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summer 2022

King MOSAIC

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Lloydton | Nobleton
Pottageville | Schomberg
Snowball | Strange
and surrounding area

A group of four students in school uniforms are gathered around a desk in a science laboratory. One student is using a microscope, while the others look on with interest. The scene is brightly lit, and the students appear engaged in their work.

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ArtsSocietyKing.ca

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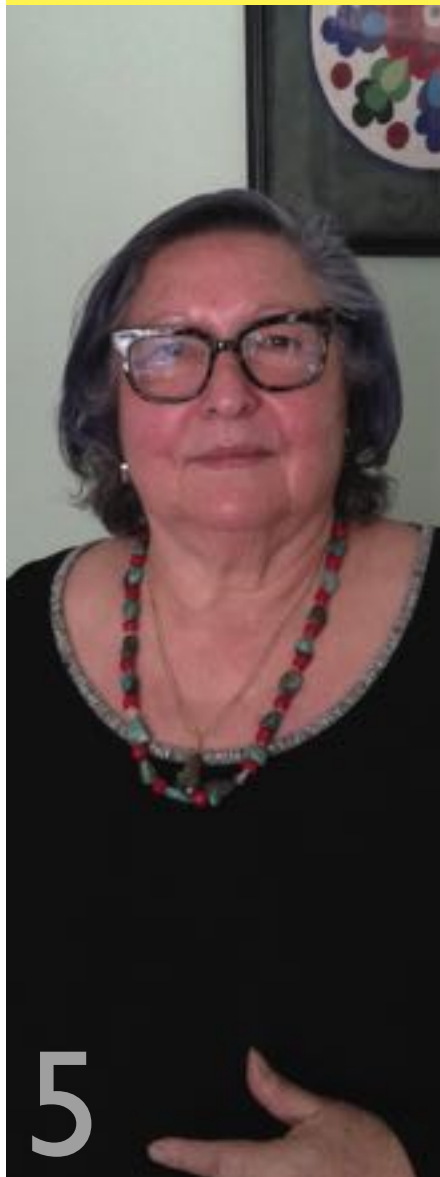
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FEATURED CONTRIBUTOR: DAN O'REILLY



Dan is a freelance writer specializing in design and construction, the environment, and historical preservation. He is a resident of the historic hamlet of Wildfield on the Brampton-Caledon border and has been actively engaged in trying to preserve its history and identity through initiatives such as spearheading the construction of numerous historic monuments. Dan was also responsible for establishing the Humber Valley Heritage Trail Association (HVHTA) in the 1990s and was its first President. The association's Bolton Chapter maintains a 25-kilometre-long trail. Recently, the Chapter's executive made him an Honorary Life Member. Read Dan's article on the negative impact of Highway 413 on page 23.



**KATHY MORGAN:
FLOWER BEADWORK ARTIST**



OUR COVER IVANKA PIPINIKOVA

Featured on the cover of the Summer issue of King MOSAIC is a 28" x 22" oil on canvas painting titled Portaging in Algonquin by King City-based artist Ivanka Pipinikova. Portaging in Algonquin enthralls with its lively recreation of those most special summer days, where there's naught to do but bask in the warmth of the sun, enjoy the serenity of the lapping waves, and catch up on plenty of good conversation with family and friends. Ivanka's art is colourful, expressive, and bursting with life, influenced by the amity of the natural world, the importance of family, and the vibrant culture of her native country, Bulgaria. Read more about Ivanka on page 4.



**19 THE SCHOMBERG & AURORA RAILROAD:
WETLANDS AND ANNIE ROONEY**



**AN ACCOUNT OF THE EARLY
SCHOOLS IN KING TOWNSHIP**

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IVANKA PIPINIKOVA:

NORTHERN REFLECTIONS

by Deborah Jolly

I met our feature artist, **Ivanka Pipinikova**, five years ago at the Studio Tour King, standing eagerly, without expectation, among bold, delicate colours, a swell of nature, and many vivid faces.

Calmly composed, and quietly proud among her paintings, I immediately noted complexity in her honest subject matter.

At that time, one artwork that stood out to me was a painting of her teenage granddaughter, about the same age that Ivanka was when she began painting, in front of a large rock. It precisely captures what she recently told me about her style of art: she likes to be, and paint, in nature, combining this with the faces of those she loves. People, often relatives, and nature are pervasive in Ivanka's ongoing body of work.

Competitions entered, and won, in early years incited her dream to become a full-time artist, and visually express who and what she sees in her favourite medium, oil, as well as exploring acrylic and other mediums along the way.

"I paint and draw figures and now, through new exploration, landscapes, and the natural world because it is peaceful. Reflections on the lake at sunset and sunrise, and the seas of Bulgaria, bring me peace."

Some artworks reflect traditional landscapes and realism while other paintings convey a sense of imagery found in Bulgaria, presenting celebrations, young children, and familial closeness.

"I am told that my art is a fascinating way to immerse yourself in a painting, and that the feeling can make you become a part of a particular scene through my depth of colour and scale, and emotion." And this makes her very happy.

Through art Ivanka is also learning how to express her own feelings and thoughts with paint.

"It takes time and patience is needed; although I entered competitions and won awards in my earlier years, it was when I retired that I was able to move forward with my art. The wait was worth it. I always strive to do my best work and really represent what I visualize and feel. I want viewers to feel it the same way that I see it."

Being a mother, grandmother, and great grandmother always comes first, but there is not a real separation between Ivanka as an artist and Ivanka as an individual. This issue's cover art, Portaging in Algonquin, clearly portrays her fondness for illustrating



: Botanical Garden



: Wolf River

generational family connections in their preferred alfresco element.

"What I do, I do for me, but my family is forever a part of my art, and I always paint to make them proud."

While Ivanka's paintings are personal, often depicting family, and many times at their northern sanctuary, a lakeside cottage near Port Loring, she also favours the style of Spanish artist Joaquín Sorolla's portraiture and the lively colours of Picasso and Vincent van Gogh.

When leaves parade their fall splendour in a palette of ochre and orange and emulate their marvel on the tranquil waters of their northern cottage, this is Ivanka's favourite time of year to paint. Still, she is absolutely inspired by being present, in the very place she finds herself in, and her art inspiration easily shifts with the seasons.

I asked Ivanka if she had a favourite artwork and she quickly said, with a smile I could hold in my hands, "I love them all; they are family and personal and fill me with emotion."

At in-person shows, patrons and viewers talk of being drawn to the vibrant colour

combinations in her land and waterscapes, and the depth of expression in her faces.

"They tell me that the eyes are real; they are alive."

A ten-year resident of King City, Ivanka originally moved to be closer to her daughter and help with her grandchildren, and was delighted to discover a booming and supportive art community. She has been an ASK member and part of the Studio Tour King since 2014.

With a MSc in Zoology, and having been raised on a dairy farm in Bulgaria, my next, quite possibly obvious question is, "When will we see new artworks of horses and cattle?"

With a laugh, Ivanka notes this is a common question, and she will let us know if this inspiration rises, because "... right now, I have so much visual inspiration all around me here in Canada." So, for now, emotive faces of those she knows, on a lake she loves, are her mainstay. And thankfully, ours too!

You can explore more of Ivanka's art on Instagram (@ivanka.p.art) and through her website (ivankampblog.wordpress.com).

KATHY MORGAN: FLOWER BEADWORK ARTIST

Typically for my MOSAiC article I share a piece of the history of King Township or look deeper at an artifact in the collection. This month, as we approach National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, I wanted to take a different approach and had the pleasure of interviewing local Métis beadwork artist Kathy Morgan.

Kathy is a proud member of the Métis Nation of Ontario, who are renowned for their distinguished flower beadwork. The Métis are one of the Indigenous peoples in Canada who trace their descent to mixed First Nations and European heritage including French, Scottish, English, and Irish. Uniquely Canadian, they were voyagers, trappers, buffalo hunters, explorers, and traders.

We first met Kathy at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre (KHCC) when she applied to join the recent International Women's Day Art Show. Her leather and beadwork were connected to our theme of Community and were admired by visitors. At the opening of this exhibit I began speaking to Kathy about the potential for a partnership and a beading series at the KHCC. As I learned more about Kathy's background, heritage, and art, I knew that she had a story that deserved to be shared and was thrilled when she agreed to this interview.

E: When did you start beading? Who taught you?

K: I was first introduced to beading by my Métis grandmother, Marceline Lajimodiere, in Estevan, Saskatchewan. My sister and I would spend part of our summers in the west. At that time my grandmother always did crochet and sewed and all that sort of stuff. One day she asked me if I was interested in learning how to do it. I liked working with my hands rather than the machine. I didn't like the sewing machine very much, so she showed me how to do beadwork using two needles and two threads. I did that when I was about 9 or 10 years old, and my grandfather made me a beading loom with wood and nails on the end and my grandmother showed me how to string the loom and how to work the beads on the loom. I did that for a couple of years. But because I lived in Toronto, I kind of fell out of doing any beadwork because it just wasn't done in Toronto. So, I didn't do it for years and years. Once my husband asked me to do some beadwork on a bag that he was making and I reluctantly did some beadwork and was like "there, I told you I could do it." I didn't do much with it again for a lot of years and then one day I decided I wanted to learn. I wanted to be reintroduced to it. We went up to a Métis rendezvous in Lafontaine and I went with the intention of finding someone who could teach me how to do beadwork. So as soon as I got out of the car, I just started asking people. I didn't know anyone and I just kept asking and finally someone said "well, that guy over there, he does beadwork at his house." I went over, and he said they do sewing circles at his home in Oshawa. He invited me. His name was Robert Pilon. He later became the president of the Durham Métis Council, but he started off looking for Métis people. He was originally from Saskatchewan, and when he came to Ontario he was looking for the Métis. Oshawa had been an important part of the trade route, and there had been a strong Métis community there, but it was like everybody was underground. He started this sewing circle and one by one people started sitting around

the table and started sharing stories. He really woke up the Métis community and helped to re-establish the Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council. From the sewing circles he showed me how to do beadwork again, and he showed me a different technique. He learned beadwork from his mother who was a prison guard in Saskatchewan. It was mostly Indigenous women in the prison and they asked her to bring them beadwork, beads, and needles and thread. She brought that in and they taught her how to bead. She in turn taught her son, and he brought it to Ontario and started teaching here. Now I'm not only teaching myself, but I still take courses. I learned in Midland from Jeanette of the Georgian Bay Métis Council, and later at the Haliburton School of the Arts. Right now, I am learning from Marissa through the Toronto and York Region Métis Council. I want to give credit where credit is due.

E: How does beading relate to the Métis culture?

K: Originally, because they're a mix of the European and Indigenous, the European influence was the embroidery with silk or wool threads. On the Indigenous side they liked initially working with porcupine quills. Indigenous peoples used porcupine quills and did moose hair tufting before glass beads were introduced to them. So, porcupine quills were what they would use to adorn their pieces. They would dye them with natural dyes and work them into a pattern. When the Europeans brought the glass beads over, then they began to use the beads. They were shiny and beautiful. Where the Métis fit in, they took a blend of both. A lot of the Métis work includes flowers. They're known as the Flower Beadwork People, and they would use the knowledge from both groups and develop their own works.

E: Where do you find the inspiration for the pieces that you create?

K: All over. I've gone into museums and taken a paper and pencil, and would roughly sketch what I'm seeing. Or I go through books and magazines. Some are just patterns. Others I just draw it out for myself. It's gotten to the point now if I see something I like, I go home and play with a drawing until I get it. The flower for Saskatchewan is the Tigerlily, so my husband and I draw it out until we get what we like and then I use the different colours and oranges to make it look a little more three-dimensional. Some (are) patterns out of a book and other stuff is things I've seen and say "I'd like to do that." One was from a picture my mother had taken of a Red River Cart; I beaded the picture.

E: Why do you feel it's important to continue the tradition of beading and to teach?

K: When I teach, I tell stories. I'm a storyteller. I think it's important for people to understand. I was recently interviewed by my grandniece by marriage for university. It was interesting because as a child she would come to events, and I didn't realize how much of an effect it had on her. Now she is studying Indigenous studies and she can recall those events and the sense of community and pride. She said she never experienced it anywhere else, and it influenced her life. She still treasures pieces I made her years ago and her life has been guided because of that. That made it all worthwhile. Now I'm teaching in high schools. I'm going in and I'm

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

talking and I'm doing history lessons. I'm teaching high school students and I'm teaching teachers who don't know Canadian history from the Indigenous perspective. I'm teaching them the Métis story. Being Métis they say we have one foot in each world but we belong to neither.

E: Do you have any upcoming projects you would like to share?

K: I am a member of Kingcrafts and am part of their bi-annual sales. I am also partnering with the KHCC on the upcoming beadwork program on May 10 and 24 and June 7. I am open to going into schools to teach. Teachers are teaching the kids how to sew, and then I can come in to teach the beadwork and the Métis story.



To learn more about Kathy's partnership with the KHCC, visit kingheritageandculture.ca. To contact Kathy to book her for school programs or to purchase her art, email kattmorg@gmail.com

THE KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE PRESENTS:

CLARA'S CLOSET

VINTAGE FASHION OF KING TOWNSHIP

Welcome back to Clara's Closet, a column featuring vintage fashion from the King Heritage & Cultural Centre collection. Each edition we will share photographs of items from the collection. The name Clara's Closet was inspired by a notable King resident who was the previous owner of some of our most fashionable items, Lady Clara (Ellsworth) Flavelle (1858-1932). This edition we are looking at fashion accessories, stylish items that were used to compliment everyday outfits, some of which are still used today!



HAT PINS, C. EARLY 1900s

Toilet pins, also known as hat pins, came into use during the Victorian period and were not only functional, but also considered very fashionable. When bonnets were replaced by hats, toilet pins continued to be all the rage up until the 1950s. They were available in different colours and came in about 16 different lengths, ranging from 1 to 12 inches.



BAKELITE BROOCH, C. 1920s

This flower brooch is yet another practical but stylish accessory. Brooches have held different purposes throughout time, from being used as clothes fasteners, fashion statements by the upper class, and becoming a form of mourning jewelry. This particular brooch is made out of Bakelite, which was the first commercially-successful synthetic plastic to have been created. Invented in 1909, its properties made it especially suitable for electrical items such as telephones and radios, although it was used for a variety of objects such as jewelry and toys.



NECKLACE, C. LATE 1800s

This necklace would have been called "costume jewelry", which was an inexpensive alternative to jewelry made with real precious metals or stones. This type of fashion can be traced to the 1700s, when there was a growing desire for the middle class to adorn themselves with jewelry that looked like heirloom pieces without the hefty price tag. In the early 1900s, bold, colourful "statement pieces" that we know of today became popular due to Coco Chanel's influence.

Have some historic clothing or accessories to share? Let us know at kingmuseum@king.ca

More than meets the eye

by Dorita Peer

Partnerships are greater than the sum of their parts.

Pat Earl and I discovered that when, in appreciation of her watercolour of mushrooms, I sent her a love poem about mushrooms. When the sensibilities of an artist or artisan melds with the impressions of a writer, an adventure in consciousness begins. And that is how the event at The Olde Mill Art Gallery & Shoppe in Schomberg this spring came to be, and how we discovered two new poets. Introducing:

KYRA WALTON, explorer of the intersectional nature of trauma and comedy, love and pain, and the changing weather in her writing.

BRIAN BOAKE, blogger to the Raptors and amateur historian, revels in playing with rare words and antique forms of poetry.

Below are some fine examples from these poets and their artist or artisan partners.



SUGAR MAPLE VASE

BRIAN BOAKE & GEORGE BURT,
WOODWORKER

A sugar maple began its offerings
With Algonquians, whose sagamité
Was topped by sweetness of sap-brewed syrup
Many moons before Sir John A.

Our defenseless tree later was chopped
And sent birling down the Ottawa
At a Loyalist's farm, for needed warmth
Dispatched piecemeal to the firepit's maw

One chunk survived, through decades of snow
Until the day an artisan halted
The remnant he examined with veteran eye
Then exclaimed "This wood is spalted"

A vase unveiled – our maple's final part
Dazzling ascension of craft onto art



SUNKISSED

KYRA WALTON & ANDREA END,
LINOCUT

Come walk this way with me,
out far with me.
Come follow the trees and the flights of pollen
in the breeze.
There are fae here, don't you know.
There are little men with little mud hats,
and there are dragonflies
and quiet fawn.
Light comes in slow
low
There is afternoon to evening in these shadows
the clockwork pattern showing time.
and although there is a tick-ticking
it can't be heard here, no not here.
The obtrusive hand of the clicking clock
is slowed to a shadow, a soft design.
And in this playground of light
there is time,
for you, for me
to walk along this perfect path.
Come, let's go
Here, take my hand.



RUSTLE-2

BRIAN BOAKE & ANDREA END,
LINOCUT

From the sleepless thrum of busy-ness
My feet demanded flight
And now they greet the forest floor
Replete with leaves and shards of light

Quicksilver chipmunk finds me dull
Proliferate blue spruce more his style
"Sorry li'l garter" escapes my lips
His sunning joy I did defile

There is no door to end my trudge
No harsh-garbed guard with whistle
A shooting star may catch my eye
In darkness a benign missile

From views familiar I will bid adieu
To choose instead – paths anew



MIDNIGHT

KYRA WALTON &
MARY MORGANELLI, PAINTER

He reminds me of my friend. My little friend
who meows and meows to get what he wants.
And he gets what he wants. My little friend,
the one whose name is too funny to say.

When I am gone and out of the house, he lies
on his back on my bed, and spreads his arms
and feet stretching in opposite directions.

He slowly opens his eyes to a slit, and gathers
in the tranquility of the room.

He, who lives in a castle, who runs and plays.

He, who hunts and gathers. And he, who
makes enemies.

I imagine he sits tall by the window and
looks out onto the midnight sky.

He looks knowing, the wisdom of a creature
who knows he is invisible and cunning.

Alert, to any coming sounds. His whiskers
tend to betray that he is anything
but dangerous,

He is inherently a cautious creature. A loving one.

He might masquerade as a strange fearsome
thing, but he gives himself all away.

Purring and rolling to one side with the
smallest stroke to his velvet chin.



On behalf of King Township Council, welcome to the summer edition of Mosaic.

We recently made history in King Township as we broke ground on the new Township-Wide Recreation Centre.

Scheduled to open in 2024, the centre will feature 124,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor facilities and is being constructed on 25 acres at the southeast corner of Seneca's King Campus.

The Government of Canada is investing over \$21.1 million in the centre through the Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada plan. The Government of Ontario is providing over \$17.6 million.

The Township of King is providing over \$20 million, mostly through development charges, with another \$16 million contributed by developers as community benefits. Seneca and King have signed a 99-year lease agreement for the land at a cost of \$1 per year.

In late 2019 and early 2020, King met with residents from across the Township to get their input into the features of the new centre. As a result of the feedback, and due to the funding received, a larger pool and second ice pad were included in the project plan. The centre will also feature a multi-use field house with access to future amenities that could include baseball and soccer fields.

With the Township's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the project is exploring energy-efficient measures, such as natural ventilation, reclaiming waste heat from the refrigeration system and an open-loop geothermal heat exchange.

Finally, on behalf of council and residents, I'd like to congratulate the recipients of our annual Volunteer Appreciation Awards, including this year's Citizen of the Year, Michelle Frauley. After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, we were able to recognize their selfless acts that make King Township such an amazing place to live. For more information on the winners, including lots of photos from the event, please www.king.ca/recreation-living/volunteering/volunteer-appreciation.

Please continue to stay safe, volunteer and shop locally as much as you can.



Sincerely,

Steve Pellegrini
Mayor, King Township

A handwritten signature of Steve Pellegrini in black ink.





Here at Hwy 9 Farmers Market our number one priority is to offer our customers the best quality of locally grown fruit, vegetables, farm fresh eggs and honey.

Our garden centre offer's huge selection of annuals, perennials, hanging baskets, tropical shrubs, flowering shrubs and fruit trees to choose from. **New pottery and garden centre supplies.**



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Sewing HOPE

by Julia Galt



One of Tom Wray's most acclaimed photographs depicts a field of sunflowers stretching back as far as the eye can see, a tranquil sea of green and gold.

Floral studies have become something of a signature for the Schomberg-based photographer, who often spends his free time traversing the farms, fields, and woodlands of King with his wife, Mara, in search of the next picturesque scene to freeze in time.

"I've always thought sunflowers were happy flowers," says Tom. "They're bright, they're big, they're bold, they're cheerful."

Recently, the flower has taken on further importance to the Wrays, apart from their allure before the camera.

In response to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, they've repurposed Tom's photographs of sunflowers- Ukraine's national flower- into lawn signs and greeting cards, with the intent of raising \$10,000 or more for the Canadian Red Cross and Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, a joint fundraiser between the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and Canada-Ukraine Foundation.

Sold for \$20 each, the signs and six-pack of greeting cards will provide emergency assistance including medical supplies, food, water, shelter, hygiene items, and fuel for those in need.

The Wrays' efforts have seen them raise over \$5,000 to date- \$1,000 in the first ten days alone.

"I always think that by giving back and helping other people, you're doing a selfless act," says Mara. "I think you can live with yourself and sleep at night knowing that you're trying to do something to help someone

that's not as fortunate as you are. Whatever you're going through in life, there are people that are a lot worse off than you."

Witnessing the "horror" and "brutality" of the war was enough to spark the Wrays' need for action, but Mara's personal connection to the violence has hit "especially hard".

Her parents were forced to flee with their young baby when the Russians invaded Latvia in 1944, a conflict that resulted in 180,000 Latvian casualties- 30% of the country's population.

"You don't expect, almost 80 years later, that history will repeat itself," says Mara.

To further help with fundraising, the first 100 signs and cards produced for the campaign were donated by MAIN Street PRINT, Tom's company. Until the fundraiser ends, they will be donating 100% of profits. Other avenues of fundraising, such as selling sunflower pictures that can hang on walls, are being considered.

"I don't think we're going to see the end of this tragedy for quite a while," says Tom. "The necessity for the support is just becoming more and more."

Signs and greeting cards are currently available at all King Township Public Library locations, The Roost Café in King City, Cappuccino Bakery in Nobleton, and 399 Main St., The Scruffy Duck, Grackle Coffee Company, Cottage and Crown, Nik Nak Nook, BluMarbl, and Schomberg Dental in Schomberg.



Think Out of the Box this Summer:

featuring King Township Public Library's OUT-OF-THE-BOX COLLECTION!

by Stephanie Wilcox

Now that we're well into the long and sunny days of summer, we've decided to celebrate the spirit of exploration!

We're energized and inspired to get outdoors or embrace new hobbies, and King Township Public Library (KTPL) has some exciting ways to participate.

With a collection that is constantly evolving and growing, our Out-of-the-Box collection is an exciting opportunity to try something new. Anyone with a current library card can place Out-of-the-Box collection items on hold and borrow them from their local branch, all for free! Whether you're interested in enjoying the arts or learning more about robotics and the stars, we have something for everyone— expertise not required! For those explorers unsure of where to start, our staff are always happy to answer questions about our collections. Happy exploring from the King Township Public Library team!



BLUE-BOTS

A fun and easy to use introduction to fundamental coding principles, Blue-bots are small, round bots that follow programmable directional instructions users provide. Though their base functions seem simple, they provide an opportunity to learn the planning and programming that must occur before the bots can move forward. For inspiration, borrow one of our Blue-bot mats and try your hand at playing some games with the bots! Holds can be placed on Blue-bots at any branch, with some available for in-Library use at the King City Make-It Lab.

BINOCULARS

Whether you're hiking or bird watching, visit the library and borrow a pair of our binoculars! Our adult binoculars come with a Nikon soft case, 3 lens caps, an instruction manual, and a neck strap for comfort. Our child pair similarly comes with a soft case, instruction manual, and neck strap. Holds can be placed on both binocular pairs at any branch, though the adult pair is limited to adult library card holders.

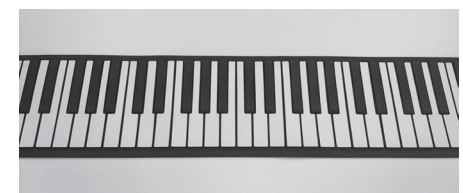
METAL DETECTOR

Detectorists aren't limited to the world of BBC sitcoms— metal detecting is an ongoing, internationally-enjoyed hobby that anyone can participate in! Our metal detector comes with

a carrying case and instruction manual to guide your forays into treasure hunting. Holds can be placed on the metal detector at any branch, though borrowing is limited to adult library card holders.

GEOSAFARI VEGA 600 TELESCOPE

With stargazing season rapidly approaching, try bringing a telescope along for better views! Our lightweight Vega 600 telescope allows 30x to 150x magnifications while its rack and pinion focusing provides bright, clear images. It also comes with two interchangeable glass eyepieces, an image-erecting eyepiece, and a tripod. Holds can be placed on the telescope at any branch.



ELECTRIC ROLL-UP PIANO KEYBOARD

Those looking to try their hand at the piano without taking up the floorspace can check out our electric roll-up keyboard! Our keyboard comes with a foot pedal, operating manual, USB cable, AC adapter, and 4 AAA batteries. Holds can be placed on the roll-up keyboard at any branch, though borrowing is limited to adult library card holders.

SEED LIBRARY

Though not a formal addition to our Out-of-the-Box collection, we couldn't forget it! Located at the Schomberg Branch, interested participants can browse seeds available for "borrowing" for the planting season and return with harvested seeds in the fall to add to the Library. Visit the Schomberg Branch this spring to kick off your gardening journey!



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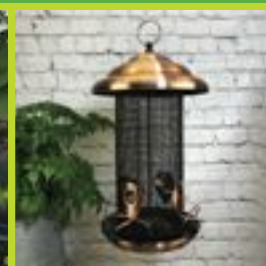
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An Account of the Early Schools in King Township

by Bill Foran

• S.S. #15, Lloydtown



Permit me to share a **brief introduction** to the building of schools in King Township.

I also wish to identify the approximate location of the schools and the name of the road pattern of King Township from one hundred years ago.

The road pattern then was numerical. The newer road names on the eastern side of King Township are an extension from the south to the north. An important fact, Yonge Street from downtown Toronto northward through many urban centres was originally labelled as Concession 1 over 200 years ago.

The Concession numbers from south to north across King Township were originally labelled as Concession 2 (Bathurst Street) to Concession 12. The boundary line between Albion and King Township is also known as Concession 13! The roads from east (Yonge Street) to west (Peel County) across King Township are known by a numerical number; from Sideroad 13, better known as the King-Vaughan Townline, to Sideroad 19, ending with part of Highway 9 as a northern boundary.

During the nineteenth century, there was a collaborative working relationship between the growing number of residents throughout King Township and the elected municipal officials.

Both groups soon realized there was a major need to develop an educational program and choose locations to start building schools for their children. Close neighbours began to organize small groups of children and assemble them in a farm house to begin their instructions.

It soon became apparent that there was a need for neighbours to organize "bees" and construct a local one room school house.

Groups of rural residents and folks in growing villages and hamlets mapped the boundary lines for Public School Sections throughout the townships. Often a rural resident would generously donate a favourable site on a convenient road frontage for the school house.

As a recognition of the family's generosity,

the school would be commonly known by that family name and has usually retained that name today.

School Section #16, built in 1890, is still referred to as the "Crawford School", built on land donated by William Crawford. It is located on Concession 11 and King Sideroad 17.

Another example is the Kinghorn Public School S.S. #23, built in 1867 and currently the location of the King Township Museum and historical buildings.

It is interesting to note that adjacent municipalities would often build a shared school house with frontage on a boundary road. An example is the Union School #13 Albion Township and #20 King Township. This convenient location served students on the west side of King Township and the east side of Albion Township.

During the nineteenth century, agreements were made between the local townships and residents to finance the education of the students. Parents accepted the task of managing a local school and later, school trustees were elected during municipal elections to form a Township School Board. A school tax was levied as part of the annual municipal taxation.

By 1903, a total of twenty-four School Sections existed and there were various buildings ranging from log cabins, simple plank structures with later additions, and one and two room brick schools. In latter years, many of the school houses were sold and have been saved, refurbished into attractive and unique homes.

Advancing into the twentieth century, permit me to share with you some reminiscences and special occasions that some readers might remember. Wednesday, November 2, 1927 was a significant date for the village of Schomberg, the west side of King Township, and the surrounding community.

This date at three o'clock in the afternoon was the official opening of the two storey, four

room Schomberg Continuation School, one of the first rural Grade B High Schools in Ontario. This new brick building accommodated two elementary rooms and two upper rooms for Grades 9 and 10, the secondary students.

Difficult to confirm as I have no program, but I believe the students were in attendance for the full day.

Under his enterprising leadership, Reverend Father Francis McGoey helped establish the community of Sacred Heart, located on Concession 5 Jane Street and 16th Sideroad of King Township. In 1934, a small group of sixteen families opened the first elementary Catholic school in King Township and by 1946, the school was enlarged by adding a kindergarten class. In 1949, six students successfully completed their Junior Matriculation, Grade 12.

I am sure some readers will well remember the dreaded and stressful experience of writing at least eight Senior Matriculation Grade XIII province wide examinations!

During the year the content of the subjects was taught, and tests given and marked, but the final examinations determined your success of passing or failure.

A big passing mark was needed to gain admission to a university program. Students anxiously waited all summer to receive the results (share this experience with your grandchildren).

The most important book for classroom elementary teachers was the "blue" cover Attendance Book. The teacher had to record the pupil's morning and afternoon attendance each school day and any lateness to class, calculate the monthly attendance, and list reasons for a lengthy absentee period. The teacher's calculations were checked and verified by the principal each month. These statistics were important and necessary for the school board to receive their provincial grant money.

Often, the visitor I mention next gave

personal perusal and signature for verification. The visitor was the provincial inspector who visited his district of schools. Teachers were usually informed for the scheduled visits and they carefully reminded their students to demonstrate their best behaviour and politeness. Little did students know, the inspector was visiting the class to make an appraisal of the teacher's methods and rapport with students.

I had the privilege to work with a group of Catholic rate payers to form one of the last rural school boards. In 1966, they successfully gained provincial approval to form the Combined Roman Catholic Separate School Board for three sections in King Township North, Tecumseth South, and the south part of West Gwillimbury Township. The school officially opened in March 1967, as the era of the independent "school house" was drawing to a close.

As many educators know, January 1, 1970 marked the restructuring of the Municipal Region of York and the York Region District School Board and York Catholic District School Board.

Good luck and much success to today's students and teachers.





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MICHELE MCNALLY
PRESIDENT

A poet, an actor, a woodworker, an accountant, a quilter, a history buff, and a communications specialist. This eclectic group makes up the new volunteer Board of Directors for Arts Society King (ASK). ASK, which proudly produces and edits MOSAiC Magazine, promotes, supports, and advocates for arts and culture through effective partnerships and innovative events and programs.

The new Board is excited to help the organization move beyond COVID-19 and offer a number of exciting arts and culture activities over the next year. Here's your opportunity to get to know the Board members a little better.

by Patti Skrypek



REGINA JENSEN
TREASURER



MURDENE POZDROWSKI
SECRETARY

MICHELE MCNALLY, PRESIDENT

Michele is a retired actor living in Nobleton. As founder and Artistic Director of the Nobleton Children's Theatre Co., Michele was able to share her love of the arts with budding actors. She has been an active volunteer for many years, volunteering at Nobleton Public School and in community events such as the celebration of Canada's 150th in Kettleby and the Nobleton Tree Lighting. You may know Michele as the ghost storyteller at the Haunting on King Road at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre every Halloween or as the emcee at the 2020 Mayor's Cultural Gala.

Michele has been a board director with Arts Society King since 2018 and has been enjoying the role of President since 2020. She hopes to engage artists of all pursuits within King Township and beyond to share their vision and their beauty.

REGINA JENSEN, TREASURER

Regina is an experienced accountant working primarily in the real estate and public accounting (audit and assurance) sectors. She's a busy mother of two boys and a self-described foodie and art lover with a penchant for theatre arts. Regina is excited to be a member of Arts Society King to lend her services, meet new people, and discover new adventures.

MURDENE POZDROWSKI, SECRETARY

As a long-time resident of King Township and a more recent resident of Newmarket, Murdene has been involved for more than 30 years with many volunteer groups and committees. She has been a member of Arts Society King for the past eight years as secretary and with the King Township Historical Society (KTHS) as vice president. Other volunteer activities include the King Township Food Bank, Heritage Advisory Committee, and several other volunteer interests outside of the township. Murdene has had a life-long interest in the arts and heritage conservation which fit perfectly with both ASK and KTHS.

KATHLEEN RODGERS, ARTIST LIAISON

Kathleen retired in 2015 after a career as an elementary school teacher. She taught kindergarten to grade 8 in both the English and French immersion streams. As a lifelong learner, she has explored many different mediums including embroidery, ceramics, traditional and fused stained glass, basketry, photography, painting (acrylic, alcohol inks, watercolour) and quilting. She has taught workshops and sold her finished pieces for over 30 years, most recently on studio tours. A summer course at

Haliburton School of Design introduced her to hand-dyed fabrics and the world of art quilts. Her art quilts incorporate her hand-dyed or hand-painted fabrics.

Since retiring, Kathleen has joined various organizations and boards including the Coldwater Mill, Burr House Spinners & Weavers Guild, two quilt guilds, the Studio Art Quilters Association, and Arts Society King. She likes to support emerging and experienced artists and artisans by looking for or creating opportunities to promote them, including organizing sales opportunities (consignment boutiques, art gallery, studio tours, art shows and sales, etc.). She is also part of a fibre arts group that creates exhibits based on a theme to travel to various galleries in Ontario.

JOANNE BAILEY, DIRECTOR

Joanne's appreciation for art is reflected in her woodworking designs. The range of hues, tactile surfaces, character, and unique grain of the wood she uses portrays the beauty and distinction of each finished piece. Many of her pieces focus on a theme, such as the holiday season, festive decor, wooden animals, signs and more.

Recently, Joanne has explored the art of writing as she likes to communicate her thoughts, emotions, and experiences in what she writes. She enjoys writing short stories and articles.

Retired from a diversified nursing career, Joanne finds both of these hobbies relaxing and therapeutic. A resident of Schomberg, you will often see Joanne walking in town enjoying its beauty. As an active executive member of the Schomberg Community Farm Committee and a board member on Arts Society King, Joanne loves to add value when she can and takes pleasure in volunteering for many of the events King Township has to offer.

DORITA PEER, DIRECTOR

Poet, writer, sculptor, painter, musician, and gardener, Dorita has enjoyed life in Kettleby's wilds for over 40 years, and makes her living as a horsewoman. Sometimes she paints or sculpts or plays flute, but mostly she writes. She feels rewarded by being part of WriteNow@King, MOSAiC Magazine, the Timeless Tales project with the King Heritage & Culture Centre and, of course, ASK. Her grand passions are nature and philosophy and bringing people together in joyful and creatively unbounded exploration for ASK and other groups. Her inspiration comes from her many talented co-adventurers in the eagle's nest that is King.

PATTI SKRYPEK, DIRECTOR

Patti is an experienced manager and leader, working for more than 30 years in the Ontario government. Prior to moving to senior operational and management positions, she spent most of her career as a professional communicator, holding positions from writer to web editor to communications manager.

Patti is also an experienced not-for-profit board member and, in addition to ASK, is currently a board member for an organization that supports those impacted by addiction to achieve physical, emotional, and spiritual wellness. She has also served as vice-chair for an organization that provides a spectrum of high-quality mental health services to children and their families. Patti is an active volunteer and has led and supported a number of initiatives for the King Township Food Bank, Christmas in King, and the King/Nobleton Garden Club.



KATHLEEN RODGERS
ARTIST LIAISON



JOANNE BAILEY
DIRECTOR



DORITA PEER
DIRECTOR



PATTI SKRYPEK
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Events in and Around King Township

by Arts Society King



JUNE 2 – ONGOING – WRITENOW!@KING – WriteNow!@King is a writers' group partnering with King Library who meet on the first and third Thursday afternoons 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: info@kinglibrary.ca for more information.

JUNE 3 – JULY 3 – FOR THE BIRDS COLLABORATIVE ART SHOW! – OLDE MILL ART GALLERY & SHOPPE – artists seek inspiration through birding during COVID. Location: 357 Main Street, Schomberg, Wednesday through Sundays 11 AM – 5 PM. Email Catharine De Montmorency at c.demont@sympatico.ca.

JUNE 4 – QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE HIGH TEA – ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH – Queen's Platinum Jubilee High Tea, reservations required. \$20 per ticket. Location: All Saints Anglican Church, 12935 Keele Street, King City 1 PM – 4PM. Email allsaints3@bellnet.ca for more information.

JUNE 25 – BEST OF THE BEST OUTDOOR YARD SALE – ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH – Great sale of household goods, art, jewelry, toys, bargains galore. Location: All Saints Anglican Church, 12935 Keele Street, King City 9 AM – NOON.

JUNE 27 – HEALING GARDENS WITH JACKIE MORRA - NOBLETON KING CITY GARDEN CLUB – The benefits of Healing Gardens engaging the senses. Ideas on how to transform our outdoor spaces and how to connect with nature. Location: Laskay Hall, 2920 King Road, King City 7:30 PM. Email nobletonkingcitygardenclub@gmail.com or contact us through our Facebook page.

JULY & AUGUST – HOT SUMMER GALLERY DRAW – OLDE MILL ART GALLERY & SHOPPE – Olde Mill Art Gallery & Shoppe visitors are asked to fill out a ballot to win a \$100 Gift Certificate, for purchase towards any Gallery item. Draw on September 4th/Labour Day. Location: 357 Main Street, Schomberg Wednesday through Sundays 11 AM – 5 PM. Email oldemillartgalleryandshoppe@gmail.com or text 647-523-3275.

WETLANDS:

One of Earth's Most Important Natural Features

by J. Bruce Craig, Concerned Citizens of King Township

What is a wetland, and what do you think of when you hear the word? Perhaps you think of an area of land saturated with water, with tall reeds growing. Or perhaps what comes to mind are frogs, salamanders, ducks, and geese on a small area of open water, surrounded by cattails. You have very likely heard the remarkable chorus of "spring peepers" in a local wetland on a warm spring evening. When I think of wetlands, I think of my childhood memories, canoeing through areas of shallow water filled with reeds, arrowheads, and water lilies. I remember seeing frogs, dragonflies, and other insects.

Simple Definition

Wetlands are either permanently or seasonally submerged or saturated lands, characterized by plants adapted to saturated soil conditions.

Significance

Wetlands are among the most significant and biodiverse ecosystems on earth, alongside rainforests and coral reefs. They are ecologically and economically valuable. Wetlands are havens for a great variety of plant and animal species, provide critical services such as flood control, and are vital for enhancing landscape resilience to climate change. They are the only ecosystem designated for conservation by international convention.

Canadian Facts

Wetlands cover about 13% of the land area of Canada. They were once abundantly distributed throughout the country. Over the past 200 years, however, wetlands have become an increasingly scarce resource in settled areas of the country. Wetlands have often been considered wasteland, and many of Southern Ontario's were drained or filled in so that they could be farmed or built upon with roadways and expanding urban areas. Pre-European settlement, wetland coverage in Southern Ontario was about 25% of the land surface.

By 2002, only 7% of the Southern Ontario landscape was covered with wetlands, a reduction of 72%. In the Greater Toronto Area, only about 10% of the original wetlands remain.

Types of Wetlands

In Canada there are five different kinds of wetlands, each one with its own unique characteristics. These are marshes, swamps, bogs, and fens, along with shoreline (fresh water) and coastal (salt water) wetland areas beside open water.

Marshes are a well-recognized kind of wetland, often with areas of open water with floating plants like water-lilies and plants rising up above the water like cattails. The Dufferin Marsh in Schomberg is familiar to many people in King.

Swamps are wetlands that are dominated by trees and shrubs. Swamps are the most common type of wetland in Southern Ontario. The Pottageville Swamp in King Township is a good example.

Bogs are usually peat-covered with a surface carpet of Sphagnum moss that receives water from rainfall and surface runoff.

Like bogs, fens often contain Sphagnum moss. However, they are less acidic than bogs and have more nutrients, resulting in a higher diversity of plant life. Most of Ontario's bogs and fens are found in Northern Ontario.

In addition to these, there are wetland areas along the shorelines of ponds, lakes, and rivers, where reeds such as cattails and shrubs that thrive in saturated soils and shallow water are often found. The eastern shore of Mary Lake is a good example of a shoreline wetland.

How Do Wildlife Species Use Wetlands?

Food and shelter are the primary requirements of life. Wetlands provide these functions for many species of animals that either live permanently within the wetland or visit periodically. Almost every part of a wetland, from the bottom up, is important to wildlife in some way. Frogs bury themselves



Wetland near Blue Heron Park, King City

Shoreline of Mary Lake

in the muddy substrate to survive the winter, and some insects use bottom debris to form a protective covering. Fish swim and feed in wetlands, often eating the eggs of insects that have been deposited in the water. Wetland vegetation provides nesting materials and support structures to several bird species and is a major source of food to mammals, even those as large as moose. Small mammals use the lush vegetation at the edge of wetlands for cover and as a source of food, and they themselves are a food source for birds of prey. Each species has adapted to using the wetland and its surrounding area in a particular way.

Wetlands and Climate Change

Of growing importance, wetlands enhance landscape resilience to many of the anticipated impacts of climate change, including flooding, drought, and the loss of biodiversity. They also play a major role in carbon storage.

Wetlands sequester vast amounts of carbon. Peatlands located in the far north of Ontario contain more than 90% of the carbon in Ontario's wetlands. The peat-filled bogs and fens in Ontario store an estimated 28.2 gigatonnes of carbon, which is about 25% of the total peatland carbon in Canada. Recent studies of Ontario's peatlands indicate that additional carbon is being sequestered each year.

Threats to Wetlands in Southern Ontario

Pressing threats include continued land conversion for other uses, drainage from development and agriculture, invasive species such as phragmites, salt and other contaminants from roadways and adjacent land uses, climate change, and artificial modification of water levels.

Why Does the Loss of Wetlands Matter?

Wetlands provide critical habitat for wild plants and animals, including more than 20% of Ontario's species at risk. They supply food and essential shelter for many species of fish, shellfish, shorebirds, waterfowl, and furbearing mammals.

Acting as a form of natural infrastructure, they

play a vital role in filtering and purifying water, controlling floods, reducing erosion, groundwater recharge, and mitigating climate change. These benefits, provided for free, are valued at over \$51 billion per year in Southern Ontario alone.

Wetlands also provide products for food (wild rice, cranberries, fish, wildfowl) and building material (lumber). They are also valuable recreational areas for activities such as fishing and birdwatching.

Wetland Conservation

Fortunately, in the past 50 years heightened concern about decreasing populations in wetland bird species has brought attention to the significant loss of wetland habitat. Government ministries and established organizations such as Ontario Nature have conducted extensive studies and evaluated most of the remaining wetlands in Southern Ontario. Over 60% of those evaluated have been identified as provincially significant. Protections in provincial, regional, and municipal planning documents have been introduced. There are also projects underway in agricultural regions where wetlands are being reclaimed and enhanced on farmland.

However, land use pressures and human activity continue to threaten the health of remaining wetlands and recent losses have been documented. Urban expansion continues to encroach on and threaten wetlands. Road salt and other contaminants from roads and adjacent land uses degrade many lakes, rivers, and wetlands. Advocacy work for wetlands continues through education and the application of protective planning policies.

What You and I Can Do

Help in the education of others about the high significance of wetlands and their many benefits. Advocate for the strengthening of planning policies and their consistent application in protecting wetlands. Avoid the purchase of peat for gardening projects. Support the efforts of land trusts and other organizations to conserve and restore wetlands.



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Around the Neighbourhood

GETTING TO KNOW... ...Schomberg Community Farm

by Cheryl Fisher

Situated in the heart of Schomberg on 6+ acres of King Township land, the Schomberg Community Farm's first season was 2017. We are now in our 6th season. Our all-volunteer committee is more passionate than ever to be part of the beautiful and nature-filled space that is the Farm.

Grateful gardeners have found peace, purpose, and some semblance of normality during the last two difficult years, growing fruits and vegetables for their families, friends, neighbours, and community.

Each of the 49 rented garden plots are 10 by 20 feet, and we have a steady waiting list of people wanting to join. It is always a joy to see

how prolific some plots are each year. Garlic delights as it is the first to break through the ground in early spring. Experimenting with cold frames, vertical growing, and succession planting is all part of the learning experience. Every year more gardeners are using these methods, which help to maximize productivity, extend the growing season, and utilize the space to their advantage. Sharing their experiences with others is encouraged.

Workshops, events, tree plantings, and tours have taken place, and planning started early this year. Focused on building a community of like-minded gardening and nature-lovers, gardeners are expected to volunteer to help



with the maintenance. We also encourage youth to come and help, and get their required volunteer hours with us.

The Schomberg Community Farm has a large circular butterfly and native garden, full of plants that attract pollinators. Several other flower gardens, a pear and apple orchard, two newly planted native shrub rows, many fruit plants and bushes, and a popular beanpole tent are just some of the other sights to see on the property.

A seed library is a new addition for this year, as is a large community growing area for climbing and spreading plants such as squashes and pumpkins.

Visitors are encouraged to visit and walk around, taking only photographs. Often, they will send a note to say how much they enjoyed their time at the Farm, sometimes with photographs attached of their young children on the garden paths or in front of one of our many signs.

What are the benefits of being part of this community garden? It provides a great sense of achievement producing your own organic fruit and vegetables, being in nature, learning new skills, helping and sharing produce and knowledge with others, and partaking in the community spirit.

Please visit schombergcommunityfarm.ca or follow us on Facebook for more information.

...Girl Guides in King Township

Girl Guides of Canada is the largest organization for women and girls in Canada. Guiding in Canada started in 1910, and the first units here in King Township were established in the late 1960s. The tradition of Girl Guides is still very prevalent in how we run our units today: weekly meetings, badges, the Guiding Promise, cookie sales, enjoying nature, camping, a uniform, participation in the community, and girl empowerment. Girl members can join at age five as a Spark and continue their Guiding journey through adulthood: Sparks (5-6), Brownies (7-8), Guides (9-11), Pathfinders (12-14), Rangers (15-17), and then as a member of Link (18-30) and in the Trefoil Guild (30+).

The first Girl Guide camp was called Bonita Glen and was located right here in King Township in 1929, at the current site of the Kingbridge Centre. Bonita Glen was later relocated to Hawkstone, ON in 1938. There were active units in most of our local towns from the late 1960s to early 2000s. Slowly the units dissolved due to lack of volunteers in the community. The 1st Nobleton group is the only remaining active unit in King Township! Our members come from a variety of locations, including Kleinburg, Pottageville, Schomberg, King City, and, of course, Nobleton. We currently have members enrolled in Sparks, Brownies, Guides, and Pathfinders and have approximately 10 adult volunteers, known as Guiders, who plan and lead the weekly meetings held September through June. We meet at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church every Tuesday evening. Our weekly meetings include a variety of activities and hands-on experience to encourage learning, build confidence and awareness, encourage growth, and connect with nature. We also have an active Trefoil unit involved in community projects and assisting with our younger units as needed.

Our members earn badges based on the work we do in our meetings and special events such as weekend camps (day and overnight) and local community participation. Our unit is active in the Nobleton and Schomberg communities, caroling at the Lions Seniors Dinner, marching in Victoria Day and Main Street Christmas parades, helping with Christmas in King food bank hampers and Spring clean-up, and selling Girl Guide cookies wherever we can! The selling of cookies began in 1927 and is our primary fundraiser to provide funds to run our meetings, purchase supplies and materials, subsidize fees for our special events and excursions, and cover the bulk of camping

and associated costs. In the Spring, we sell the chocolate and vanilla sandwich cookies; in the Fall, the chocolate-mint variety. They are available for \$5/box and you can always send an email if you'd like to support us and purchase some. We are also very grateful to the Nobleton Lions Club for their annual financial support. Our girls have always been very excited to hold the "big cheque" presented to us at the annual Lions Seniors Dinner held each December.

The recent pandemic has certainly made things interesting for Girl Guides across Canada. For us, our weekly meetings were abruptly ended and eventually converted to virtual sessions where we continued to meet weekly and engage as a unit. We planned our online meetings with guests joining us via Zoom to do yoga, see live animals, do STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) experiments, create greeting cards, and learn how to weave (King Heritage and Cultural Centre). We also baked together and had virtual sleepovers, all from the comfort of our homes- but connected by technology!

Cookie selling was another challenge. The two skids of cookies for our unit had just been dropped the week before March Break of 2020, and then we were told there was to be no person-to-person contact. We adapted by selling cookies online, doing porch drop-offs, and accepting payments by e-transfer. The Nobleton Pharmasave graciously helped us out by displaying and selling the bulk of our cookies from their location.

We are now back to our in-person meetings and look forward to a more normal and traditional 2022-2023 Guiding year starting in September. For more information about Girl Guides, visit www.girlguides.ca. To learn about our Nobleton unit, please email 1stnobletonbrownies@gmail.com. New members and volunteers are always welcome!



by Susanne Munroe, Guider, 1st Nobleton Girl Guides



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ANNA ROBERTS

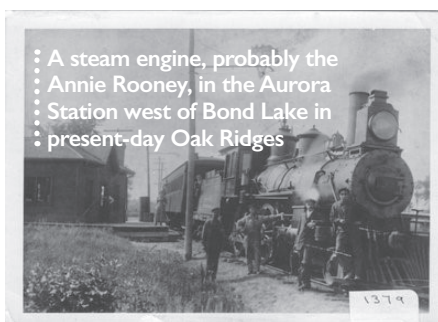
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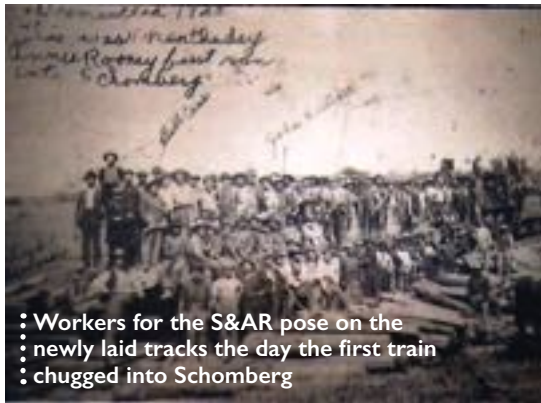
• In the 1890s, market Wednesdays in Schomberg
• were busy horse and wagon affairs



• A steam engine, probably the
• Annie Rooney, in the Aurora
• Station west of Bond Lake in
• present-day Oak Ridges



• Workers for the S&AR pose on the
• newly laid tracks the day the first train
• chugged into Schomberg



• A steam-powered train sits in the
• Schomberg Station. The station house
• exists today as a private home.



THE SCHOMBERG & AURORA RAILROAD

WETLANDS AND ANNIE ROONEY

by Ann Love

In the 1890s, large, wild wetlands ringed Schomberg. The original Holland Marsh and Pottageville Swamp to the east, Bell's Lake to the south, and multiple smaller wetlands in every direction pulsed with chorus frogs, turtles, nesting herons, soaring swallows, dragonflies, deer, lilies, reeds, and willows. The wet areas acted as giant sponges, collecting rainwater and releasing it slowly in drier times, keeping much of the land lush and green. This nutrient rich,

natural irrigation system was a major reason enterprising Schomberg and Lloydtown farmers had surplus grain, chicken, eggs, and beef to sell.

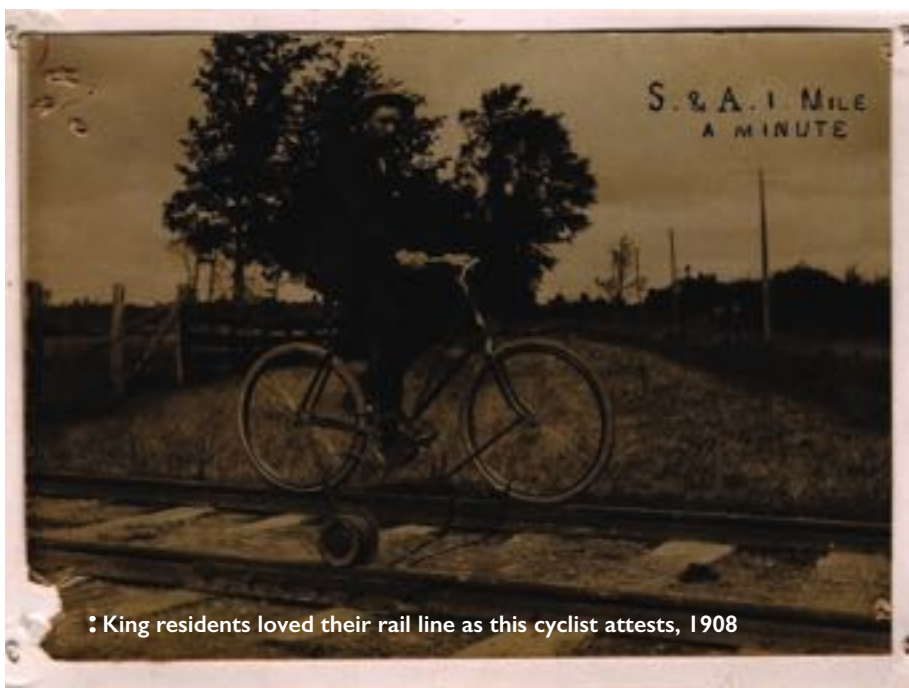
But the same wetlands made getting fresh meat and eggs to market a nightmare. Before the motor car, well-engineered roads, and wetland containment, horse hooves and narrow rigid cartwheels carved deep ruts into the muddy roadbeds. Snow melt and seasonal rains made travel east to Newmarket difficult. Highway

27 did not exist at the turn of the century – Bell's Lake formed such an extensive wetland that travel south was impossible without delays and detours. A one-way trip to Toronto from Schomberg could take 5 but more likely 9 hours in the 1890s – even if that included catching the radial trolley down Yonge Street.

No wonder Benjamin Brown, a descendant of Schomberg's founding family, promoted a passenger and freight train to connect Schomberg to Yonge Street. Partnering with Simon Lemon of Kettleby, the businessmen were granted a charter in 1896 to construct the Schomberg and Aurora Railway (S&AR). Work began in 1899 and the line opened in 1902 after longtime resident Mrs. Shelton of Schomberg hammered in the last spike.

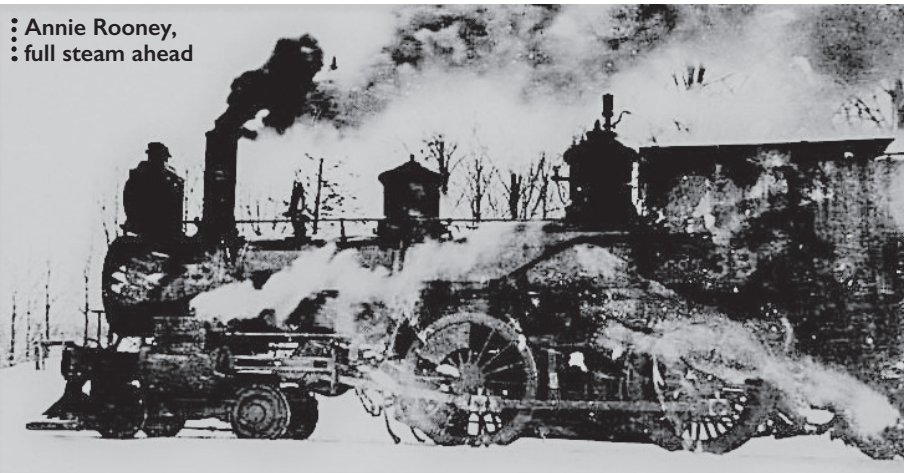
Receiving a charter didn't mean getting government money. Brown and Lemon had to attract investors. And local backers insisted their communities be served by the route. When it became clear the line would cut a diagonal across King Township, investors from Newmarket and Aurora lost interest. Captain MacDonald bought in after he was assured the line would continue to Lloydtown. The good captain sought redress from the courts when Schomberg became the terminus. In 1901, ownership of the line passed to William McKenzie and Donald Mann of the Metropolitan Railway of Toronto. Their holdings included the radial line up Yonge Street.

(Continued on page 21)



• King residents loved their rail line as this cyclist attests, 1908

• Annie Rooney,
• full steam ahead



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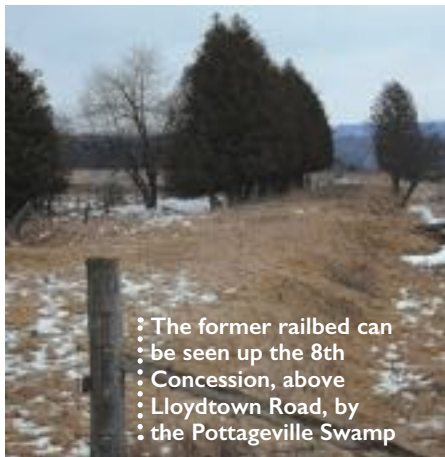
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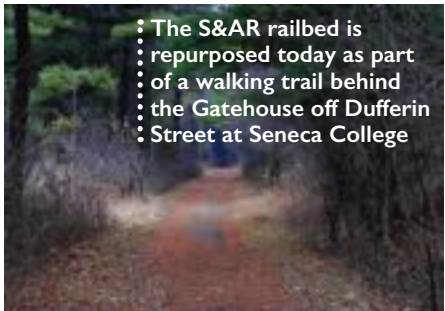
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• The former railbed can be seen up the 8th Concession, above Lloydtown Road, by the Pottageville Swamp



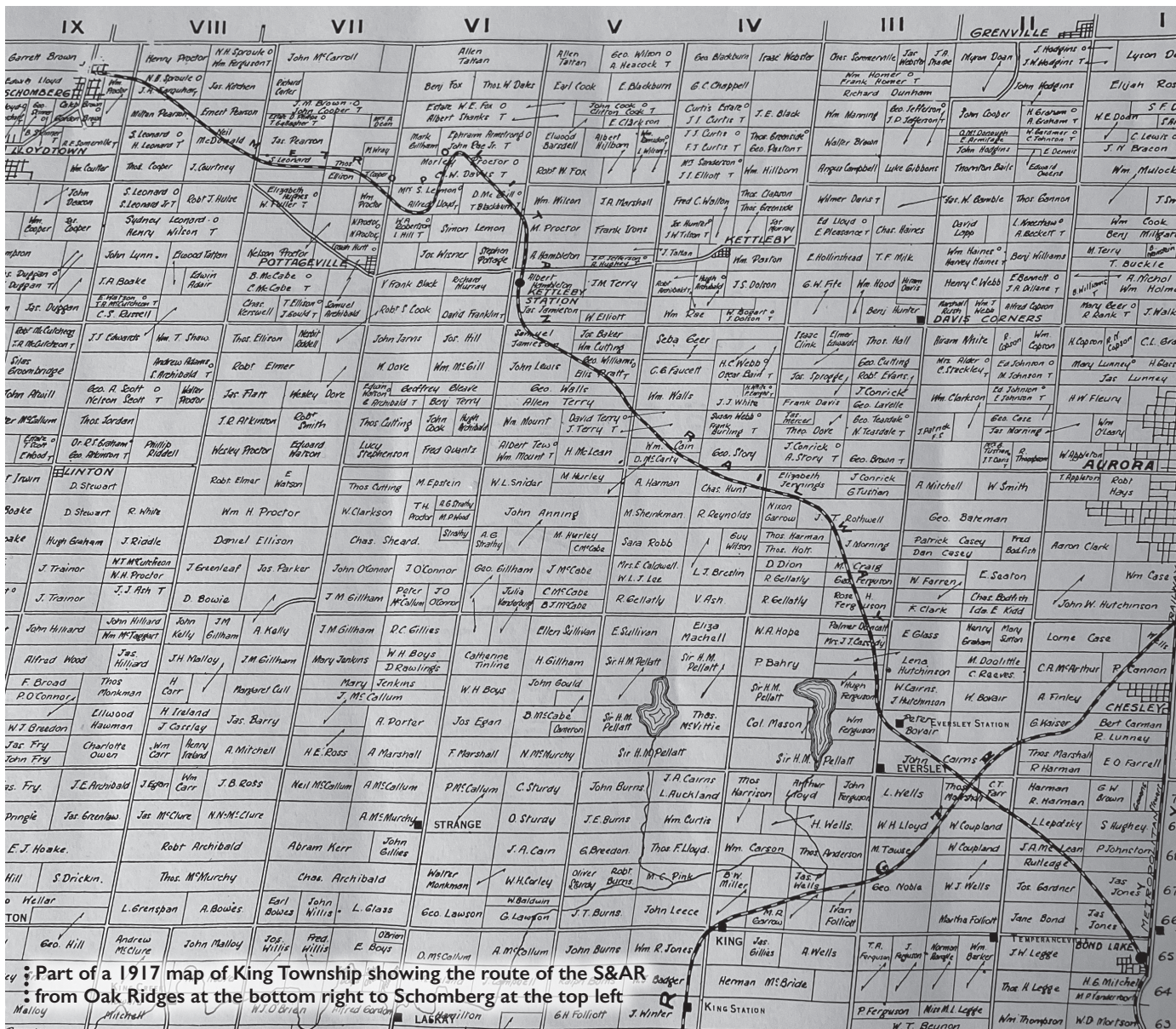
• The S&AR railbed is repurposed today as part of a walking trail behind the Gatehouse off Dufferin Street at Seneca College



• In Oak Ridges near the start of the S&AR Line, Schomberg Road runs along the old railbed from the King Road heading north, just west of Yonge Street



• Northwest of the intersection of Weston Road and the Lloydtown Road, the train zigzagged to keep to high, dry ground and to accommodate the farms of Simon Lemon's family- Lemon being one of the founders of the line



• Part of a 1917 map of King Township showing the route of the S&AR from Oak Ridges at the bottom right to Schomberg at the top left



• The Kettleby Station still stands on its original site at the Weston and the Lloydtown Road intersection

Mackenzie and Mann had deeper pockets than local investors.

The finished line started west of Bond Lake in Oak Ridges with the so-called Aurora Station, next stop Eversley, then Kettleby, and finally Schomberg at the northeast corner of Main Street and today's Dr. Kay Drive. In addition, there were four private spur lines serving Eaton Hall, the Pellatt Estate, and two farm and sawmill operations near Pottageville. The line offered multiple whistle-stops and maintained at least one location to refill the steam engine with water as needed.

Police interventions and legal battles waged through 1902 before and after the completion of the line. The Aurora Banner reported that residents complained of drunken railway workmen disturbing the peace on pay days. One worker "threatened to clean out the whole town." Also, several farmers took the S&AR to court claiming inadequate compensation for expropriation of their lands. The Banner reported, "A very large number of witnesses have been summoned on both sides and a big fight will be put up." On October 17, 1902, The Grand Trunk Railway Company ripped up a section of S&AR rails claiming the S&AR had not properly negotiated crossing their tracks north of King City. That act of

vandalism ended up in court too. All the issues were resolved but do suggest a remarkable approach to doing business!

It was not all fisticuffs and litigation – the rail company offered many happy times for King residents. The day the railway opened the engine hooked up to several flatcars and gave Schomberg residents a free ride to Oak Ridges and back. It was like a late-summer hayride across the township with a fresh warm breeze, the scent of field flowers, and the background buzz of crickets. On fair and exhibition days in Toronto, special schedules and discounted rates were offered. Schomberg residents could have a day in the big city and get home to their own beds before midnight. A one-way trip was now reliably 1½ hours.

One of the biggest dramas in the early years takes us back to the challenges of wetlands. On August 6, 1903, the train was backing down the track just north of Bond Lake to load several flatbed cars with gravel when the railbed started sinking. The foreman warned the driver and fireman who managed to stop the train and jump clear. The Newmarket Era reported, "The monster engine has buried herself to a depth of fully 15 feet of sand and gravel, carrying the track along for a distance of probably 50 feet." Only the smokestack

was visible above the sinkhole. That night, the engine sank another 6 feet. The Era explained, "The point at which this remarkable incident has taken place, while always regarded as swampy, and the soil as soft and spongy, was never regarded as dangerous." It took days of pumping and towing to raise the engine, flatbed cars, and stabilize the tracks.

Most winters, snowstorms created havoc with schedules. Snow removal required teams of workers digging with shovels. Over the winter of 1904, snowfall was so heavy that train service had to be cancelled from January 29 through April 7. In 1908, blizzards shut down service for 5 weeks. Horse drawn sleighs delivered mail to Kettleby and Schomberg.

Residents living along the S&AR line grew to love their train. They affectionately called the original steam engine "Annie Rooney" and, after 1916 when service switched from steam to electric power, the whole train was referred to by that nickname. Why Annie Rooney? An 1889 wildly popular song, "Little Annie Rooney," inspired cartoon characters and the names of a comic strip, a 1925 silent movie starring Mary Pickford, a 1942 movie starring Shirley Temple, and probably the S&AR engine name. Note the AR in the railroad initials!

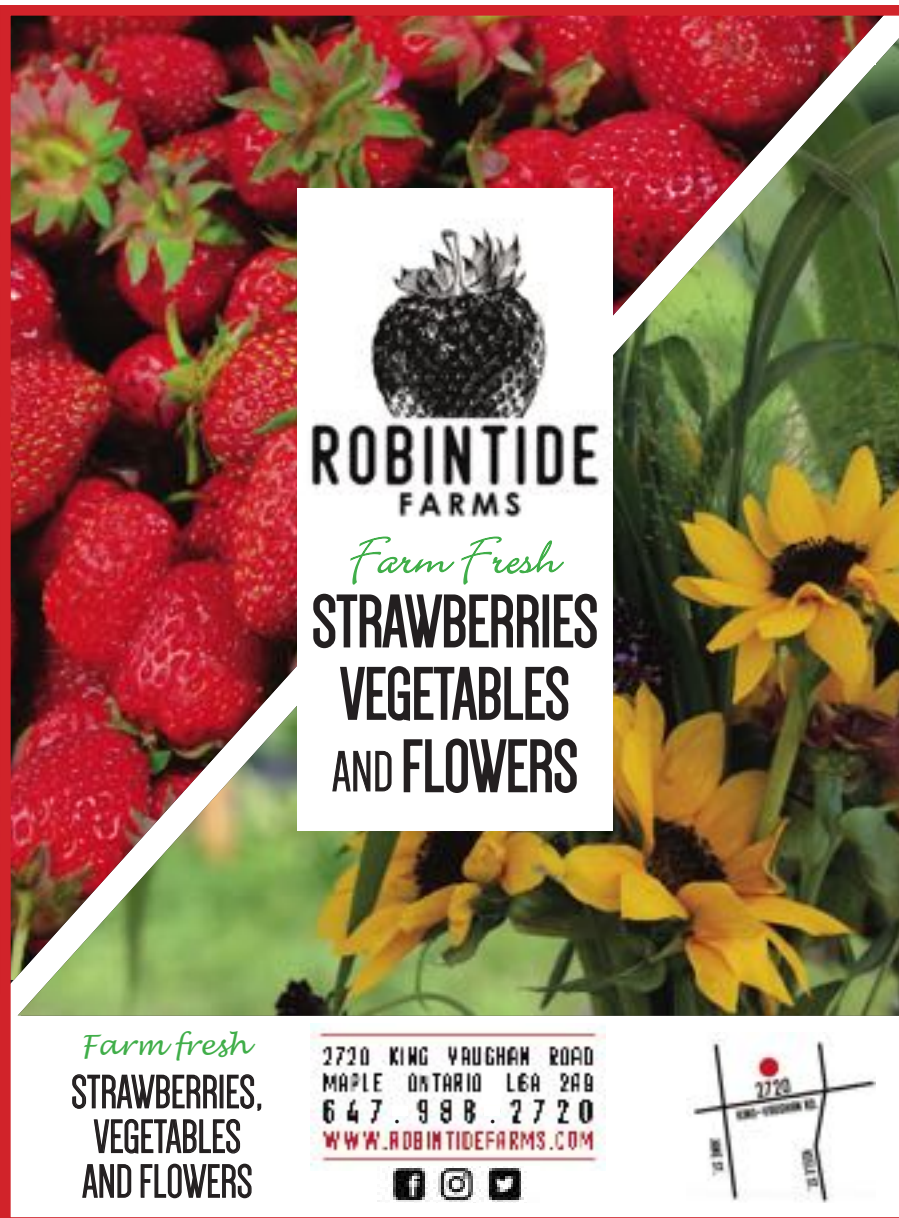
Here is the original refrain of the song:

She's my sweetheart, I'm her beau;
She's my Annie! I'm her Joe!
Soon we'll marry, never to part,
Little Annie Rooney is my sweetheart!

With an increase in numbers of motor cars and improved roads, the "Annie Rooney" started to lose customers and money. Despite attempts to prevent closure, the last ride took place in 1927. The rails were gone a year later. In a few places, remnants of the railbed are still visible. Dr. Kay Drive in Schomberg runs along it and the house at the NE corner of Main Street, used as the terminus station, still stands.

Think of "Annie Rooney" the next time you travel along Dr. Kay Drive as it crosses the Dufferin Marsh. Enjoy the late day call of a bossy redwing or the sighting of a hunting owl. The railway may have gone, but the wetland and its inhabitants remain.

With thanks to Bill Foran, KTHS Life Member; Sharon Bentley, KTHS Board Member; Elsa Ann Pickard and Louise Di Iorio, the King Archives; and Liza Mallyon and Erika Baird, the King Heritage & Cultural Centre



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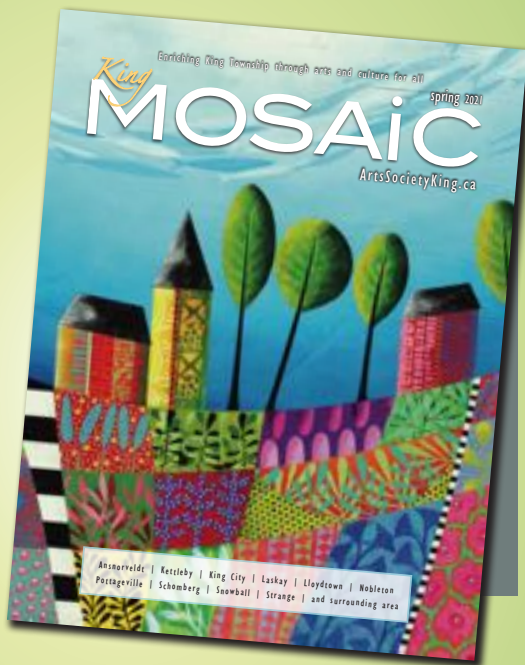
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Dean Orr's organic farm operation may be destroyed if Highway 413 is built

HIGHWAY 413 DEATH OF THE FARM

by Dan O'Reilly

For more than a few King Township residents, the proposed Highway 413 is **not some abstract concept**.

Stretching from Highway 401 near Milton and deadening at Highway 400 just south of the King Sideroad, the 59-kilometre-long mega highway will have profound and detrimental impacts on their lives, livelihoods, and communities.

Especially hard hit will be the Orr Family of Mill Road, whose future in farming is in peril.

Approximately one-quarter of the land Peter Orr rents for his cash crop operation are in the direct path of the highway's route.

And 40 acres of that land is dedicated to an organic farm his son Dean started in 2020. On that land, he grows soya and kidney beans and last year planted quinoa on a 1.4-acre plot in a test experiment in partnership with, and supported by, the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario.

"It (the test) didn't work out very well. I planted the grain in June which is probably too late."

"Quinoa is more of a cold climate crop," he says, noting they were originally cultivated in the Andes.

Certified by the Canada Organic Regime, Dean's plan this year is to plant three test sections, one in late April, the second in late May, and the third in early June.

Although graduating from the University of Guelph in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, a Bachelor of Science in Human Kinetics, and a Minor in Neuroscience, Dean returned to his agricultural roots and works part-time for his father.

"I am concerned about climate change and thought I could do something about it being a farmer."

His entry into organic farming opened after his father acquired the 40-acre rental property which had been used solely for haying for decades and did not have any residual pesticides. As such, he was able to meet the Canada Organic Regime's rigorous standards.

All that effort and investment will be lost if construction of Highway 413 proceeds. The highway will have particularly severe impact on his father's operation and will wipe out his business. The larger overarching concern is the impact it will have on the Greater Toronto Area, he says.

"I think what concerns me as much as having our business get pushed into a corner is that it says a lot about the provincial government's

approach to food security. All that land that is in the proposed highway as well as what is being developed in the GTA is great farmland, and habitat, but it's also the farmland and habitat closest to Toronto and the rest of the GTA. The government and local municipalities seem to be okay with building [negative] equity in the form of food insecurity and instability. Not to mention a reduction in the ecological systems that allow us to do our jobs. They are setting [us] up for a real disaster."

In Laskay, well-known activist and Highway 413 opponent Sherry Draisey is "downright frightened" about the future of the historic community where she and her husband Mayes Mullins have lived for the past 40 years in, what is believed to be, the hamlet's oldest house.

"It (the highway) will be the end of Laskay."

Apart from the loss of several of its original buildings, such as the relocation of Laskay Hall to the King Township Museum in King City in 2017, the community has to contend with traffic bottle necks at the Weston Road/King Sideroad intersection. Drivers use Weston Road on weekends to bypass Highway 400 and that traffic congestion will be multiplied if Highway 413 is built, she says.

Similar fears are shared by Nancy and Alan Hopkinson. Residents of Nobleton since 1974, they have watched it swell from a small village with one traffic light to one with more than its share of traffic congestion on both Highway 27 and the King Sideroad. As Highway 413 includes a planned Highway 27 interchange just south of the King-Vaughan Townline, more traffic will be funneled into the community, says Nancy.

"We are in a climate emergency and we need to reduce our CO2 emissions and make public transit more attractive," she says, adding that living in Nobleton requires "getting into your car to drive anywhere."

Apart from the traffic escalation, Highway 413 will severely limit spaces to enjoy nature, says Nancy. The retired couple like to hike in nearby conservation areas such as Cold Creek and the Nashville Conservation Tract- which, like Dean Orr's organic farm- is in the direct route of the Highway 413 corridor.

For more information visit: www.environmentaldefence.ca

Want to take action against Highway 413?



Laskay residents Sherry Draisey, Mayes Mullins, and John and Jean Keane are concerned Highway 413 will accelerate traffic in the hamlet and spell its demise

Consider installing a Stop 413 sign in front of your property. To order one, contact Environmental Defence at www.environmentaldefence.ca.

Township residents can also join a growing campaign to take this battle to the doorstep of Canada Pension Plan Investments, the crown corporation which oversees and invests funds to and held by the Canada Pension Plan.

Although many people may not be aware of it, CPP Investments is a 50.01-per-cent majority shareholder of Highway 407ETR.

And making better use of that existing tolled highway as an alternative to building Highway 413, the cost of which has been pegged anywhere from \$6 to \$10 billion, is a major objective of STOP 413, a citizen-led grassroots coalition with more than two thousand followers on its Facebook page.

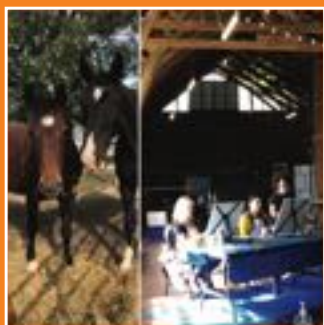
In December, the coalition sent a letter to CPP Investments asking the crown corporation to begin discussions with the provincial government on how lower tolls could be implemented for trucks, as an inducement to use Highway 407.

Want to add your voice to the campaign to lower Highway 407 tolls to increase usage and relieve congestion? Please visit this link (<https://view.flodesk.com/emails/61e6ff6c4349404cec99b784>) for instructions on how to do that. Readers can write their own letter or cut and paste the letter on the link and send it to the listed emails.

If readers don't want to copy everyone listed on the template, they should at least send their letters to King Township's federal and provincial representatives, Anna Roberts (anna.roberts@parl.gc.ca) and Stephen Lecce (stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org).

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



— Illustration by Cheryl Uhrig
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Wisconsin Beer Soup

Dairy and beer, the two pillars of the Wisconsin economy, come together in this novel soup. Be sure to make it the next time the Milwaukee Brewers play the Blue Jays.

Ingredients: 1 C each of finely chopped onion, carrot, and celery; 1 clove garlic, minced; 1/3 C butter; 2 C chicken stock; 1.5 C beer (lager is best); 1/4 C flour; 3 C whole milk; 4 C of grated extra sharp cheddar cheese; 1 T Dijon mustard, 1 t Worcestershire sauce; 1 T hot sauce (or to taste).

Directions: In one pan, sauté the vegetable and garlic in a bit of the butter until soft, then add the stock and beer. Simmer for 15 min.

In a larger second pan, melt the remaining butter, and add the flour to make a roux. Stir in the milk, bring to a slight simmer, then add the shredded cheese a handful at a time, constantly stirring to bring it all to a smooth texture. Finish by straining the beer broth from the first pan into the second, then blend it all together. Add the mustard, Worcestershire, and hot sauce, and let simmer for a few more minutes. Ladle into warmed bowls. It's great with hot soft pretzels! Serves 6.

JUST A KISS OF THE HOPS

THE EXPLOSION OF MICROBREWERIES OVER THE PAST FEW DECADES HAS BROUGHT HUNDREDS OF PILSNERS, LAGERS, AND ALES TO THE FRIENDLY NEIGHBOURHOOD TAP.

We now enjoy a variety of deliciousness that I could never have imagined back in the days when I had to flash a fake ID to get served. This boom also spurred the rise of a peculiar type of person: the self-appointed beer connoisseur. These guys are harmless, and yet my inner curmudgeon stirs whenever I hear them pontificating on the supposed fine points distinguishing this brew from that. I'm talking about the ones who toss out descriptors like "layered", "biscuity", and "autumnal" with carefully rehearsed spontaneity. True, the new brews are more flavourful than was Meister Brau, Chicagoland's full-calorie budget beer and my dad's favourite. But get real. It's beer.

OK, with that off my chest let's move on to understand what beer really is. Essentially, to make it you start by soaking barley seeds in a big vat of hot water. And not just simply seeds; you germinate them to mobilize their sugar, then toast them to caramelize it. Dried and ground up, the toasted sprouts are now malt. You steep it all in the vat for a while, making a sort of malt/barley tea, called wort. After

removing the solids, you add the essential ingredient, live yeast. If it's the type of yeast that sinks to the bottom of the wort, your beer will be a lager. If it floats on top, ale. Regardless, the yeast steadily digests the sugars, releasing alcohol as a waste product. It also sheds some flavourful chemical byproducts with names like acetaldehyde, diacetyl, and an array of the ever-popular carbonyl compounds. To be blunt, beer is depleted sugar water infused with yeast poop. (Biologists love to say stuff like that).

"Flavourful" is not the same as "tasty". In her book *The Drunken Botanist: The Plants that Create the World's Great Drinks*, author Amy Stewart tells us that for centuries brewers added various botanicals like yarrow, wormwood, and even nightshade to make beer more palatable. Sometime around 800 CE someone somewhere tried adding flowers from the plant which botanists have given the name *Lupulus*. We know it more commonly as hops.

Hops is a vigorous vine that farmers grow on stout trellises. As a new branch forms, it

first reaches outward during the day to soak up the sun. At night it winds itself around the support in the clockwise direction. Curiously, most vine species are counterclockwise. In the wild, the hops vine can attach to tree trunks with its tiny barbs. The Romans thought it strangled the tree and named the plant *minima lupus* (tiny wolf), hence the botanical name. I have a couple of friends who grow hops for fun. They urge caution lest the beast overtake the entire garden.

Brewers treasure the hops flower. More specifically, the female flower. Hops is one of the 6% of plants with separate sexes. The flowers grow in clusters resembling pinecones that are festooned with sticky glands that produce Lupulin. This resin is rich in acids that not only add a bitter flavour to the beer, but enhance its foaminess, and importantly, act as a preservative. Before hops, beer had a short shelf life as it soon succumbed to bacterial spoilage. Some of the resin components are sensitive to light, which transforms them into compounds chemically related to skunk spray.

Beer gets packaged in dark brown bottles to prevent this transformation. Here's an experiment you can try: leave a glass of beer in the sun all day and see if it tastes a bit skunky by nightfall.

The female flower is the real star of the show. But once it starts to set seed the cone no longer produces the right stuff. To prevent fertilization, hops farmers scour their fields for wayward male plants, pulling them out before they can release pollen. Growers also do this with cannabis, a relative of hops: the female plants produce the flowers with the active resin while the male plants get turned to compost.

Turning back to the new crop of connoisseurs, another of their favourite beer descriptors is "hopiness". They mean the bitterness imparted by the resins. They even rate beer in IBUs—International Bitterness Units, with Triple Indian Pale Ales topping the charts. To each their own. I prefer a beer like the one in the old TV commercial... one brewed with "just a kiss of the hops".



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