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fall 2022

# *King* **MOSAIC**

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Susan Beharriell  
Wendy Cho  
Grace Downer  
Bert Duclos  
Bill Foran  
Julia Galt  
Shannon Lively  
Ann Love  
Kiera McCue  
Michele McNally  
Dorita Peer  
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Cheryl Uhrig  
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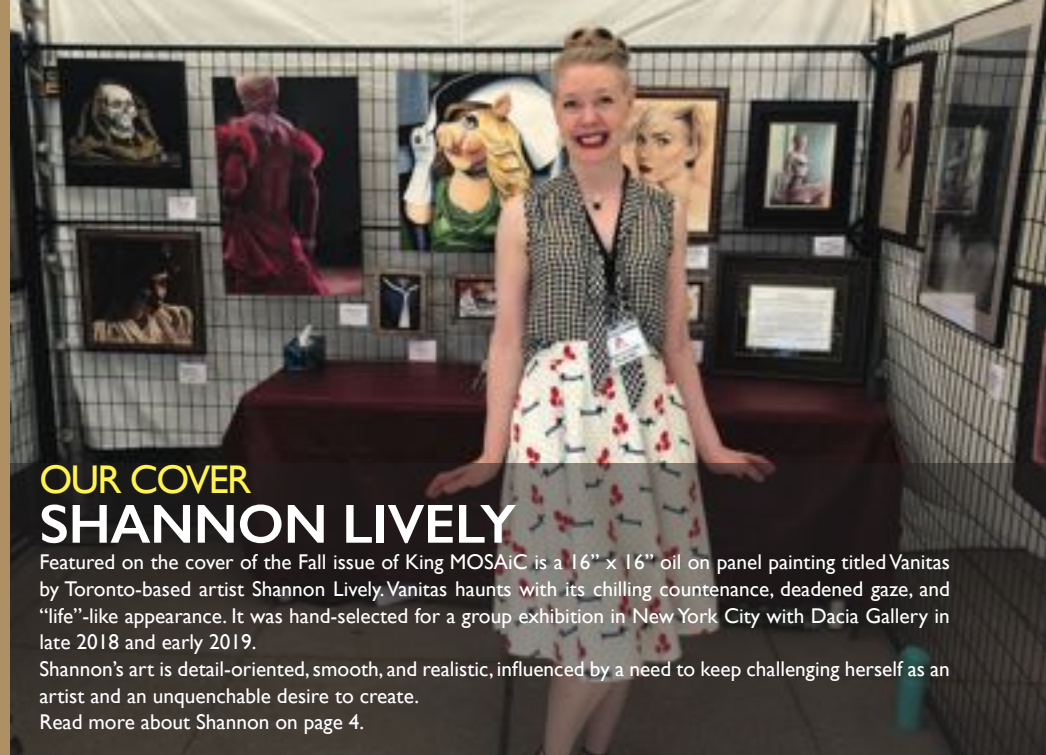
## FEATURED CONTRIBUTOR: KEITH BECKLEY



Keith Beckley works in the bio-tech space as the owner of an electronic medical record company and, separately, as director of the software and electronics team at a 100-person bio-tech start-up. Keith has lived with his family in King since 1997. When not doing his day jobs, Keith focuses on his tech interests: electric vehicles, the larger trend of energy transformation, and the outsized effects both of these changes will have on society. This fall he and the Climate Action King team will be presenting another Plug 'N Drive event featuring electric vehicles. Keith loves the King trails and a good night's sleep. Read Keith's article on the healthy home on page 9.



A VERY VICTORIAN FAMILY MAN



## OUR COVER SHANNON LIVELY

Featured on the cover of the Fall issue of King MOSAIC is a 16" x 16" oil on panel painting titled Vanitas by Toronto-based artist Shannon Lively. Vanitas haunts with its chilling countenance, deadened gaze, and "life"-like appearance. It was hand-selected for a group exhibition in New York City with Dacia Gallery in late 2018 and early 2019.

Shannon's art is detail-oriented, smooth, and realistic, influenced by a need to keep challenging herself as an artist and an unquenchable desire to create. Read more about Shannon on page 4.



FARMING NEW FIELDS



THE NIGHT TO REMEMBER: HURRICANE HAZEL CAUSES HAVOC IN SCHOMBERG

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# A MOMENT IN

Whether expressed in the vibrant whirls of colour in the clothes of her dancing subjects, or in the dynamisms of touch between partners, **Shannon Lively's artwork is awash with kinetic movement.**

The Toronto-based, Alberta-born artist has spent what feels like a lifetime mastering the details of the human form, from the way hair moves when whirling across a ballroom to the smooth contortions of arms and legs as a body goes into flight.

As someone who describes their work as "woman-centric"- and who specializes in smooth, detail-oriented figure work so realistic it's often mistaken for a photograph- producing work that meets the level of difficulty and complexity Shannon strives for can mean studying different models until every feature is translated to perfection.

Lately she's taken particular inspiration from the challenges and intricacies of dance: how to portray motion without having the body look stuck or frozen, portraying flesh tones under intense stage lights, translating the sparkle of opulent, crystal-encrusted ballgowns to canvas. This new body of work has found home at The Fine Art of Dance ([www.fineartofdance.com](http://www.fineartofdance.com)), a new site Shannon created and launched earlier this year. Going hand-in-hand with this new platform is a desire to showcase her artwork at future dance competitions, studios, and events- though she's currently working on building up this themed portfolio.

"My art is driven by the challenge of depicting the body in motion, capturing the emotional projection inherent in dance, and displaying the

connection between dancers as they perform," says Shannon, who once competed as an amateur ballroom dancer herself.

Ten-time undefeated Latin Dance Champion Yulia Zagoruychenko and her partner Riccardo Cocchi have, accordingly, been the subjects of several paintings over the past year, as have professional ballroom dancers Travis and Jaimee Tuft. Later this year Shannon hopes to begin her largest painting to date, a 60 x 60" piece featuring Mississauga-based dance champions Dmytro Gurkov and Celeste Bailey.

"There are so many different dances to feature in my work, so many different poses to explore, so many dancers to portray," says Shannon. "It makes me very excited to continue creating my work."

Recently, Shannon's art has undergone a self-described "metamorphosis".

With the recent move to her new at-home studio in Toronto's east-end- a large, industrial loft space with high ceilings- she's made a quiet commitment to showing up at her easel the same time each day, creating a productive and "dependable" routine. Conveniently able to expand the size of her studio as needed, art of all shapes, sizes, and colours takes its first breath.

As a realist artist, Shannon starts all her work with a basic construct or line drawing of her subject, and then adds in shadow shapes to get a basic likeness of her subject and to

: Yulia I



correct proportions. When painting, she starts with dead colour to create a foundation for the piece and adds in detail incrementally.

"Currently I paint and draw as often as I can, but the time I spend painting and drawing varies, depending on my work obligations and deadlines," says Shannon, who has a career as a research lawyer. "I try to carve out time to paint or draw at least three times a week during the week, and to spend at least half a day creating on the weekend, if not more."

Dance isn't the only inspiration driving Shannon's current desire to create.

As a realist artist, she takes particular interest in the works of William-Adolphe Bouguereau, Rembrandt, and John Singer Sargent- particularly Singer Sargent's society portraits and Rembrandt's abstract application of paint. Strong female artists such as Tamara De Lempicka and Frida Kahlo also inspire with their ability to "stand the test of time" and drive artistic dialogue, even today.

Contemporaries including Nick Alm, Elizabeth Zanzinger, Jane Ansell, Julie Beck, Jeff Hein, Ceasar Santos, Joshua LaRock, Costa Dvoretzky, and Shaun Downey also influence her work.

"I love seeing art in person," Shannon says. "Being able to actually see the brush strokes in the work is such a treat."

Completing a painting can take Shannon anywhere from a few days to a few months,

depending on factors such as the size of the piece, how many other projects she has on the go, and whether she decides to change the piece while working on it- as she did recently with a 30 x 40" painting of Zagoruychenko and Cocchi, which she's been working on since February.

Her work ranges in cost from several hundreds of dollars for drawings to prices exceeding \$10,000 for large paintings. Producing art that is affordable to a variety of collectors is something she prioritizes, says Shannon.

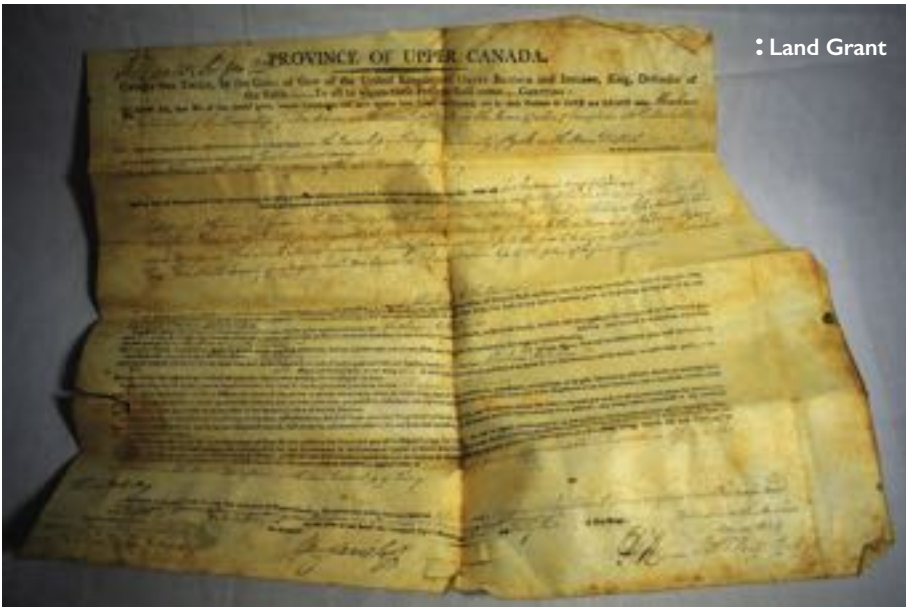
In addition to The Fine Art of Dance, Shannon's work can be viewed on Instagram (@fineartofdance) and at [shannonlively.com](http://shannonlively.com). Locally, she will be appearing as the feature artist in the upcoming Schomberg Street Gallery (for more information, visit pg. 23 of this MOSAiC).

"My art has shown me how resilient and dedicated I am," says Shannon. "No matter what life throws at me, the thing that keeps me going is my art. Even during the pandemic, which was a difficult, isolating period for me, the desire to create drove me forward. Not only does my art give me purpose, but I know it is not a fleeting passion. I've been painting for over 20 years now, and I imagine I will paint for the rest of my life- as long as I am able to wield a brush."

# FROM THE ARCHIVES: CROWN GRANTS IN KING TOWNSHIP

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

Statutes of the Province of :  
Upper Canada, 1798 :



: Land Grant

We acknowledge that the Township of King sits within the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Williams Treaty First Nation, as well as the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee peoples. We thank them for sharing this land with us. Together, we will continue to celebrate the heritage, diverse cultures, and outstanding achievements of Indigenous people.

In July 2022, the King Township Archives received a donation that spanned almost 150 years of King's history and included documents, images, and letters from the McTaggart family. Collections like this are invaluable as they allow us to see a full story of life, death, and everything in between. The items that brought this early settler family to King are now also the oldest documents in King's archival collection, namely two crown land grants, dated 1803 and 1804.

To better understand the significance of these documents, we will start at the beginning of European settlement in King Township. The original inhabitants of the land now known as King were the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee peoples. In 1787 the Mississaugas of the Credit signed the first treaty for the area, the "Gunshot Treaty", which was amended in 1805 to the Toronto Purchase. It was the signing of this first treaty that triggered the Crown to start surveying the land and encouraging more widespread settlement across Upper Canada, now Ontario.

The first order to survey the land came in 1798 under King George III in the Statutes of the Province of Upper Canada. Chapter one was "An act to ascertain and establish on a permanent footing, the boundary of lines of the different townships of this province." This was the very start of our Township. Surveying began in 1800 by Johann Stegmann. This was difficult work and was considered so important that the punishment for tampering with the stone markers laid at the corners of the grid pattern was death!

Once the land was surveyed, the Upper Canadian Government needed to cement their hold by populating the province. Grants for land were free and easy to acquire; all you had to do was write a petition to the Lieutenant Governor. After 1826, this policy was changed so that only loyalists and those who fought in the military received free land. Others had to pay.

The document that is now part of the King archival collection granted free land to Abraham Asselstine in 1803. He was granted a 200-acre parcel of land at the Lot 3, 9th Concession of King Township, just south of Nobleton. By the time of our earliest map of King Township in 1851, the property had been sold to George Hambley; however, the Asselstines remained in the King area, eventually linking with the McTaggart family, who generously donated this document.

Generations later, this two-century-year-old document is only one of many donated by the McTaggart family. More details about this interesting donation will be shared in a future edition of MOSAiC, so be sure to check back. To learn more about your own family history, or support the archives, contact us at [archives@king.ca](mailto:archives@king.ca) or visit us at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City. Appointments preferred.



: Tremaine's map, 1860. By 1860 the land  
: granted to Abraham Asselstine was  
: owned by George Hambley

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 textile collection. Each edition we will share photographs of items from the collection. The name Clara's Closet was inspired by the previous owner of some of our most fashionable items, Lady Clara (Ellsworth) Flavelle (1858-1932). In celebration of the King Township Mayor's Cultural Gala this September, in this edition we are gathering the accessories Lady Clara would need for a formal evening out.



### LADIES' RIDING GLOVES, C. 1900

Throughout history, ladies' gloves have served as both practical, protective garments and decorative symbols of wealth, social class, and moral values. While functioning as a barrier between the wearer and the elements of the outside world, ladies' gloves not only demonstrated that one possessed the economic wealth to afford them, but also protected the wearer's hands from showing signs of 'work', denoting a higher social class, and shielded the 'purity' of bare skin, displaying virtue and modesty. Riding in her carriage on the way to the gala, Lady Clara may have worn leather riding gloves such as these, before slipping on opera gloves to match her gown.



### HANDBAG, C. 1890

Handbags with a clasp-closure such as this black fur bag became popular at the turn of the 20th century. Prior to the handbag as we now know it, women carried a small purse called a 'reticule', which was only capable of holding the essentials of the time—makeup, cards, and a fan. Yet as women began to venture out of the domestic sphere, spending longer and more frequent periods of time outside of their homes, they required a bag which held more items and fastened securely.

Carrying a purse such as this, Lady Clara could easily slip in her wallet, perfume, and a pair of glasses to find her name at the appropriate place setting.



### LADY FLAVELLE'S GOING-AWAY BOOTS, C. EARLY 1900s

As part of Lady Muriel Flavelle's 'Going-Away' ensemble, these stylish purple boots would have been worn following the reception of her wedding to Sir Joseph Ellsworth Flavelle on January 17, 1917. After changing out of her white wedding gown, a bride would change into a less formal 'going-away' outfit to signal the end of the wedding, say good-bye to her guests, and embark on her journey as a newly married woman. Practical yet fashionable boots like these would be the perfect footwear for Lady Clara to change into for the journey home, after a wonderful evening of dinner and dancing.

Have some historic clothing or accessories to share? Let us know at [kingmuseum@king.ca](mailto:kingmuseum@king.ca)

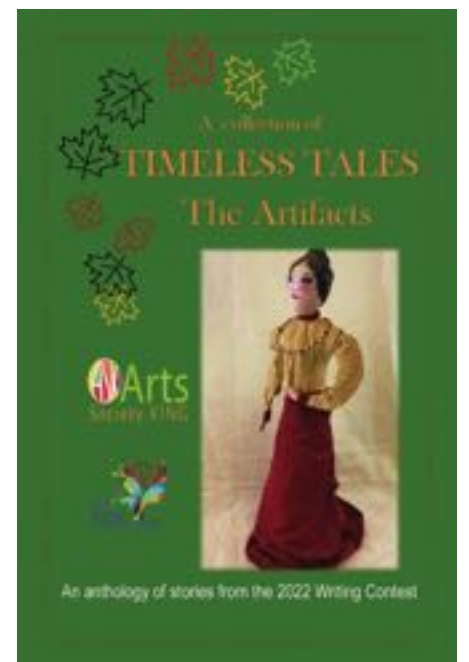
# Timeless Tales just enjoyed its second year of uncovering the writing talent in this community.

By Dorita Peer

The collaborative event between Arts Society King and the King Heritage & Cultural Centre is becoming a perennial favourite and is already set for 2023. Writers of all ages will be invited to submit short stories and vie for prizes and publication with the contest's most compelling challenge of all: four portrait photos and four titles from the museum's library of vintage books. The idea is to mix and match one with the other. This writing prompt should open creative minds to some spectacular flights of fancy.

The 2022 anthology, *Timeless Tales: The Artifacts*, is available from ASK and offers samples of soaring imagination among the 27 talented entrees. The imaginative story by Kiera McCue that follows was the judges' favourite in the Grades 5-8 category and should prove the worth of this evocative event.

Kiera is thirteen-years-old and has just graduated from Rogers Public School. Her interest in drama is taking her into the ARTS program at Huron Heights Secondary School. She has always loved reading and creative writing. Among her favourite authors are Laura Sebastian and Ransom Riggs, whom she credits as major influences in her creative writing. Her goal in life: to be a professional actor or a playwright.



# TRAPPED

By Kiera McCue

"And if you turn to your left, you'll see the jewelry box of Lucia Verlow." The tour guide says as we stop in front of an exhibit. "Lucia Verlow was once a very famous person in the little town of Banff, Alberta. Born in 1885, Lucia was born into a very wealthy family. She got everything she wished for no matter what it was. She got this little box for her fifteenth birthday. She filled it with all her precious treasures and a blank piece of paper, which you can see there." She points to a tiny piece of paper beside the box.

"Why is it blank?" A kid in my class raises their hand.

"No one really knows why. But it's said in Alberta that only certain people that the spirit of Lucia chooses can see the words she wrote. Anyway, Lucia buried the box in her front yard and there it stayed until three years ago, when the new owner of the house dug it up and gave it to us, along with everything inside. Unfortunately, Lucia was found dead in her home on September 16th, 1906. Historians have said she killed herself that night. But there are still people who say that she in fact was murdered and that's why she stays on earth, haunting her box, waiting for someone to open it and let her out." The kids in my class all pull out their phones and start to snap pictures. "Shall we move along then? Lots to see and so little time." The guide walks away from the exhibit with everyone else following. Everyone except me, that is. I stay behind, staring at my reflection in the glass case that's surrounding the artifacts.

I focus on myself for a bit, making eye contact with myself, the air conditioning blowing my jet-black hair around my head. Then I focus on the people behind me. In the reflection, the museum guests look funny. Their heads are more square than they should be and their torsos more blocklike. Then, after a short period of time, I move my attention back to the little jewelry box that sits on a small, marble pedestal. It is such a pretty box. The stains on

the wood make it look like fire is consuming it, engulfing it in warm orange flames. The little trinkets surrounding it are kind of cute. There is a necklace, a ring, a little dagger, three pictures of a young girl, whom I assume is Lucia herself, and the little note the tour guide pointed out earlier.

I get lower so I can read the writing. Wait, the writing? There isn't supposed to be writing.

It looks like it's faded over the years so it's hard to make out, but it's good enough to read. It says,

*To whomever is reading this letter, just know, I am not who they say. Whatever they have told you, it is not true. I did not kill myself, I was murdered by my own father. Or rather, I will be. You see, I'm not normal and neither are you. I can dream of the future. Let me out of the box and I will show you wonders. Places, things you never thought you'd see. All you have to do is lift the lid and I'll do the rest.*

"Is everything alright, miss?" A man now stands behind me.

"Oh, yes. I'm fine. I was just reading the note, that's all." He offers me his hand, but I ignore it and get up by myself.

"But, there are no words on that paper. How can you read it?" He pauses. "Are you sure you're alright?"

"Yes. Positive." I turn my head to look at the note again. There, clear as day, is the writing.

"Are you here alone?" He asks.

"No. I'm here with my class. We're on a field trip." I reply. "I'm sorry. I should find them actually. I'm not supposed to be anywhere without a buddy. Good day, sir." He hesitates before tipping his hat off to me. I turn to go and he does the same. The only difference is I'm not actually going anywhere.

When I know for sure he's out of eyeshot, I turn back around and go back to Lucia's exhibit. My fingertips go numb and cold, and a chill runs through my entire body as I run my fingers along the glass surface. I pull my

hand away quickly, grabbing it as the colour and warmth comes back. The feeling was a horrible experience, but something about me wants to do it again. It's calling me.

I place my hand back on the glass, this time for longer. This time, my entire hand goes numb. It soon crawls up my arm like a grape vine.

I take the glass cover off of the stand and place it on the floor. Then, the alarm goes off. I quickly take the note and shove it in my pocket and open the jewelry box. The coldness from before fills the area before targeting me. It enters my body, nearly knocking me over. I start to feel nauseous. The last thing I see before falling to the ground is six security guards running toward me.

\*\*\*

I open my eyes, but right away I know I'm not awake. It's all black and white. I'm in a dream, but it looks so real. How can that be?

"Father! Father, where are you?" The girl from the pictures runs past me, calling up the stairs of the house I'm in. "Mother? Is anyone home?" She calls.

"I'm home, Lucia." A young boy, I would say about six years old, walks into the room.

"Oh, Theo. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to wake you." The girl says. She walks over to him and picks him up. "Here, let's get you back to bed." She walks up the stairs with Theo in her arms as I follow. She turns left and I do the same. She finally gets to a wooden door painted a light colour. She opens the door and places the boy in a small bed, tucks him in, and kisses him on his forehead. I smile. It brings back flashbacks of my own of when I was a child and my older sister used to tuck me in when my parents weren't home.

Lucia extinguishes the candle on Theo's bedside table, walks out of the room, and closes the door behind her. Then, she stops.

"You know, I ought to thank you." She says without turning her head. "Do you know how

long I've been trapped here? Watching, waiting for someone to come along and open the box?" She turns to face me, locking eye contact with me. "One hundred and sixteen years, living the same day over, and over, and over again. Feeling what I felt that day. Everything. It has been torture. So thank you, you've put an end to my misery, and now, I'll put an end to yours." She steps closer to me and sticks her hand out. "Take it. Take my hand and you'll be free. Free from everything. And you'll be happy. Happier than you've ever been. Just... take my hand." I hesitate for a few seconds before reaching out and grabbing her hand. She smirks and disappears into thin air.

"Lucia! We're home!" A soft voice calls from downstairs. I follow it and there, standing at the front door, is a man and a woman, dressed in all dark clothes.

"There you are. Would you be a dear and help your mother get the laundry?" The woman smiles.

"I'll make dinner." The man says with a smirk, before quickly putting his face into a neutral tone. I try to run out the door, but it won't budge.

"Oh, honey. Make yourself at home. You'll be staying here a while." The woman smiles nicely. "Now come, I need a little help." My jaw drops a bit as I realize. I'm trapped.

\*\*\*

It's been exactly eighty-seven years since I was first here. And just like Lucia described, it's been torture. I've lived the day Lucia died for 31,755 consecutive days in a row. I've felt the pain of poison going down my throat every night we have dinner. I've felt my mind go black every night I go upstairs. I've felt what it's like to die. Constantly.

"Mother? Is anyone home?" I yell. Then, at that moment, I feel him. The presence of a living human soul. I smile. "And so, the cycle begins again." I whisper. I'm finally free.





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

I was happy to attend the recent unveiling of an interactive trail marker at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre as we marked Indigenous Peoples Day.

Indigenous artist Don Chretien, of the Nipissing First Nation, created the trail marker "Memengwaa" which means 'butterfly'.

The beautiful trail marker is part of the York Region Experience Trail Marker Project, a collaborative interactive art project designed to re-connect people on the land, presently known as York Region, through art.

The King marker is a collaboration with York Region Arts Council, King Township Public Library, King Heritage and Cultural Centre and King Township.

Another marker—Bee—was unveiled in Aurora at Aurora Town Park. Two more markers—Moth and Hummingbird—will be unveiled later in the Town of Georgina and Vaughan.

The illustrations are by Chretien and the cultural narrative is by Ojibwe Elder Shelley Charles, Georgina Island First Nation.

I invite you to stop by the King Heritage and Cultural Centre at 2920 King Road to see this beautiful piece of art up close.

### Holland Marsh Soupfest

It's time to mark your calendars for the next big community event in King.

After a two-year hiatus caused by the pandemic, the Holland Marsh Soupfest returns on Saturday, October 15 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Come enjoy the day and sample hot soups (made from locally grown and harvested fresh produce), browse through different vendors, purchase fresh produce from the Farmers' Market and don't forget about the Kids' Zone. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit [www.hollandmarshsoupfest.ca](http://www.hollandmarshsoupfest.ca).

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



Sincerely,

Steve Pellegrini  
Mayor, King Township

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Pellegrini".



*Pictured with the new interactive trail marker at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre, left to right: Ward 5 Councillor Debbie Schaefer, Ward 2 Councillor David Boyd, Mayor Steve Pellegrini, Heritage and Cultural Centre Supervisor Erika Baird, Monica Pain with the York Region Arts Council and Kalli Secord, with the King Township Public Library.*





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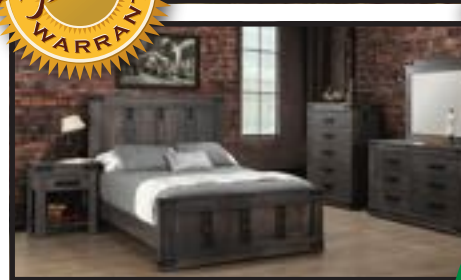
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**NOVEMBER 23  
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# Spirit...



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# The HEALTHY HOME

by Keith Beckley

No doubt most reading this article **love** the outdoors.

With a possible exception during the height of mosquito season, a walk on one of the King trails is one of my favorite activities. But truthfully, most of us spend the vast majority of our time indoors. In fact, we spend about 90% of our lives indoors and most of that is in our home. Historically, we have quite rightly worried a lot about outdoor air pollution (smog), but in fact these days it is often our indoor air that is significantly worse than the outside air. As build standards have gotten better, our houses have become ever more efficient. Of course, this is a great improvement because an efficient house costs less to operate. However, efficiency necessarily means a 'tight' house— one with very few leaks. This can have the adverse effect of creating stale, unhealthy air in our houses.

There is growing body of scientific evidence that we should try to have as little combustion in the house as possible. Intuitively that makes sense, but bad air quality has been conclusively linked to all manner of adverse health effects. Historically items such as gas stoves and wood fireplaces have been convenient or ascetically desirable, but having them in our homes is simply not healthy.

Fortunately, there are number of new technologies that mean both cleaner indoor air and financial savings. Most of these technologies allow us to get natural gas (and its nasty combustion residuals) out of our house and eliminate that entire monthly bill at the cost of an increase to our electrical bill. The good news is that the increase in electricity cost is less than the savings from the gas bill. Frankly, we should not be building houses that use natural gas anymore.

Gas cook tops should be replaced with induction stove tops. Superior in every way, an induction cook top is a joy to use.

Range hoods are important to remove aerosols generated from the cooking process, however many of us don't use them as they are noisy. Invest in a higher end unit that is designed to move air with the lowest possible noise, then use it! Cooking typically has a terrible effect on air quality and a good quality range hood is important.

A gas furnace should be replaced with an air source heat pump. My house in King City has been running on only a heat pump for 2 years and it has not only been cheaper to operate, but by its very nature has provided cleaner air in the house. Instead of cycling on and off like gas furnaces typically do, the heat pump runs at a lower steady state, circulating the air constantly. I am changing my filters twice as often, which of course means cleaner air. Changing the filter is critical to air quality; mark it on the calendar.



• The outdoor unit of an air source heat pump is a little larger than a standard air conditioner

We also switched our gas hot water heater to a heat pump. Plenty of hot water at a lower cost and no combustion.

Fireplaces can be replaced with an electrical equivalent, which can provide heat and a pleasing aesthetic (opinion may vary). Even electric barbeques now exist for those who hate the propane swap cycle but still like the barbeque taste.

Lots of folks love candles as they offer scents and a warm glow, however they have a terrible effect on air quality. Effectively, they generate smog in the home. Save candles for power outages and special occasions.

In winter when our homes are sealed up it is important to bring fresh oxygenated air in and exhaust stale air out. The best way to do this is to install a heat recovery ventilator (HRV). This device uses the outgoing hot stale air to heat the incoming cold fresh air, thereby incurring a low energy cost but affording a much higher air quality benefit. Every house with central heating should have one installed. And yes, I hate to say it, get your ducts cleaned periodically.

Finally, it is critical to control humidity in your home. Humidity affects indoor air quality, especially if it gets too high. Aim for 20-30% in the winter and 30-40% in the summer.

It seems obvious that indoor air quality would be important to our health, but previously we often paid little thought to it. Society has made great strides cleaning up the outdoors. Now it is time to focus on our indoor environments. New technologies mean we can have the best air quality while saving money. Truly a win-win.



# BACK TO SCHOOL

## RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND LIFELONG LEARNERS AT THE KING TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY!

by Stephanie Wilcox

Fall has arrived and once again students are heading back to their classrooms for another year of learning! At King Township Public Library (KTPL) we have a variety of resources and spaces to help support students and learners of all ages this fall. Whether you're looking for somewhere quiet to work, research and homework help, or even inspiration for a new project, there's something for everyone. For more information, please visit [kinglibrary.ca](http://kinglibrary.ca) or your local branch.

Wishing our community happy learning this fall from the King Township Public Library team!

### MAKE-IT LAB

Opening in late 2021, KTPL's Make-It Lab offers community members an opportunity to explore new technologies and skills, such as 3D printing, a Cricut Maker, robotics, and even recording equipment through a combination of drop-in sessions and specialized programming. The Make-It Lab is located in the lower level of the King City branch; stay tuned for Maker Pop-ups at other branch locations including access to 3D printers, green screens, and more!



### DIGITAL RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH AND HOMEWORK HELP

Students looking for support in their research and homework endeavors can visit KTPL's website to browse and use our wide variety of digital resources available for all community members with a library card. For those unable to visit us in-person, eLibrary cards are available and provide access to KTPL's digital collections! Resources offered range from quality databases such as *Canadian Points of View*, *Literature Resource Centre*, and *Globe and Mail Historical Newspaper Archive* to learning platforms like *LinkedIn Learning* and *Mango Languages*.

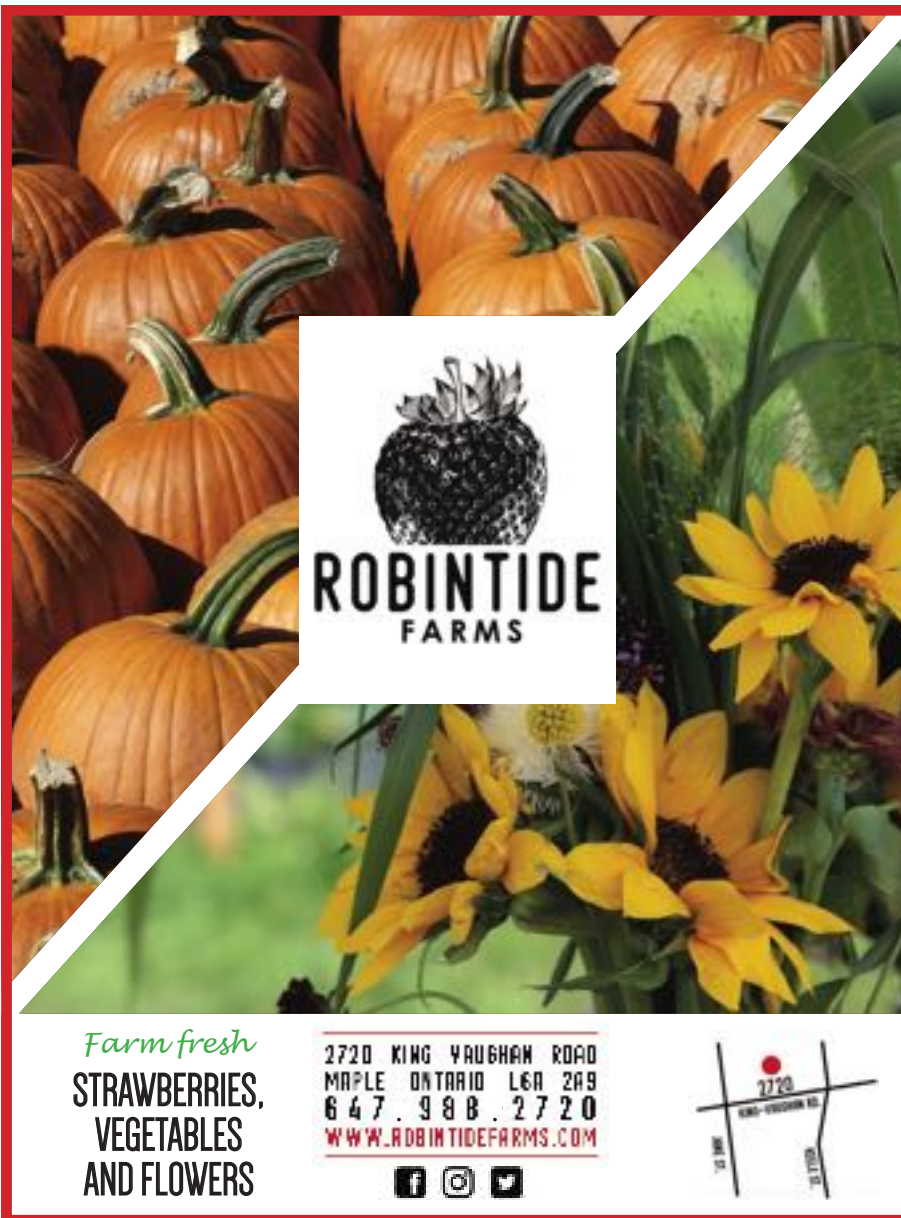
### STUDY ROOMS

For those in need of a quiet place to study and work, or a space to gather your group together for projects and presentations, our King City branch is equipped with three study rooms. Each room is equipped with a table, chairs, and a power source— though the third and largest study room also comes supplied with a digital display for screensharing. Book your time with a study room by visiting the lower level of the King City branch.



### PUBLIC COMPUTERS + LOANABLE TABLETS AND LAPTOPS

A visit to any of our three branches— King City, Nobleton, and Schomberg— will reveal some of the technology available for use both inside the Library and at home. All visitors to the Library are encouraged to utilize our public computers, internet, and printing services— even without an active library card! For those who prefer to work at home, our KTPL branches offer laptops and tablets for borrowing with a valid library card, provided they abide by the Library's internet use policy.



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A NIGHT TO REMEMBER: FRIDAY OCTOBER 15, 1954

HURRICANE  
HAZEL

CAUSES

*Havoc*  
IN SCHOMBERG

by Bill Foran

: Damaged car behind Charles Fell's garage (203 Main St)

: Cliff Graham's garage and Ray Dixon's store  
: (214 Main St): Cleaning up a lumber jam  
: on Main Street: Damaged sidewalk on the  
: west side of Main Street

: The Dixon and Matson homes (202 Main St)

Many residents of Schomberg and the surrounding region, along with myself, have significant remembrances of this historic evening 68 years ago.

This Friday was a miserable rainy day with a gloomy weekend to follow. By mid afternoon conditions were quickly worsening and darkness was fast approaching.

The four weeks of September were wonderful autumn days, but the week after Thanksgiving the weather became quite miserable and turned cooler. It rained frequently in early October. The schoolyard and all flat lowlands became large, saturated ponds. The Schomberg creek that flowed through the village heightened and became a fast moving, deeper river that was overflowing its banks. There were continuous rains and an apprehensive concern throughout the village. Early Friday afternoon shoppers hurriedly left town, businesses closed, and residents took shelter in their homes.

The river began to overflow in various locations and the water rose rapidly for approximately ten hours, from four in the afternoon until after midnight. There was little anyone could do. Many basements were flooded and small and increasing levels of water flooded the first floor of buildings along the lowest level of Main Street. After midnight, the heavy rain began to slowly subside and there was a small feeling of relief and thankfulness.

I do remember a brave resident challenged the current of water and attempted to navigate up Main Street in his motor boat. He was unsuccessful but his effort might have been needed to rescue people.

The lower part of Main Street had a flood level of approximately a metre that extended northward for 1000 metres before the water level declined. Other levels of water spread throughout the village. Villagers who lived on higher levels fortunately were spared the flooding and did not realize the disastrous destruction until early the following morning.

Schomberg was most fortunate; no loss of life and no one was seriously injured. By early Saturday morning, a number of village residents and groups of community neighbours eagerly assembled to begin the various clean-up tasks. Needed equipment and food donations were

greatly appreciated by the energetic women and men who volunteered. Within a week, many of the cleanup tasks were completed and the village was almost back to normal.

I was curious and rose early on Saturday morning to tour downtown Schomberg. 13 years old at the time, I appointed myself as an "amateur" reporter and took some photos with my box camera. I was always glad that I did take a few pictures to remember the destruction of the village. Included are some of these pictures with an added comment for this article.

I'll add a small note, the students of the Schomberg Public School never missed a day and were back in class on Monday, October 18.

Hurricane Hazel flooded many rivers both to the north and the south throughout York County and Metropolitan Toronto. A massive amount of damage was done along river valleys in Woodbridge, Pine Grove, Newmarket, Aurora, and Oak Ridges, and the valuable vegetable crop on the flat land of the vast Holland Marsh was lost.

Kindly permit a personal comment. I do not remember the meteorological forecasters alerting the residents of Ontario of the approaching hurricane. Their job was poorly done; there was no advanced warning indicating the route of the hurricane and the citizens had no time to make any preparations. The path of the hurricane was unfortunately misjudged. The route did not proceed along the Atlantic coast. The storm crossed the Appalachian Mountains in the United States and progressed northward and unexpectedly into southern Ontario.

A positive result of this hurricane was the prompt establishment by the Ontario government of the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and later the South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority. Citizens of Ontario have greatly benefitted during the past 65 years as many additional conservation authorities have appeared throughout the province.

Let's hope we never have another one of those so-called "Hundred-Year Storms"!

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**WENDY CHO**  
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**LYNN WILSON**  
lynnwilson413@gmail.com  
artbylynnwilson.com

featuring Grace Downer, Wendy Cho, and Lynn Wilson  
by Patti Skrypek

**GRACE DOWNER** received a BA and MBA from McGill University and had a career in the corporate world. A love of drawing and painting since childhood prompted her to study and take workshops locally as well as online courses. She does impressionistic plein air and studio work in landscapes, figuratives, and cityscapes. Grace's oil on board "Peony Festival" painting was painted en plein air. "I love the freedom that comes from painting outdoors: no fussing, just quickly catching an impression of what I see," says Grace.

**WENDY CHO** is an oil pastel illustrator who studied design at OCAD University. She is a member of the Artists' Network (a Canadian, member-led organization dedicated to supporting visual artists in their business practice), Arts Society King, Richmond Hill Group of Artists, and the York Region Arts Council. Her artwork is regarded as clever, whimsical, and storybook-like. Wendy's pride in her Chinese-Canadian heritage inspired the creation of "Canadian Canoe", a nod to Canada's great outdoors.

**LYNN WILSON** lives and paints in her home studio in King City. Strong, bold colours on a large canvas (florals, abstracts, streetscapes) in acrylic and mixed media or hand painting on silk were typically her media of choice. A few years ago, she discovered Altered Book Journaling: creating an art object using an existing printed book and incorporating many mediums including acrylics, metallics, inks, graphite, calligraphy, and collage. Lynn also takes ideas from her Altered Book Journal and transfers those images to large canvases. Lynn was hit hard emotionally when she heard that Anthony Bourdain had taken his own life. She felt compelled to paint him even though she rarely did portraits.

"I think I was able to portray his "raw" emotional state," Lynn says. A local Newmarket chef contacted her asking to purchase it for his home kitchen. "That meant a lot to me... as hard as it was to part with that piece, I was honoured!"

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

**Grace** – Artists are always challenged by the next project. I keep imagining paintings I could create everywhere I go: at the grocery store, among a group of people, on the streets, at sunrise, gazing at the clouds. All is art.

**Wendy** – The smiles on people's faces when they see my art.

**Lynn** – Having the ability to visually transfer inner emotions and creative energy to my art... sometimes abstracts, florals, or intuitive pieces. It's a strong release for emotions, both good and bad.

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

**Grace** – The hardest part for me is translating what I see into a good composition that will draw the viewer into my world.

**Wendy** – Finding the time to create my art.

**Lynn** – Learning to ignore my inner critic! Her name is "Doubting Denise" (my middle name).

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

**Grace** – It is never finished. I leave it alone for a few days and then I look at it with fresh eyes, do some improvements, and then move on.

**Wendy** – I just know... it feels right.

**Lynn** – I never used to know for sure, but I've learned to listen and pay attention... now my pieces tell me when to stop!

## What inspired you to pursue art?

**Grace** – I think I inherited my grandfather's genes. He was an artist and painted religious themes in churches and private homes. I loved drawing and painting as a child, but pursued a career in the corporate world. Now, I am retired and can devote myself to art.

**Wendy** – My big sister always drew and I would try to copy her. From there, I found what I love to do every day.

**Lynn** – I was always creative as a child... I took pride in my colouring! I used to highlight the lines of the image and then colour inside them – a technique I still use today! Life got in the way for many years although, throughout, I studied colour theory and took many classes... ceramics, glazing, watercolours, hand painting on silk, pottery, mask making, floral acrylics. I picked up the brushes again at 50! I had just quit a high stress sales position... questioning what to do with the rest of my life. I got hooked.

## Which artists are you most influenced by?

**Grace** – I am influenced by the works of Eduardo Leon Cortes, Claude Monet, and contemporary artists Christine Lashley, David Santillanes, and Phil Starke.

**Wendy** – I don't think I'm influenced by any particular artists except Mother Nature herself.

**Lynn** – Georgia O'Keeffe, Egon Shiele, Monet, Picasso, Helen Frankenthaler, Deb Weiers, Fonda Clark Haight.

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

**Grace** – It is always hard to part with one of your pieces but I am happy when the client sends me a picture of it in its new home.

**Wendy** – Yes and no. I put so much thought and love into each piece but I know they are going to a wonderful home!

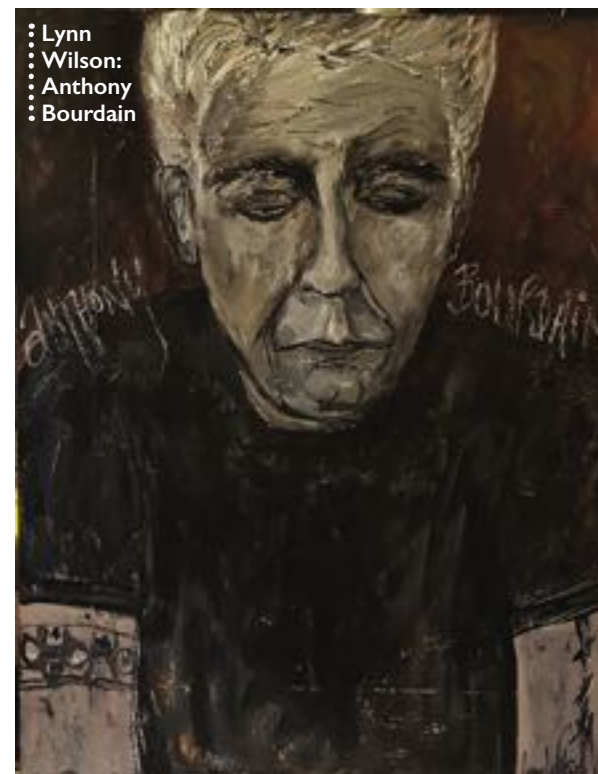
**Lynn** – Sometimes... it depends on the extent of emotional involvement I've invested in the piece.

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

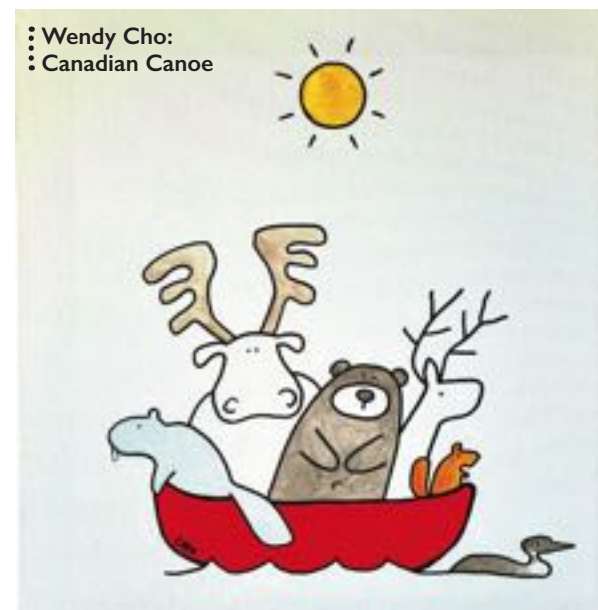
**Grace** – I would say to my younger self "it is never too late to pursue your dreams".

**Wendy** – Don't be scared, they will like your art.

**Lynn** – Ignore your inner critic! You CAN do it!



• Lynn  
• Wilson:  
• Anthony  
• Bourdain



• Wendy Cho:  
• Canadian Canoe



• Grace Downer:  
• Peony Festival



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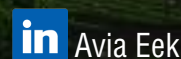
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# Events in and Around King Township

by Arts Society King



**AUGUST 25 – ONGOING – WRITENOW!@KING** – WriteNow!@King is a writers' group partnering with King Township Public Library who meet on the first and third Thursday afternoons of each month from 2 – 4 PM. New and experienced writers are welcome to participate in stimulating writing exercises, guest speakers, and feedback from peers. Contact: [info@kinglibrary.ca](mailto:info@kinglibrary.ca) for more information

**FALL AND WINTER 2022 – 2023 – FALL SKATING LESSONS WITH NOBLETON SKATING CLUB** – Canskate/Learn to Skate sessions, Adult Learn, Power Skating, and Figure Skating. Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays and Saturday mornings. Location: Nobleton Arena, 15 Old King Road, Nobleton. Contact: [nobletonskatingclub@outlook.com](mailto:nobletonskatingclub@outlook.com). Website: [nobletonskatingclub.com](http://nobletonskatingclub.com)

**SEPTEMBER 6 – FALL SKATING SEASON START DATE – SCHOMBERG SKATING CLUB**– Welcoming skaters back to the ice for fall programs. Location: Trisan Centre, Schomberg, 5:30 PM. For more information go to our website [schombergskatingclub.ca](http://schombergskatingclub.ca)

**SEPTEMBER 7 – KING CITY SENIORS' CENTRE – REGISTRATION/OPEN HOUSE** – Time to renew your yearly membership and visit the new Centre. Location: Seniors' Centre, 1970 King Road, King City, 10 AM to 2 PM. Contact: KCSC at 905-833-6565

**SEPTEMBER 12 – CALL FOR ARTISTS – INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2023 THEME: STEREOTYPE SMASH** – Exhibition will be from January 18 to March 18, 2023. Some images and societal beliefs (regarding gender roles and equality, ideal bodies, sexuality, and aging, for example) have outlasted their usefulness, are dated or inappropriate, or are just plain untrue..... take one and re-create, re-imagine, re-contextualize it... smash it! Location: King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City, 10 AM – 4 PM. Email: [kingmuseum@king.ca](mailto:kingmuseum@king.ca) or [artshow@artsocietyking.ca](mailto:artshow@artsocietyking.ca). Website: [kingheritageandculture.ca](http://kingheritageandculture.ca)

**SEPTEMBER 17 – KING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY COUNTRYSIDE TOUR** – Lovely self-guided tour of King Township visiting 12 destinations, featuring prizes and refreshments afterwards. Location: start and finish at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, 12:30 PM. Pre-register to reserve your spot at [kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com). For more information visit [kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com](http://kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com)

**SEPTEMBER 18 – SCHOMBERG STREET GALLERY** – Arts Society King presents the annual Schomberg Street Gallery, Main Street, Schomberg, 10 AM – 5 PM. The road is closed to traffic allowing for full access to selection and sale of fine art including paintings, jewellery, photography, and more. Free community event suitable for all ages and a true kick-off to the fall season. Brochures available at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre, various King businesses and cafes, and in this issue of MOSAiC Magazine. Location: Main Street Schomberg, 10 AM – 5 PM. Contact: [info@artsocietyking.ca](mailto:info@artsocietyking.ca) or [schombergstreetgalleryinfo@gmail.com](mailto:schombergstreetgalleryinfo@gmail.com). Websites: [artsocietyking.ca](http://artsocietyking.ca) or [schombergstreetgallery.ca](http://schombergstreetgallery.ca)

**SEPTEMBER 22 – MYSTERY TOUR – KING CITY SENIORS' CENTRE** – The Travel Club has a mystery tour planned for your enjoyment. Location: Seniors' Centre, 1970 King Road, King City, ALL DAY. Contact: Agnes at 905-841-7390 or Jayne at 905-853-1436

**SEPTEMBER 24 – OCTOBER 15 – AUTUMN REFLECTIONS EN PLEIN AIR – ARTS SOCIETY KING** – ASK is launching our third annual En Plein Air competition within King Township. The competition is open to all artists from anywhere. Any subject outdoors in King Township produced as new work on site is eligible. Awards day will be on October 15. Nine categories. \$2000 in Cash prizes. Location: throughout the Township of King. Contact: [info@artsocietyking.ca](mailto:info@artsocietyking.ca). Website: [artsocietyking.ca](http://artsocietyking.ca) for more information

**SEPTEMBER 24 & 25 – KINGCRAFTS ART SHOW & SALE** – The Kingcrafts artists are offering new works in acrylics, oils, mixed media, and watercolour. Location: 12936 Keele Street, King City, 10AM – 5 PM. Website: [kingcrafts.ca](http://kingcrafts.ca). Phone: 905-833-1897

**SEPTEMBER 26 – SEAN JAMES PRESENTS - IT DOESN'T END IN AUGUST: EXTENDING INTEREST IN THE GARDEN** – Nobleton/King City Garden Club is breaking down the belief that the Spring and Summer gardens are the height of interest for your garden. Location: Laskay Hall, 2920 King Road, King City, 7:30 PM. Email: [nobletonkingcitygardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:nobletonkingcitygardenclub@gmail.com) or visit our Facebook page

**SEPTEMBER 29 – KING TOWNSHIP CULTURAL GALA – AN EVENING IN TUSCANY - TOWNSHIP OF KING** – The Township of King will be partnering with the King Township Historical Society and Arts Society King to bring you the second biannual Cultural Gala in support of arts, culture, and heritage in King Township. Location: The Manor, 16750 Weston Road. Doors Open: 5:30 PM. Dinner: 7:00 PM. To sponsor or purchase tickets, please visit [king.ca](http://king.ca) or contact Teresa Barresi at [tbarresi@king.ca](mailto:tbarresi@king.ca) or 905-833-5321 ext. 4029 for more information

**SEPTEMBER 30 – NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH & RECONCILIATION – TOWNSHIP OF KING** – Join the King Heritage & Cultural Centre for National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on this important day of reflection and help us take concrete steps towards reconciliation. Location: King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City, 10 AM – 4 PM. For more information, visit [www.king.ca](http://www.king.ca) or call 905-833-5321

**SEPTEMBER 30 – ACROSS THE RAINBOW'S ARC: WHERE WORD TURNS INTO FORM AND COLOUR** – A collaborative creative experience brought to you by the Poets of WriteNow!@King and Artists and Artisans of Arts Society King. Poetry will be created and submitted by September 30, 2022. The Call for Entry inviting artists to select a poem to interpret will be sent out October 24, 2022. Deadline for submission will be in February 2023 (or whenever the walls are filled). Poems and applications will be available on the Arts Society King website. Exhibition of artwork and poetry will be at KTMCC from April 17 to June 2, 2023. Location: King Township Municipal Building, 2585 King Road, King City, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. Email: [artshow@artsocietyking.ca](mailto:artshow@artsocietyking.ca) or [info@artsocietyking.ca](mailto:info@artsocietyking.ca). Website: [artsocietyking.ca](http://artsocietyking.ca)

**OCTOBER 15 – AUTUMN REFLECTIONS EN PLEIN AIR AWARDS DAY – ARTS SOCIETY KING** – The public is invited to come enjoy the artworks produced by participating artists in this 3rd annual competition. Rediscover your favourite sites through the eyes of an artist. Visit with the artists. Salute the winners and get insights on the art of Plein Air from the judges. A fun time for all lovers of art and the great outdoors. Location: the grounds of the King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City. Outdoors weather permitting, indoors at Laskay Hall. 1 – 4 PM. Email: [info@artsocietyking.ca](mailto:info@artsocietyking.ca). Website: [artsocietyking.ca](http://artsocietyking.ca) for more information

**OCTOBER 15 – HOLLAND MARSH SOUPFEST – TOWNSHIP OF KING** – Come enjoy the day, sample hot soups (made from locally grown and harvested fresh produce), browse through different vendors, purchase fresh produce from the Farmers' Market, and don't forget about the Kids' Zone, all happening at the Holland Marsh SoupFest. Location: Ansnorveldt Park, 18997 Dufferin Street, 11 AM – 3 PM. For information, visit [soupfest.ca](http://soupfest.ca). Inquire about vendor opportunities at [events@king.ca](mailto:events@king.ca)

**OCTOBER 20 – SIP & SAVOUR – LA VILLE LUMIERE – KING TOWNSHIP FOOD BANK** – The King Township Food Bank is thrilled to once again host its annual fundraiser Sip & Savour. Themed la Ville Lumiere featuring a silent auction and all things Paris. French-inspired tasting menu in-person or delivered for those who wish to support this cause from home. Location: WaterStone Estate & Farms, 17900 Dufferin Street, 6 PM – 9 PM. For tickets or more information visit [ktfb.ca](http://ktfb.ca) or email [sipsavour@ktfb.ca](mailto:sipsavour@ktfb.ca)

**OCTOBER 21 – POT LUCK LUNCH – KING CITY SENIORS' CENTRE** – Attendees are asked to bring either a main course item or a dessert. Location: Seniors' Centre, 1970 King Road, King City, 12 PM. Contact: KCSC at 905-833-6565

**OCTOBER 21 – NIGHT AT CREEPY CREEK – TOWNSHIP OF KING** – Wear your costume and join us for an evening filled with Halloween activities at the Creepy Creek! Location: Cold Creek Conservation Area, 14125 11th Concession, Nobleton, 5 PM – 8 PM. For more information, call 905-833-5321 or visit [king.ca/creepycreek](http://king.ca/creepycreek)

**OCTOBER 23 – SPEAKER SERIES FEATURING AUTHOR ADAM SHOALTS – KING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY** – Join us to hear national best-selling author, explorer, and archaeologist Adam Schoalts discuss his book 'The Whisper On the Night Wind'. Location: Laskay Hall, 2920 King Road, King City. Contact: [kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com) or visit [kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com](http://kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com)

**OCTOBER 24 – PAUL OLIVER PRESENTS - ANYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT WILD BIRDS** – Nobleton/King City Garden Club's speaker, Paul Oliver, will discuss how wild birds and your garden habitat co-exist. Location: Laskay Hall, 2920 King Road, King City, 7:30 PM. Email: [nobletonkingcitygardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:nobletonkingcitygardenclub@gmail.com) or visit our Facebook page

**OCTOBER 28 – HAUNTING ON KING ROAD – TOWNSHIP OF KING** – Haunting on King Road is back! Follow our spooky railway which stops at five different stations of Halloween-filled fun! Location: King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City, 5 PM – 8 PM. For more information, call 905-833-2331 or visit [www.king.ca/hauntingonkingroad](http://www.king.ca/hauntingonkingroad)

**NOVEMBER 12 – DECK THE WALLS ART SHOW AND SALE – ARTS SOCIETY KING** – The first annual Deck the Walls Art Show and Sale hosted by Arts Society King. Kick off the holiday season with ASK artists showcasing their best pieces throughout the King Heritage & Cultural Centre for this sale event. Enjoy complimentary beverages and treats. Location: King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, 10 AM – 4 PM. Email: [artshow@artsocietyking.ca](mailto:artshow@artsocietyking.ca) or [info@artsocietyking.ca](mailto:info@artsocietyking.ca). Website: [artsocietyking.ca](http://artsocietyking.ca)

**NOVEMBER 18 – POT LUCK LUNCH – KING CITY SENIORS' CENTRE** – Attendees are asked to bring either a main course item or a dessert. Location: Seniors' Centre, 1970 King Road, King City, 12 PM. Contact: KCSC at 905-833-6565

**NOVEMBER 18, 19 & 20 AND NOVEMBER 26 & 27 – KINGCRAFTS ANNUAL STUDIO ART AND CRAFTS SALE** – Our Kingcrafts members have been busy creating beautiful one-of-a-kind items perfect for your home or gift giving. Arts and crafts at great prices. No tax, free parking. Come out and support your local artisans. Hope to see you there. Location: 12936 Keele Street, King City, 10AM – 4 PM. Website: [kingcrafts.ca](http://kingcrafts.ca). Phone: 905-833-1897

**NOVEMBER 19 – ONE OF A KING HANDMADE HOLIDAY MARKET – TOWNSHIP OF KING** – Join us at the One of a King Handmade Holiday Market where you will find unique and quality items from local vendors! Location: King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City, 10 AM – 2 PM. For more information contact 905-833-2331 or visit [kingheritageandculture.ca](http://kingheritageandculture.ca)

**NOVEMBER 19 TO DECEMBER 31 – TREES OF GIVING – TOWNSHIP OF KING** – Visit the KHCC (free admission) to vote for your favourite tree and help raise funds for CMHA and bring mental health awareness to local youth. Location: King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City, 10 AM – 4 PM. For more information, call 905-833-2331 or visit [king.ca/treesofgiving](http://king.ca/treesofgiving)

**NOVEMBER 26 – TREES & TREATS – TOWNSHIP OF KING** – Join us for crafts, cookies, and photos with Santa! Location: King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City, 3 PM – 7 PM. For more information, call 905-833-2331 or visit [king.ca](http://king.ca)

## It's Time to Deck the Walls!

by Kathleen Rodgers

Visiting the country is a wonderful way to spend a weekend. It offers the opportunity to explore quaint villages and the studios of the local artists and artisans whose artwork often reflects the landscape around them. Arts Society King is planning a new annual fall event entitled Deck the Walls Art Show and Sale, which takes place on Saturday, November 12 from 10:00 to 4:00 pm. There will be an exclusive invitation-only preview evening prior to the one-day sale.

Deck the Walls Art Show and Sale 2022 will feature 15+ artists and artisans at one location, the King Heritage and Cultural Centre and

Laskay Hall (2920 King Road, King City). You can check out the Arts Society King (ASK) website at [artsocietyking.ca](http://artsocietyking.ca) to find a link to the juried artists. Art lovers may find fine paintings (in acrylic, oil, and watercolour), pottery, fibre arts, mixed media, and more.

If you are looking for a unique, one-of-a-kind gift for holiday giving, take a drive in the country and stop by the King Heritage and Cultural Centre and Laskay Hall in November. Arts Society King and the artists look forward to seeing you and sharing their work with you at this year's Deck the Walls Art Show and Sale!

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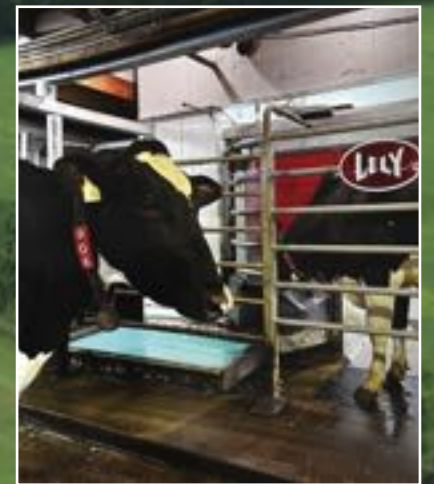
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# FARMING *New* FIELDS

by Julia Galt



From their dairy farm off a high crest of Schomberg's 11th Concession, the O'Haras- Dennis and Sandy, Dan, and families- can see swaying fields of green and gold, forested hills and valleys, and- on more pleasant days- azure blue skies that stretch for miles.

The pastoral view has remained largely unchanged since Dennis and his parents first moved to the King Township farm almost 60 years ago, even though other aspects of the small community bear little resemblance to the agriculture-driven environment of the early 1960s. Though Schomberg no longer offers the convenience of an in-house farmers co-op, Shur-Gain, and tractor dealership- something Dennis calls "hard", as the family now has to drive as far as Elmira, an hour away, for supplies- King has remained, at large, blissfully green.

However, that's not to say the less populous areas of King have avoided the unique challenges that have sprung up hand-in-hand with the growth of the GTA. Driving farm equipment on the sideroads, used as a bypass to various Toronto-streamed highways, poses a

steadily increasing danger to farmers, as does the shuttering of many resource and support organisations, like Newmarket's OMAFRA (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs) office in the 1980s.

"It makes it hard for agriculture to strive because it's just not viable," says Dennis. "If you don't have a machinery business, if you don't have a feed mill, a hardware store, that's when you have to stretch out and go far. It really makes it difficult. It adds that extra expense."

The O'Hara family are one of the last three dairy producers in King Township, and one of the last thirteen in York County. The Broad and Atkinson families, both of whom farm on Highway 27 just north of Nobleton, represent the other two. With the small town rapidly expanding, both farms- like many others sold on Highway 27 and already waiting in perpetuity- are in the direct path of encroaching development.

Not too long ago, the number of dairy farms on Highway 27 between Highways 7 and 89 alone stood at 470- but times, certainly, have changed.

Though the O'Haras' farm, Dandyland Holsteins, is more safely situated in the heart of Ontario's protected Greenbelt, they, like many other farms, have had to deal with not only the loss of their peers (Dennis reports losing eight dairy farms in the area in the last two years alone) but the sale of some of the 500 acres they've rented and farmed for years.

Loss of land isn't entirely new to Dennis, whose third-generation family farm was expropriated to construct a flood control dam and reservoir at Claireville Conservation Area in 1964- resulting in their move to Schomberg. However, it does present an added challenge.

"Five pieces of our rental properties have been sold in the last two years with the change in real estate," says Dennis.

There's a reason so many of King's farms have been lost over the past several years, and it's not purely because of the area's proximity to Toronto or its shifting demographic. Fuel and fertilizer costs have risen sharply with inflation, and many smaller farms have been unable to afford the staggering expenses that have come with adhering to new government regulations around farming, such as one that stipulates waste water must be collected in a contained area. Even with decades or centuries of agrarian success, and a younger generation willing to continue their parents' agricultural legacy- as can sometimes be rare- many family farms are, simply, unable to shoulder the financial cost of continuing.

"I remember when we put in our pit at the time, I went to conservation and they were offering ten thousand dollars to help you get this established," says Dennis. "But you spend one hundred thousand dollars, and they give you ten thousand dollars. It just doesn't seem to help too much."

Thankfully, the O'Haras have succeeded despite some- largely unavoidable- bumps in the road. As recipients of one of the 1,000

prestigious Master Breeder shields issued by Holstein Canada since 1929, their success as a business has allowed them to reinvest back into their farm, purchasing machinery and equipment that circumvents some industry-wide challenges- most recently, and pressingly for many farms like their own, a lack of available farm workers.

As a solution to the ongoing labour problem, Dandyland Holsteins has purchased a Lely-brand robotic milker and automatic feeder, which allows their herd of 87 cows to freely come and go as they please, choosing when they want to be milked and fed. Able to easily enter and exit the milking machine at will 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, the cows remain healthy, stress-free, and industrious.

At a cost of just under \$1 million, investing in the automation was steep- but well worth it, says Dennis.

"It's better for the cows. If the cows are happy, we're happy."

Adding to the benefits of the Lely machinery is an automated cleaning system for the cows, as well as reduced labour for Dennis and Sandy, who used to do most of the milking in the parlour themselves.

"In the old tie-stall barns, you were always one knee on the ground and one foot in the gutter. It was very labour-intensive," says Dennis. "With technology, with the care of our cows, and the new means of feeding them, the cows are producing more milk than when my dad was milking."

Though the number of dairy producers in York Region continues to shrink, the region's York Milk Committee continues to give back to the community, donating 250 lbs of cheese to five local food banks over Christmas.

Each year, Ontario's dairy farmers donate more than 1.2 million litres of milk to the province's food banks and 1 million servings to its school breakfast programs.

: The O'Hara Family



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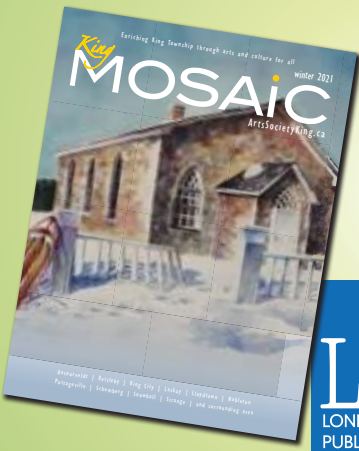
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# A VERY *Victorian* FAMILY MAN

by Bert Duclos



• Tyrwhitt  
• Family crest

Early January 1901, the beginning of a new century, the 85-year-old man may have paused to consider his life in Canada since his arrival from England almost 66 years earlier. He'd certainly done well: Maria Louise, his loving wife of 59 years; daily contact with several of his great-nieces and great-nephews in his Middletown, West Gwillimbury Township estate just west of Bradford; many of the community still referring to him as Captain from a stint in the militia decades ago. He had long outlived his brother William, while seven months earlier his nephew Richard had passed away. His monarch, Queen Victoria, ascended the throne a scant two years after his 1835 arrival in Upper Canada, and still reigned over Britain and its empire. Almost 64 years, his entire adult life, spent during the Victorian Era. He'd lived through and experienced the era's staggering number of technical innovations, science-based approach to medicine, expanding romantic ideals of religion, social values, and arts, the shifts of gradual political reform, improved social reform, and unprecedented demographic changes. In that time, his adopted home of the British colony of Upper Canada had become Canada West in 1841, and then in 1867, the province of Ontario in the new Dominion of Canada.

What to do back in the twilight of the Georgian Era, when you are the last of seven sons and the youngest of eleven children in the junior branch of a British aristocratic family with a long line? For the 20-year-old Septimus Tyrwhitt, the opportunities at his father Richard's estate at Nantyr, Wales in 1835 were likely limited. Richard Tyrwhitt, Recorder of Chester, had moved his family from Farmcote Hall, Claverley, England, the August 21, 1815 birthplace of Septimus, to Llangollen, Wales in 1819 and then to Nantyr in 1823.

The aristocratic Tyrwhitt family, originating in Ketilby, Lincolnshire, England and dating back to Sir Hercules Tyrwhitt's knighthood by William the Conqueror in 1067, were peers of the realm, friends and advisors of monarchs, and littered with minor nobles, admirals, government officials, and senior clergy of the Church of England. Septimus' older brothers included two barristers, a vicar, and a chaplain.

As a gentleman, a man of high birth and rank, good social standing, and some wealth—and the lowest rank of the landed gentry of Great Britain, but one with few opportunities—Septimus took the path taken by many in his situation. In 1835, he joined the Great Migration of Canada, a wave of over 480,000 British immigrants who sought their fortunes in Lower and Upper Canada.

The City of Toronto (up until 1834 the Town of York), the capital of Upper Canada, was a logical choice for this young English gentleman.

With an 1835 population of over 9,700, Toronto was a hub of British colonialism, centred on the Family Compact. This elite, closed group of men exercised most of the political, economic, and judicial power. They were men bound by a spirit of loyalty to king and empire, adherence to the Anglican Church, loyalist tradition, and the hierarchical class structure, but opposed to republican notions of a liberal citizen-participating democracy.

On his 1835 arrival to the small but rapidly growing Toronto, Septimus was quickly welcomed into the influential world of the Family Compact. However, shortly interrupting his Upper Canada plans was the news of his father's January 30, 1836 death. With letters from Wales taking approximately six weeks to reach Toronto, and a passage of one week by stagecoach to Quebec City plus another 6 to 7 weeks by sail to Liverpool, Septimus may not have arrived back to Nantyr before late May 1836. Richard Tyrwhitt's estate debts left little for his wife and many children. Perhaps with a sense of adventure, or deficit, older brother Percy joined Septimus for the return to Toronto, arriving in September 1836.

Older sibling Henry joined Percy and Septimus in the autumn of 1837. A barrister-at-law, Henry arrived in Toronto to take on his appointment as Master and Accountant General of the Court of Chancery for Upper Canada that was in the process of formation. Life soon took an unexpected twist for the three Tyrwhitt brothers.

The influence of the Family Compact was of chief concern to liberal-minded citizens of Upper Canada. William Lyon Mackenzie, one of the more radical reformers in Upper Canada and the most vocal opponent of the Family Compact, was making outright calls for republican government. Throughout 1836 and 1837, Mackenzie gathered support among farmers around Toronto who were sympathetic to his cause. In a November 25, 1837 stop in King Township, Mackenzie shared his plans to assemble a force on Yonge Street, which was to advance upon and capture Toronto on the 7th of December. The meeting included Jesse Lloyd, one of Mackenzie's strongest supporters. Lloyd owned a sawmill, several lots, and numerous town-lots in northwest King Township, creating Lloyd's Town, one of the largest and most prosperous communities north of Toronto.

On the morning of December 4, a group of disgruntled citizens, farmers, shopkeepers, and blacksmiths assembled at Lloyd's mill from all over York County and adjacent counties. They were said to be the best-trained group and most determined of the rebels who joined in the march on Toronto. In their midst was Captain Anthony Anderson, a former trooper in the War of 1812 and provider of their

military training. Anderson lived 11 kilometres east of Lloydtown at Lot 28, Concession IV, King Township, site of Jacob's Tool's gristmill, and at one time leased the Clergy land at Lot 21, Concession V for timber rights.

Very early that same morning, Captain Anderson and a small group of rebels captured Arthur Armstrong, captain of the local militia company raised to oppose the rebellion. Anderson endeavoured by threats to coerce Armstrong into joining the rebels' ranks. However, baring his bosom, Armstrong gave them to understand that his life was at their disposal if they wished to take it, but his loyalty to the Crown should never be questioned. Armstrong was later released.

Lloyd's group and other rebel groups marched south on Yonge Street. Late that day, making his way north on Yonge from the city, Henry Tyrwhitt met up with his brother Septimus near York Mills. The rebels captured the two brothers in order to prevent their informing the authorities in Toronto of the rebels' strength. That evening, Mackenzie and the groups of rebels, with their Tyrwhitt brother prisoners, gathered at Montgomery's Tavern, north of present-day Eglinton Avenue, with plans to march on Toronto the next day. Mackenzie proposed a reconnoitring expedition towards the city. Three of the insurgents promptly volunteered to accompany Mackenzie, including Captain Anthony Anderson. The little party set out down Yonge Street a few minutes before 10 o'clock.

Hearing reports of the rebels' approach, Alderman John Powell and Archibald McDonald set out from the city on horseback north along Yonge Street to ascertain if the rumours were true. Mackenzie, Anderson, and the others continued to advance southward until they approached the top of Gallows Hill, just south of today's Yonge and St. Clair. The group noted the approach of two men on horseback who proved to be Powell and McDonald. Surrounded by Mackenzie and his three companions, Powell stated that they were unarmed. Returning their captives northward towards Montgomery's, Anderson and Powell were about ten yards in advance of the others. Seeing that the moment for decisive action had arrived, Powell quickly reined back his horse, drew forth one of his pistols, and shot Anderson in the back of the neck. His spinal cord severed, death was instantaneous. Powell and McDonald then wheeled about and rode swiftly southward. In order to keep his body from revengeful loyalists, a tavern courtyard that stood at the southwest corner of Yonge and St. Clair became Captain Anderson's grave. Many believe Anderson's loss was the death-blow of the rebellion.

The next morning, December 5, holding the two Tyrwhitt brothers and other loyalist prisoners, Mackenzie led between seven and eight hundred men south of the Bloor Toll Gate. Earlier in the day, Sheriff William Botsford Jarvis and an outpost guard of 27 men had set up on the east side of Yonge Street at today's Carleton. A few feet northward of the present intersection of Yonge and Maitland Streets, Sheriff Jarvis and his picket opened fire on the oncoming rebels. Return fire by the rebels resulted in the scattering of the picket, the rebels, and their prisoners. Henry and Septimus made good use of the confusion and escaped, hiding in nearby woods for a day or two before making their way into the city.

At noon on Thursday, December 7, Colonel James Fitzgibbon marched an estimated 1,000 regulars, militiamen, and cannons up Yonge Street. Scattering rebels at the brow of Gallows Hill, they continued onwards to Montgomery's Tavern where after a skirmish of no longer than 15 to 20 minutes the rebels dispersed in every direction with several taken prisoner by the loyalists. Participating in Fitzgibbon's action was George Taylor Denison II. The 1837 Rebellion of Upper Canada was at an effective end.

In 1838, following the rebellion, Henry Tyrwhitt served as a lieutenant and staff adjutant of the Toronto military garrison while Septimus served as captain in the Regiment of Royal Foresters. Septimus' comrades in the regiment included Captain Arthur Armstrong and Ensign George Taylor Denison II. These friendships with Toronto's elite would serve the Tyrwhitt brothers well.

Born in Ireland, Arthur Armstrong immigrated to King Township in 1836, purchasing 300 acres including Lot 24, Concession IX south of Lloydtown. He was later a lieutenant colonel, a justice of the peace, clerk of the division court, and held a First-Class Certificate at the School of Military Instruction.

George Taylor Denison II, later a colonel, was a lawyer, Toronto alderman, landowner, farmer, and commander of the Governor General's Body Guard. He was grandson of Captain John Denison, a good friend of Peter Russell, the acting lieutenant governor, and was second son of George Taylor Denison I, said to be the wealthiest landowner in Upper Canada. George Taylor Denison II also massed extensive landholdings including his Toronto estate Rusholme. In December 1838, Denison married Mary Anne Dewson, daughter of Major Jeremiah Wilkes Dewson of West Gwillimbury Township, near Bradford.

After a struggle of 17 days, Henry Tyrwhitt died in Toronto of typhus on May 31, 1838. His funeral and burial at St. James Cemetery on June 1, conducted with military honours, was attended by his brothers Percy and Septimus,



• Tyrwhitt Family tombstones in Penville, New Tecumseth

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colonels and officers of Her Majesty's 24th and 34th Regiments, a captain, two subalterns, 100 rank and file of the Queen's Rangers, 70 other officers, and a great assembly. It is remarkable the admiration Percy earned in the space of eight months in Upper Canada. On September 10, 1850, during relocation of burials from St. James Cemetery on King Street, with Septimus' aid in identifying the coffin, George Taylor Denison II arranged for Henry's exhumation and reburial to the new St. James Cemetery on Parliament Street.

In the months after older brother Henry's death, Percy uprooted himself to New Orleans and in July 1839 was on his way to Texas with plans to return to New Orleans that Christmas. Lieutenant Charles Dewson, son of Major Jeremiah Wilkes Dewson, and a militia comrade of Henry and Septimus, may have accompanied him. Balancing Septimus' loss of two older brothers in Upper Canada was the addition of another.

William Tyrwhitt, older than Septimus by three years, arrived in Upper Canada in 1839. No doubt, Septimus quickly introduced William into his circle of influential friends. On May 27, 1840, William married Elizabeth Armstrong in Lloydtown. It may be that her loyalist brother Arthur Armstrong hosted their marriage at his Lloydtown estate. The young couple welcomed their first-born Margaret Elizabeth 10 months later on March 26, 1841. Richard in 1842, John in 1845, and William Henry in 1846 followed her.

Septimus made his final trip to the U.K. in the autumn of 1841. While there, he courted Maria Louise Wildey, daughter of Captain William Wildey of the 3rd Light Dragoons, and on April 30th, 1842, the couple wedded at the British Ambassador's Chapel in Brussels.

The newlyweds no sooner returned to what was now Canada West that several notable events transpired for the Tyrwhitts. On August 29, 1842, William and Elizabeth bought 50 acres of the northwest corner of Lot 18, Concession I in Tecumseth Township, Simcoe County. A mere 4 kilometres north of Lloydtown, the couple's choice for their new home may have been influenced by Arthur Armstrong's local King Township know-how or perhaps by that of Major Jeremiah Wilkes Dewson, father-in-law of George Taylor Denison II, who lived 4 kilometres east in West Gwillimbury Township.

Perhaps similarly with Arthur Armstrong's local knowledge, on September 13, 1842, for \$1,600, Septimus purchased the 51 acres of Jacob Tool's gristmill site, 46 acres on Lot 28, and 5 acres on Lot 29, Concession IV, King Township. Septimus and his brother William were now neighbours, though 15 kilometres apart.

With his partner Charles E. Eaton, a former lieutenant of and his comrade in the Regiment of Royal Foresters, Septimus relocated Tool's gristmill further upstream on the fast-flowing stream. Soon to follow was a huge flourmill, a woollen mill, an oatmeal mill, a cooperage, and a distillery. First called Tyrwhitt Mills by locals and the post office, Septimus caused the renaming of the community to that of his aristocratic family's ancestral home of Kettleby in Lincolnshire, England. When the mills were working at full capacity, Kettleby proudly boasted several hotels, shoemakers, blacksmiths, a dressmaker, a milliner, a weaver, and a tailor. There was also a general store, paint shop, wagon maker's shop, harness and carriage shop, farm implement factory, and a Temperance Hall with the largest membership in all of Ontario. Uphill of the mills, overlooking his success, stood Septimus' large brick home.

A scant four years before Septimus' purchase, as noted, rebel Anthony Anderson lived on

the site of Jacob's Tool's gristmill. Anderson's widow Elizabeth Taylor (Betsy) and several of their children including daughter Mary Ann continued to live in the area following his 1837 murder. Considering the notoriety of the event, it's expected Septimus was aware of his Kettleby neighbour's status. Mary Ann Anderson married Appleby Stephenson January 12, 1843, in King Township. As her family and Appleby's parents and brother all lived in the Kettleby area, perhaps the wedding ceremony was held in Kettleby, and even attended by Septimus. Interestingly, of the Crown land at Lot 21, Concession V, King Township earlier leased by Anthony Anderson for timber rights, all 200 acres were purchased by Septimus in 1853 while the 200 acres of the adjacent Lot 22, Concession V were purchased by him in 1852. Of this, he later sold 100 acres of the east half to Appleby Stephenson in 1863.

Tragedy befell the Tyrwhitts in 1847. William Tyrwhitt died February 6, 1847 leaving behind his widow Elizabeth and at least three of their young children. Though William's property in Tecumseth Township remained in trust for his children until 1867, Septimus immediately provided for his sister-in-law, nieces and nephews, and in particular as guardian for young Richard. Over the course of the years, from 1842 through to 1853, Septimus acquired over 600 acres in the Kettleby area. These included several properties that he and another brother back in the U.K., Rev. Richard Edmund Tyrwhitt, put in trust for their nephew Richard. Septimus afforded Richard's education at a preparatory high school in Barrie and private tutoring in Dinan and Rouen, France.

Life for Septimus continued to be generous, which he shared with others. He conveyed a Kettleby lot in trust to his brother Rev. Richard Edmond in 1843 for a future Episcopalian Church, provided assistance to St. Mary Magdalene Church in Lloydtown, and in 1858 conveyed 50 acres of the southeast corner of Lot 28, Concession V, King Township as glebe land to the Episcopalian Diocese of Toronto, from which it raised income from timber rights and other rents. In 1851, Septimus was appointed deputy reeve and in 1852 reeve of King Township.

After 10 industrious years as mill owner, Septimus began to set his sights further afield. Except for the glebe lot, throughout 1852 to 1854 he sold all his King Township properties including that of the Kettleby mill and his homestead. It was to Toronto that he sought to expand his prosperity.

Septimus' friendship with his former comrade George Taylor Denison II and his family ran deep. When George Taylor Denison I put forward plans in 1853 to subdivide his 156-acre Bellevue estate in Toronto into residential building lots, Septimus was one of the first investors. Acquiring nine of these lots early in the subdivision proved very profitable. Septimus and Maria Louise lived in one at 30 Carr Street from 1854 to 1857. The strong tie between the Tyrwhitts and the Denisons was evident, with George Taylor Denison II naming two of his sons Henry Tyrwhitt Denison, born 1849, and Septimus Julius Augustus Denison, born 1859. A more distant tie was the 1881 marriage of Elizabeth Armstrong Tyrwhitt's nephew Arthur Armstrong II and George Taylor Denison II's niece Esther Denison.

At 40 years of age, a successful industrial legacy behind him, his real estate fortunes growing, Septimus in 1855 affected plans for life as a gentleman farmer. In September of that year, he acquired 200 acres in West Gwillimbury Township at Lot 11, Concession VII, situated at the northeast intersection of the community of Middletown. An imposing, handsome brick house, barn, and outbuildings were soon built,

with plenty of room for Maria Louise and him, his widowed sister-in-law Elizabeth Armstrong, her three surviving children, including his nephew Richard, and Elizabeth's sister, Emily. Septimus named his new country estate Farmcote after his English birthplace and home, proudly and prominently displaying the ancestral Tyrwhitt family crest of three lapwings (called tyrwhitts in some British counties) on the second storey of the residence's front façade.

In 1861, Elizabeth Armstrong left Farmcote, married Henry Pardey in Brockville, where their son was born in 1862, and moved to Ottawa. Widowed in 1869, Elizabeth ran a boarding house, and died in 1886.

A remarkable chapter in the chronicle of Septimus' life came at about this time. Mary Ann Anderson and Appleby Stephenson lived in Pickering Township following their Kettleby marriage in 1843. At some point before 1871, they left Pickering and moved in with Septimus and Maria Louise on their Middletown estate. Here they lived and farmed with 13 of their children, ages 26 to three. It is quite amazing that Mary Ann Anderson, daughter of Anthony Anderson, lived for a time with Septimus Tyrwhitt and his good graces. There is no doubt that Septimus was aware of Mary Ann's father. Was he showing her consideration for the murderous deed done to her father? Can we assume that since Mary Ann's 1843 wedding was in Kettleby, Septimus was keeping a protective eye on her? It would appear Septimus Tyrwhitt, demonstrated loyalist, befriended Mary Ann Anderson, daughter of the renowned rebel.

Septimus continued to look after his young ward. He sold the north 100 acres of Farmcote to his nephew Richard in 1866 and the remaining south 100 acres to him in 1873, conditional on he and Maria Louise remaining there. On April 26, 1870, Richard married Emma Whitaker, daughter of Archdeacon George Whitaker, Provost of Trinity College. The couple had 11 children, some adopted. Richard kept up the military tradition of his many uncles and distinguished ancestors by serving in the Fenian raids and the North-West Rebellion and later appointed as a lieutenant colonel with the 36th Peel Battalion of Infantry in 1886. Elected as a Conservative MP of Simcoe South in 1882, he held the seat until 1900. One can suppose he visited his mother Elizabeth in Ottawa when attending Parliament. A community in Innisfil Township was renamed Nantyr by Richard in honour of his grandfather's estate in Wales. Lt.

Col. Richard Tyrwhitt died unexpectedly at the Farmcote estate June 22, 1900.

Septimus held a deep-seated affection for Kettleby, the place of his early fortunes. To the end of his days, he frequently visited it, in particular to drink the sparkling spring water that came from the well he had dug on the grounds in 1842.

If indeed in early January 1901 Septimus paused to reflect on his life in Canada since his arrival from England in 1835, one of the remarkable events he may have considered is that in the end democracy came to the colony peacefully.

On January 13, 1901, at age 85, Septimus Tyrwhitt died of heart failure at his Farmcote home. At his side was his wife Maria Louise and his widowed niece Emma Whitaker, with two of her daughters and four of her sons. A tall cross tombstone marks his burial at St. John's Anglican Cemetery in Penville, New Tecumseth. Off to the left, the burials of Major Jeremiah Wilkes Dewson and family. Here rests Septimus with Maria Louise, who died in 1914, next to his brother William, his nephew Richard with his wife Emma, two great-nieces, and two great-nephews.

Septimus Tyrwhitt, this very Victorian gentleman and family man, passed away but nine days before Queen Victoria's death on January 22, 1901. The end of a century and the end of an era.



• Shared tombstone of Septimus  
• and Maria Louise Tyrwhitt



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## FROM BOTH SIDES: **THE SCHOMBERG STREET GALLERY STORY** by Mara Wray



Just like there are two sides to a story, there are two sides to the Schomberg Street Gallery- an artist's experience, and what the visitors see. We've had the privilege of looking from both angles and **this is our story.**

Bringing an art show to Schomberg was a dream that my husband Tom and I shared years ago. Tom was helping to create a brochure for Art Society King's Studio Tour King and it occurred to me that bringing all the artists together in one location would benefit both the artists and the art-loving public. Wouldn't it be great to do it in Schomberg? It turned out that I wasn't the only one with that vision, and it didn't take long for a group of 12 or so like-minded individuals to gather together around a table in a neighbour's front room and discuss how we could make this happen. Tom took on the role of Chair and has created brochures for the event every year.

Schomberg is special because Main Street is lined with heritage buildings and century homes. The group agreed that it would be the perfect canvas to host an outdoor show and in 2009 we made it happen under the umbrella of Arts Society King. We played with names and decided to call it the Schomberg Village Street Gallery. Now, we refer to it simply as the Street Gallery.

The show has evolved over the years. Initially it was held over a weekend, and artists set up their tents on the sidewalks. Horse drawn wagon rides along the route were sponsored by the Schomberg Village Association, who have continued their support annually. SVA member Charles Cooper created our first website.

In 2014, Tom presented the idea of closing the street for one day, making the event pedestrian friendly and allowing the artists to set up in the road, which brought the tents closer together. I created a Facebook page and took on the role of promoting the event and showcasing the artists with behind-the-scenes stories and photographs. We hired Rickshaw Riders of Toronto to give rides along the street, and buskers to entertain visitors with music.

In 2019 we came up with an inspired

idea to disguise some construction hoarding on the street. We approached Richmond Hill artist Andrea End, who enthusiastically agreed to paint a mural- though this would be the largest project she had ever attempted. RONA donated the paint supplies and Andrea worked all through the heat of summer on her masterpiece, assisted by her daughter, Erica. Andrea's concept was a path through a forest, which became a sunflower bedecked picket fence against a blue sky full of brilliant monarch butterflies. Andrea's massive work of art became a focal point and centerpiece for selfies. Three years later, the building behind the hoarding is complete and the hoarding removed, but this beautiful mural needs a permanent home in Schomberg.

Because we are community-minded people and feel passionately about revitalization on Main Street, the Street Gallery is an opportunity to show off our village to the thousands of visitors who attend. We are grateful for the support from Arts Society King and our wonderful volunteers. Close friendships have been formed with other artists and we are thrilled that they keep coming back to Schomberg. Michele Rose of Bracebridge wrote on Facebook one year that the Street Gallery was "one of [her] favourite shows of the year", with the "best organized loveliest people" in the "best town to be in". Her comment has always meant a lot to me because of how heartfelt and genuine it was.

On the day of the event, Tom puts on his favourite tie dye to sell his fine art photography. I take on the role of paparazzi, snapping photographs of the day to upload onto social media.

Check out this year's brochure in this issue of MOSAiC Magazine, follow us on Facebook and Instagram, and visit [schombergstreetgallery.ca](http://schombergstreetgallery.ca) to learn more about this year's participating artists.

We look forward to seeing you in person on Sunday, September 18th!



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## BIOLOGIST AT THE TABLE

The life your food leads before it reaches the plate

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



— Illustration by Cheryl Uhrig  
cuhrig@rogers.com

# FAST FOOD!

WHEN I WAS A KID, **TUNA NOODLE CASSEROLE** PREDICTABLY SHOWED UP ON OUR DINNER TABLE EVERY THIRD FRIDAY NIGHT.

Every Friday the scent of tuna salad sandwiches (on white bread, of course) hung heavy in my grade school lunchroom. Canned tuna was cheap, easy, and ubiquitous. In my adolescence, as I envisioned the possibilities for my future adult life, tuna was decidedly absent. My university years were nearly tuna-free, but a girlfriend talked me into trying her Canned Tuna Tacos. Once.

This tuna aversion vanished with my first bite of Sushi! The idea of eating raw fish seemed daring. The reality was exhilarating. Soon I jumped at the chance to try grilled tuna. The flavour and texture were beyond anything my younger self could have imagined. This was not “chicken-of-the-sea”.

Ecologically, tuna is the “cheetah-of-the-sea”. The six closely related species we refer to as tuna are large, fast-moving predators. The Pacific Bluefin grows up to 2.5 meters long, and swims as fast as 70 km/hr. Only swordfish and marlins are faster. And tuna can move long

distances. Atlantic Bluefins can crisscross the ocean several times a year. They have speed and endurance!

How do they do it? What makes tuna different from slow pokes like catfish or flounder? It's a whole set of adaptations, each contributing its bit to overall performance. First off, their streamlined body tapers to a narrow stalk, which bears a crescent-shaped tail fin. When they swim, they hold the body rigid, creating thrust by flapping the tail with long tendons connected to the body muscles. This rigidity reduces drag. So do several other external features. Tuna eyes are flush with their body surface. They also have a ridge of finlets atop the tail stalk which are of a size and shape that reduces turbulence as they zip through the water. And to go full speed, tunas retract the main fins along their back.

Tunas have two fins along their back. The forward one is pretty much like those on other fishes: a series of bony rays connected by a thin

layer of skin. Muscles directly attached to the base of these rays raise the fins upward and side-to-side as the fish maneuvers at lower speeds. An opposing set of muscles retracts the rays during faster, straight-line swimming. At the highest speeds, the second back fin is also retracted, but by a completely different kind of machinery. Researchers at Stanford University recently discovered that this fin is operated by a unique pressurized hydraulic control system. There is a small, fluid-filled sinus at the fin's base. Decreasing or increasing the fluid pressure extends or retracts the fin. They were shocked to discover that the hydraulic fluid was lymph, or in *Biologist in the Classroom* talk, “A component of the immune system that has been evolutionarily co-opted to facilitate locomotion”.

Tuna speed also comes from within. To achieve top performance, muscles need to stay warm and get lots of oxygen. These two needs come into conflict. Fish blood absorbs

## Salad Niçoise

Here is a classic Mediterranean salad, which typically features oil-packed tuna. I like to do it with grilled fresh tuna and veggies right from the garden. If you use preserved tuna, look for the Spanish or Italian product, packed in glass jars. You will taste the difference.

### INGREDIENTS:

**Dressing:** ¼ C white wine vinegar; ½ shallot, minced; 2 T dijon mustard; 1 t fresh thyme; ¼ t freshly ground pepper; ¾ C olive oil.

**Salad:** 8-12 oz fresh tuna steak; 8-10 cherry tomatoes, halved; 4-6 baby red potatoes, peeled; 6 eggs, boiled, shelled, and halved; 10 oz. fresh green beans; 1 head romaine lettuce, ½ C of niçoise olives.

### DIRECTIONS:

**Veggies:** Whisk the dressing ingredients together in a bowl. Boil the potatoes in salted water until tender, drain, quarter, and put in a bowl with a drizzle of the dressing. Blanch green beans for 4 min, rinse in cold water, drain, put in a separate bowl and drizzle with the dressing.

**Tuna:** Brush a bit of olive oil on the tuna steak and season with salt and pepper. Grill the steak for 4-5 min per side, over high heat.

**Assembly:** Tear the lettuce leaves into large pieces and arrange onto a platter. Place the potatoes, tomatoes, green beans, and eggs on the lettuce. Flake the tuna atop the veggies. Pour the remaining dressing over the whole ensemble. Scatter the olives along the margin, and you're done.

Serves 4.



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