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ArtsSocietyKing.ca



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We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Write to us at

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FEATURED CONTRIBUTOR:

PATTI SKRYPEK



Patti is a communications professional who has worked in a variety of senior communications and writing positions for more than 30 years. Recently retired from the Ontario government, Patti joined the MOSAIC family this year to continue using her creative skills in support of arts and culture in King Township.

Patti has lived in King City with her family since 2005. She is actively involved in the community and is an experienced not-for-profit board member. Patti served as vice-chair for an organization that provides a range of high-quality mental health services to children and their families in York Region and is currently a board member for Cornerstone to Recovery, an organization that supports those impacted by addiction. Patti also volunteers at the Toronto International Film Festival and at events supporting the Canadian Cancer Society. Read Patti's engaging, Let me ASK you... article on page 13.



REMEMBERING ED BARTRAM

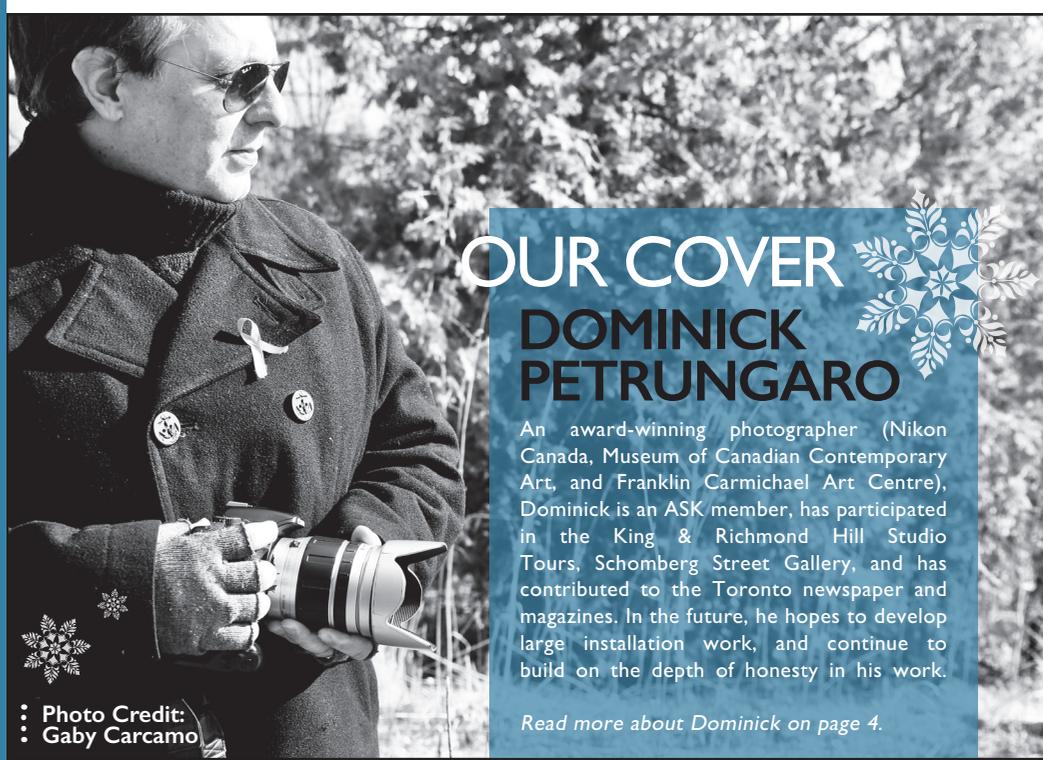


Photo Credit: Gaby Carcamo

OUR COVER
DOMINICK PETRUNGARO

An award-winning photographer (Nikon Canada, Museum of Canadian Contemporary Art, and Franklin Carmichael Art Centre), Dominick is an ASK member, has participated in the King & Richmond Hill Studio Tours, Schomberg Street Gallery, and has contributed to the Toronto newspaper and magazines. In the future, he hopes to develop large installation work, and continue to build on the depth of honesty in his work.

Read more about Dominick on page 4.



LET'S GET LOCAL : COLLECTING KING ART



A THEATRICAL WALK THROUGH HISTORY

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Between the Earth and Sky -
Photo Credit: Dominick Petrunaro

by Deborah Jolly

Cinematic influence, a reverence for King Township, and profound emotion, all have Dominick Petrunaro patiently **waiting on a cloud.**

A contemporary photographer, Dominick has been visiting or living in the King area since the age of eight and he has witnessed tremendous development spilling over fields and farmlands. He holds onto history by photographing the countryside in a way that allows observers to pause and look within.

Dominick shoots portraiture, weddings, and products, but his heart lays in framing misty fields, dormant trees, and weathered barns in King Township. "The woods, weather and climate in King all provide me with endless creativity, and exactly what I value in an image."

Through his "own lens and personal frame of reference," Dominick's reveals quintessential King Township in quiet and compelling moments-in-time that welcome personal interpretation.

Whether using pinhole (framing) techniques or his first 35MM camera at sixteen (a Pentax K-1000 single-lens reflex) and developing his own film, Dominick has always been inspired by cinematography from such as Orson Welles, Federico Fellini, and Michelangelo Antonioni.

His desire to tell a layered story with one image is reinforced through his appreciation for pop culture and comic books. He feels it holds more meaning saying, "It is very mise-en-scene and in-the-moment to tell so much in so little." To realize this, Dominick shoots with his headphones on and lets music ground him so that he can "focus and feel the entire visual theme come together through lighting, framing, and my chosen subjects."

Dominick agrees and says, "My Visions of Light series best represents who I am as a photographer." His relationship between photographic and cinematic purpose is decidedly emphasized with titles such as Bare,

Unchained, Glowing Fields, and Between the Earth and Sky.

Regarding the latter photograph, Dominick said, "The sky and a rusty barn inspired me to pull over and sit in my car for 15 minutes, waiting on a cloud to lift and shift, above this fragile barn. I had driven past many times before but that day it spoke to me, and how I was feeling in that moment. So, I waited, and hoped, and ultimately captured exactly what I was feeling in this image."

"You don't take a photograph, you make it." Ansel Adams said this; no wonder that he has been a powerful influence for Dominick's work. For his photograph In the Midst of it All Dominick returned to the same barn 24 times over a two-week period, to "grasp the exact moment and feeling" that he wanted to express, thereby 'making' his image.

Bare, the cover image, was taken when Dominick arrived home to find his "driveway plowed high with snow. I couldn't get in, so I grabbed my camera and went out." With his Canon 6D in hand, Dominick shoots in RAW, an uncompressed and unedited file format, and follows his heart, saying, "I listen to something and shoot it and I don't overanalyze it. When the camera is in my hands it becomes more of a feeling. I see the world through my own lens."

His commitment to capture these moments is what drives Dominick to "keep getting it right." To do this, he prefers to shoot on overcast days, cloaked in obscure light, so that he may "allow room to feel more." During our conversation, Dominick visits the importance and influence of his late wife and how her passing left him "deeply lost and alone" saying, "this has directly affected the images I shoot." She encouraged him to continue to follow his

passion and share his talents, and he further shared, "since then, my camera has helped assure me and even kept me alive during times of immense turmoil."

And with this, his wife's influence and the scenery of King Township, tenderly join hands through Dominick's lens and, something beautiful begins. "Without context or plot, people seem to relate to my work and understand all that is needed."

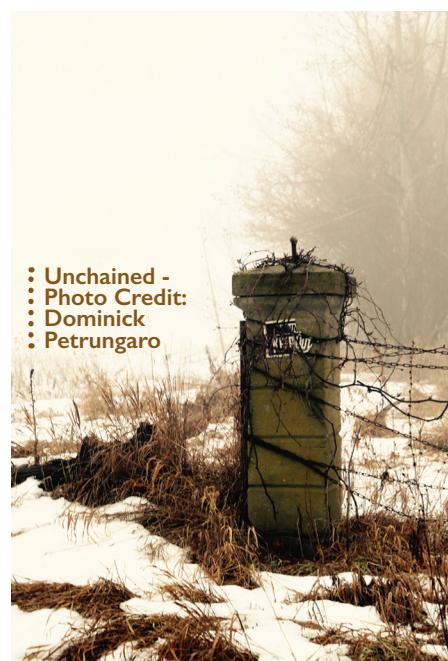
"I always honour and give life to my perspective," offering viewers a visceral understanding of internal expression through nature. He rejects self-imposed themes or guidelines and develops a new series only when it speaks to him, resulting in genuine, tactile images with remarkably minimal post-processing.

With a B.A. from York University, focussed on Film Studies, and a Diploma from Seneca College in Multimedia Studies, much of what Dominic has learned about lighting, set up, and framing of his images, has come through his foundational knowledge and innate appreciation of cinematography, and of course, his 'feeling'.

I asked Dominick, "If someone is looking at your photographs 100 years from now, what would you like them to see or feel?" He replied, "I would like people to see the honesty that comes through my work and see that I keep it as real as possible, as it relates to my current state."

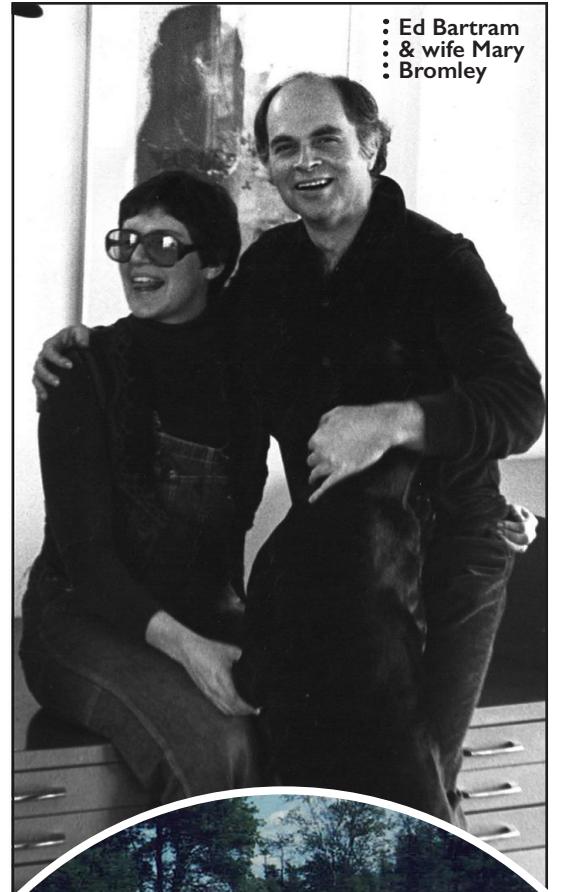
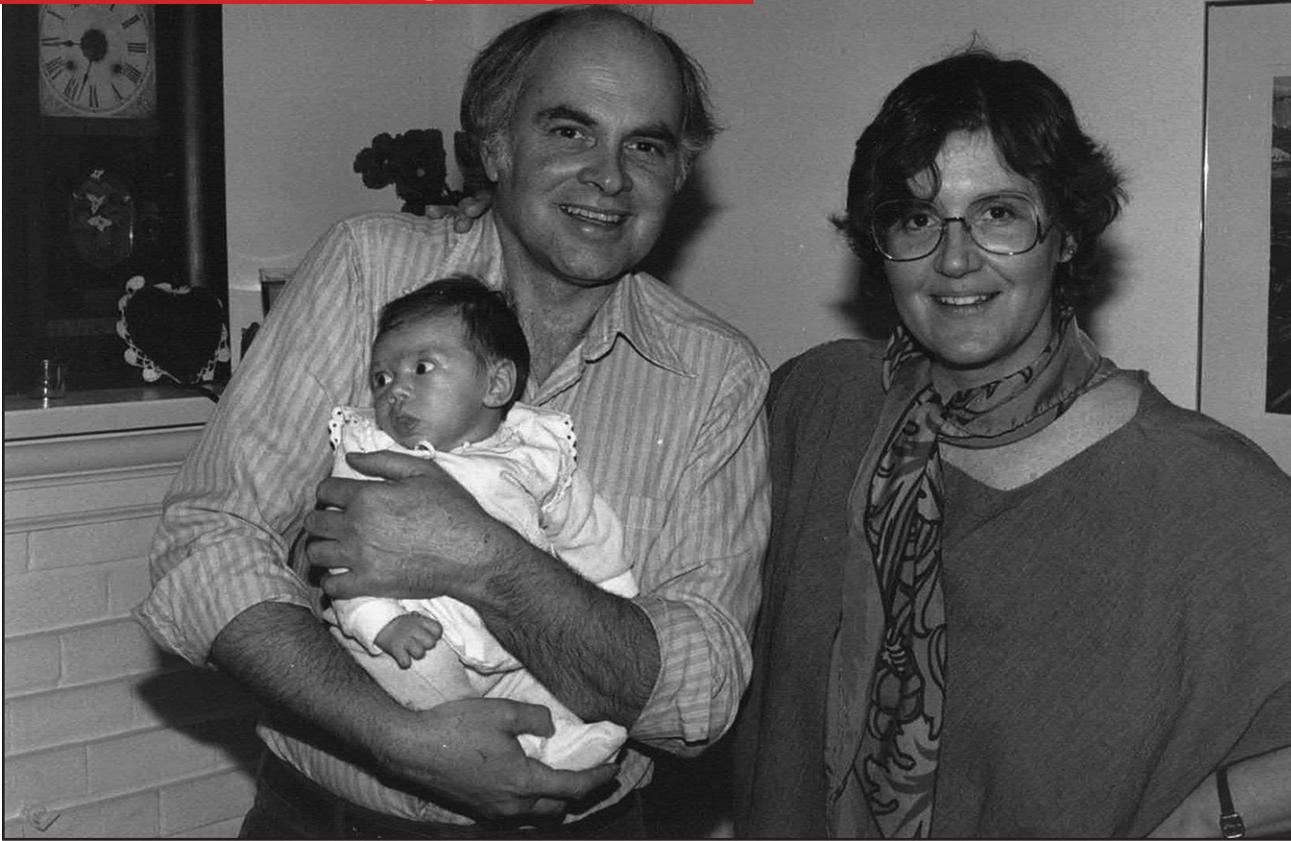
Honestly, I think they will; Dominick's expression and photogenic style unite effortlessly, creating contemporary, thoughtful images of the King landscape, leaving us all waiting on his next cloud. And barn. And field.

For more information on Dominick Petrunaro's work, visit prontoproductions.ca.



Unchained -
Photo Credit:
Dominick
Petrunaro

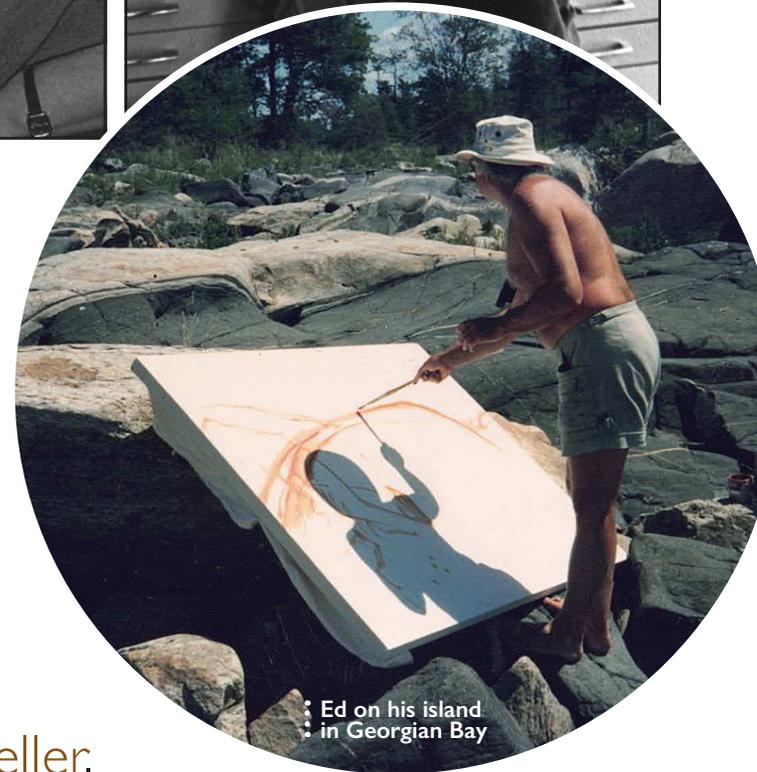
• Ed with his wife
• Mary & daughter Jessica



• Ed Bartram
• & wife Mary
• Bromley

Remembering ED BARTRAM THE MAN BEHIND THE ART

by Meline Beach



• Ed on his island
• in Georgian Bay

There's something to be said for being a **great storyteller.**

It's a gift that doesn't come easy to everyone. But to Ed Bartram, it did. A long-time artist, educator, friend and family member, Ed had the natural ability to capture the attention of an audience, the imagination of his students and the affection of the love of his life.

I met with Mary Bromley in her living room to talk about this article nearly two months after his passing. It was my second time invited to the home she shared with Ed for over 40 years. My first time was to interview Ed for an article on his Three King Artists exhibition with fellow renowned artists Helen Lucas and Ernestine Tahedl. That was more than two years ago but I remember it like it was yesterday. He captured my attention and sparked my imagination as he talked endlessly about the rock formations of his Georgian Bay island and the Canadian Shield overall. Who knew that rocks could be so interesting. Often taken for granted as part of our country's landscape, I loved how Ed zoomed in on the finer details of these weathered sculptures.

"Ed was animated and enthusiastic, and made any subject come alive, including art history and printmaking," says Mary, as she recalled her time as a student in his art classes at Central Technical School. "At the university I

attended, Art History was numbingly dull, but in Ed's class at Central Tech, he had a way of making architecture, sculptures and paintings sublimely fascinating in a way no other instructor ever had."

Ed even talked about lichen as if it were gold. This naturally-occurring organic matter is not always noticed, but to Ed, its essential role in the story of rock was laid down on his canvas as colourful textures.

Mary tells me a story of a blind friend who visited Ed's retrospective at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery at the University of Toronto, where his paintings were displayed. Rather than just describe his work, Ed offered to take her hand and have her feel his paintings instead.

"There's so much to feel," says Mary of his work, referring to actual lichen and its replica in sand and moulding paste.

While many artists may include visual elements of rocks in their work as part of a bigger subject, it was always the focal point for Ed. He carved a niche for himself by focusing solely on rock formations and rock landscapes.

"He loved the slices of rock and their many layers, and compelled people to look down at what they were standing on... to see things from a different perspective," says Mary with

a warm, subtle smile. "Because rocks express and encourage interpretation.... a way of understanding it in its realistic form but also in the abstract."

Like the rocks he painted, Ed also had many layers. He lived a life of curiosity and determination. From teaching art, painting and printmaking, bird watching and planting flowers to fishing, cooking and home repair. He even played the stock market as a day trader.

"Everything he did he did enthusiastically and with a kind of joy that was infectious," says Mary.

She recalls many days at the island spent together appreciating a variety of migrating birds, insects and seasonal blooms and how they all worked together in sync. Rhododendrons, azaleas, tulips, daffodils, lilacs and lilies – the day lily as his favourite – Ed planted hundreds of flowers and even experimented with cross-pollination. Without any electricity and typical distractions of city life, Ed and Mary enjoyed each other's company listening to the CBC radio program IDEAS every evening. "It gave us food for thought," she says.

Ed was also a gracious host. His teaching conversations would entertain friends and visiting scholars for hours and would cover

topics from the Europeans and Indigenous people of Georgian Bay and its landscape to how he got his island and memories of his worldly travels with his wife and daughter, Jessica. Be it France, Switzerland, Italy, Portugal or Spain, Ed admired art history in all forms and places, including chapels, churches and crypts.

"He was a spiritual person and a man of very little regret," says Mary. "Art was like a meditative experience for him and he did it whole-heartedly. The sky and rocks have a spiritual element to them and represent his love for nature."

What might not be as well known is that Ed was an avid learner – from his days as a boy scout to his master's degree in Medieval Manuscripts. A prolific reader, he enjoyed historical fiction and non-fiction of world figures, events and Canadian politics, and once told me that he liked different authors and artists for their unique expression.

"He loved chants, requiems and all forms of classical music," says Mary. "As strong-minded people, we were fortunate to agree on most things, philosophically and politically, which glued us together."

"We had a nice life together."

EVANESCENT by Debbie Fox

Lean your forehead against my frozen window.
 Look beyond the veranda
 past the columns.
 Absorb it while you can
 for frost is a painting designed by nature,
 erased by the sun.
 The artist wrapped
 the maple's trunk with silver, confirming
 it's a silver maple.
 She drew lines in every direction.
 Some lean towards each other, mimicking
 the maple's leafless but not lifeless
 branches.
 Others stumble over themselves
 as if daring three monotonous,
 horizontal sets of fence rails that recede
 into the background to be
 whimsical and brave.
 Like the virtuoso artist that playfully
 formed x's and o's
 triangles and rectangles
 hypotenuses and stars
 in the cold, still night.
 Fleeting phantom ghosts you may
 photograph but never capture.



• Photo Credit: Debbie Fox

WRITING IN THE SNOW by Dorita Peer



• Photo Credit: Dorita Peer

Winter's blank page shivers
 and waits for me to wake
 from the glaring sleep of summer,
 waits for me to apply my hand.

I have elbowed my way through days of
 fierce play and burning whims; then
 summer donned its mourning cloak
 in shades monarch and mustard; the stern
 breath of ice swirled wild apple-scented air:
 a cocktail to clear my head.

It's not my hand this season needs
 but a bolder organ to flop down in the snow
 face up beneath the ceiling, unfurl its limbs
 and make ready for the advent of Angels.

Blue or pale or simmering rosy,
 the waiting sky hides no Tyrant.

Winter is the listening season
 and calls for a simple act of silence.
 Somewhere inside us there must be
 a crackling hearth.



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

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

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

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

"A Main Street Christmas" is being held Sat., Dec. 7 in Schomberg and is presented by the Schomberg Village Association.

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

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

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

Nobleton will hold its Tree Lighting Ceremony and Toy Drive on Sun., Dec. 8 from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Nobleton Gazebo (8 Sheardown Dr.). Come have a cup of hot cocoa or other Christmas goodies donated by our local merchants, while having your picture taken with Santa, or listening to the local children's choirs sing some carols on lit-up tractors. Remember to bring an unwrapped toy for the kids in need in Nobleton.

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

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

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

PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE EVENTS

A MAIN STREET CHRISTMAS IN SCHOMBERG

Sat., Dec. 7 – from 3 pm to 9 pm
Main Street, Schomberg

NOBLETON TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY AND TOY DRIVE

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

KING TREES OF GIVING

Running until Dec. 21, King Township's Heritage and Cultural Centre hosts an exhibit featuring trees decorated by various King Community groups. Vote for your favourite tree by donating \$1 per vote with all proceeds going to the King Township Food Bank.



SustainableKing

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY GROUPS IN 2020

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

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

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

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

Best wishes,

Steve Pellegrini
Mayor, King Township





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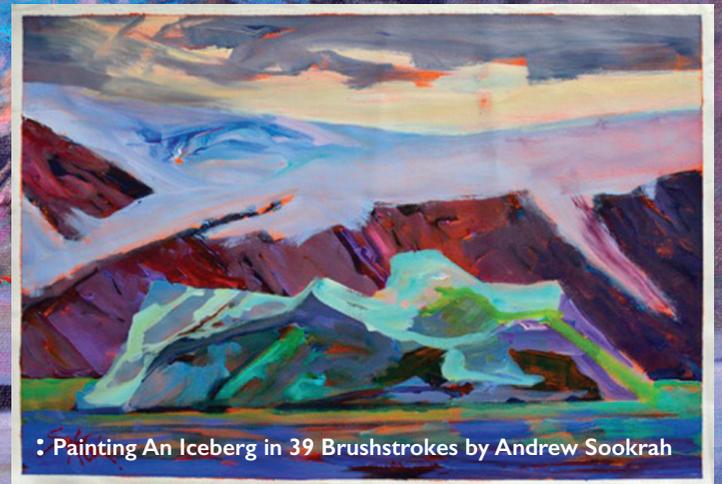
BRONZE

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THE ARTS

: Devon Island Ice Cap Retreat,
: Painting by Andrew Sookrah



: Painting An Iceberg in 39 Brushstrokes by Andrew Sookrah

PAINTING AN ICEBERG : with : Andrew : Sookrah : in the Arctic

in 39 brushstrokes

by Irene Bayer

Andrew Cheddie Sookrah was born in Guyana. In Georgetown, he attended Queen's College where he was recognized for his artistic expression from an early age having won the school's art prize in 1971. In 1974 Sookrah immigrated to Canada and attended multidisciplinary continuing education programs at the Ontario College of Art (OCA), George Brown College and Ryerson University. His beginnings in design and illustration opened a life of parallel passions.

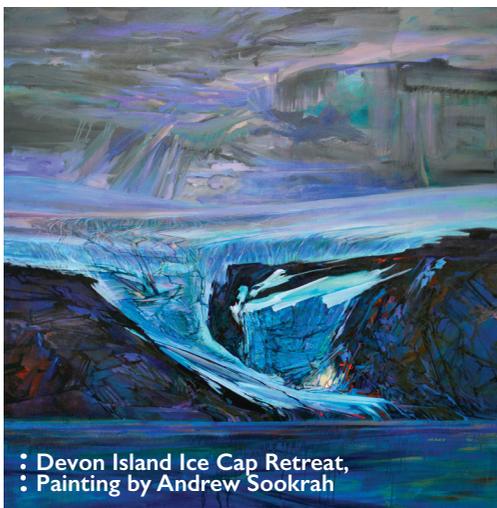
Sookrah's technical knowledge and might of communication lead him into fine art instruction. Today he conducts workshops and teaches painting techniques in oil, acrylic and watercolour at various institutions including Loyalist College, Richmond Hill Art School, The Lodge on Amherst Island and McMichael Art Gallery where he has been teaching for the past 5 years.

Andrew has conducted En Plein Air Workshops in King where he has a keen following of art students. His fondness for them is from having grown up on a farm in South America, he loves to paint old barns and farm machinery. In one such workshop, Andrew gave a demonstration on how to complete a painting with only 39 brushstrokes. Andrew's love of nature shows up on canvas where he uses bold and vibrant colours. I have taken several courses with Andrew over the years and my favourite saying of his is every brushstroke should be like a beautiful

sentence, and I can still hear his voice when he tells me to be mindful of that. He also tells his students that they have to invite viewers into their painting, then give them a tour, tells them a story with the use of line, composition, design, colour, etc.

The last 2 years Andrew's students at the McMichael Gallery have had the privilege to participate in a juried show view from the Pine Cottage, an exhibition presented to celebrate the diversity of talents among students and can be seen until October 21st at the Gallery Ramp.

Andrew travels extensively to capture the stories inherent in locations with dramatic scenery, the most recent being his Artist In Residency assignment onboard the Ocean Endeavour with Adventure Canada in their Arctic expedition Out Of The Northwest Passage. This was his second painting trip to the Arctic, having been there for the first time in 2006. During his time there, he was deeply moved by the vision of the massive glaciers and icebergs around him, noting their transition



: Devon Island Ice Cap Retreat,
: Painting by Andrew Sookrah

from water to ice and now back to water. He says that he made the following entry in his journal "In the 10,000 years or more of their formation, these icebergs collected stories depicting eventing from around the world, if not the universe; captured in the rain, snow, ice and remained there until now as they

melt; if we still our minds we could hear those stories being retold to us now..."

On his recent trip, Andrew and the passengers on the Ocean Endeavour were privileged to be the first civilians allowed to visit the site of the Franklin wreck, the Erebus. Bad weather did not allow the planned visit to the site of the sister ship, Terror. He says that it was an emotional day for all, as they saw artifacts, almost perfectly preserved by the cold water, brought up from the wreck - including a shoe. Andrew was so moved by an overhead drone image showing the research barge over the Erebus' wreck, that he did a painting with was presented by Parks Canada to the visitor centre in Gjoa Haven.

Andrew was immersed in stories of the North, The Inuit People, their culture, their acceptance of the interconnectivity of everything. And the sad, devastating stories of the effects on families and communities of the Residential School practices, among others.

Andrew presented painting workshops on the ship, where artists were taken through the process of painting scenes they were seeing in situ, including icebergs, glaciers and ancient rock formations. One of his demonstrations was a reprise of the challenge of completing a painting in 39 brushstrokes.

His journey began in Kuglugtuk, heading east to Jenny Lind Island, Gjoa Haven, then north to Cap Sud, Grise Fjord, Ellesmere Island, past Devon Island, with stops in places such as Beechey Island, Croker Bay, etc. Then it was on to Greenland, where they saw heritage sites preserving stories of past communities in locations such as Tasiussaq, Nodrestrom Fjord, etc. Stops in Sissimiut showcased the art of the region, with Andrew purchasing sculptures depicting everyday lives of local hunters as they harvested game in the region.

It will be interesting to follow Andrew's journey on canvas where he will share his love for the north and the indigenous people with his paintbrush. You too can follow his journey on his website www.sookrah.ca or on Instagram www.instagram.com/andrew_cheddie_sookrah/

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LET'S GET LOCAL

COLLECTING KING ART

by Hendrika Ono

King Township is home to many artists. In our community, there are numerous opportunities to experience and fall in love with their work. Residents can enjoy Studio tours, the Schomberg Street Gallery, The Olde Mill Art Gallery, rotating art displays at the Roost, the Heritage and Cultural Centre and most recently, the gallery space in the Municipal Offices. Two art lovers who live in King Township tell us about collecting local art. And the Olde Mill Art Gallery and Shoppe talks about exhibiting King artists.

As the holidays beckon, it's good to recall that art makes a welcome gift!

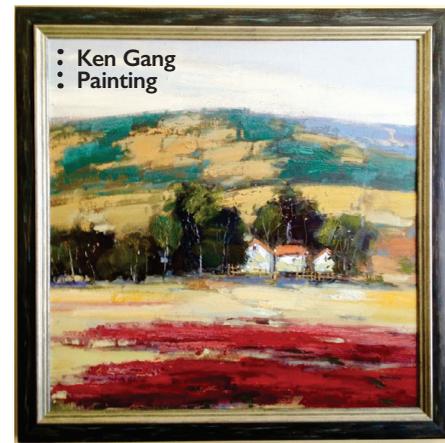


DENNY STARRITT is a long term King Township resident and is well known for her cheerful and tireless volunteer work in a variety of areas.

I was as naive about 'country living' as I was about fine art when we built our home in King early in 2000. Luckily, someone told me early on that Helen Lucas was offering a class in colour appreciation in her studio. She was a mere 4 properties south of me on the 7th and anyone was welcome!

I was unaware of Helen's world-wide reputation, but I immediately fell in love with her and her huge canvases of joyful, colourful flowers. I had no trouble imagining some of them on our bare walls! How fortunate we are to now own 3 of Helen's acrylic paintings today. More importantly, over the years, we have developed a very close relationship, which has made her art very special to me.

Recently we also bought a beautiful acrylic painting by Beverley Richardson - an artist on 16th Side Road (at the corner of the 7th). Bev is currently showing at the Papermill Gallery in Toronto with 5 other 'en plein air' artists. Artwork in my own home gives me a lot of joy. And it is even more meaningful to know the artists as neighbours and friends.



RICHARD MAREJKA is an avid cyclist and nature lover:

For the past 20 years I've lived in King Township - first Nobleton, then Schomberg and now King City. During this time, I have cycled thousands of kilometres, solo, on the back roads of King, New Tecumseth and the surrounding areas in spring, summer and fall. Hundreds of photos tagged with 'cycling' are in my photo library capturing a place and time from as many rides. There is an apple blossom from spring 2006 taken in King at 12th and 18th, a barn on New Tecumseth 15, north of 88 in the summer of 2012, the fields and sky from Woodchoppers Lane in late summer 2015 and so many more.

Art is a way to bring these familiar rural spaces into my home; to capture those moments. We currently have six paintings created by King artists. Two are by Marianne Broome - a large format acrylic, which vividly captures the movement of poppies in the wind, and a smaller acrylic that reminds me

of that barn in New Tecumseth and so many others. We own two paintings by Brigitte Granton. One is of a rustic barn located on 12th north of 17th; a part of my regular cycling route when I lived in Nobleton and Schomberg. The other is a small format floral painting, executed in acrylic, which reminds my wife of our summer garden. The 5th piece from a King artist, named @daughtcalm (Instagram) is street art on canvas. One group of work features recurring characters in European urban landscapes. The piece that we have is a watercolour and pencil, depicting a bicycle parked on a quiet European side-street.

The last painting, by Ken Gang, was King-inspired but reminds me of a property north-east of Beeton in late fall.

All of the paintings bring to life the beauty of nature and remind me daily of how fortunate we are to live in King Township.



In 2018 Schomberg opened an art Gallery on Main Street designated for local King Township artists. The Olde Mill Gallery and Art Shoppe is George Burt's vision. Working together with **PATRICIA EARL**, the Gallery is a thriving cooperative featuring 7 artists who work in diverse media.

The Olde Mill was born from the desire to feature local artists in a gallery setting. There are currently seven artists on display. Collectively there are well over 1,000 unique pieces of artwork ranging from jewelry by Karen Hunter to George's renowned woodturning and Dan Glassco's functional wooden sculptures. The Gallery offers the opportunity to see art in action as you watch Inge Dam create woven treasures on her loom, or marvel at the painting mastery of Pat, Mary and Grazyna. December is a marvellous time to visit the Gallery and discover inspired gifts for your loved ones and yourself.

Olde Mill Gallery and Art Shoppe

357 Main Street,
Schomberg
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12 – 6 pm



: Olde Mill Art Gallery,
: Schomberg



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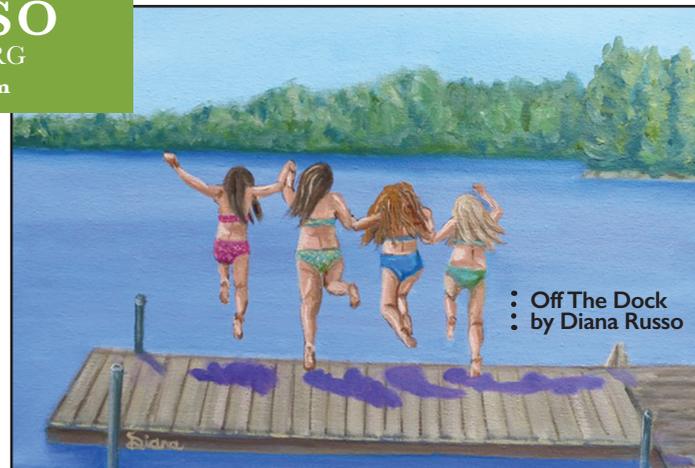
DIANA RUSSO
LIVES IN SCHOMBERG
dwillowlaker@gmail.com



LIINA PEACOCK
LIVES IN KING CITY
www.liinapeacock.ca

MOSAiC has a tradition of showcasing the rich bounty of art that is created throughout King Township. In this issue, we will get to know some of the Arts Society King (ASK) artist members who create these works of beauty through a Q&A format. While their work differs from one other, each artist began their journey into the creative world of art at a very young age.

featuring *Diana Russo*
and *Liina Peacock*
by Patti Skrypek



• Off The Dock
• by Diana Russo

Q. What and who inspired you to pursue art and what inspires you to keep doing it?

DIANA RUSSO - As a child, I could see faces in almost everything I looked at ... in the leaves of the trees, in the wrinkles of my sheets, in the clouds. I would see grumpy old men, fancy ladies in hats ... and I always thought that if I could see them, I could draw them. In 2004, I told my husband that I would like to paint one day and he said that he just received a flyer in the mail. It was for the "Schomberg School of Art" and that is where I started painting and life drawing. I find people interesting and I want to paint their stories.

LIINA PEACOCK - My inspiration for art started at a very young age. For 36 years, my father owned Artistic Woodwork, which was the largest wholesale picture moulding company in North America. His love of art inspired everyone around him including me. Art has always been an integral part of my life and when I finally decided to start painting, I found my calling in abstract art. To me, abstract art does not represent anything in particular because it is non-objective. It is not based on reality; it is based on emotions.

Q. What is your process for making art?

DIANA RUSSO - When I draw, I like a live model. When I paint, I prefer to use a photo as the process takes several days. I usually paint in oil and I layer it up. The paint dries slowly so I have to wait several days between layers. Because of the slow drying time, I normally have about 12 paintings on the go at any given time. I have been painting a series of things that people like to do in Ontario ... swimming ... boating. My next series will be "playing sports in Ontario." I would also like to do a series on "a dog's life" as I love dogs too!

LIINA PEACOCK - I paint what I feel, and paint intuitively by adding multiple textures and bold colours to create dramatic compositions. Mixing my own paint colours seems to work best for my works of art. I also love the simplicity and minimalist edge of producing large black and white canvases which seem to be my best sellers to corporate clients throughout Canada.

Q. Is there something you can't live without in your studio?

DIANA RUSSO - I am very fortunate to have a large and very bright studio but I find it difficult to start painting if my table is too cluttered ... it may look messy to an outsider but to me, everything has a place.

LIINA PEACOCK - Black paint is the one item I cannot live without in my studio, so I have at least five different shades of black on hand at all times.

Q. They say that every picture tells a story. What does your work aim to say?

DIANA RUSSO - I want my paintings to tell a story. If I paint a landscape, there are usually people in them. How we are living today in Ontario and Canada ... but most of all, I want to portray that life is wonderful.

LIINA PEACOCK - I love the journey of discovering new areas of expression and, as such, my art is not always consistent or recognized as being in any one particular style. My hope is that the viewer will be drawn into the painting where they can make new and unexpected discoveries and insights for themselves. We should have an emotional response to works of art that we often can't explain and it really doesn't need explaining at all. That is the wonder of abstract art.



• Synergy
• by Liina
• Peacock

VISIT US TODAY!

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



Events in and Around King Township

by Teri Hastings, Arts Society King



: Darlene Winfield

December to March – Winter Workshops Kingcrafts Studio in Stain glass, Enamelling, Felting, Weaving and Pottery. Check our website @ www.kingcrafts.ca for available dates and times.

December 4 – King City Senior Centre **Floral Workshop**, 9:30 – 11:30 am. Create a Christmas centerpiece. Contact Carolyn 905-833-0792.

December 5 – The King Chamber of Commerce **Christmas Luncheon and Toy Drive**, Cardinal Golf Club, 12:00 pm. Start the Christmas Season by joining us for our annual Lunch, and we ask you to open your hearts by bringing a new unwrapped toy to put under our

tree. Contact 905-717-7199 or info@kingchamber.ca for further information. kingchamber.ca

December 7 – Nobleton Tree Lighting, Nobleton Gazebo, 4:00 -7:00 pm. Join in the family fun and festivities at the Annual Nobleton Tree Lighting as it brings the holiday spirit to life each year. Enjoy local vendors, sing carols, visit Santa and support your community. King.ca

December 7 – Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) **Holiday Wreath Making Workshop**, Lake St. George Field Centre, 1:00 - 3:30 pm. Enjoy a hands-on workshop to create your own fragrant, seasonal

wreath using local, fresh foliage! Light refreshments and all materials included. For more information and to register visit trca.ca/get-involved/events or call 416-661-6600 x5203.

December 8 – **Borealis Big Band Concert and Art Show and Sale, Newmarket Old Town Hall, 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Enjoy live music AND original local art through a partnership with Arts Society King. Tickets borealisbigband.com/tour**

December 8 – King City Seniors Centre **Christmas Open House**, 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Contact Carolyn 905-833-0792.

December 15 – An animated reading with music of the classic “A Christmas Carol” in the quaint and acoustically rich Emmanuel Presbyterian Church. UnpluggedOnMain@gmail.com UnpluggedOnMain.com

January - March – Nobleton Skating Club **Winter Skating Lessons** at the Nobleton Arena. Online registration at nobletonskatingclub.com or call 905-859-4943.

January 10 – King City Seniors **Annual General Meeting**, 2:00 pm. Year-end report and election of board for 2020. Contact Carol at 905-833-3324 for additional information.

January 17 – King City Seniors Centre **Pot Luck Lunch**, 12:30 pm. Attendees are asked to bring either a main course item or a dessert.

February 1 – Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) **Snowshoes and Snow-Clues at Cold Creek**, Cold Creek Conservation Area, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Discover the wonders of winter wildlife and identify tracks and signs of local animals. Try out

snowshoeing and leave behind tracks of your own! For more information and to register visit trca.ca/get-involved/events or call 416-661-6600 x5203.

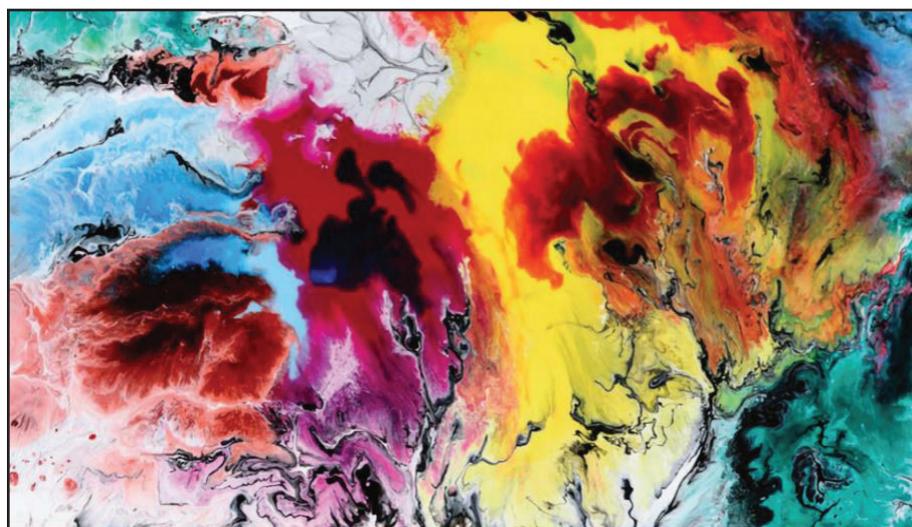
February 5 – King City Seniors Centre **Movie Night**, doors open 6:30 pm, movie begins 7:00 pm. Admission by donation - movie selection TBA. Contact Carolyn 905-833-0792.

February 8 – Dufferin Marsh Nature Connection Schomberg **Community Skate** Dufferin Marsh – Schomberg 2 pm to 5 pm Outdoor skating on the pond with hot chocolate, hot dogs and marshmallows by the fire. mfasselstine@aol.com or DufferinMarsh.ca

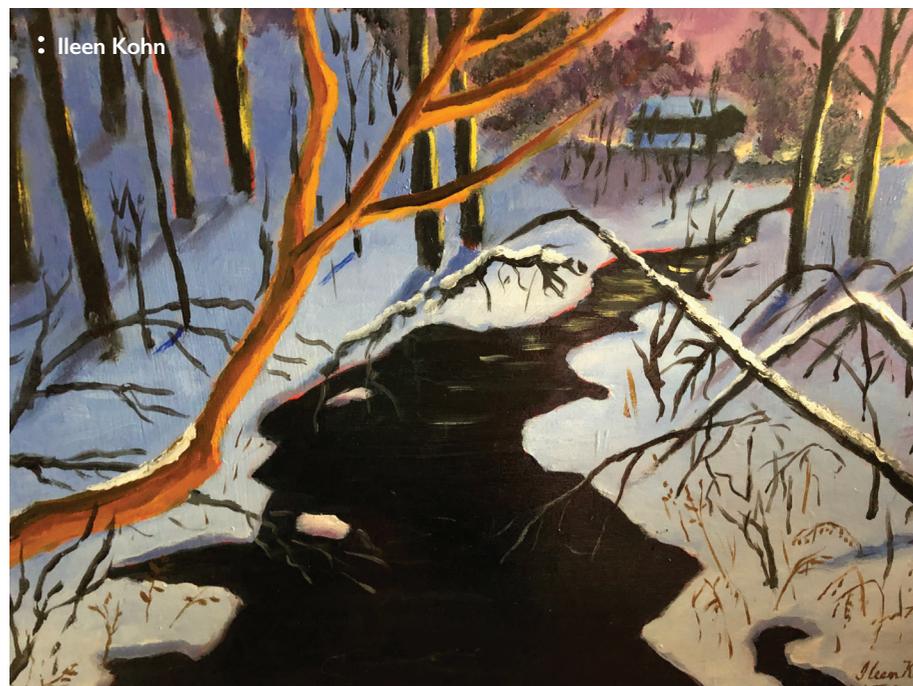
February 17 – **Family Day** at various locations and times across King Township. Enjoy your Family Day while participating in exciting activities including: the annual “Learn to Curl” at the Trisan Centre in Schomberg, free snowshoe and cross country ski rentals at Cold Creek Conservation Area, and fun Family Day activities in King City! For more information please email events@king.ca.

February 20 – Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) **Hoot and Howl at Cold Creek**, Cold Creek Conservation Area, 7:00 – 9:00 pm. Join us for a night of fun and adventure! Enjoy a short indoor presentation on owls and coyotes followed by a trip into the woods. Together we will call out to these wild creatures in hopes they will hoot or howl back! For more information and to register visit trca.ca/get-involved/events or call 416-661-6600 x5203.

February 21 – King City Seniors Centre **Pot Luck Lunch**, 12:30 pm. Attendees are asked to bring either a main course item or a dessert.



: Ileen Kohn



Arts Society King

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES ON EVENTS, WORKSHOPS, AND MORE!
ARTSOCIETYKING.CA

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

February 21 – King City Seniors Centre **Pancake Supper**, 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm sittings. Contact Mary 905-833-0448.

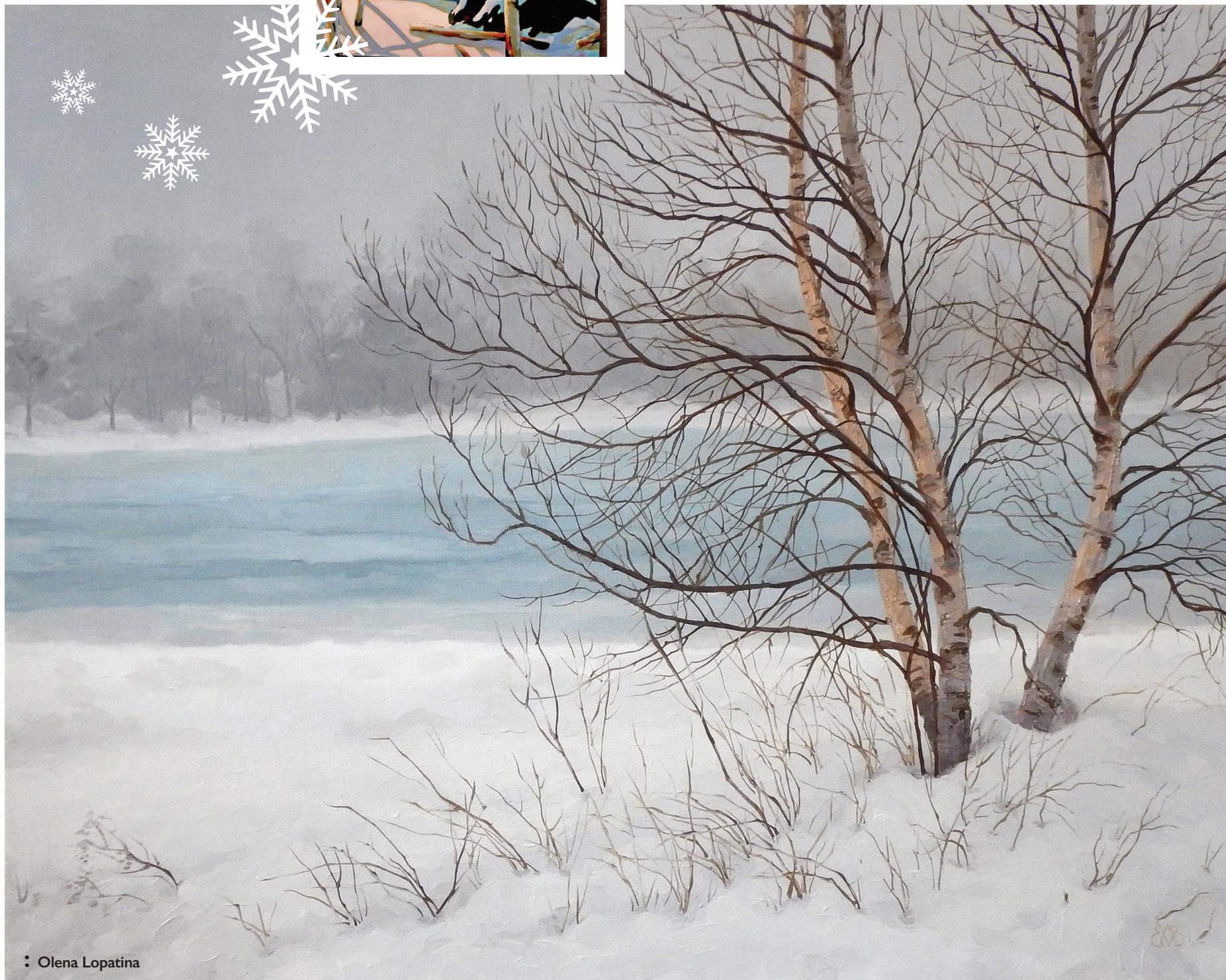
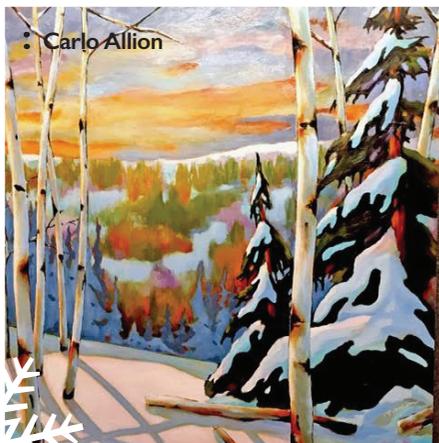
March 3 – King City Seniors Centre **Movie Night**, doors open 6:30 pm, movie begins 7:00 pm. Admission by donation - movie selection TBA. Contact Carolyn 905-833-0792.

March 5 - MOSAiC Magazine spring 2020 edition delivered in the King Weekly Sentinel community newspaper. ArtsSocietyKing.ca

March 14 – **Maple Syrupfest** Cold Creek Conservation Area, Nobleton, 10:00 am- 2:00 pm. Start your day right with a delicious Pancake Breakfast brought to you by the Rotary Club. Learn about syrup tapping, evaporating, filtering and the rich history that brought us this sweet treat.

March 20 – King City Seniors Centre **Pot Luck Lunch**, 12:30 pm. Attendees are asked to bring either a main course item or a dessert.

March 28 – **Earth Hour**, Cold Creek Conservation Area (Nobleton) & Dufferin Marsh (Schomberg), 8:30 – 9:30pm, Join us for a fun hour of lights out and enjoy a bonfire and hot chocolate. Do your part, turn off the lights and join the fun.



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Were there ever Passenger Pigeons in King?

by Ann Love

Reading about the extinction of passenger pigeons recently, I realized their great flocks of up to half a billion birds must have passed through King Township. They probably roosted and nested in King forests. I wondered, what would this have been like to witness? Apparently, when they migrated, passenger pigeons flew about 100 kph in tight formations, almost touching each other, responding to changes in the landscape with synchronized twists and rolls, without breaking speed or rank.

One 19th Century witness said, "... you would think sometimes they were coming straight at you when all at once when within thirty or forty feet, they would make a quick turn to the right or left or upward, a swift and most graceful turn, and away in another direction. It would seem, sometimes, as if they just tried to see how near they could come and get away successfully ... The sheen of their plumage in the evening sun was such that no words could be found to describe nor a painter to paint it. The flash of brilliant colour and the wonderful whirr of the wings in flight as they passed within a few yards can never be forgotten."

Strong, well-adapted, and successful – no one who watched a flock pass in the mid-1800s could imagine the passenger pigeon would be extinct within 50 years. At times, the flocks were so big, they would block out the noon-day sun, three days running. I discovered several reports collected by a passenger pigeon enthusiast after the birds disappeared in 1914. The reports are archived at McGill University, available on the Internet, and mostly undated and unattributed. But a few among them are credited to individuals with clues to dates and locations. To my delight, I found some accounts by residents of communities east of present-day King City. Some of the stories are from what would have been King at the time because our eastern boundary then was Yonge Street. I think the reports speak for themselves. I have left the spelling and punctuation as I found them.

Mr. N. Pearson wrote: "I have seen them in flight no doubt in the millions by standing on the streets of the little hamlet of Machell's Corners [... Aurora before 1854 ...] and looking south towards Oak Ridges a mile and a half away creeping over the treetops with apparently no end, and looking north for three or four miles to the Holland Landing a continuous band of them twenty or thirty feet wide and continuing for hours every day ... This seems incredible, but so it was." Mr.

Pearson also wrote: "My leisure on Saturday was my own time for the pigeons, and I went out nearly a mile one day at about 10:30 and came in before noon with twenty-four. Not much of a bag, but for a boy not ten years old it was satisfaction. I lit on a field of pea stubble and had a small beech for a foreground ... and in a very little time the birds appeared and in the first shot there fell eighteen which I picked up and retired to the beech tree, and looking up I saw two birds in proximity and I let off my gun, and instead of two down came six..."

Mr. Pearson described a nesting "city" the locals found east of Aurora. "In a place called Pine Orchard ... [where] there is, or was, a grove of pine trees of from ten to a hundred feet high with close branches and very dense ... there were millions of nests... Wagon loads of Farmers with their sons from miles around came during the daytime and at night with lanterns and torches and slaughtered with wholesale vigour. Caught the old birds and wrung their necks and carried off the squabs in bags by the wagon load." Mr. Pearson reported how his mother, whom he said "was the first white woman to settle north of the Ridges [Oak Ridges]," would prepare the birds. "She plucked and opened them and laid them in a mild pickle for a day or two. She had a large fireplace with two cranes (stoves were not invented) and she hung the birds in the chimney in the smoke for a time and then packed them in tubs and barrels for future use. This was before cattle, pigs and sheep were common, and their meat was venison, fish and partridge, and the pigeons were good food."

One final story, this one from Wm. Metcalf: "There was a woman I knew, she lived in Markham Township. On her dying bed, they had to remove [the] feather bed from under her, as she would not die on pigeon feathers." I'd loved to have witnessed the original pigeon abundance and exuberance in a King field or forest. Because the great flocks decimated a local food supply in one year's nesting, the pigeons looked for fresh sites every year, cycling back only after the forest regenerated. When a flock chose a site and descended, residents would send the news to surrounding communities – and the hunt began. Pigeon was never an annual fresh food source because their movements were unpredictable. In fact, though the birds were wildly numerous, there may have only been about 10 flocks of half a billion birds at any one time in their breeding range east of the Rocky Mountains.

Since their extinction, southern Ontario has seen significant deforestation. I am sure the pigeons would not choose to roost or nest in King now. Would we want them to, really? The loss of the pigeon has seen changes in our southern Ontario forest. Pigeons preferred red oak acorns – about a cupful a day – so more white oaks survived back then. Now the red oak is dominant in King. In the 19th century, the forest carried more

predators than now because of the plentiful prey, especially the flightless young or squabs. Hawks and weasels, in particular, have declined in numbers. And the white-footed mouse has much less competition for acorns, so these transmitters of Lyme disease have seen a big comeback.

The Quebecois term for the passenger pigeon was la tourte – hence the meat pie, tourtière. I wonder if Mrs. Pearson used her smoked passenger pigeons in pie. Modern recipes for tourtière call for minced pork, veal and beef. I am on the hunt for a modern ingredient to recreate the taste of passenger pigeon. Perhaps a vegan ingredient would be most appropriate!

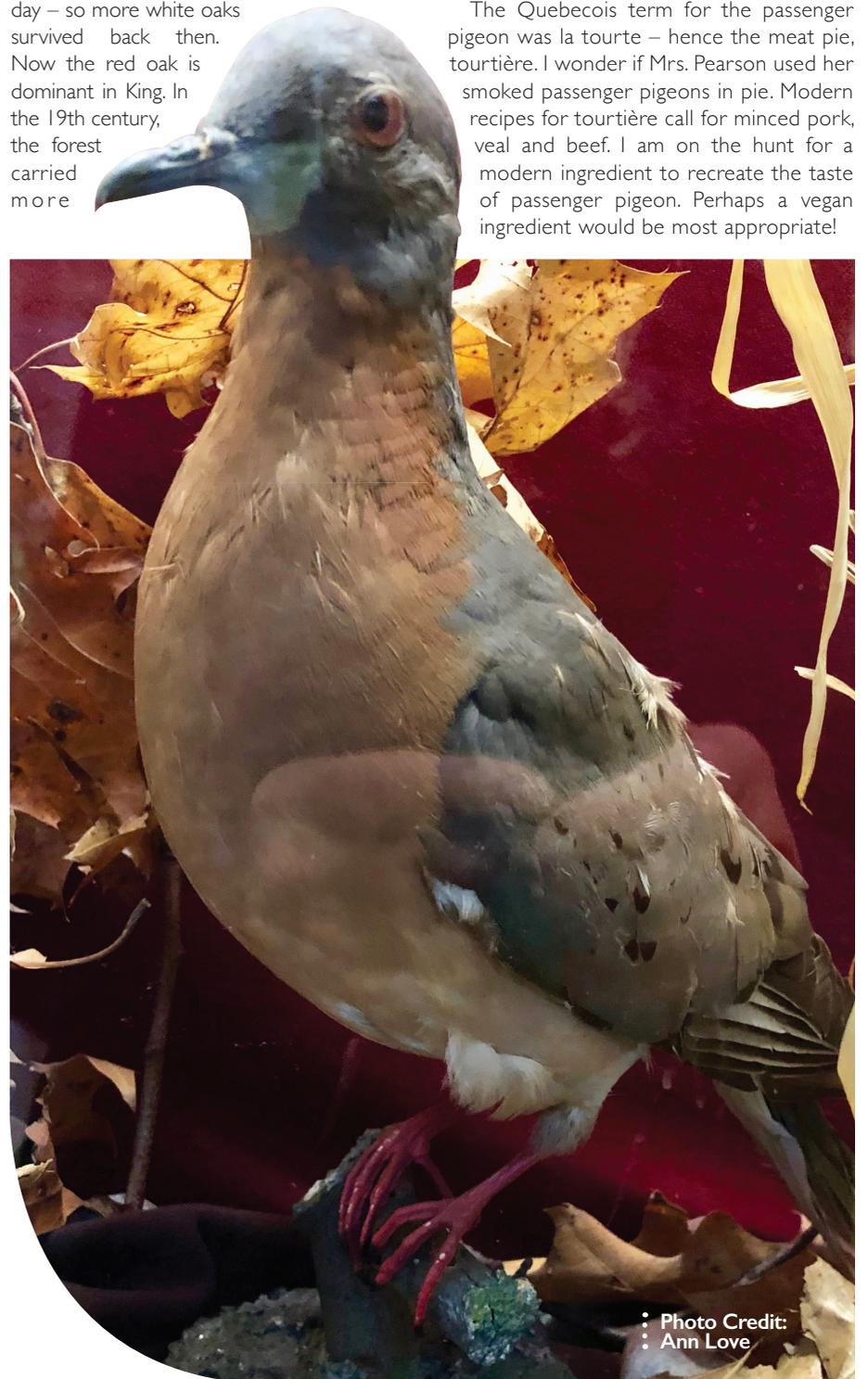


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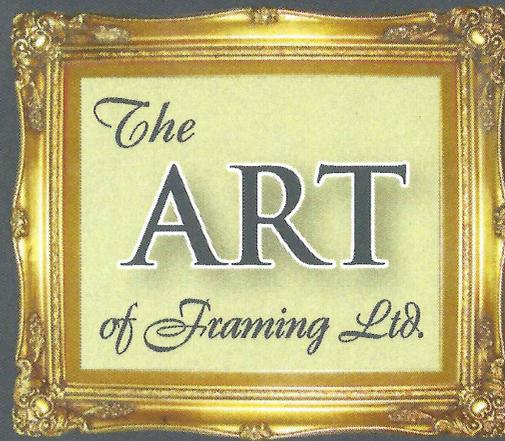
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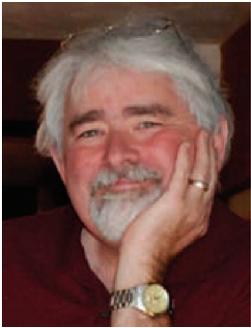


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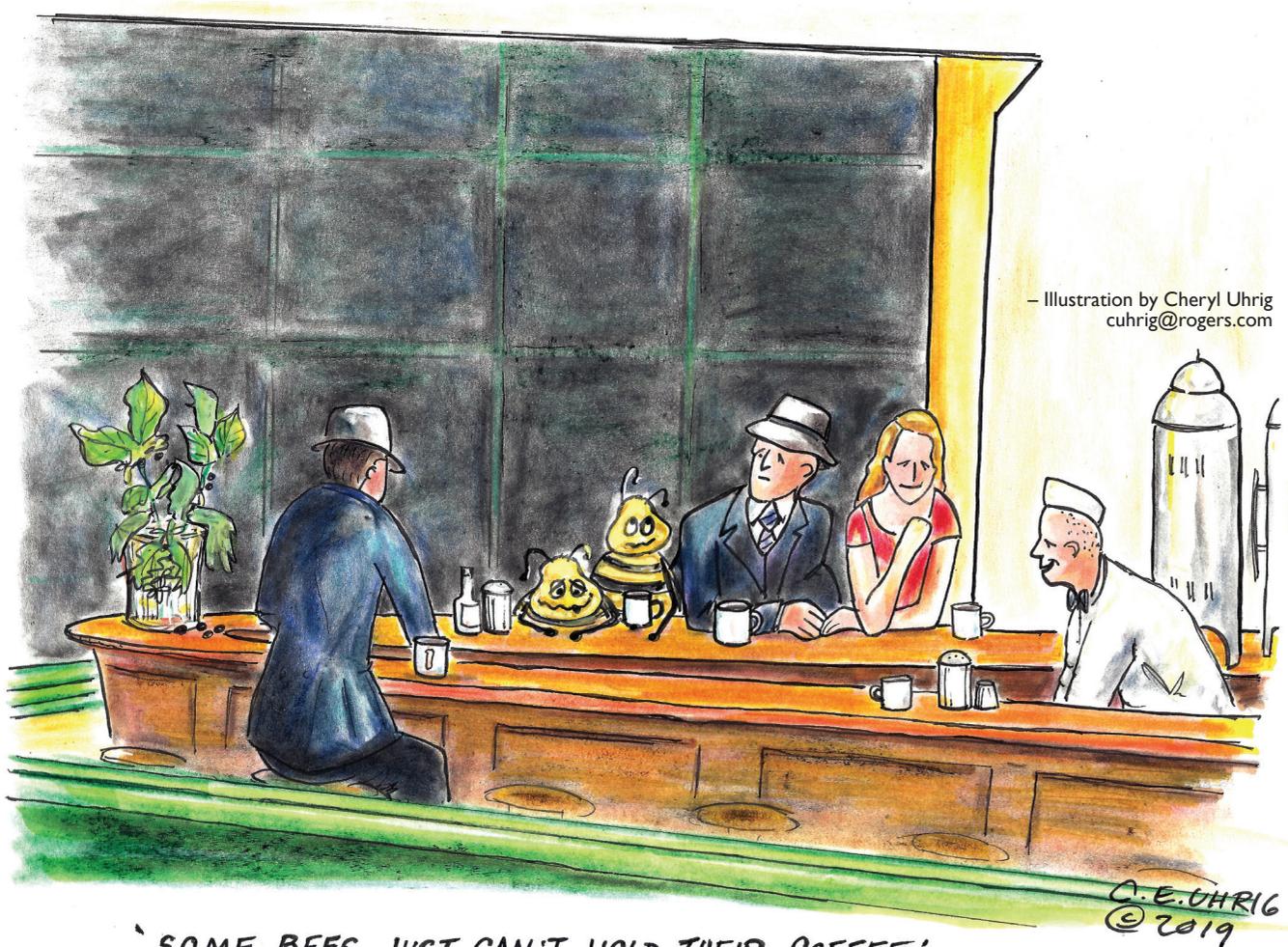
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BIOLOGIST AT THE TABLE

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



'SOME BEES JUST CAN'T HOLD THEIR COFFEE'

Banana Coffee Muffins

I love little baked goodies with my coffee. Here's one with coffee baked right into it.

Ingredients:

1/3 cup melted butter; 4 ripe bananas, smashed; 3/4 cup sugar; 1 egg, beaten;

1 tsp vanilla extract; 1 1/2 tbsp strong coffee; 1 tsp baking soda; Pinch salt;

1 1/2 cup all-purpose flour; 1 cup chopped pecans.

Directions:

- Preheat the oven to 350F, then grease a 12 cup muffin tin.
- Combine the butter and mashed bananas in a large bowl, mixing them well together.
- Swirl the sugar, egg, coffee and vanilla together in a small bowl, then mix them with the bananas.
- Sprinkle the baking soda and salt over the top and stir some more.
- Add the flour, being careful not to over-mix, the batter should be still a bit lumpy.
- Finally, fold in the pecans, pour into the greased muffin tin and bake for 20 to 30 minutes. Cool on a rack. Enjoy with a steaming hot cup of joe!

The Buzz about Coffee

I am writing this column at my regular seat, at my regular table, at my regular coffee house. At the next table a sociology professor, Kaylan, pauses for a sip of latte as she works her way through a pile of exams. Throughout the room, a half-dozen regulars chat about matters large and small. This convivial atmosphere, fueled by the pick-me-up one gets from a good cup of coffee, can be found in establishments all around the world. The beverage that brings us here has intriguing social and natural histories.

Legends surrounding the origins of coffee abound. My favourite has an Ethiopian farmer noticing his goats getting frisky whenever they ate the red berries hanging from a particular small tree. Curious, he ate a few himself, no doubt spitting out the large seeds (beans) inside. Sure enough, he felt that gentle buzz. When he tried to share some berries with the Sufi monks at the nearby monastery, they showed their disapproval by throwing them into the fire. Soon the room was filled with a most

enticing aroma, prompting the farmer to rake his roasted beans out of the embers. He ground them, stirred them into hot water, and coffee became a thing.

No matter how it was discovered, coffee drinking spread quickly during the 1500s, first through the Arabian Peninsula and North Africa, then to Italy, and from there to the rest of Europe. And as the legends suggest, many religious leaders condemned it as Satan's brew. But the tide was unstoppable, and even Pope Clement VIII became a convert to coffee. Five-hundred years later an astonishing 2.28 billion cups are consumed every day. In fact, world trade in coffee is second only to petroleum, employing 125 million people, including Omar and Ashley, the owners of this fine establishment.

As you know, coffee is rich in caffeine. From the human perspective, caffeine is a stimulant. It acts at the junctions between nerve cells—the synapse. Over our waking hours, adenosine molecules slowly accumulate at the synapse. At some point, enough of them attach to

specialized receptors on the nerve cell surface to trigger drowsiness and eventually sleep. Caffeine interferes with this attachment, keeping us alert.

From the coffee tree's perspective, caffeine is something quite different. It's a defence that protects the leaves and developing seeds from various beetles, caterpillars, aphids...the "bad" insects. Caffeine is an alkaloid, the family of chemicals that also includes opium, cocaine, quinine, ephedrine, nicotine and a host of other compounds with various effects on animal nervous systems. Most pests can't handle caffeine and move on to eat something else. Interestingly, the sugary nectar produced by the coffee tree's flowers also contains caffeine. For some varieties, a drop of nectar contains almost as much caffeine as a drop of instant coffee. What does nectar caffeine do to the "good" insects, the bees?

Although coffee flowers can self-pollinate, bean production is boosted when bees visit the flowers. The tree produces flower buds over the

dry season, which all burst open after a good rainfall, filling the air with their sweet fragrance. Several years ago a group of British scientists wondered if the caffeine in the flower nectar affects the bee's ability to learn and remember that the flower's scent signals food within. They did the type of experiment psychologists do. They first trained hungry bees in a feeder contraption that dispensed drops of sugar water. As a bee sipped it up, they puffed flower scent across its antennae (that's how bees smell). Some bees got only sugar water, but for others, the water also contained caffeine. It seems that the caffeine did not improve learning very much. When tested right after the training session, all bees preferred to hang out at scented feeders versus unscented, caffeinated bees slightly more so. The big difference emerged the next day: caffeinated bees remembered that scent equals food far more often than the decaf bees. So, here we sit at the coffee house getting that gentle buzz, all thanks to the caffeinated nectar that gets the bees buzzed.



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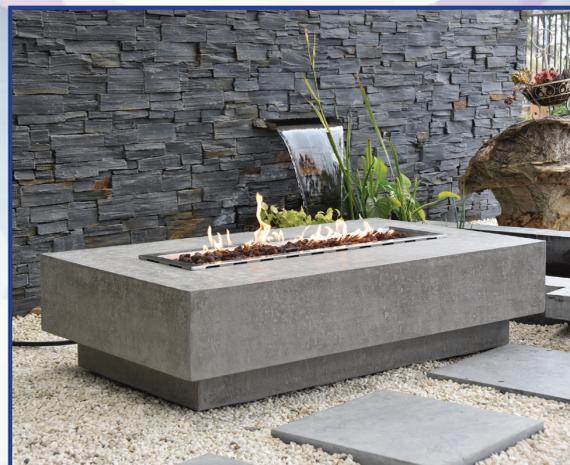
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COZY UP BY THE FIRE

FEATURING KING TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF FAVOURITES!

The weather is colder and snow is a daily possibility now, so we start finding ourselves spending more and more time indoors. The perfect way to spend this time is with a great book, a cuddly blanket and preferably a toasty fire of course! Let us help you find some great reads for the winter! Working at the Library, we are often entrusted with assisting patrons find something new or something reminiscent of an old favourite. Staff members will not only pull ideas from our preferences, but also from suggestions that patrons give us on a variety of topics and genres. We really do have something for everyone!

In continuing our tradition of “Staff Favourites,” we have asked the staff to submit some of their cherished books. Whether they hold sentimental value or are just for pure entertainment, the library staff have selected some of their favourites! All available at your Library in a variety of reading and listening formats: books, CD’s, 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

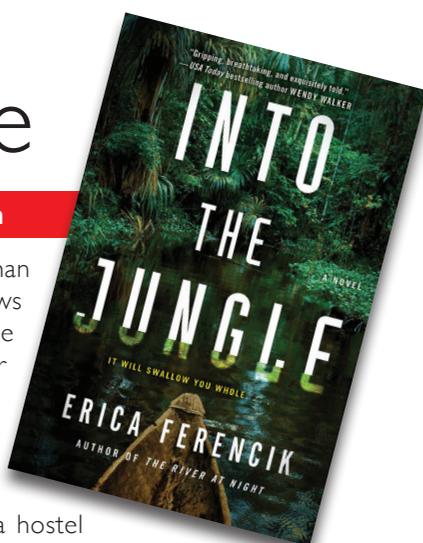
k.secord@kinglibrary.ca

Adrienne suggests:

Into the Jungle

by Erica Ferencik (2019) – Adult Fiction

This is a thrilling story about a young woman who leaves behind everything she knows to take on the Bolivian jungle. Little does she know that this excursion turns into a fight for her life! Lily Bushwold decides she’s found a way to leave behind endless foster care and group homes for a teaching job in Bolivia. But when she gets there, the gig falls through. She joins a group of girls at a hostel but finds that hustling isn’t what she wants to do. She meets a handsome man, Omar, who came from a remote Bolivian village. When he decides to return to Bolivia after his young nephew disappears, Omar gives Lily the option of coming with him. In spite of all kinds of dangers, thirty-foot anacondas, gigantic spiders, vengeful shamans, she insists on going with him. It’s a spellbinding story that can’t be put down!

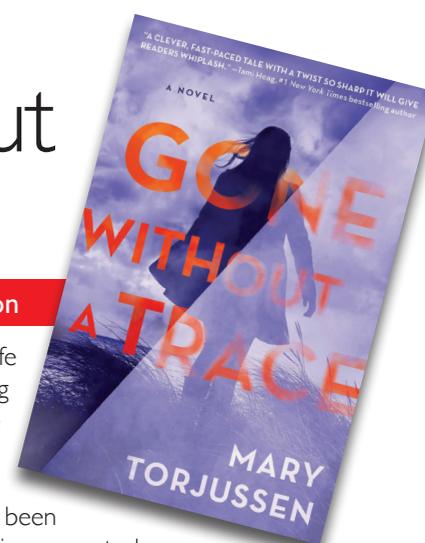


Rebecca suggests:

Gone Without a Trace

by Mary Torjussen (2017) – Adult Fiction

Hannah Monroe has a seemingly perfect life – she has a great job and an amazing loving boyfriend with whom she shares a house. One day, the façade of her perfect life shatters when Hannah’s boyfriend, Matt, disappears. His belongings, every call and text to him have been erased, every photo of him and social media accounts have vanished. As if their last four years together never happened. Hannah begins a frantic search which leads her down a path of madness and obsession. Hannah realizes that the only way out is to come face-to-face with the shocking truth. This suspenseful psychological thriller is sure to keep you guessing until the very end! Fans of Gone Girl and The Girl on the Train would enjoy this book.

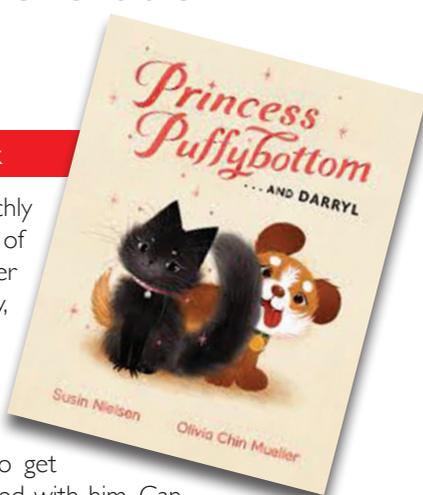


Rebecca suggests:

Princess Puffybottom... and Darryl

by Susin Nielson (2019) – Picture Book

Attention all cat and dog owners! This richly illustrated picture book tells the story of a pampered cat, Princess Puffybottom and her wonderful life with her loving owners. One day, her owners arrive home with a surprise...it’s a puppy, Darryl! Unfortunately, Darryl does not hold himself to the same high standards as Princess Puffybottom in terms of cleanliness and intelligence. Despite frequent attempts to get rid of Darryl, her owners seem to be infatuated with him. Can Princess Puffybottom and Darryl put their differences aside and find a way to co-exist? This picture book features a diverse family and serves as an excellent introduction to conflict resolution and dealing with jealousy amongst new siblings.



Kalli suggests:

The First Rule of Punk

by Celia C. Pérez (2017) – Junior Fiction

When 12-year-old María Luisa O’Neill Morales, she prefers the name Malú, is told that she’s moving with her Mexican-American mother to Chicago she doesn’t want to go. Her life is great the way it is, going to the record store with her father to listen to old punk albums and writing her zines is the way she likes to live life. But starting grade 7 in a new school gets worse when she isn’t allowed to wear her punk rock aesthetic. Malú then spurns the most popular girl in school to start a band with a group of misfits like her. But will she be able to make Chicago her home while being true to herself?



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A Theatrical Walk through History

By Teri Hastings with Sara Moyle
and Hugh Barnett

SWANSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PHOTO: Aliso Eads/Communications 2019

• Kim
• Wheatly



• The River
• Humber
• Collective

One beautiful day this past summer, I and hundreds and hundreds of people gathered to pay homage to History on the Humber.

My journey, held in the meandering Sculpture Garden at McMichael Canadian Art Gallery was surely as equally satisfying at the one held the day before at Etienne Brule Park in Toronto. Both locations so unique; opposite ends of the Humber River. My northern experience, a network of paths and twice than life-sized bronze, working in unison, and for those in the south, the arched stone bridge and historic Mill, wildlife and rushing water. I now wish I had been able to go to both to compare, but could anyone really compare these two iconic locations?

We all came to witness the magic of outdoor theatre as we celebrated the diverse human history of the Humber

River. What we experienced were six theatrical installations sharing Indigenous, Francophone, and Newcomer stories of the Humber River region.

The performances easily held our attention in the scorching August sun. The first story was Jason Wilson's Sumach Roots which took us on a bold and innovative exploration of Upper Canada's evolution over the past three hundred years. A combination of music and theatre, Sumach Roots drew from a deep well of sounds to tell the stories of those who built Upper Canada, both literally and culturally. In the scene performed for Walk the Six West, Joseph Brant and Elizabeth Simcoe share contrasting perspectives on land and loss.

Second, Cheri Maracle performed her acclaimed, Paddle Song, work based on the life and times of Mohawk-Canadian poet E. Pauline Johnson, whose works continued to influence Indigenous performers and audiences, for decades to come.

Following Cheri, Two Boats, performed by Mixed Company Theatre, shared the story of four Syrian newcomers and the 9380 km long journey they embarked on to create a new home for themselves. We follow their desires, wants, needs, fears, and anticipations as they bring with them their luggage, and countless memories. We discover the difficulties and the wonders of transitioning into Canadian society, and we cheer as they plant roots in their new home. This was riveting.

Fourth, The River is Us (The River is Time), written by local playwright Philp Lortie. This piece shared the journey through 400 years of French history along the Humber River and beyond: from the earliest fur traders and explorers to the residents of today's metropolis, this original two-person piece explored the impact that French culture and language have had on the place that grew to become the city of Toronto. I was happy to have downloaded the translation app made available to the crowd, although my years of French in school did help.

The fifth production was called Before/After by Erika MacNeil who shared the story of The Chinese Market Gardens along the Humber River that was a unique existence amid racial discrimination, prior to their destruction by Hurricane Hazel. This spoken word/interpretive movement/soundscape rendition paid homage to a piece of the artist's heritage.

The final scheduled performance presented by ArsMusica, The Phyllis Marshall Plan was a musical performance installation based on the life of black Canadian singer and actress Phyllis Marshall, who lived in Lambton. This performance opened a window on the world of a uniquely talented artist whose music enriched Canada's cultural landscape on stage and screen.

We might have thought that was the final performance, stood and turned, but then to our absolute delight, there was more with a performance and spoken-word piece by Kim Wheatley from atop the Indigenous Garden hill. Kim is Anishinaabe Ojibway Grandmother from Shawanaga First Nation Reserve who carries the Spirit name Head or Leader of the Fireflower and is Turtle clan. I noticed some with a slight tear running down a cheek, I wiped mine away too.

My day was splendiferous. I drove home flushed with experiential satisfaction. I and other ASK friends provided some volunteer support, but that was easy! We helped guide visitors from stop-to-stop including ourselves.

Sara tells me that Walk the Six West is a collaborative endeavour spearheaded by her, Hugh Barnett (two of the founders of the once-beloved and popular Humber River Shakespeare Company) and Lance Gleitch (Swansea Historical Society). This third iteration of the outdoor production was made possible with funding from the Federal Government's Community Support and Anti-Racism Initiative. Collectively, they delivered on a core part of Walk the Six West's mandate: a desire to create opportunities in the Humber Watershed for intercultural collaboration and dialogue. Way to break a leg!



SWANSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PHOTO: Aliso Eads/Communications 2019

• Cheri
• Maracle

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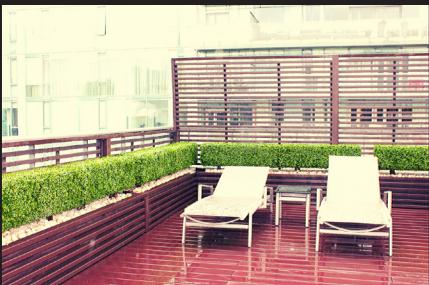
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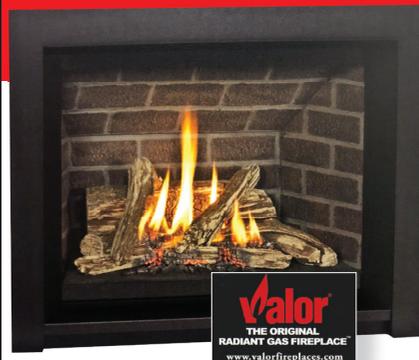
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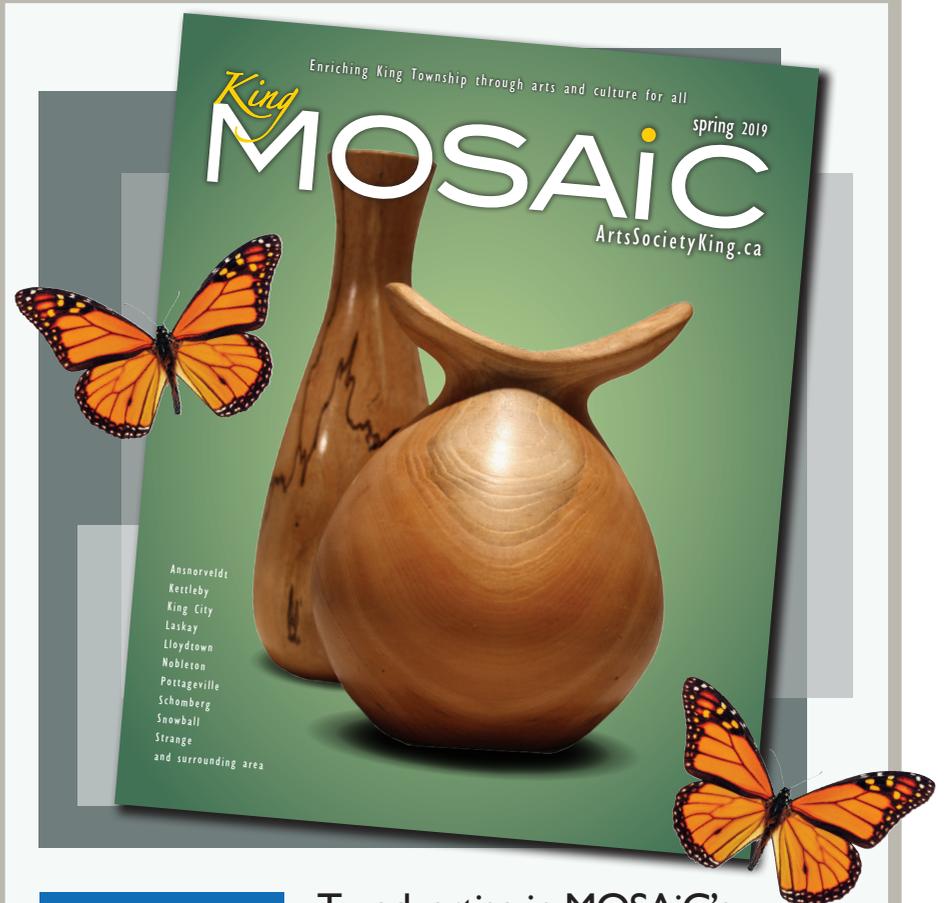
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