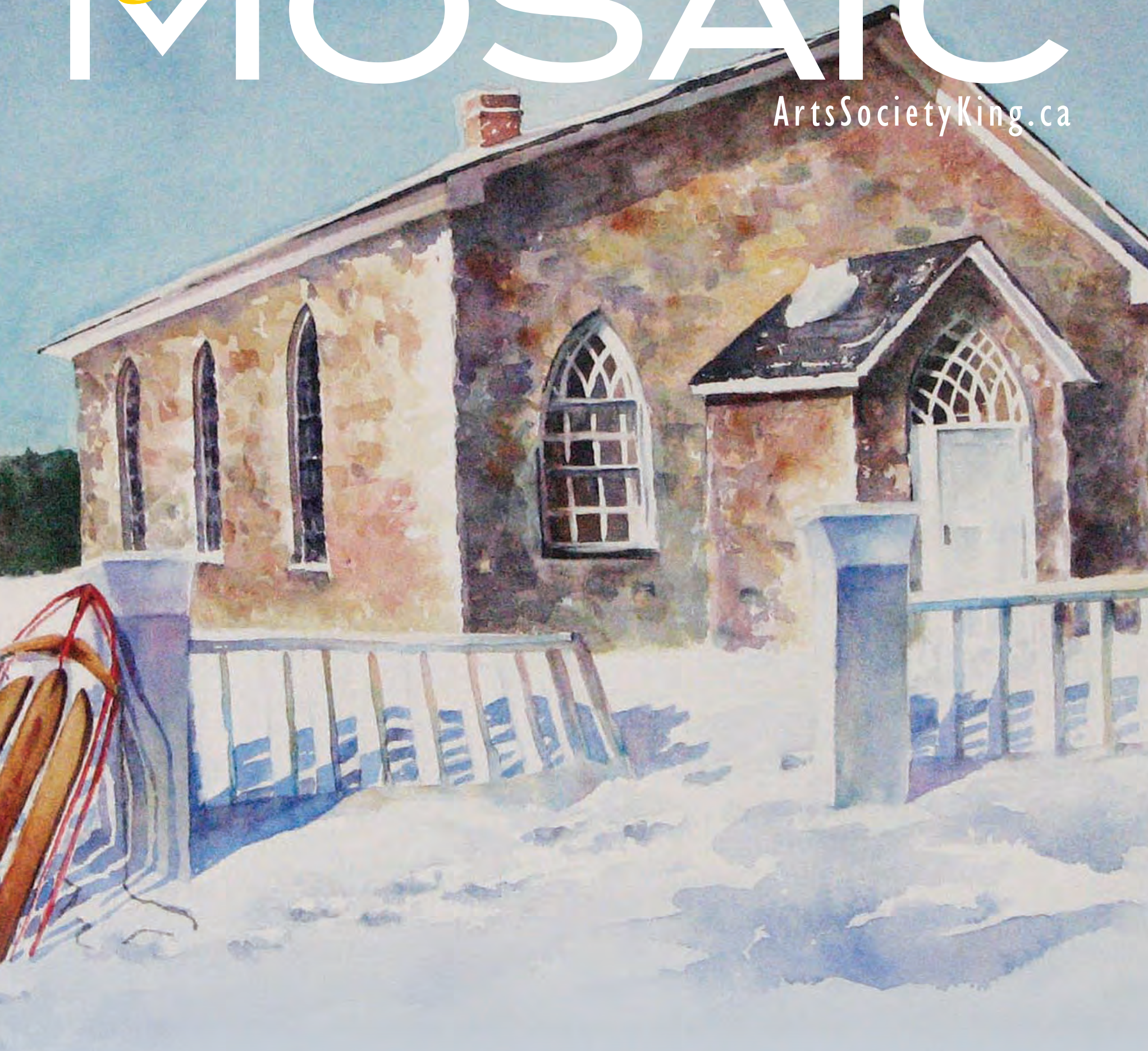


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King MOSAIC is produced by Arts Society King four times a year (March, June, September, and December), by a dedicated committee of volunteers.

The magazine is distributed by London Publishing Corp. to all households in King as well as libraries, businesses, restaurants, offices, and other public places.

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We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

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FEATURED CONTRIBUTOR:

TRENT  
MAYERS



Trent is the President and Chief Wine Expert at his company, Wine Journeys, which focuses on wine and food pairing events. He has been a wine lover for over 40 years and lives with his wife Sue and 3 cats, along with several hundred bottles of wine. During his journey, he earned MSc in microbiology and has been trained to the Advance Level by the Wine & Spirits Education Trust (WSET London). His favorite wine quote comes from Shakespeare: "Good company, good wine, good welcome can make good people". Trent truly believes that dining together with a glass of wine makes the world a better place. Read Trent's exploration of York Region-based wineries on page 17.



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REFLECTIONS ON A  
50TH ANNIVERSARY

OUR COVER  
PHYLLIS  
VERNON



Featured on the cover of the winter issue of MOSAIC is a painting of King Township's Eversley Church by artist Phyllis Vernon. Phyllis is a global traveler and adventurer, natural storyteller, and curious artist. Her focus, artistic style, and portfolio are as broad as her life experiences: from water colour to acrylic to multimedia, Phyllis paints everything from heritage homes, animals, nature, lifestyle, to, most recently, King Township's stately and historic barns. Read more about Phyllis on page 4.

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THE ICE GIANTS OF HENSALL

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A LOST GENERATION FOUND

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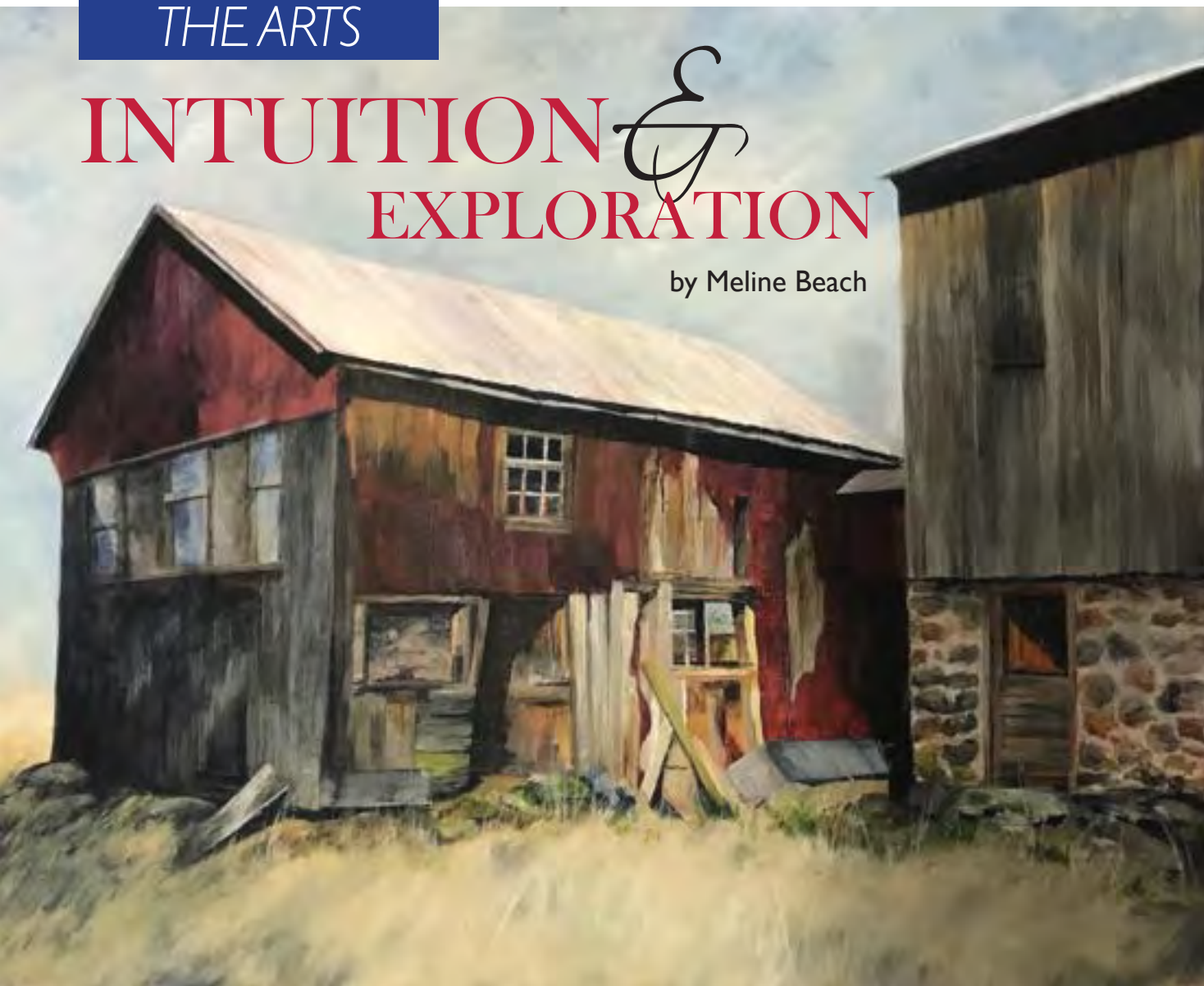
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# INTUITION & EXPLORATION

by Meline Beach



Seahorse and Silhouettes



Go For Gold

## Broad experiences, perspectives, and an inquiring mind

Phyllis Vernon is a global adventurer, natural storyteller, and curious artist. It is difficult to decide which of these related characteristics happened first and caused the others.

## Global influences

Before their careers and family were established, Phyllis and her husband Len spent eight months travelling the world. Phyllis always keeps a sketchbook on hand and often draws her observations, mostly while waiting somewhere. A mini paint kit with a little canister of water was the first thing she'd pack during her travels, well before she ever thought of herself as an artist.

Phyllis immerses herself in each exploration. Often her global travels are spent in residence with locals, where she learns their language and cultural nuances. She speaks French fluently and taught herself Spanish through billeted experiences with families in Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Cuba. A bookcase full of travel books is indicative of Phyllis' desire to research each destination for maximum benefit- perhaps an innate characteristic from her career as a teacher-librarian, something which afforded her summers to travel. Numerous trips throughout South and Central America, in particular, have instilled in her a deep fascination of Maya and Inca civilizations.

"I love history and the personal stories of history," says Phyllis. "Travel shifts your perspective and exposes you to different ways of being, doing, and living life."

Travel illuminates many aspects of life, which Phyllis paints with vibrant precision- be it of floating sea turtles and coral reefs from her scuba diving adventures in the open waters of

the Caribbean, to innocent bystanders along rural streets in Havana. Closer to home, Phyllis explores local marshes, provincial parks, and farmer's fields for inspiration. Wherever she travels, near or far, she ventures out of her comfort zone to find beauty in her surroundings. Her experiences are visually memorialized in her paintings, recounted with each and every step through her home.

One of her paintings is of an indoor market where merchants are selling sweet and savoury ingredients derived from the bark, buds, fruit, roots, seeds, and stems of various plants or trees, snuggled in between pots and pans and livestock. The colours are bright, the paint is thick, and the description she offers is so detailed you can imagine wafts of different scents filling the air around you. Your salivary glands may also respond as she describes baskets and barrels of sweet cinnamon, hot tropical chillies, and smoked cloves. The thought of it all is enough to transport you across the world, even just for a moment.

## Interpretive storytelling

Phyllis loves to hear stories- and tell them too. A natural storyteller, she describes each work of art to minute detail. Her thoughts are vivid and abundant and her words are fluid, as if she's reading from her personal diary. Even if a work of art is not her own, Phyllis can look at it and immediately, without hesitation, create a credible and engaging narrative.

"I wonder what he's thinking about," she says of a statue she purchased while travelling in Spain. If you give her a minute, Phyllis will fill your imagination with a tale that will immediately ground you.

Each story behind her art connects us to her work, expands our understanding of her journey, and encourages a deeper appreciation of the world around us.

"The truth is good enough in telling stories," says Phyllis. "There's an intrinsic value in getting out, creating your own experiences, and meeting new people."

## Constant curiosity

Perhaps the most important driving force behind Phyllis' art is her genuine sense of curiosity. Phyllis spent 10 years studying watercolour in weekend and week-long workshops before branching out to find herself, pushing the boundaries of expression and exploration along the way.

Her greatest accomplishment is the freedom she feels to discover her unique artistic passions. Phyllis paints whatever appears to be fun at the time in any manner she chooses, including acrylic on canvas, graphite drawings, and sculpturing. She once even carved a loon out of wood and, from paper mâché, crafted a colourful dragon.

Her current interest lies in abstract realism involving multimedia arts, using different techniques and materials such as stencils, feathers, and Gelli plate printing to create texture. She also paints on plastic canvases and lets the paint create its fate.

"I let the paint dry and see how it turns out," she says. "I like to think of the process as really involving three of us exploring together – the paint, the surface, and me."

Curiosity is key in wondering what can be done. "What if, what's next, let's try" runs through her mind as she explores and experiments.

Phyllis' focus and portfolio are as broad as her life experiences – everything from heritage homes, animals, nature, and simple scenes to, most recently, barns, a dying form of architecture throughout King Township. She'll often capture photos and explore properties of abandoned, decrepit, and working barns all.

"Barns offer a sense of the past, the present, and the future – the possibilities of what was, is, and what it will be next," says Phyllis. "Some barns appear untouched inside, like the people just evaporated, leaving parts of their lives behind."

Blue barns, red roof barns, barns with only a stone foundation remaining – they all catch Phyllis' attention and imagination.

During one of her explorations, she ran into a man who described himself as a disassembler, hired to take apart barns. Intrigued by his mission, she made sure to visit this barn on a regular basis, capturing various stages of its disappearance: painting its ghost-like image amongst construction equipment, with a new subdivision in the background- an inevitable outcome for many barns, unfortunately.

Phyllis' curiosity and natural love of horses, an important part of her life, has led to riding. She works with a professional coach and rides five days a week, perfecting the intellectual, physical, and emotional challenges of classical Dressage.

"I love to dance with Jericho," says Phyllis of her horse, who has inspired several paintings in various colours and styles.

Her paintings are not only memorable to her, but to those who approach her for commissioned work – an honour Phyllis takes seriously. Given the level of effort, creative energy, and curiosity in getting it right, there is a degree of difficulty in parting from her work. But knowing her art is special to someone else as a treasure preserving their own memories creates a level of contentment beyond words.

To see samples of Phyllis' work, visit [phyllisvernon.com](http://phyllisvernon.com).





• Ruth Cowans Mackay with  
• pony Goosey Gander, 1960s

# LADY EATON'S GOVERNESS CART

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

In King Township, we are fortunate to have had several famous residents who have helped put us on the map.

While we often share their stories in the exhibitions we host, we are not always lucky enough to receive artifacts used by them to help tell these stories. So, you can imagine how thrilled we were to hear that a governess cart owned by Lady Eaton was not only still in existence, but being offered, in pristine condition, as a gift to the King Heritage & Cultural Centre.

Many of you will remember the Eaton family, of Canadian department store fame. The T. Eaton Company was founded in Toronto in 1869 by Timothy Eaton. The company grew rapidly with stores across Canada and a catalogue that many still remember scanning through to find everything from clothes to household goods. The success of the company quickly made Eaton's a household name and made the family one of the richest in Canada. Upon Timothy's death in 1907, the company passed to his son, John Craig Eaton.

Lady Eaton (1879-1970) was born in Omeme, Ontario, as Flora McCrea. She was working as a nurse in Toronto when she met a young patient named John Craig Eaton. The couple married in 1901 and raised four sons and two daughters in a lavish, custom-built home in Toronto called Ardworld. Located near Casa Loma, Ardworld reportedly had 50 rooms, 14 bathrooms, a swimming pool, and a private hospital! In 1915, when her husband was knighted, Flora became Lady Eaton.

In 1920, on the suggestion of their friend Sir Henry Pellatt, John and Flora purchased a country estate in King Township (Dufferin Street and 15th Sideroad) and had a large manor house built. It is my understanding that she built Eaton Hall in the 1930s, well after the death of her husband. Today, Eaton Hall is home to Seneca College.

When her husband succumbed to pneumonia in 1922, the widowed Lady Eaton stayed active with the family business. By the mid-1930s, Eaton Hall had become her main



• Sir John Craig Eaton and Lady Eaton at  
• the opening of Eaton's on College Street

residence. You can easily imagine the cart rolling along the hills of the property, with her children or grandchildren happily bouncing along inside.

Made by English carriage maker J.A. Lawton around 1910, Lady Eaton's cart is a two-wheeled, horse-drawn vehicle commonly known as a 'governess cart'. The tub-style body and rear entrance door provided an enclosed seating area that made it relatively safe for transporting children. The cart could be pulled by a pony or small horse and was popular with wealthy families, for use by young women. The cart was likely used to transport some of the six Eaton children, all born between 1903 and 1920. It was designed so the governess would be able to sit in the cart with them, to keep a watchful eye.

The cart was given to our donor's grandmother, Ruth Cowans Mackay, in the 1960s. Mrs. Mackay had told her friend Bob Hollingsworth, Lady Eaton's stable manager, that she was looking for a small cart for a pony. Hollingsworth knew that Lady Eaton was no longer using her governess cart and offered to ask. Lady Eaton responded that she no longer needed it and that Mackay could have it, giving it a new life with her family in Montreal. Years later, her granddaughter moved to King Township and the pony cart returned. This means that the KHCC is only the third owner of this beautiful cart.

The family has kept the vehicle in beautiful condition, retaining its original colours, which happen to match the Eaton brand. The cart also includes original lantern lights, sixteen-spoke wheels with rubber tires, and horsehair padding, all of which add to its charm and authenticity.

Lady Eaton's cart is on display at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre (2920 King Road, King City) until December 18. Come by and see it for yourself Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am to 4pm. For more information, contact [kingmuseum@king.ca](mailto:kingmuseum@king.ca) or (905) 833-2331.



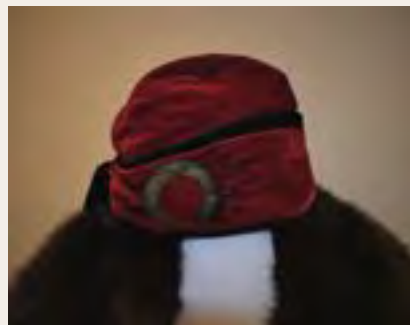
• Present day, King Heritage & Cultural Centre

THE KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE PRESENTS:

## CLARA'S CLOSET

VINTAGE FASHION OF KING TOWNSHIP

We are proud to be bringing a new regular feature to MOSAiC! Welcome to **Clara's Closet**, a column featuring vintage fashion from our textile collection. The name Clara's Closet is inspired by Lady Clara (Ellsworth) Flavelle (1858-1932), the previous owner of some of our most fashionable items. To kick off our inaugural feature in the winter issue of MOSAiC, we have pulled together some of our warmest (and most stylish) gear.



### RED CLOCHE HAT, 1920s

A cloche hat (or cloche) is a fitted, bell-shaped women's hat. They were invented in Paris in 1908 by Caroline Reboux and named after the French word for bell.



### TOP HAT, 1910s

A top hat is a tall, flat-topped hat for men, typically worn as formal wear. Some were covered in silk, while others, like this one, were covered in felt. This hat was one of the first items donated to the collection in 1983.



### CAPE, 1890s

This cape is made of thick velvet, with a ribbon around the edge and a hook and eye at the collar. Short capes like this one were all the rage in the late 19th century. However, by the 1910s longer styles had become fashionable, eventually giving way to long coats rather than capes.





# Whispers OF WINTERS' PAST

4 POEMS INSPIRED BY HISTORIC KING

by Dorita Peer

## DAYS LONG AGO

By Deborah Beauchamp  
deborahlbeauchamp@gmail.com

Winter came  
with a face freezing wind  
as you flew through the fields,  
watching the hot breath  
of the strong, sleek horse pulling  
the sleigh,  
hit the cold air  
and appear as a soft white cloud.  
The strength and power of man  
and steed,  
working together,  
and soon you were at  
your destination.  
Waiting for the letter from  
your son  
who seemed farther away from  
you than the stars.  
Oh, to days long ago when time  
was slower  
and more precious than we  
ever knew.

## EVERSLEY POST OFFICE

By Anna Remorova  
annaremorova1@gmail.com

Come to our Post Office  
Send a Christmas card or gift,  
Or sweet candy in a big box  
To be delivered very swift

By a noble horse in harness  
Strong and full of her horse pride,  
She'll deliver Christmas presents  
And offer you a free sled ride.

It does not matter, rain or snow,  
You will get your mail on time,  
To be opened at Christmas  
When the father's clock  
would chime.

In this cold and sunny morning,  
A postman will soon depart.  
In making other people happy,  
He'll play his post office part!

## JANUARY

By Ann Juurinen  
annjuurinen@gmail.com

Of course it had to be  
The cold heart of January.  
That fool of a son, detains  
me here  
In this godforsaken outpost.  
Air so cold it makes my  
whiskers freeze.  
My nostrils stick together  
Even breathing is fiercely won.  
Him and his Telegraph  
And now Photographs!  
What good can come of this?  
Even this nag wants the barn.  
How much longer will he keep  
me here?  
I have things to do.  
Blazes!  
He wants me to smile!  
My lips are frozen shut!

## RIDING THE FROSTY SLOPES OF LIFE

By Natalia Villarreal Mejia  
natalia.villameji07@gmail.com

Horse in tow and fiery winter,  
Preparing for the best of ourselves,  
Wrapped in furs,  
Peaked with curiosity,  
Bathing in the sun's generosity.

Life is made of the things we've  
picked up along the way,  
Chasing the moons' gleam,  
Wondering why the clouds refuse  
to be seen,  
A mind so clueless yet  
mightily keen.

Reading the first word from  
the newspaper,  
It is simple ink across a sheet,  
Yet also an echo in your head,  
A whisper of the wind.

Farther down we travel,  
Our thoughts alight but trapped,  
In the beat of our hearts,  
In the milky color of the sky.  
So the horses will ride,  
Their noses held high,  
Bitter cold will seep into  
your pores,  
But you've never wanted  
much more,  
Than the world covered in white,  
Words in winter to fill your sight.





## On behalf of King Township council and staff, welcome to the winter edition of Mosaic.

I'm pleased to announce that the new King City Branch of King Township Library and King City Seniors' Centre at 1970 King Rd. is now open.

Construction of the 21,000 square-foot (1,951-square-metre) building on King Road began in 2018. The bright, modern facility is nestled in the hillside across the road from King City Secondary School.

The Library Branch building includes meeting spaces, a children's area, a seniors' area, book collections, digital materials and common spaces. The Seniors' Centre includes rental space, community space and program areas.

Libraries capture our history and help us to realize a better future. They fuel our imagination and encourage us to explore. The new King City Library Branch and Seniors' Centre building is a bright, beautiful structure where technology and people can join together. It will be a treasure available to everyone in King for many years to come.

The cost of the building construction was \$11.2 million. Funding sources include \$5.4 million from development charges, \$3 million from Township debenture, \$1.6 from parkland dedication and \$200,000 from Township funds.

The new King Road building replaces the 7,800-square-foot (725-square-metre) building that housed the King City Library branch and replaces the King City Seniors' Centre at 30 Fisher St.

It has many environmental features, including efficient heating and cooling, use of energy-saving LED lighting, exterior window glazing to reduce daily electricity use, an electric vehicle charging station and storm water infiltration system.

For more information on the library, including hours of operations, programs and services, please visit [www.kinglibrary.ca](http://www.kinglibrary.ca).




Please stay safe and shop locally as much as you can.

Mayor Steve Pellegrini





# 2021 Holiday Light Tour




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# COZY UP BY THE FIRE

FEATURING KING TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF FAVOURITES!

Winter is here and while the cold weather has many of us spending more time indoors, we have the perfect suggestion for when you're curled up under a warm blanket by a cozy fire. The Library is here to help you find your next great winter read! Working at the Library, we are often charged with assisting patrons to find something new or something that can inspire memories of an old favourite. Staff are always willing to help you find a book or suggest something on a topic that you enjoy. We really do have something for everyone!

In continuing our tradition of "Staff Favourites", we have asked the staff to submit reviews on some of their cherished books. Whether they hold sentimental value or are just pure entertainment, the Library team have selected some of their top picks. All are available at your local Library in a variety of reading and listening formats: books, audiobooks, eBooks, and eAudiobooks. Happy Holidays to you and your family, from all the Staff at the King Township Public Library!

## STAFF PICKS

by Kalli Secord k.secord@kinglibrary.ca

Stephanie suggests:

### I Hope We Choose Love: A Trans Girl's Notes from the End of the World

by Kai Cheng Thom (2019)  
– Adult Non-Fiction

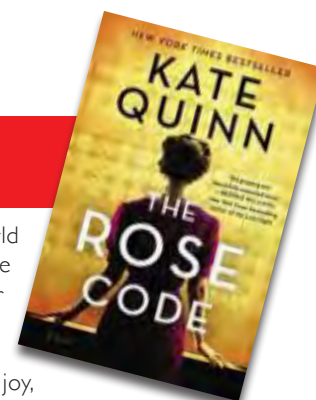


*I Hope We Choose Love* is a collection of personal essays, prose, and poetry from acclaimed poet and essayist Kai Cheng Thom, exploring some of the questions following activist movements and change today. Thom asks: "what can we hope for at the end of the world"? "What can we trust in when community has broken our hearts"? "What does it mean to pursue justice without violence"? *I Hope We Choose Love* calls for nuance amidst polarization, and for healing above all else. King Township Public Library has copies available in eBook format.

Theresa suggests:

### The Rose Code

by Kate Quinn (2021)  
– Adult Fiction



*The Rose Code* is set in England, during the Second World War. The protagonists are Mab, Osla, and Beth, three women who are determined to contribute to the war efforts while working at the famous code-breaking site Bletchley Park. It is impossible not to become attached to each of these characters and feel their moments of joy, sorrow, fear, and pain. Kate Quinn does a wonderful job of combining history, friendship, love, secrecy, and thrilling drama. *The Rose Code* is a must-read for fans of historical fiction! King Township Public Library has copies available in print, large print, audiobook, eBook, and eAudiobook format.

### The Forest of Stolen Girls

by June Hur (2021)  
– Young Adult Fiction

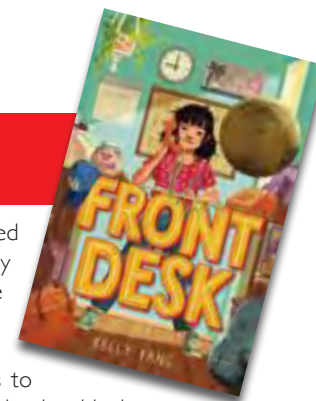


*The Forest of Stolen Girls* is a young adult historical mystery set in 1426 Joseon (Korea). Eighteen-year-old Min Hwani returns to Jeju Island to find her father a year after he vanishes while investigating the disappearance of thirteen girls. As she digs deeper into the mystery and case that tore her family apart, she reunites with her estranged sister, and the two realize the answers they've been searching for might be hidden within their own memories of what happened on the island years ago. Hur writes a story that is deeply emotional and atmospheric, drawing readers further into the plot as the sisters venture deeper into the forest. Questions and answers are revealed that haunt even after the final page. King Township Public Library has copies available in print format.

Kalli suggests:

### Front Desk

by Kelly Yang (2018)  
– Juvenile Fiction



Ten-year-old Mia Tang and her parents have just immigrated from China to Southern California, but their new country isn't as prosperous as they had hoped. Mia's parents are desperate for work and money and end up managing a rundown motel for the mean and exploitive Mr. Yao. Mia's engineer mother does the cleaning while her father tries to fix up the motel, so Mia runs the front desk. She makes friends with the customers who live at the motel and does her best to help her family make it in America. But can Mia help, or will being a young Chinese immigrant mean she is stuck? Kids will love this story and will immediately want to read the sequels *Three Keys* and *Room to Dream*. King Township Public Library has copies available in print format.

## DO YOU LOVE THE ARTS?

Arts Society King (ASK) is looking for volunteers and interns who would like to be part of a dynamic arts organization that supports and promotes the Arts in King Township. ASK organized a variety of events this year including en plein air painting, photo and writing contests, art exhibits, and Studio Tour King. ASK also partners with other groups in King Township to plan additional events.

Planning will shortly begin for winter events for arts aficionados, members of ASK, and the community. Do you have skills like graphic arts and marketing to share? Are you looking for an internship or need community hours? Would you like to join one of our Planning Committees or even the Board of Directors? If you are interested in meeting artists, writers, actors, musicians, and all who appreciate the

Arts, and enjoy attending studio tours, art galleries, musical concerts, and other similar events, we want to hear from you! Check out our website at [www.artsocietyking.ca](http://www.artsocietyking.ca) to learn more about ASK and its events or send an email of introduction to our Artist Liaison, Kathleen Rodgers ([kathleen.rodgers@sympatico.ca](mailto:kathleen.rodgers@sympatico.ca)).

We look forward to working with you!



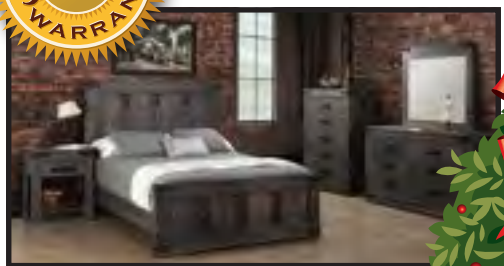


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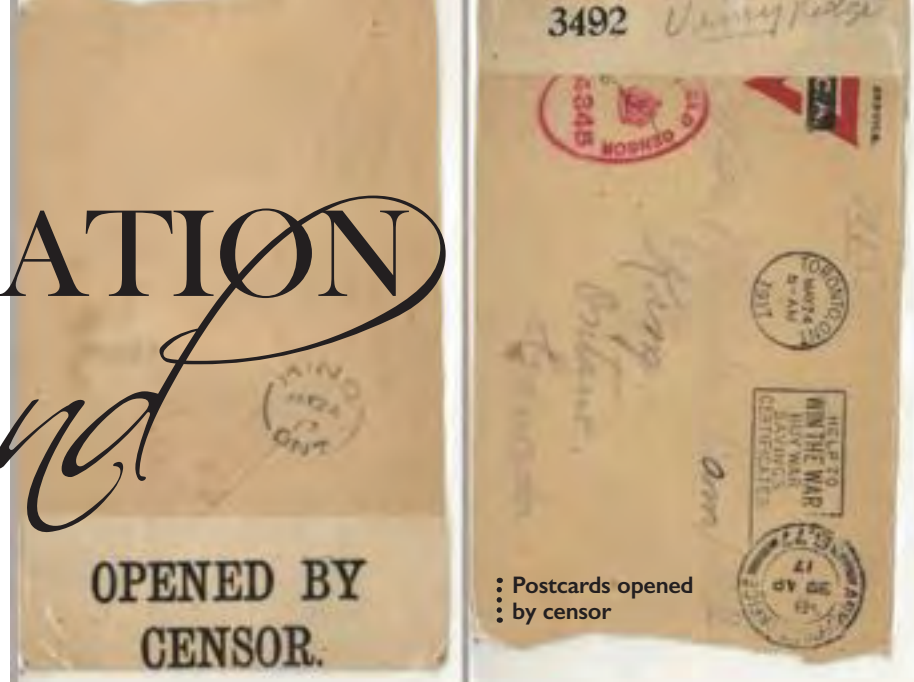


: Earl Campbell

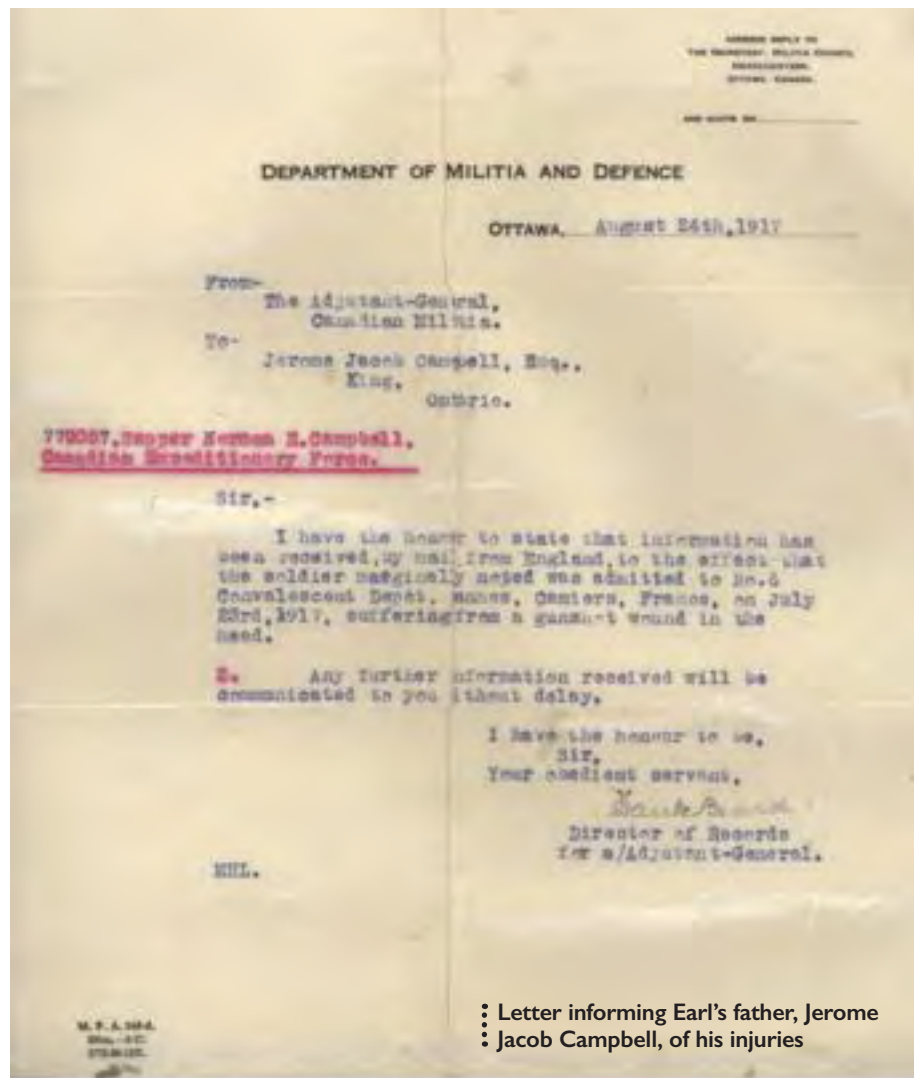
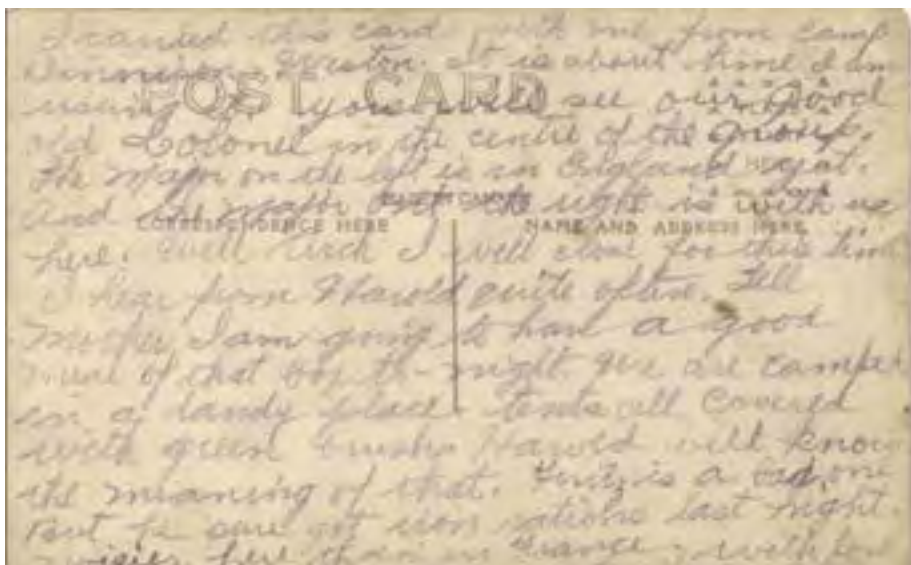
# A LOST GENERATION

*found*  
by Beth McKinlay

World War I, the Great War, spanned 1914 to 1918, but tensions had been brewing for **years before** in Europe.



: Postcards opened by censor



: Letter informing Earl's father, Jerome Jacob Campbell, of his injuries

The assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand was the tipping point, but extreme nationalism, imperialism, and militarism were the fodder. Seventy million soldiers fought and ten million died, including 66,000 Canadians. HG Wells initially said it was "the war to end all wars", and the sentiment was later echoed by Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States.

The first Remembrance Day, known then as Armistice Day, was marked on the 11th minute of the 11th hour of November 11, 1919, the exact time the war ended and the Allies, including Great Britain, Canada, Australia, France, Russia, Italy, Romania, Japan, and the United States, won. In honour of Remembrance Day, we are going to spend some time with Earl Campbell and the King Boys, dedicated soldiers of WWI.

Norman "Earl" Campbell was born March 22, 1895 to Jerome and Martha Campbell of Vaughan Township. The middle brother of six siblings, 22-year-old Earl was sent overseas to serve with the 127th Battalion. Though these were early days, before conscription began

to take its toll at home and away, Earl's older brother Harold had made the trek first and Earl wanted to do his part. In the beginning, the plan was to leave at least one able bodied man to work every 100 acres, but the Great War took more. So many, in fact, that those born between 1883 and 1900, in the wake of the industrial revolution, and of age to serve in the war effort became known as the Lost Generation.

Earl, and many King County boys, trained at Camp Borden in Barrie and Camp Denison in Weston before they set sail for England. They were soldiers of great character; not afraid to speak up, but ready to follow orders for the greater good. The 127th was of particular distinction because while they were trained infantry men, they were also railroad crew tasked with laying track for the war and rebuilding afterwards. They amassed many noteworthy awards including four Distinguished Service Orders, three Military Crosses, and 21 Military medals. These accolades came at the steep cost of 64 lives and 175 injured.

Letters flowed, to and from family and friends back home, newsy, positive, and sometimes up to 30 pages. Earl always asked about life on the farm and was curious to keep up with all goings on. He shared updates about the King Boys who were with him and described the countryside, the food, and, of course, the battles with Old Fritz, their nickname for the other side. He yearned to go hunting with his brothers and every summer he was overseas, talk of the Ex (CNE), founded in 1879, would come up. The letters were censored to protect from unintentional disclosures of strategic information, and mail could be intermittent because the battalion was always on the move, but Earl's mail always found him.

Made of strong Canadian stock, he was wounded with shrapnel and gunshot, gassed, and suffered from trench fever; yet was called back to the front 6 times before finally coming home in 1919. His spirit was fortified by the many "fat letters" and care boxes he received. His favourite treats were the honey and baccy (tobacco) his family sent. His elder sister

Merelda wrote the longest letters, but he had many pen-pals including a gaggle of "girlies" from home. Earl said, "I always answer every letter that comes to me, let it be married or single, old or young, fat or thin".

Earl's longing for home was plaintive in his letter to his brother Harold in 1917, in which he said, "I will never do any travelling when I get back if I ever do. It will be damn hard to get me away from home a couple of miles".

Thankfully, Earl did come home. He left his "girlies" behind and gave his heart to Hazel Gambriel, whom he married in 1925. They had five daughters together and, true to his word, he stayed close to home.

Our King Boys and their families experienced a life we can hardly imagine. Thanks to the love and foresight of the Campbell family, who saved all of Earl's letters and postcards, we have a treasure trove of this history. More stories about our lost generation, including timelines, recaps of key battles, and a full history of the 127th can be found at your local King Township Public Library or at [www.kinglibary.ca](http://www.kinglibary.ca).





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**OKSANA BACZYNSKY**  
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**EVANGELINE MUNNS**  
efmunns@gmail.com

featuring Kathleen Rodgers, Oksana Baczynsky, and Evangeline Munns

by Patti Skrypek

Kathleen Rodgers is an artisan with many talents. She specializes in quilts, including custom memory quilts, fused stained glass, and handmade cards. She created her featured quilt “The Chaos of Dementia” to help her through the grieving process as her dad passed in March 2018.

“With Dad’s diagnosis, a lifetime’s worth of colourful memories began to distort and fade until they finally disappeared into blackness. Death provided freedom from a mind and body ravaged by dementia,” says Kathleen.

Oksana Baczynsky’s two main media are transparent watercolour and acrylic. The Canadian landscape is the prime focus of her work, but cityscapes, florals, and figures are also commonly featured. Oksana’s work can be found in private and corporate collections throughout Canada, the United States, and Europe. Her piece “Winter Melt - Hopes of Early Spring” brings the hope that spring will come early. It was inspired by walking her dogs through wooded trails on crisp, sunny, late February days, when the ice was starting to melt and the warmth of the sun was awakening the trees.

Evangeline Munns strives to bring a unique approach and to capture a feeling of passion for whatever she is painting. Her work is represented in several galleries and in private collections across North America, England, Europe, Japan, and Australia. Evangeline was driving to the cottage one day when a striking snow scene captured her attention.

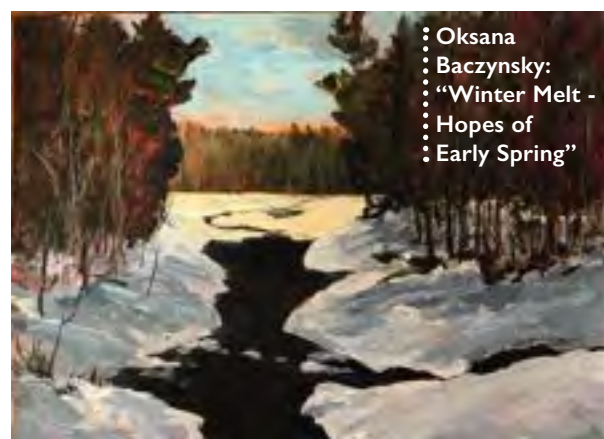
“The sunshine was brilliant on the snow with a meandering creek giving a nice depth to the painting. I stopped and painted this scene on the side of the highway with cars passing me by and sometimes splashing me a little with the melting snow,” says Evangeline.

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

**Kathleen** – It is exciting and inspiring to see an idea go from a concept in a sketch book or a photograph through to completion.

**Oksana** – Primarily, it gives me the freedom to express that persistent demand within myself to create a physical representation of the vision within. I treasure working within a community of like-minded people. I couldn’t have grown into the artist I am without my teachers and colleagues. The finished physical expression of that piece of myself existing outside of myself – that’s a little like magic.

**Evangeline** – Being able to express oneself in a creative way and often being filled with wonder at the beauty of the subject you are painting.



• Oksana Baczynsky: “Winter Melt - Hopes of Early Spring”

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

**Kathleen** – Sometimes it is a challenge to decide on the subject for the next project as I often have too many ideas. As I work in various mediums and styles, this means selecting which medium would be best (hand-dyed versus hand-painted fabric, acrylic versus watercolour paint) and which style I wish to explore (realistic or non-representational) based on my sketch or photography.

**Oksana** – Perhaps the hardest part in creating a piece of artwork is allowing a dialogue to exist between me and my painting. There has to be a flexibility to allow the image in my head to become alive on the canvas.

**Evangeline** – Finding the time and place to paint regularly, where there are few distractions to interfere with your creative process.

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

**Kathleen** – When the completed piece resembles the vision or image in my mind, I then know I am finished. Sometimes a piece is set aside while my mind works through the next steps.

**Oksana** – Often when you find yourself in a quandary as to what to do, the best option is to step away. Let things percolate, and come back once a clear path is revealed. Listen to the painting.

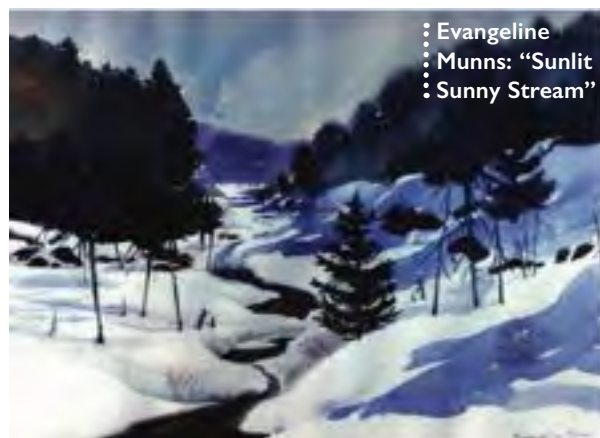
**Evangeline** – When you get the feeling that one more stroke is just not needed and you are happy with what you have created.

## What inspired you to pursue art?

**Kathleen** – Creative pursuits provided stress release from my job. Curiosity and a desire to learn new techniques and mediums inspired me.

**Oksana** – Art to me is like breathing. It’s something I need to do. As long as I can remember, I always wanted to paint. My first watercolour paintbox was a tin with 30-odd tiny paint squares. I was about five years old... and I have been painting ever since.

**Evangeline** – My mother had good artistic ability, but very little time for it while raising seven children. I always had a love of art. I was always drawing on the margins of my papers at school. I wanted to be an artist from a young age. I took a commercial art course while in high school, but did not enjoy creating ads for products I did not believe in. I decided not to pursue being a full-time artist, but always enjoyed painting as an important hobby or second career.



• Evangeline Munns: “Sunlit Sunny Stream”

## Which artists are you most influenced by?

**Kathleen** – I admire Impressionists Monet, Degas, and Seurat, Tom Thomson, Lawren Harris, Trisha Romance, and Laura Berry.

**Oksana** – As a child, my own landscape was comprised of three different provinces, highlighting the beauty and diversity of Canada. The Group of Seven embodies this for me, and has certainly influenced my work.

**Evangeline** – Jack Reid was one of my early important instructors and I wanted to paint like him. Brian Ateyo influenced me greatly. I admired John Anderson’s paintings. The Group of Seven artists influenced me, particularly Franz Johnston.

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

**Kathleen** – No. Once a technique has been explored in an artwork or series, I move on to the next one. I am seldom sentimental about my artwork because there is more to create.

**Oksana** – Each painting is a reflection of a piece of my soul. I’m still learning to let them go. If it weren’t for the true appreciation of my audience, I couldn’t do it.

**Evangeline** – Your paintings often become like one of your children, especially if you are happy with what you have painted. Sometimes it is hard to part with one especially knowing you will probably never see your painting again.

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

**Kathleen** – Follow your passion. Keep on dreaming and learning!

**Oksana** – Cultivate more galleries and perhaps find an agent to represent your artwork.

**Evangeline** – Find time to paint regularly even if you are very busy. Don’t worry about selling your paintings – just enjoy painting them. Get outdoors more often so you can experience the peace of nature as you paint.



• Kathleen Rodgers: “The Chaos of Dementia”



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**DECEMBER 2 – ONGOING – WRITENOW!@KING** – WriteNow!@King is a writers' group partnering with King Library on the first and third Thursday afternoons of each month from 2 – 4 PM. New and experienced writers are welcome to participate in stimulating writing exercises, guest speakers, and feedback from peers. Contact [k.second@kinglibrary.ca](mailto:k.second@kinglibrary.ca) for more information.

**DECEMBER 3, 2021 – KING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CONCERT** – The King Township Historical Society presents a Holiday Concert featuring King jazz singer, composer, and recording artist Michele Mele. A 50-minute livestream. 8 pm – a link and details will be shared on our website closer to the date.

**DECEMBER 3 & 4, 2021 – A MAIN STREET CHRISTMAS – PRESENTED BY THE SCHOMBERG VILLAGE ASSOCIATION** – This year's A Main Street Christmas will focus on the Farmers' Parade of Lights, held on the grounds of our partner, the Schomberg Agricultural Society. Like last year, this will be a drive-through event, but this year we will also feature entertainment. It will take place over two days (Friday, December 3rd and Saturday, December 4th). Tickets will be \$10 per car. Further details will be at [schomberg.ca](http://schomberg.ca) and [amainstreetchristmas.ca](http://amainstreetchristmas.ca).

**JANUARY 2022 – MARCH 2022 – WINTER REGISTRATION** – Register for our Winter Canskate and Power Skating lessons. We also offer Adult Learn classes! Location: Nobleton Arena. Website: [nobletonskatingclub.com](http://nobletonskatingclub.com). Phone: 905-859-4943. Email: [nobletonskatingclub@outlook.com](mailto:nobletonskatingclub@outlook.com)

**JANUARY 3, 2022 – MARCH 2022 – WINTER CURLING REGISTRATION** – Go to [kingcurling.com](http://kingcurling.com) to register for various events and leagues starting January 3, 2022 or contact [registration@kingcurling.com](mailto:registration@kingcurling.com). Location: Trisan Centre, Schomberg

**FEBRUARY 24, 2022 – MAYOR'S CULTURAL GALA** – Join Mayor Pellegrini and friends at the 2nd bi-annual Cultural Gala at The Manor, 16750 Weston Rd., Kettleby. This year's theme will be "Paris". Tickets will be on sale January 2022. Enjoy Cocktails, Dinner, Entertainment and Silent Auction. Location TBD. Email [kingmuseum@king.ca](mailto:kingmuseum@king.ca) or [ebaird@king.ca](mailto:ebaird@king.ca) for details.



## A GUARANTEED, HOME-COOKED RECIPE FOR HYGGE

### SAVOR WARM DRINKS

Having warm drinks in winter has its own special charm. On a chilly day, you can get warmth and nourishment by having hot chocolate, cardamom and ginger tea, Kashmiri chai, herbal tea, and more. Head to Tim Hortons or McDonald's for one of their festive holiday drinks, or enjoy the friendly, inviting atmosphere of local cafés like King City's The Roost Café (12974 Keele Street), Schomberg's The Grackle Coffee Company (208 Main Street), and King City's Pine Farms Orchard (2700 16th Sideroad).

### BAKE GOODIES

Baking goodies, especially during winter, can serve as a wonderful and fulfilling experience. You can enhance the enjoyment by getting your kids, partner, or friend help you out. If the thought of baking brings you more stress than satisfaction, stop by an independent bakery like Nobleton's Cappuccino Bakery (5978 King Road), Schomberg's Sugar and Spice Bake Shop and Café (307 Main Street), and Kettleby's Dorio's Kettleby Bakery (449 Kettleby Road) for a tasty treat without the work.

### WARMTH, CANDLES, AND BONFIRES

It's imperative to have your internal and external environment warm and cozy. You can do that by lighting scented candles in your room and home, dimming the lights, using an air freshener, sitting around a fireplace, and having bonfires outside. Seriously, the state of being with trusted friends and family without wearing masks after two years is blissful! Local shops like Schomberg's Cottage and Crown (203 Main Street), Bolton's The Sisters Touch of Christmas (14155 Caledon King Town Line S), and Schomberg's Vintage Peony (270 Main Street) have a wide selection of cozy décor to spruce up your indoor escape.

### SNUGGLE UP AND GET COZY

What can be more satisfying than having intimate get-togethers or cozing up with your loved ones for a game or movie? Get some extra fuzzy pillows, cushions, and blankets to augment the hygge experience for all. Keep even warmer by layering up in warm

clothes, cozy socks, leg warmers, shawls, and more. You do not want to get a cold that might prevent you from experiencing hygge!

### BOOKS AND MUSIC

A good book and a hot cup of coffee with freshly baked cookies and beautiful music playing in the background can instantly make you feel at peace and enhance the sense of hygge. Enjoy the comforting scent of old paper and ink by stopping by your local library or one of King's independent book shops.

### WINTER PARTIES AND EVENTS

You can embrace hygge by hosting a sledding party, sleepovers, weekly potlucks, game nights, or a day of tobogganing. You can also take part in winter sports. Don't forget, vitamin D intake is very important during winter! Family events like Schomberg's A Main Street Christmas and Farmers' Parade of Lights (December 3 & 4), Santa's Christmas Cruise through King (December 4 & 5), and good bets for boosting holiday spirit.

### SELF-CARE

You need to love yourself if you want to be productive and functional and if you want to share your love with others. So, spend a self-care day alone or with your loved ones. Have a spa day, a long warm scented bath, lay around and read a good book, watch a couple of good movies, or just do nothing. Relaxation time out of work is extremely important for physical and mental health!

### QUALITY TIME AT HOME WITH YOUR FAMILY

Your loved ones, your family, close friends, and good humans are a major aspect of the hygge philosophy. Comfort and happiness can only be achieved when you are surrounded by good people in a peaceful, warm, and cozy environment- contradictory the loneliness, cold, and stress spawned by COVID-19. You don't need to have elaborate plans- just spend time at home with your loved ones.



Illustration by Alyssa Raposo @alymariefox

# HYGGE *for the* HOLIDAYS

by Amna Rayhon Ali

March 2020 was when the world was shackled and when began a seemingly never-ending lockdown, thanks to COVID-19. Almost 1.5 years later, things have thankfully changed, and we can at long last experience the magical atmosphere of hygge with our families and friends- without a shred of guilt.

Hygge designates a warm, cozy atmosphere, quiet comfort, and enjoying the good things in life with good people. The word originated from Old Norse word *hyggia* (to think) and *hugr* (hug). Said to have appeared in Danish writing for the first time in the 19th century, hygge has since been made a core part of Norwegian and Danish culture from the 20th century onward.

Winter will not stay forever- so, depending on our location, culture, and surroundings, let us welcome and celebrate by embracing nature and hygge.





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# Wine Journeys through King

by Trent Mayers, President and  
Chief Wine Expert at Wine Journeys



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• Holland Marsh Winery  
• Select Cabernet Baco

The promised snow is softly falling and you're starting to feel festive, but what to do to kick off the holiday season if you're a wine lover? Well, now is the time to visit some local wineries. The crowds are smaller, there is ample time to browse, and the tasting rooms are decked out in their Christmas finery. The added bonus: you can shop for some wine-related gifts for those on Santa's nice list, which includes you, of course!

There are several wineries in the King area for your vinous pleasure. We visited just two of them, Holland Marsh Wineries and Willow Springs Winery, to give you a taste of what is available in the region.

Holland Marsh Wineries is located just off Highway 9 in the "Marsh". It's owned by the Nersisyan family, who has had wine making in their blood for 3 generations, starting in Armenia and ending up here in Canada where they opened their winery in 2010. Their home vineyard supplies a portion of their grapes; the other share comes from vineyards in Niagara. Their vineyard is planted on a very unusual plot of sandy clay loam that was long neglected as it was not good for growing vegetables. However, it is just the thing for vines. In keeping with good environmental practices, they observe sustainable vineyard management, meaning they do not spray for pest and disease unless necessary. In addition,

they follow wine making processes that allow their wines to be considered vegan.

The results of Holland Marsh Wineries' labours speak for themselves, with multiple award-winning wines. They are particularly proud of their Merlot, along with their red and white blends. Their tasting room is open from Tuesday to Sunday year-round and offers other local products as well as wine.

Willow Springs Winery, located on the Oak Ridges Moraine near Stouffville, is named after the willow trees ringing the pond on their property, which were planted by the present owner's Italian Canadian grandfather. The Moraine that was formed after the last period of glaciation provides a unique terroir for their grape growing. All in all, it makes for a pastoral setting for their winery, tasting room, and vineyard. Their home vineyard is planted with cold tolerant grapes such as Marquette, Baco Noir, and Vidal, while they source other vitis vinifera grapes like Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay from Niagara vineyard colleagues. The grapes from their onsite vineyard mostly go into their two house offerings, Moraine Red and Moraine White, which are their good value wines. The vinifera varieties are dedicated to their premium wines.

Willow Springs Winery's wines have garnered numerous awards at the All Canadian Wine Championships and the Finger Lakes

International wine competition, with particular recognition for their icewines. If you plan to visit their tasting room, it is open 7 days a week.

To whet your appetite, here are a few of my reviews from tasting at the wineries. My ratings are based on a 5 star system developed by wine writer Michael Broadbent: 5 stars: Outstanding; 4 stars: Very good; 3 stars: Good; 2 stars: Moderately good; 1 star: Not very good, but not bad; No stars: Poor.

Holland Marsh Winery Ephemere Pinot Grigio Vidal 2018 ☆☆☆½ \$16.00 (winery, online)

This white blend won Bronze at the All Canadian Wine Championships. It's a pale, lemon hued, simply pleasurable medium bodied wine that's dry with suggestions of lemon and apple. The winery recommends pairing with smoked salmon or chicken breast salad, but it would be pleasant to sip by itself as well.

Holland Marsh Winery Select Cabernet Baco 2018 ☆☆☆☆ \$23.00 (winery, online)

This excellent red is mostly Niagara Cabernet Sauvignon with 25% home vineyard Baco Noir blended in to soften the Cabernet's tannic edges. And it's another award winner – Double Gold at the All Canadian Wine Championships. It produces a very approachable medium bodied wine with smooth tannins, black cherry, and plum along with tobacco and spice. The winery recommended match is prime rib, Portobello mushroom dishes, or aged cheese.

Willow Springs Testa Barrel Fermented Chardonnay 2019 ☆☆☆☆ \$35.00 (winery, online).

Made with Niagara fruit fermented and aged in French oak, this cool climate white is dry, medium bodied, and delectable. Expect fleshy yellow apple, lemon, vanilla, and butter wrapped in spice from the oak barrels. The winery did not recommend any pairings, but it would be a splendid combination with your Christmas turkey with buttery stuffing or fettuccine alfredo.

Willow Springs Testa Vidal Icewine 2019 ☆☆☆☆+ \$38.00 (winery, online)

The 2017 vintage of this wine scored Double Gold at the Finger Lakes International Wine Competition. If you taste the most recent 2019 vintage, you'll know why. This dessert wine made with grapes from their home vineyard presents as lusciously sweet with tremendous body. The fruits' aromas and flavours will gush out of your glass: intense apricot, orange marmalade, candied lemon peel, sweet lemon curd, and peach essence. Those flavours linger on your tongue long after the wine is gone. All this and it's not syrupy because the pure acidity cuts the sweetness. It would be good alone for dessert, but that sweet fruit melange would complement crème brûlée or strong cheeses like Stilton as well.



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: First plaque unveiling



: Plaque covered with rebel flag

# Reflections on a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Next year, the King Township Historical Society celebrates its golden anniversary. And there are **shining successes** to remember.

by Ann Love

The Society's first project focused on the Lloydtown rebels, linking their sacrifice in the Mackenzie Rebellion (1837) with the beginning of responsible government in Upper Canada. Subsequent big projects included marking the route of the Carrying Place Trail, founding the King Township Museum and later the Archives, and so on up until today with the commissioning of a Township history written by Kelly Mathews.

What a surprise when a friend – whose family reaches back to settler times – characterized the Society as “controversial”! But when I read news reports from the Society's early years, I did find some controversies among the successes.

When the Society was less than a week old and Alden Winter newly elected its first president, The Newmarket Era ran a headline, April 19, 1972, “Historian is critical of Society founders”. Mr. Eric Scott, the historian, questioned “whether anyone had given a thought to priorities” and predicted the Society may be “condemned before they start ...”. Clearly, establishing the Historical Society ignited debate!

A second issue surfaced later that year. Before the Society existed, King Councillor Leonard Osin had initiated the restoration of the Lloydtown cemetery where families of the

rebels lay buried. Osin and Council requested the Ontario Government erect a heritage plaque to recognize Lloydtown's historical significance. When the plaque arrived in 1972, the newly formed Historical Society and Osin rejected the text outright, pointing to errors in facts and scant reference to the rebels including Jesse Lloyd, founder of Lloydtown and a leader in the Mackenzie Rebellion. The original text concluded: “With the construction of the Ontario Simcoe & Huron Union Railroad (1851-55), which by-passed Lloydtown, the village declined”.

At first, the Ontario Archeological and Historic Sites Board (AHSB) refused to change the text; but Bill Poulis, incoming President of the Society, headed to Queen's Park and personally “thrashed out” – according to The Era – a more acceptable text.

As part of the compromise, the AHSB stipulated that no press be present for the exchange of plaques. When Poulis reported to the Society, Ann McWilliam – a member and journalist for The Aurora Banner – grew so incensed she wrote an editorial on March 21, 1973, headlined, “Freedom of the Press”. She declared, “By refusing to allow coverage, the AHSB exhibits a petty, retaliatory attitude [... that] smacks uncomfortably of ‘Big Brother’,

police state, and should have no place in either the province or the country”. The Era called members of the Society “modern day Lloydtown rebels” and quoted Osin as saying “Last time we surrendered a little too easily”.

In 1982, a third controversy erupted around the moving of the King Christian Church from its original site north of Kettleby to the King Museum (now King Heritage & Cultural Centre). Built in 1851 by local Quakers, the King Christian Church thrived for eighty years until membership dwindled. The Baptist Convention bought the building and Emanuel Baptist Church congregates worshipped there until numbers dropped again and the last elector, Erma Little, died in 1978. Vacant for years, the Baptist Convention gave the building to the Township under the care of the Historical Society, with the recommendation it be moved to a safe location. In its last years at the original site, the caretaker had found the door open several times, with snow drifts inside.

As news of the move spread, a group of Kettleby residents took exception and formed the King Heritage Association. They began raising money, circulated a petition, wrote letters to the editor of the King paper, and met with the Historical Society and King Council to try and keep the church in place.

But in May 1982, with the building's safety still a nagging question, Mayor Jessup broke a tie vote in Council finalizing the move. Rumours spread that hay bales, strewn along Jane Street the morning of the move, were a final gesture of protest.

If forty years ago were today, with wireless alarms and surveillance cameras, perhaps the church would be safe on its original site. Certainly, today's heritage best practices support keeping structures in place whenever possible, adding flavor and depth to streetscapes. However, the King Christian Church survives on its new site, is further protected with heritage designation, has hosted services since the move including weddings for Erma Little's daughter and granddaughter, and will be restored under the new King Heritage & Cultural Master Plan.

My friend was right – the Historical Society has seen controversy alongside major successes over its 50 years. Hopefully, healthy debate led to greater understanding of our shared landscape and of those determined and resilient people who came before us.

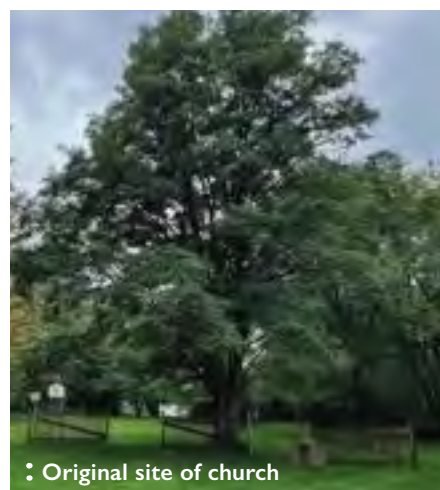
Thank you to Helen Poulis, Bill Foran, and Doris Willoughby, all KTHS Life Members, and to Sharon Bentley and Elaine Robertson, Board Members, whose memories and papers helped in preparing this article.



: Advertisement for first meeting



: The revised plaque with text negotiated by KTHS.



: Original site of church



: New site at King Heritage & Cultural Centre



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# Etsy:

## The Lifesaver Keeping Small Businesses Afloat

by Aditi Patel

It has been over a year since the COVID-19 pandemic ravaged the world, yet its repercussions remain infinite and long-lasting. One of these countless effects has been the impact on the economy. This sudden global health crisis led to a devastating chain of temporary lockdowns, reduced revenues, forced layoffs, and supply chain disruptions forcing hundreds of thousands of businesses, big and small, to shut down.

However, it was undoubtedly the small businesses that bore the brunt of the burden. In the face of uncertainty, with fairs, farmers' markets, and craft shows shuttered, these owners had to adapt by rethinking standard business practices and changing to meet the evolving needs of customers. During all this hardship, there was one lifeline that helped these businesses stay above water: Etsy, an online marketplace that focuses on vintage and handmade items and crafts.

Etsy proved to be a miraculous game changer for mom-and-pop shops during this ongoing pandemic. It provided an affordable virtual platform for businesses when physical commerce was no longer an option.



: Ivana Rustic Designs

Etsy, amongst various other online retail platforms, has been growing in popularity even before the pandemic struck. For many small business owners, Etsy is an opportunity to make something bigger out of a simple passion project.

"It let me switch from a small hobby to a part-time business, and over time it was busy enough to do full time," says Ivana Principe-Apa, owner of Schomberg-based Ivana Rustic Designs, a personalized wood décor shop.

Small businesses are able to benefit from niche markets while selling on Etsy. While large-scale stores struggle to cater to small, creative interests, Etsy can market to greater geographical locations. This means more interested customers and enough demand for a steady profit.

The importance of Etsy really began to show when the pandemic rendered most small businesses nearly profitless.

"Our sales dropped by 70% from previous years and have not recovered since," explains Ivana. "Supplies have been hard to come by and I have been forced to start working part-time."



: Crafted In Wood Canada

This is unfortunately the story of many other businesses. North Flow Yoga, a yoga studio and shop located in Nobleton, experienced a total 100% drop in sales during the start of the pandemic. Both businesses have had to work twice as hard to increase sales. Ivana Rustic Designs was forced to change and diversify its product lineup to attract customers and widen its chances of sales, while North Flow Yoga had to focus on online sales by generating more leads and interest towards their website versus just concentrating on in-studio classes.

On the bright side, Etsy was able to help in slowly turning low sales around.

"During the initial lockdown I was surprised to see the influx of sales after joining Etsy," says Rosalina Ross, owner of North Flow Yoga. "Some of my products had sold out, and after the fear and apprehension of reopening and closing I even gained some new customers by July 2021."

Most e-commerce platforms tend to be cutthroat with competition, giving most start-up businesses no chance at all to succeed. Thankfully, Etsy doesn't operate like that. A lesser-known



: North Flow  
: Yoga

benefit of Etsy over other online retailers is its united and helpful seller community. The 'Etsy Community' is a forum made for sellers to ask and answer questions and offer advice to other beginner entrepreneurs.

Christina and Michael VanHemert, owners of Schomberg's Crafted in Wood Canada, a custom laser-cut wood décor shop, have also benefitted from joining the online platform.

"I started a store on Etsy in 2017 with a few listings but didn't pay much attention to it," explains Christina. "I didn't really know how Etsy worked as an online platform."

However, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March 2020, Crafted in Wood Canada found a way to grow its business by watching countless videos on algorithms and searching for online retail tips and tricks.

"The advice I received from other online entrepreneurs on Etsy was so helpful and I saw an immediate uptake in views and sales on Etsy," says Christina. "Although the pandemic hit us hard, I have learned that it does take effort, but if you put the work into it you can have a successful business selling on Etsy."

# IN APPRECIATION OF TREES

by J. Bruce Craig, Concerned Citizens of King Township

Trees and forests. Why do they matter? I'm sure each one of us could list several benefits of these marvellous members of the Plant Kingdom. Do you have a favourite tree or tree species? What are some of your experiences with trees and forests that come to mind?

I remember, several years ago, while on a bike trek on the top of the Niagara Escarpment near Collingwood, entering a forest with towering trees all around and a vast canopy of leaves far overhead. The leaves gave the forest light a soft green colour. I stood in awe, as if I had entered a magnificent cathedral with sunlight pouring in through the windows. Welcoming cool shade while walking earthen trails through the forest on a hot summer day is something we have all experienced.

Over the past several years, the global issue of climate change has filled headlines with growing concern. Here trees enter in as one of the most significant solutions for reducing high levels of CO<sub>2</sub> and mitigating the far-reaching

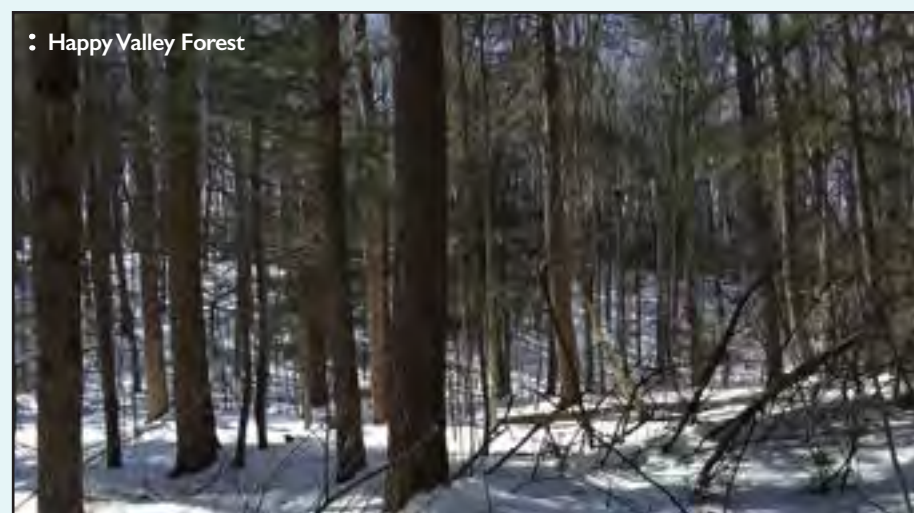
effects of a rapidly changing climate. The vitally important role of trees in sequestering carbon is well known.

Trees of all kinds also cool the air and retain moisture in the ground during extreme heat events and long periods of drought. Especially important is the role that the roots of trees play in absorbing water and stabilizing slopes during heavy rain and flooding.

Scientific studies are also highlighting the helpful role trees play in both urban and rural areas for mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Additional studies affirm the health benefits trees bring for various medical conditions and as a preventative measure for disease.

We all recognize the central role trees play in biodiversity and life systems for animals, plants, and other living organisms that use them for shelter and food.

In King Township, we are blessed with a large number of woodlots and forests. Our hamlets and villages are filled with numerous species of healthy mature trees. Land and property



owners have exercised excellent stewardship through the planting and care of trees over many years.

However, it wasn't always so. During the time of European settlement of King in the 1800s, there was clearing of vast forests on the Oak Ridges Moraine for several purposes including the building of homes, fences, and for agriculture. By the early 1900s, King had only about 5% of forest cover remaining. The dry soil, much of it sandy loam, was being blown or washed away through erosion. Farming the fields was proving to be unfruitful and unsustainable.

By the 1930s and 1940s, tree planting began in earnest to help stabilize slopes and to retain moisture in the soil. Streams were replenished with water and several areas of forest once prominent in the days of traditional Indigenous settlement in King were once again growing and thriving.

Among the native trees reaching maturity in King Township's forests today are the eastern

white pine, white cedar, sugar maple, red oak, black cherry, and eastern hemlock. While invasive, non-native trees like the Scots pine are present, they are gradually being removed. Native species are replacing them through regeneration of the forests, as native seedlings take root and grow.

Today there are numerous opportunities for hiking in King's forests. The Oak Ridges Trail, side trails, and a growing network of trails in the Happy Valley Forest are being established by the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Oak Ridges Trail Association, Toronto Region and Conservation Area, Regional Municipality of York, and Township of King. High respect for these sensitive natural environments sustains healthy forest ecosystems for the long-term future.

Hikers are asked to stay on the trails, and this short quote speaks volumes: "take only memories and leave only footprints".

May you venture out into the forests and be uplifted and inspired.





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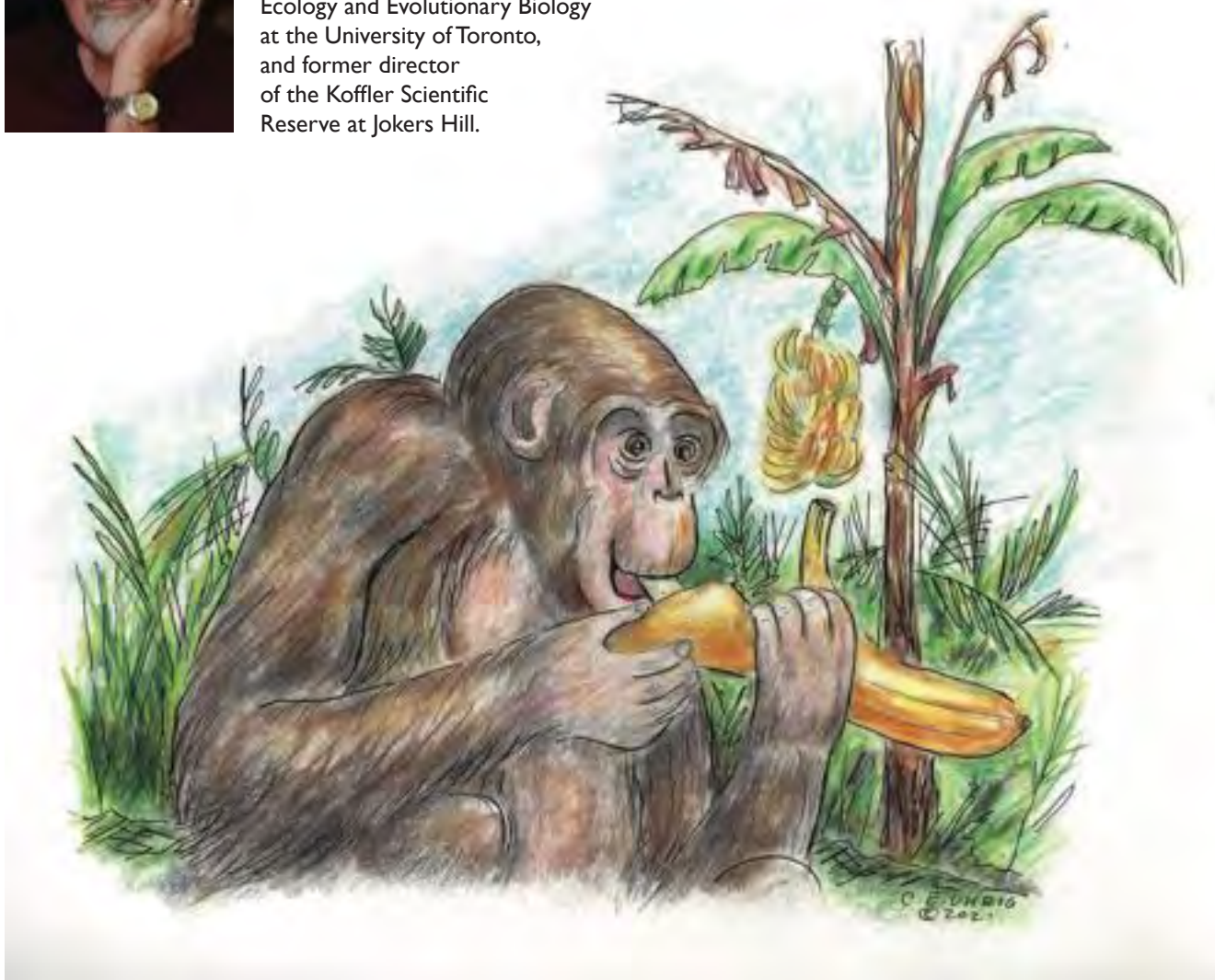




## BIOLOGIST AT THE TABLE

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.



## Fried Plantains

It doesn't get easier than fried plantains. Well, that's not quite true. Finding them is hard! Fortunately, at least one specialty grocery chain in the GTA frequently stocks them. Once you get the plantains home, let them ripen at least until black spots appear. Some suggest letting them go completely black, but I'm not that patient.

**Ingredients:** 2 ripe plantains, 1t salt, 1t sugar (optional), 2T peanut oil. That's it.

**Directions:** Peel the plantains. Slice them on the bias to form ovals, ~1 cm thick. Sprinkle with salt and sugar. Pour the oil into a large, non-stick frying pan over medium-high heat. To make sure the oil is ready, drop in a small piece of the plantain; if it sizzles, it's ready. Lay the slices in a **single layer**, and let them fry for 3-4 minutes. Once they are caramelized on the bottom, flip and fry for another 3-4 minutes. Remove and drain on paper towels.

Serve as a snack or as a side to dishes like black beans and rice. Leave some by the fireplace for Santa!

— Illustration by Cheryl Uhrig  
cuhrig@rogers.com

# GOING BANANAS!

## IT SEEMS PEOPLE JUST CAN'T TAKE BANANAS SERIOUSLY.

There's that old novelty song, "Yes, we have no bananas". Someone wreaking madness and mayhem is said to be "going bananas". And then there is one of my dad's favourite jokes: "Why do grocery stores stock so many bananas? Because they have a peel."

Even botanists slight this fun fruit. Anyone that has seen a banana tree, such as the Japanese fibre bananas in Toronto's Edwards Gardens, would say "It's a tree." "Not so!", say the grinchy old phytologists, "Plants of the genus *Musa*, while tall as a tree, are in fact herbaceous." They have a point. The trunk of the banana plant contains no wood. In fact, it's not even a stem. The true stem has the form of a rhizome under the soil surface. As it grows, it sends up a column of fibrous leaf sheaths. This is just like an Iris sending up its bundle of blade-like leaves in the spring. Except in the banana, the leaf sheaths have an overlapping spiral arrangement that makes them structurally rigid and trunk-like. When the plant comes into flower, a stalk pushes its way up through the center of the spiral and out the top. Again, much like an Iris sends up

its flowering stalk. As the banana stalk continues to elongate, it sprouts female flowers along its length and male flowers at the tip. Recalling that bananas do not make wood, the flowering stalk droops under its own weight, eventually pointing downward. In wild members of the banana family, the male flowers dispense their pollen. Female flowers that receive pollen go on to form the familiar elongate fruit. And by the way, grinchy old phytologists insist on calling the fruits "berries".

The bananas commonly offered in Canadian grocery stores come from just one of 70 species in the genus *Musa*. They all share the same general growth form but vary in detail, including obvious size and shape differences in leaves and fruits, and, more cryptically, in the number of chromosomes per cell. The commercial strain, named the Cavendish banana, is sweet. It is also a curious mutant. The female flowers form into fruits spontaneously, without the benefit of pollination. In fact, the male flowers never even open. The tiny, soft, brown bits in the fruit's core are the flower parts that would have developed into seeds, were they normal bananas. And

since there are no seeds, planters make new trees from cuttings that have been propagated from the original mutant. But what about the other 69 species?

Bananas are eaten in some form throughout the tropics. Some forms produce sweet fruits like the Cavendish. Others are starchy, and these are often called "plantains". Plantains can be harvested green and then boiled or fried. Green ones can also be dried and ground into flour for baking. Once plantains ripen, they turn a bit sweeter, but are still served cooked (see my recipe below). In some places starchy bananas are a staple food, like potatoes, wheat, and rice. And since they flower and set fruit year-round, they are a dependable food.

Dependable, that is, so long as plant disease is kept at bay. And therein lies a tale for our pandemic times. The familiar Cavendish is not the banana that our great-great-grandparents knew. In those times grocers stocked Gros Michel bananas. The thicker peel of these types made them bruise resistant. And so, they also reliably survived the voyage from Tobago to Toronto. Gros Michel was also propagated by

cuttings from a single plant. Soon, there were vast plantations of genetically identical bananas all from one clone. This was good for fruit production, but even better for any fungus that happened to have a lucky mutation, one that lets them bypass the clone's defenses. And it happened. A disease called "Panama wilt" emerged and spread rapidly. The only recourse was to burn all the trees and replace them with another variety. The wilt is found sporadically in other banana species, but because these species are genetically diverse, there isn't a critical mass of susceptible trees that will let a mutant take off. In the past two years we have all become aware of an analogous situation that epidemiologists call "herd immunity". Agronomists warn that the Cavendish banana clone will someday face the same fate as the Gros Michel.

On a lighter note, it would be remiss of me to fail noting one profound contribution that the banana has made to European culture. It's a fun fact I learned from Jean's dad: "What fruit did Beethoven eat while writing his fifth symphony? Ba Na Na Naaaah!"





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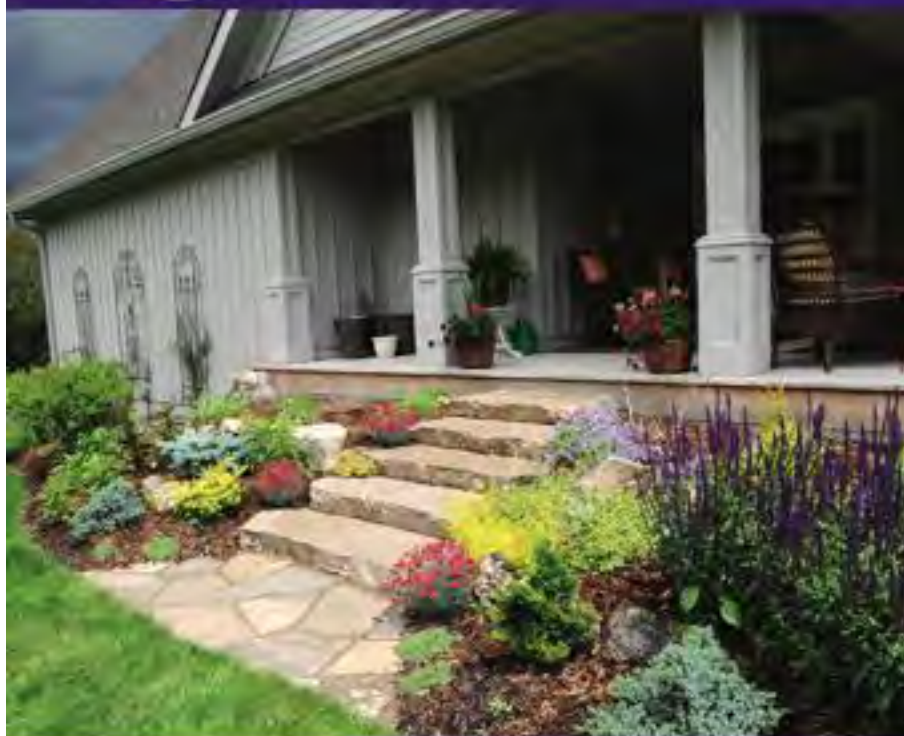
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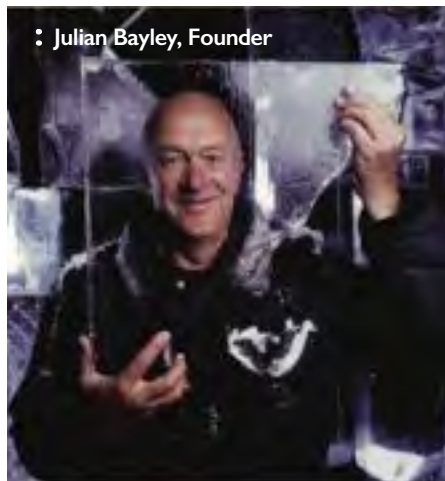


# THE Ice Giants OF HENSALL

by Conor Shirton



• Taj Mahal



• Julian Bayley, Founder

If you ever find yourself travelling westward towards the vast, glistening waters of Lake Huron, you may find yourself passing through a quaint agricultural community called Hensall. Home to just over one thousand people, this historic village in the centre of Huron County has long been known for its impressive cultivation and processing of beans, even being dubbed the “White Bean Capital of Canada”.

However, this town’s crown of beans is no longer its sole claim to fame. Nestled comfortably between old railroads and beautiful homes a very different and much chillier kind of processing centre can be found: Iceculture Incorporated.

King Township residents may be familiar with Iceculture, though not by name. Frequent mainstays of local wintertime festivals like Schomberg’s A Main Street Christmas, Iceculture artists can often be found hewing shapes and scenes from blocks of ice in public demonstrations.

Yet despite their current success, family-owned and operated Iceculture had humble beginnings. Founded in 1986 by National Ice Carving Association Hall of Famer Julian Bayley, the small business aimed to set itself apart in a competitive industry by creating unique, memorable ice sculptures for ‘all occasions and all budgets’. Word of mouth gradually spread and the company grew, taking on more diverse projects- to say the least.

When a California-based liquor distribution company turned to Iceculture for its large-scale ice needs, the company had officially hit the big time. Considering the 252 ice manufacturing companies in the United States that would surely be more convenient partners, this seemed to many a good if somewhat unusual sign of things to come.

Even more unusual was when Iceculture was approached by a small, independent agency called the National Aeronautics and Space Administration- well, perhaps not that small. Asked for assistance in NASA’s “Return to Flight” program, which required testing a space shuttle’s resistance to debris in the wake of the Columbia disaster, Iceculture duly created varying sizes and shapes of dense chunks of ice to be used as projectiles against the shuttle’s hull and aeroshell.

Today, upwards of 50 countries have done business with Iceculture sculptors, choosing them over local companies. The question that surely needs answering is: why? Why did NASA handpick Iceculture? Why are international companies seeking out this small-town Canadian facility?

The answer lies in innovation. Creativity and innovation are at the forefront of Iceculture’s pursuits. It is the carrot the team willingly dangles in front of their horse and sleigh, so to

speak. Not content with the arduous labour of manual ice shaping and sculpting, Iceculture has worked to develop and implement the use of CNC machines- highly accurate computerized manufacturing machines- to replace conventional hand tools. This allows sculptors to efficiently work with massive blocks of ice and create something superhumanly precise, yet still unique and decidedly “human”. It’s this blend of brilliant engineering and beautiful artistry that truly makes Iceculture one of a kind. Artistic visions and creativity are nigh limitless here, virtually freed from the constraints of toil and human error.

The deft combination of artistry and computer intelligence has produced some of Iceculture’s most stunning works of glacial art. You may be invited to a wedding that features a backdrop curtain of beaded ice, lit to reflect colours in the most hypnotizing way, or find yourself in a classy Toronto lounge, where the entire bar is exquisitely hewn from a block of ice. So, too, may you find yourself at an outdoor festival adorned with marvelous statuettes, or a company party that features a gelid, translucent logo as centrepiece. With the passion and technological approach Iceculture puts into everything they do, their ice art can be a finishing touch to almost any setting- though I can’t recommend you attempt to bedazzle your hot yoga studio or local beach, as the viewing pleasure will be short lived.

Companies like Iceculture, now headed by Julian’s daughter Heidi, have naturally been affected by the coronavirus pandemic. With so much of the world- and certainly Canada- being shut down to varying degrees over the past couple of years, industries that largely rely on social gatherings and public events, like Iceculture, have suffered. Not all artists’

businesses have survived the global turmoil we’ve faced. It’s a crucially important time, now more than ever, to expose ourselves to new art, new artists, and the happiness they can bring.

Luckily, Iceculture has weathered the storm. Consider bringing up the potential for ice art the next time your workplace is planning an event, or your friend is planning a unique winteresque wedding- you get the idea.

Those who are interested in seeing the intertwining of engineering and art for themselves can sign up for a cool- pun intended- guided tour of the Iceculture facilities at 81 Brock St., Hensall.

My apologies to the diehard bean aficionados for what I’m about to say- but I believe Iceculture is the new gem of Hensall. Their passion, craftsmanship, care, and creativity is what art’s all about- and they do a damn good job of it.



• Toronto Maple Leafs goalie





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