie, and the late Elisabeth Gibson, an elected member of the Society of Canadian Painters in Watercolour and the Society of Canadian Artists.

In 1984, a reunion brought 80 family members together for their 175th anniversary. And in 1996, the Beynon family tree was compiled by the late Josephine (Beynon) Boos, building on the work of others before her. Then in 2012, the Beynon Fields Public School opened in the subdivision across from the family farm in Richmond Hill. Josephine passed away on February 6, 2020 at the age of 97, and will be remembered with great fondness as the family historian.

Sources: Thank you Marilyn Beynon for sharing your photos and family history with the KTHS, with excerpts from The York Pioneer, 2010.

**Together Again** (a new exhibit at the KHCC when it reopens) uses 20th century images pulled from the King Township Archives and features a number of Beynon family photos, including groups on Broadview Farm.



• Beynon Family reunion



• Beynon Family tree



## BIOLOGIST AT THE TABLE

The life your food leads before it reaches the plate

**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.



## Martini Parisian

Here is a cocktail I developed after ordering a martini in Paris. "Rouge ou blanc?" the waiter asked. I never heard of a red martini, so responded "Blanc." He returned with a glass of Martini brand of white, sweet vermouth. It was delicious, but too sweet. Returning home, I experimented and came up with a drier drink that still captures the flavours. It's perfect for the patio when the spring returns.

Combine 2 oz. of vodka and 1 oz. on Martini Bianco Vermouth, ice, and a vanilla bean in a cocktail shaker. Let the bean sit for a few minutes to let the vanilla flavour infuse into the mix, then shake vigorously. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass and garnish with a twist of lemon. Save the bean; you can use it many times over.

*Cheers.*

— Illustration by Cheryl Uhrig  
cuhrig@rogers.com

# THE ONLY ORCHID WE EAT

IN THE WARMER MONTHS, JEAN AND I LIKE TO TAKE AN AFTER-DINNER WALK.

Several times a week we "just happen" to pass by the local ice cream parlour; and "spontaneously" decide to stop in. There are always several dozen flavours, and it's often hard to choose between the fruity, nutty and chocolaty concoctions on offer. I've tried a lot of them, but I don't recall ever asking for vanilla. Nor do I recall anyone else in line asking for it. You could say that vanilla doesn't get much respect. According to the thesaurus, the word "vanilla" is synonymous with ordinary, boring, unexciting, bland, dull, and insipid. It's the Rodney Dangerfield of flavours. And yet, ounce for ounce, it is the second most expensive of the spices; only saffron is more dear. So, what is vanilla and why does it cost so much?

In a narrow band of forests in South Central Mexico, in the states of Chiapas and Quintana Roo, there grows a rare vine that climbs as high as 10 meters up the tree trunks. It's the vanilla orchid. Compared to the orchids sold by florists, the vanilla flowers are somewhat drab—a dull white with brownish speckles—but fragrant. When they go to seed, each flower transforms into a pod resembling a green bean, which eventually dries to a dreary brown. The seeds and the fleshy tissues

inside are rich in vanillin, the chemical that flavours ice cream, candy, cake, pudding, yogurt, and a few potent beverages.

The flower-to-bean transformation requires pollinations, and with orchids, not just any old bee will do. Many orchids species depend upon a single bee species, in one-to-one fashion. More precisely, these orchids depend upon the males of their particular bee. The size, shape and scent of the orchid flower co-evolves with the size, shape and scent preferences of its pollinator.

There is a whole branch of the bee evolutionary tree that specializes in orchids. Unlike their honeybee cousins, they do not form large colonies headed by a queen, nor do they have sterile workers. Females typically construct a simple mud nest. They spend their lives gathering pollen and nectar from several plants, not just orchids, to feed the brood back at the nest. These mothers truly are busy as bees.

The male's job, in contrast, is simply to inseminate females. And he depends on the scent of this particular orchid to get the job done. Upon emerging from the nest, young males search out their specific orchid. When they find one, they crawl into the flower and use special brushes on

their forelegs to scrape away at the scent glands, collecting the resin-like chemicals. They then use combs on their middle legs to transfer the resin into a sponge-filled cavity inside the hind legs. In the process, they unintentionally brush against the flower's anther and get a tiny sack of pollen glued onto their body. The routine is repeated again and again, and at each flower, they gather more scent, and unintentionally, drop off and pick up new pollen sacs. After a number of flower visits, the male switches to mating mode. He perches at a display site and waits for potential mates to pass by. Females judge the quality of the male by the quantity of the scent he has collected and reject the advances of those found wanting. So, a male bee that picks the right orchid and collects enough scent passes his genes to the next generation. From the plant's perspective, it is the ones that attract a male bee of the right shape and size who pass on their genes.

This story applies to many orchids, but what about vanilla? Who is its pollinator? The simple answer is that no one is sure. Several bees have been proposed, but conclusive evidence has been hard to get. What we do know is that

the unidentified pollinator lives only in those Mexican forests. When Spanish and French trading companies tried to establish vanilla plantations elsewhere, their vines produced flowers, but no beans. It took over a century to find an efficient technique for hand pollination. In 1841, a young lad named Edmond Albius discovered the trick, which involved inserting a slender stick into the flower and pinching it just so. The tiny pollen sack stuck to the stick, which he could transfer to the next plant. And to this day every vanilla bean you buy is the result of a farmworker making a hand pollination. It's the labour-intensive pollination and low yield per acre that makes vanilla very expensive. As a sad aside, because Albius was a slave he was denied the fame and fortune he deserved.

While vanilla is expensive, it is the most used flavouring in the world. It is usually cast in a supporting role. The Aztecs added it to their chocolate drink, and Europeans followed suit. Vanilla is also used to round out many of those nutty and fruity flavours at the ice cream parlour. So, what have we learned? Vanilla orchids are plants, and ice cream has vanilla, therefore ice cream is a vegetable. Right?



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by Kalli Secord, Librarian | kinglibrary.ca

While a global pandemic has forced the King Township Public Library (KTPL) to temporarily close our doors to patrons, we at KTPL are doing everything we can to minimize the effects of this closure for our patrons!

Throughout the closure, the Library continues to offer Curbside Service, allowing the public to continue to borrow books and materials. Our website is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with your Library card

you can download eBooks, eAudiobooks, and eMagazines; stream movies and music; and use our online resources. Visit [kinglibrary.ca](http://kinglibrary.ca) for our virtual programs including Circle Time, Book Club and Write Now @ King.

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## Climate Action By All

Debbie Schaefer, member of Climate Action King  
**King Township Councillor, Ward 5**

There is an urgency to respond to climate change.

All levels of government have announced targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions by 2030; some levels have announced net zero GHG emissions by 2050. People may argue about the goals and question whether there is action to deliver those goals; but there is no question that our governments cannot do it alone. Citizens need to get engaged and make modifications to how we live, work and play.

A new citizens group in King, Climate Action King (CAK), has been formed to inspire, encourage, and support action by individuals, families, and businesses. CAK aspires to play a role in reducing climate threats and consequences and promote climate resilience and economic adaptation. The group is working on educational resources that demonstrate actions to respond to climate change and show the benefits of such actions. Like governments CAK cannot do this alone and wants to partner with other groups to make this a community effort.

Citizens working together have been successful in fostering change in King. For example, Concerned Citizens of King Township (CCKT) has been active for more than 50 years and partnered with citizens in other municipalities to help establish the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. The Dufferin Marsh Nature Connection is a local community group; along with its partners it works to preserve and enhance the Marsh. And, under the auspices of a municipal advisory committee, citizens came together in 2009, at the King City Arena, to learn about reducing their carbon

footprint when the Micro FIT program was introduced under the Green Energy Act (2009). The hall was overflowing with people interested to learn about the economics and the "how to" from experienced persons. Many people and the Township went on to create Micro-FIT solar arrays and have been lowering their carbon footprints ever since.

There are many ways citizens can take action to respond to climate change and reduce GHG emissions, including choices in the clothes we wear, the food we eat, how we heat our homes, how much we travel and how we travel. Transportation causes 25% of GHG emissions in Canada, not including the contribution of the oil and gas sector that contributes 26%. As King Township is largely a commuter community, CAK has decided to focus initially on ways to reduce GHG emissions through the transportation sector.

Climate Action King's first initiative is to host a free on-line seminars on Electric Vehicles (EV) as an opportunity to learn from people who use electric vehicles every day. The pros and cons, costs, savings, range issues, charging options, availability, and day to day routines from real owners and experts will be presented. The seminar is on March 24 at 7PM. To register go to [www.climateactionking.ca](http://www.climateactionking.ca). One seminar had already been conducted at time of writing; it was extremely well received and has been recommended to friends.

Climate Action King welcomes new members and looks forward to working with everyone who wants to see a healthy future for all.





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# LEGACY

# planning

The great use of life is to spend it for something that outlasts it.

~WILLIAM JAMES

By Sandra Stewart



• Jennifer Walker with her family

Most of us experienced great relief to see the end of 2020, and continue to nurture cautious optimism for 2021.

The past year served to remind us that while some of what happens in our lives is out of our control, we still have the power to make a difference within our own sphere of influence. Focusing our thoughts and actions on what we can control is empowering and provides peace of mind. Our personal legacy is one example.

Your legacy is every life you've touched, and all of your efforts in the service of others. Whether you're aware of it or not, you are building your legacy right now, and for each of us it is uniquely personal. Legacy is about more than how we will be remembered; it is about how we choose to live – with intent, aware of our impact on family, friends, community, work and generations to come.

For Jennifer Walker, Partner at Carruthers Financial & Associates in Aurora, legacy is important and has played a critical role in who she is today. "I grew up in a religious home with my brothers and sister, where charity work was a part of the fabric of our everyday family life. We belonged to service groups, gave back to our community, donated to our church, and volunteered with Special Olympics. We didn't have much to give, but we did what we could financially and through our time and energy. Those lessons have stayed with me, and I am mindful of passing them on to my three children."

Like Jennifer, many people inherit a legacy of character and giving to their community through lessons learned from family. Modelling behaviour, sharing wisdom, and embodying

the values we wish to pass along to family and friends are ways we create legacy through action. Our personal legacy can seem like a distant project we will one day 'get to', but the reality is we are creating our legacy every day, through every decision and interaction. How we overcome adversity, embrace great achievements and hold steadfast to our principles all become part of our personal legacy that we demonstrate, and pass along.

For many, the financial assets and security they will pass along are also important elements of legacy. "As our clients' financial planning partner, we help bring their vision to life through careful planning," says Jennifer Walker of Carruthers Financial & Associates. "There are so many options available to leave a legacy of financial security to family and cherished charities including gifting RRSPs, insurance, real estate and personal assets."

Interested in being more proactive about your personal legacy? Here are 5 steps to get you started:

## 1. WRITE A PERSONAL LEGACY STATEMENT

Take the time for some introspection and craft a personal legacy statement – a declaration of how you intend to live your life and how you wish to impact others. With a clear vision, you'll be more purposeful moving forward.

## 2. CONSIDER WHERE YOU WANT TO MAKE AN IMPACT

Where do you aspire to make an impact? Is it in the lives of your children, grandchildren, or close circle of friends? Perhaps it's important for you to positively shape the future of your local community. Your church, a community service group or a local hospital may all be organizations you wish to gift as part of your legacy.

## 3. WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO GIVE

"Many people think they have nothing to give, and so they don't," says Jennifer Walker. "But there are so many ways to give that don't involve money. Our time, energy, professional expertise and resources are all welcome ways to make a meaningful contribution to our community. Imagine the collective impact if we all did just a little."

## 4. PLAN YOUR FINANCIAL LEGACY

Consider the security and prosperity you want to pass along, then work closely with your financial planner to ensure you're on the right path. "Your financial plan and estate plan need to be aligned in order to meet your

needs today, along with your legacy goals for the future," says Jennifer Walker of Carruthers Financial and Associates.

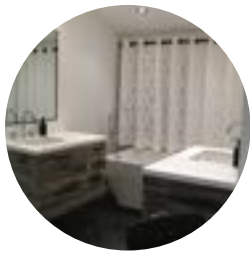
## 5. PUTTING THOUGHT INTO ACTION

It's an incredible gift to share one's life story, experience and wisdom with your family. There are many options to pass along and preserve our personal legacy. Family discussions, taping a video, crafting a letter or producing a book about your life's journey are all wonderful ways to give children a stronger connection to their family, and to create a legacy keepsake that will be a lifelong treasure.

During this exceptional time in our history, it's helpful to shift our mindset to the positive and the future. Embracing our vision for our personal legacy can be a gift not only for family, friends and community but for ourselves, giving us the opportunity to live fully, richly and with purpose. "As I endeavour to live with intent and with my legacy in mind, I look forward to continuing my active involvement in my children's schools, fundraising for local charities like Margaret Bahen Hospice, and supporting Camp Oochigeas, the Aurora Cultural Centre and the Able Network," says Jennifer Walker.

**EVERYONE WILL LEAVE A LEGACY. YOURS AWAITS.**

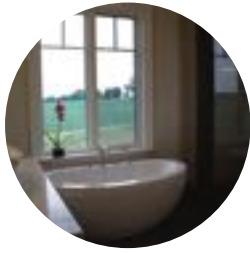
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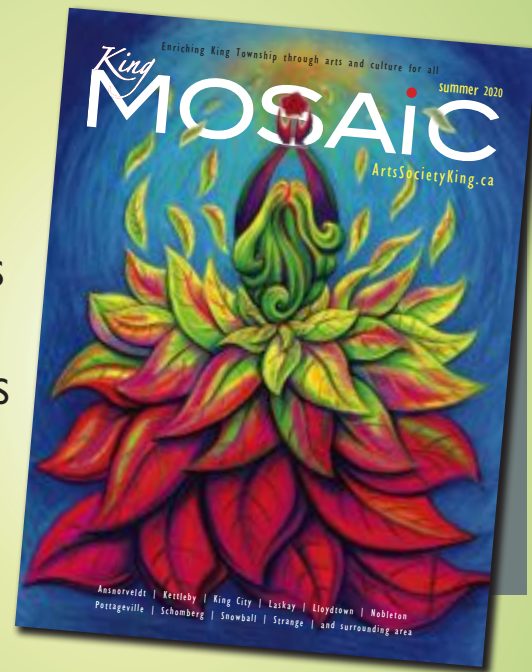
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