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winter 2022

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We welcome your feedback, contributions, and suggestions.

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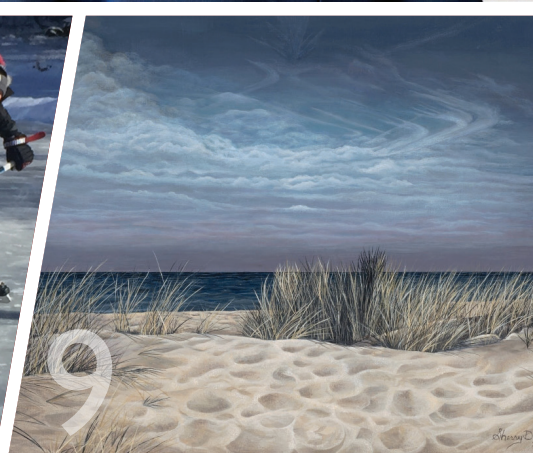
Geoff Simpson is the President of eConfidence Computer Consulting, providing technology support and guidance to small businesses and individuals. Living in King since 2006, Geoff has been a committed community volunteer: a past president of Arts Society King, past president of the McMichael Volunteer Committee, and a board member with the King Township Food Bank, Concerned Citizens of King Township, and the Humber Valley Heritage Trail Association. An avid hiker, birder, nature lover, and photographer, Geoff enjoys all that life has to offer, and truly enjoys helping others. Read Geoff's article on birdwatching on page 11.

OUR COVER
**ERNESTINE
TAHEDL**

Featured on the cover of the Winter issue of King MOSAIC is a 60" x 48" acrylic on canvas painting titled Dmitri Shostakovich, String Quartet No. 1 by King City-based artist Ernestine Tahedl. Dmitri Shostakovich, String Quartet No. 1, currently displayed in the council chambers of the Township of King, arrests the eye with its smooth, melodic symphony of vibrance and colour. Ernestine's art is vivid and abstract, greatly inspired by the classical music she listens to while painting – and later names her canvases after. Read more about Ernestine on page 4.



KING'S LIFE ON ICE



THE ETERNAL SPRING OF
OPTIMISTIC ART: A SUCCESS STORY

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HUMBER TRAILS IN PASSING

ERNESTINE TAHEDL: Symphony & Grace

By Deborah Jolly



Tucked softly among mature cedar, fir, and white pine trees is a mid-century King City home that embraces the serene, joy-filled studio of Ernestine Tahedl.

Elegant, gracious, and so warmly welcoming, I was immediately enchanted, very much at ease, and wanted to learn all I could about Ernestine and her art.

Although only a few hours were shared with this extraordinary Austro-Canadian artist, it was, for me, an exceptional gift. She has been enriching the world with her wealth of talent and spirited artworks for near 70 years and gracefully reminds all artists to “do what they do genuinely, and simply, for their love of art”.

“There was never a question that I would be an artist, although it was not straightforward. I emigrated to Canada two years after graduating in 1963, to work on a large stained-glass commission, on my own, and I did not speak a word of English. My commission fell through, but I was fortunate that a family let me stay in their basement while I looked for work. My life has been about right time, hard work, and much luck.”

Heinrich Tahedl, Ernestine’s well-regarded artist father, “was, and is, my biggest influence, and is the reason I have followed this path. He introduced me to acrylic paints in 1955, at its inception in Europe. Art has always been a part of my life and there was never a time that I wanted to do anything different.”

“He too was an abstract artist and attended the Vienna School of Applied Arts. He encouraged me to attend at the age of 14, and I later received my master’s degree in Graphic Art. Art, family, and travel are all at my centre. There is no separation, and all have been fostered in me since I was a child.”

A disciplined artist, Ernestine paints from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm daily.

“I have never been driven by sales, instead choosing to continuously reinvent my art, building further upon that which I have done before. In doing so, I came to my Music Series, a new style of abstraction for me which has me completed rejuvenated.”

This series is an ongoing collection of lyrical, abstract ensembles, in acrylic, that are filled with light and clarity.

“For me, colour is light, and my series inspired by music is a dialog of the rhythm and sound that I react to while listening to classical music.”

Each artwork is a direct, personal, visual response, and her cover painting, Dmitri Shostakovich, String Quartet No. 1, is a perfect example of this.

Composers such as Anton Bruckner, who grew up close to where she was born, as well as Mozart, Bach, and others are identified in her titles, offering a further immersive experience for those wishing to view and listen simultaneously.

“Of course, intention and effects may change each time I listen.”

With Bruckner, she shares appreciation with how he attempted to resolve events through his music, including how he expressed his spirituality. Asking questions, weaving a story, just as a visual artist might do.

“Some view my art to understand, and others simply enjoy it. While rewarding, the end result is somewhat secondary; it is music, painting, and doing, that I find most enjoyable.”

Ernestine’s art changes and evolves,

through her infinite search of freedom of expression and intuitive communication of colour on canvas.

“Currently my paintings are open ended. When listening to centennial classical music, there is always something new to hear, explore, and paint, even listening to the same composition.” Conceivably, each of Ernestine’s paintings may exist to directly lead to the next.

Key aspects of her stained-glass techniques also exist in her abstract and landscape collections even if each is independently sensitive, poetic, and awash with passion and colour. As with Ernestine herself, every canvas reveals a skilled colourist that delivers independence and free expression, and are held and respected by admirers globally.

Patrons include Fortune 100 companies, a private collector with over 50 artworks, and coveted stained-glass installations in the oldest church in Austria (St. Ruprechtskirche), as well as a nine-mural installation at the Royal Alberta Museum. She has exhibited in solo and group shows in North America, Europe, and Asia and artworks are held in public, private, corporate, and major permanent collections, as well as film and 20+ fine art books. She has been decorated with a plethora of awards throughout her career; however this does not fuel her.

“Encouragement and compliments are lovely, and as humans we do need these, but I prefer to listen to how an individual feels when they are looking at my paintings. I am thankful to have time, and something I love to do, so I strive to look inwards and not

get caught up in compliments and success and sit on it. Always find your own way, and follow your intuition and your soul, and continue to build upon where you started, and constantly reinvent yourself. Keep expanding.” Eloquent and valuable advice for any artist.

As the grace, spirit, and serenity of Ernestine and her exquisite artworks continue to move viewers and patrons decade after beautiful decade, her complexity of light and colour expand with her through enduring stained-glass works and her ongoing abstract communication.

As dedication to refinement of past art and deeper growth continue to hold true, Ernestine was recently commissioned to design and execute a permanent 22’ x 22’ stained glass installation. This coming back to glass works is sure to revitalize and build upon the next works.

Perhaps this is a reverent return to where she began with her father, albeit now with 60 years of her own unique and exceptional colour and style. Or, perhaps, it is Ernestine being Ernestine, always the formidable composer of her art and her remarkable journey, and always kind and generous in spirit and word. Either way, my return visit to Ernestine, among the tall trees, is coming soon.

For more information regarding Ernestine’s work, please contact Gallery 133 (gallery133.com) or Trias Gallery (triasgallery.com). If you would like to view her nine freestanding Terrazzo Murals, please visit the Royal Alberta Museum (royalalbertamuseum.ca).



King Township Mayor’s Cultural Gala:

AN EVENING IN TUSCANY

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

The evening of September 29, 2022 was **one to remember** as 180 guests gathered at The Manor in Kettleby in support of arts, heritage, and culture in King Township.

The incredible \$75,000 raised from this event will go towards supporting the important work of the King Township Historical Society (KTHS), Arts Society King (ASK), and the King Heritage & Cultural Centre (KHCC). This will include arts, culture, heritage-based programming, exhibitions, and special events, as well as the preservation and restoration of important heritage buildings.

From the start of the evening guests enjoyed themselves thoroughly as they sipped on Negronis and listened to the Tuscan-style accordion music of Claudio Santaluce while perusing the Silent Auction. They then entered the dining room, filled with beautiful décor, and sat down for a delicious meal and stellar entertainment. Mayor Pellegrini’s words of welcome were met warmly as he voiced his genuine support for the host organizations and their many accomplishments over the past two years, reminding us of our last event on February 27, 2020, where we wondered if we should be shaking hands and if there really was something to worry about.

Mayor Pellegrini then introduced Master of Ceremonies and ASK President, Michele McNally, who brought her unique charm and joie de vie to the stage and thanked our very generous guests and sponsors. She then passed the microphone to KTHS President, Richard Vein, who shared some of the history of the land we stood on including the Toronto Carrying Place Trail and the “Annie Rooney” Schomberg-Aurora

Railway. To bring the history to life, he then introduced singer David Moore and pianist Phyllis Vernon, who sang a rendition of Little Annie Rooney, the 1890 song that gave the train its nickname. The final performance of the evening brought tears to the eyes of some as Sara Papini shared three Operatic arias to a rousing standing ovation. Overall, it was a night to remember.

A thank you to our sponsors. It is your generous support that made this event such a success and will allow these organizations to continue their important work.

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Lastly but certainly not least, thank you so much to our amazing organizing committee. This event truly was a group effort and your contributions were invaluable: Michele McNally, Ann Love, Murdene Pozdrowski, Patti Skrypek, Joanne Bailey, Marina di Girolamo, Rina Trimmeliti, and Teresa Barresi.



THE KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE PRESENTS:

CLARA’S CLOSET

HATS OFF TO KING!

By Liza Mallyon, Collections & Exhibit Coordinator,
Township of King

If you have driven by the King Heritage & Cultural Centre lately, you may have noticed that renovations are ongoing to make the main building more accessible. During this time, access to storage areas is limited so this edition of Clara’s Closet will focus on historic photographs from the archives.

The world’s first photograph was taken in France in 1826 and, by the 1840s, portrait studios were opening up around the world. By the 1880s, Thomas Folliot and David Pinkerton were operating as portrait photographers in King Township, though both had other professions: Folliot was a cabinetmaker, and Pinkerton was previously a portrait painter. Citizens had their choice of more studios in nearby communities including Bolton, Aurora, Newmarket, and Richmond Hill.

By the First World War, the number of studios operating in York Region had declined and King had none. Daily trains, stopping in King City, made day trips to Toronto with its almost 500 photo studios easy and convenient.

Regardless of location, a trip to the photographer’s studio was a big event and, for some people, happened only once in a lifetime. When you had your portrait taken, you wanted to look your very best and wear your most fashionable attire. If you couldn’t afford a new outfit, you might add a lace collar, wear jewellery, or make a bold statement with a really great hat!



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



INEFFABLE

by Erika Dyer

Everything was as it always had been.

Endless rooms filled the station; a maze hidden behind doors I was never allowed to look behind. Panels of white wood grew and split into vast beams that danced across the ceiling. The waning sunlight clambered in vain through arched windows that trembled with the wind. Its shadows were cast across the ground, elongated from the shortened days until they crawled up the far walls.

I crouched on the toes of my creased boots that only Mother tied, as the heat from the wood burner bled through the skin of my small hands until they tingled. Splotches of red bloomed across my cheeks as my gloves dangled from between my teeth.

Across from the ticket lady stood Mother; our suitcases staggered next to her. At the time, I was confused by the sadness that seeped through the smile. She beckoned me over with a jingle of coins that echoed through the station.

Dancing over the uneven floor, I reached her side and clambered up the suitcases to slide the coins across the counter.

"Thank you, Pops," Mother said with a steady hand on my back and another covering the counter's edge.

With the help of Mother's coat, I dropped to my stomach; the suitcase dug into my ribs until my feet reached the floor.

Mother unravelled her scarf and rewound it around me until I drowned in wool. A twirl of her wrist freed my braid, the sky-blue ribbon stark against the muddy brown coat. She tucked the inevitable loose strand behind my ear and ran a cold finger over my cheek, tracing the splatter of freckles.

"We can't miss the train," she said with a kiss. "Say bye to King."

The end of my braid grazed across the ground as I bowed. Arms outstretched, I twirled over each floorboard as the ribbon loosened with every jostle. Eleven steps from the door, my toes caught, and I crashed to the ground, tearing my tights.

Bags abandoned outside the door; Mother rushed back. The gold necklace she always wore hung low and rested on her lap as she crouched to flip my hands over and press a kiss to each palm.

"You're okay, Poppy. No damage, see?"

Only a faint outline of the wood grain was left on my hands.

"No damage," I confirmed as she patted off my coat with an exaggerated flair.

"I found another one," I said and tugged on her arm, eager to add to the list of loose boards we kept. "What do you think is under there?"

Mother pressed on it with her scuffed boots, the ones that were too far gone for polish to make a difference. The board sunk back into the floor.

"A secret only King should know," she replied, helping me thread my fingers through my damp gloves. "Train's coming."

The only other person on the platform was an elderly man with peanut shells sunken in the snow around him. His gaze was fixed upwards, tilted towards the already darkened sky as a wispy cloud floated out of his quivering mouth. We had seen him for years; he always sat on the bench as the crevasses in his skin deepened with every visit.

I never did get his name.

Guided by the back of Mother's coat, I craned around her, desperate to finally catch his eye. I scratched at the heat rash that bloomed under my tights.

We stopped at a safe distance from the rails. "We don't want you to fly away," was Mother's response every time. The suitcases rested next to us, as still as the old man.

The train opposite our platform patiently waited for passengers who had stopped coming. Only three of the carts were occupied by strangers hidden behind newspapers that spun tales of the changing world.

Mother's grip tightened on my coat as I leaned forward in anticipation, fascinated by the tracks that rattled out our train's arrival.

The old man tilted his head towards us, a rueful smile painted on his face. His shoulders shook with age and the piercing cold as his knee

bounced out of tune to a song that only he knew the rhythm of. Our attendant jumped out; our suitcases loaded on with a flourish of his hand. Thousands of trips had blended his movements into a seamless routine.

Mother picked me up; I never got the chance to outgrow the gap. I rested my cheek against hers and waved.

"Bye, King," I whispered into Mother's shoulder. The windows shuddered in response.

There's something wrong.

The station is too new; the once peeling paint has been sanded and suffocates under the too-bright white. It's a perfect match for the snow that drifts from above. Whereas the skin of my gnarled hands has been stretched, scarred, and broken, the wood is smoother than it has ever been. There aren't any more splints to tear through the papery skin of my palms.

Stepping over the threshold, the station is stifling. Gone are the infinite rooms that I remember, an illusion like the mirror maze that used to sweep through the sticky summers in a haze of trailing balloons and cotton candy residue. Empty hinges and open doorways are all that is left of the station I thought I knew.

I shuffle in, eleven steps from the door. It creaks.



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

I'm always amazed at the vibrant arts and culture scene in King Township. Despite having a smaller population than our neighbours in York Region, we have many talented and creative people adding to the cultural fabric of our community.

Both the King Township Public Library and the Heritage and Culture Centre are hosting programs and events in November.

Indigenous Paint Night

The Library is holding a virtual Indigenous Paint Night on Tuesday, Nov. 15 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Join Indigenous artist Moses Lunham on Zoom at home and learn how to paint your own Falling Leaves Moon picture. Participants will need acrylic paint (black, white, blue, yellow and red), brushes (small, medium and large) and a canvas (25 cm x 20 cm or smaller).



No prior artistic experience is necessary to get involved and the event is open for all ages. Space is limited to so please pre-register by visiting www.kinglibrary.ca.

Call to artists for International Women's Day

The King Township Heritage and Cultural Centre is putting out a call to artists for the second annual art show in recognition of International Women's Day.

In partnership with Arts Society King, the show will be held from January 14 to March 18, 2023.

This exhibition is open to emerging and established women artists and artists who self-identify as women. Artists are encouraged to interpret this year's theme through both their art and accompanying story. The theme for 2023 is STEREOTYPE SMASH.

Registration closes November 30, 2022. Artists are encouraged to apply early as available spots may fill before the deadline. For more information, including how to register, please visit www.kingheritageandculture.ca.

Poetry in Stitches

For the exhibition Poetry in Stitches, the Georgina Fibre Artists have looked to the poets as muses to create a series of new fibre artworks, each one inspired by a poem.

This exhibition features a variety of styles and interpretations of mixed media fibre art, showcasing the work of four local artists with a variety of backgrounds and artistic interests.



Poetry in Stitches is on display in the main hallway of the King Township Municipal Centre until December 16.

Deck the Walls Art Show and Sale

If you're looking to get into the spirit of Christmas, be sure to drop by the Art Society King's first annual Deck the Walls Art Show and Sale. It will be held on Saturday, November 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre at 2920 King Road.

Sixteen juried artists/artisans have been selected for this event.

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

Sincerely,

Steve Pellegrini
Mayor, King Township



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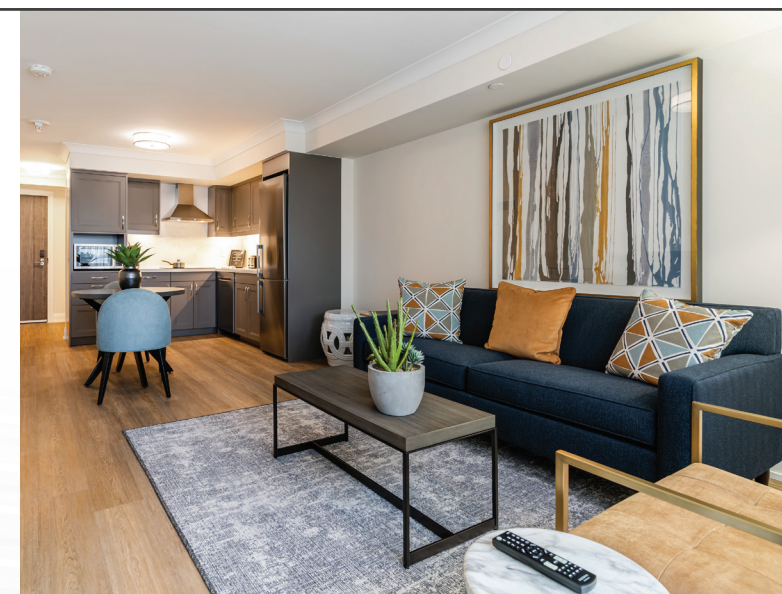
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THE ARTS

THE ETERNAL SPRING OF OPTIMISTIC ART: A SUCCESS STORY

by Dorita Peer

"The beauty I find in nature is what inspires my work. My desire to preserve that vision is what motivates me to create."
— Sherry Dube



Sherry Dube pores over a painting. Every leaf seems accounted for, important. Every ripple considered. You can hear her cascading waters, feel that offshore breeze, catch the waxy tulip scent, no mistake. No need for the viewer to decipher the artist's images to search for relevance. The artist merely asks us to bask in the beauty in the hope that we will ponder, as she does, why such Earthly wonders are not universally treated as the treasures they are.

By age ten, the little artist was already challenging oils. But for years, the grown-up would not paint at all. Instead she worked and raised daughter Alexis, who draws well herself and offers encouragement and advice from time to time. A self-taught programmer, Sherry is making her way in service to the computer world as a customer technical consultant – not for long if her startling successes in the art world draw her onward and upward.

At the 2022 Schomberg Street Gallery, despite its "Not for Sale" sticker, Autumn Reflections of colouring trees on the Bavarian lake, Königssee, got an astounding offer of \$7000. Having taken the artist six months to complete, no surprise she is attached to it! Her Tranquility, depicting Japanese forest cascades, sold for close to \$6000. Before the Storm, hailed by its buyer as the painting that "most stood out" of the hundreds in the Toronto Outdoor Art Fair, sold for \$2200. To an artist, who never set a career course for herself, sales like these are breathtaking.

That art lovers are charmed by Sherry's paintings they must appreciate the meticulous true-to-life rendering that costs

taxing hours of work on each square inch. Sherry begins by stretching all her own gallery mounts to ensure top quality. Largely self-taught and working from photographic references of beloved subjects, she layers and layers acrylics using a suite of very small brushes – deerfoot stipplers, lunar blenders and such—as well as a trusty illuminated Carson Magnivisor. The artist's body, bending to her task at her kitchen table in Newmarket, pays a physical price.

This is no artist grasping for a foothold. Hers is a style fixed and mastered. On the Water, her intimate portrait of a loon, whose crazy-beautiful abstract pattern repeats on water rippled by his paddling, was the second sold to the same collector. Her birds are reminiscent of one of Sherry's inspirations, Toronto-born Robert Bateman. "I dream of having one of my paintings hang next to his," she laughs. Is it an omen that her married name is Bateman? No relation, though.

Sherry has done what many an aspiring artist dreams of: created art that collectors want and will pay well to own. Fresh on the scene, she is already selling prints and receiving commissions. Art as a product has long been a famously lucrative investment. Rarely does it come with superpowers as a high concept commodity speaking in a language the seeker of a greater world understands. It is a remarkable happening when both missions are served.

Starstruck, delighted newcomer Sherry Dube stands as a role model for the times and is already an internet presence for those who would explore how to enter another phase of artistic life.



STAYING CONNECTED

ADULT PROGRAMS AT THE KING TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY!

by Stephanie Wilcox, Community Outreach Specialist

While winter weather may drive some of us to embrace the coziness of baking, favourite movies, and indoor activities, and others to participate in any number of winter sports, one key method of enjoying a long winter is staying connected with your community and loved ones! Whether you foster relationships online through social media, email, or video calls, or you find yourself partial to time spent in-person, the Library is offering a number of opportunities to learn more and connect with others! Join us for a series of computer lessons, book clubs, and other interest-based social opportunities this winter.

Wishing our community a happy and well-connected winter, from the King Township Public Library team!

Please contact or visit your local branch or email info@kinglibrary.ca to register for the programs listed below.

COMPUTER LESSONS

Open to all ages and skill levels, come to the King City branch for a one-hour, interactive monthly lesson designed to encourage comfort and familiarity with computers and other digital resources or modes of communication. Topics covered will include Library eBooks & digital content, Microsoft Word, and more! Devices will be provided to all participants.

FIBER ARTS SENIORS' CLUB

Join us once a month to learn about a new form of fiber arts— art styles that include the use of fibrous materials, such as knitting, crochet, and embroidery— while sharing your own knowledge and meeting similar hobbyists! Meetings occur in the King City branch, on the first Tuesday of the month.

SPICE CLUB

Interested in spices, cooking, history, and culture? Join our Spice Club, held in partnership with the King Heritage and Cultural Centre, as we learn about the historical and cultural impact of a monthly spice as well as its origins! Meetings occur in the King City branch on the fourth Thursday of the month. Participants will be provided with new recipes each meeting.

ADULT BOOK CLUBS

Each of our three branches— King City, Nobleton, and Schomberg— hosts a monthly adult book club for community members to gather and discuss a pre-agreed upon book. Visit your local branch or kinglibrary.ca to learn more about upcoming books for each branch.





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William Blake

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NATURE

WHAT'S THAT

Bird?

20 years ago, I didn't know the difference
between a Crow and a Red-winged Blackbird,
and probably hadn't even heard of a Grackle.

by Geoff Simpson

It had been many years since I'd looked at the old *Peterson's Bird Guide* that we'd had growing up. I knew a few birds, but probably not more than I could count on my fingers.

That all changed when I was invited up to Northern Ontario to do some camping — at least that's what I thought I had heard. It was actually a blitz in the final summer of the 2nd Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, with experts being sent in to help survey birds in sections of the province that hadn't been adequately surveyed during the previous four years.

"The goal of the Atlas is to map the distribution and relative abundance of Ontario's approximately 300 species of breeding birds — from as far south as Middle Island in Lake Erie, to Hudson Bay in the north. The data collected over five years provides essential information for researchers, scientists, government officials, and conservation professionals. It will guide environmental policies and conservation strategies for years to come." (birdsontario.org)

I was there to help out with *Point Counts*, which are a series of 3-minute bird identification sessions at specific locations in specific 10 km squares across the province. At each location, I'd start the clock, and would write down the birds that the expert called out during the next three minutes. I was amazed both by the number identified, and that most had been identified sight-unseen simply by the sounds they made. I heard dozens of bird names I had never heard of before.

I've since learned that not only is it possible to identify different species of birds quickly by sight, but also by their distinct songs and calls. With a little practice (okay, a lot), it can become as easy as differentiating between a horse and a dog (or a Poodle and a German Shepherd). With practise and experience, one learns to spot key identifying features that quickly point you in one direction instead of another. For example,

- There are many different sparrows (and sparrow-like birds), but the distinctive dark patch in the middle of its chest points to it being a *Song Sparrow*.
- Downey Woodpeckers and Hairy Woodpeckers look very similar. Although the *Hairy* is generally larger; a large male Downey may rival the size of a female *Hairy*. Three key features (bill length, dots on tail edges, and head pattern) easily help you determine which it is.

It's the same with sounds. Each bird species has unique songs and calls. At first, they may sound similar; as do the *American Robin*, the

Rose-breasted Grosbeak ("a robin who's taken singing lessons"), and the *Scarlet Tanager* ("a robin with a sore throat"). There are also mimics that will imitate other birds (*Blue Jays* do a very convincing *Red-tailed Hawk*). With practice, they become familiar and diagnostic. Along the way one learns mnemonics, such as "*Who-cooks-for-you; Who-cooks-for-you-all*" (*Barred Owl*), "*Spring-of-the-year*" (*Eastern Meadowlark*), and "*O Sweet Canada; Canada; Canada*" (*White-throated Sparrow*).

There are some great (free) apps that can turn your mobile phone or device into a wondrous learning resource. My personal favourite is *Merlin*, by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. It offers 3 methods (5 questions, upload a photo, record sound) to help you figure out "what that bird is".

My second favourite app is called *eBird*, which is used to keep a list of the birds you've identified along with the location during a particular birding session. Hundreds of thousands of users contribute more than 100 million bird sightings annually around the world.

As with all pastimes, some moments stand out. A decade ago, a *Varied Thrush* spent the winter on my property. A relatively common bird on the west coast, it's very infrequent here. I had over 500 people visit my property that winter to get a glimpse.

This year, notable visitors have included a *Pileated Woodpecker*, *Eastern Bluebirds* (nesting in my nesting box until it was usurped by *House Wrens*), *Baltimore Orioles*, and *Eastern Phoebe*s — unknowingly raising a *Brown-headed Cowbird* chick.

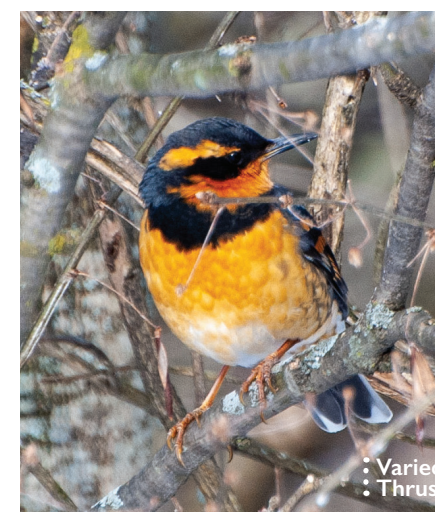
We're now in year two (of five) of the 3rd Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, and I'm now responsible for my own 10 km square — fortunately here in King Township. In the ensuing years, I've participated annually in Christmas Bird Counts and Mid-summer Bird Counts, helping to record population numbers so that trends can be analyzed.

These citizen science exercises, in addition to being enjoyable, are also very helpful in understanding the impacts of biodiversity loss. Loss of biodiversity through ever-expanding sprawl and development is having an effect. Along the route of the proposed Highway 413, eleven species at risk have been identified, including *Chimney Swift*, *Barn Swallow*, *Bank Swallow*, *Bobolink*, *Eastern Meadowlark*, *Wood Thrush*, and *Olive-sided flycatcher*.

So get out and see and hear them while you still can!



: Barred Owl



: Varied Thrush



: Cooper's Hawk



: Evening Grosbeaks

Julianne Boileau

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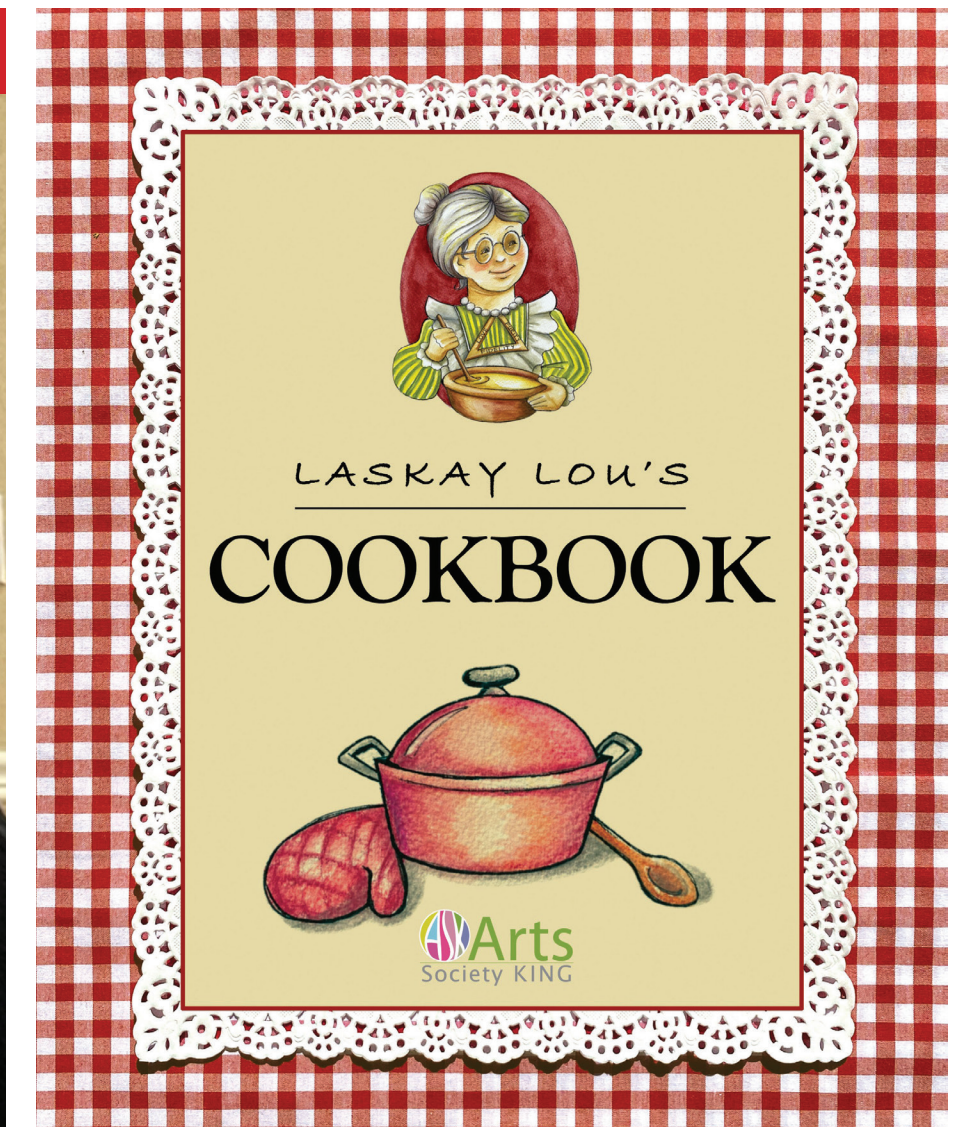
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Around the Neighbourhood



: Mary Scott, aka Laskay Lou, was the inspiration for this vintage collection of recipes



Laskay Lou Lives On

by Patti Skrypek

MASHED POTATOES IN CHOCOLATE CAKE?
BEFORE YOU TURN UP YOUR NOSE, PLEASE HEAR ME OUT.

As an Arts Society King board member, I recently volunteered to update Mary Scott's 'Pot Luck at Laskay Hall' cookbook. Although the book was first printed in 1991, it contained many vintage recipes that harken back decades, including the days when canned soup, marshmallows, and Dream Whip were key ingredients in family meals. A few recipes were also made over the years for pot luck dinners at Laskay Hall and are truly considered "comfort food". This latest version, called 'Laskay Lou's Cookbook', contains many of the same sweet and savoury old-fashioned recipes along with some new ones contributed by King Township residents.

The character Laskay Lou, created by Mary Scott (aka Laskay Lou), is the embodiment of the Laskay Women's Institute members who preserved their recipes for future consumption. Generous servings of Laskay Lou's logic and lore, present in both the original and the updated cookbook, are intended to keep readers company as they peruse the recipes. Although Mary, who just celebrated her 100th birthday, is a self-professed non-cook, her husband Lorne was an excellent cook who took glee in preparing many of the recipes in the book. Mary was grateful to come home from work every day to delightful smells coming from the kitchen.

Laskay Hall, built in 1859, was originally located on the west side of Weston Road in the hamlet of Laskay. It was moved to its present site at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre in 2017. With a board and batten exterior and a replica of the Sons of Temperance triangular motto of "Love, Faith, Fidelity" above the front door, this quaint old Hall still functions and continues to be an important part of King Township's cultural life.

The tradition of pot luck at Laskay Hall flourished for more than 130 years. From the first tea party of the Sons of Temperance on January 1, 1859 to the 1990 annual Community Christmas Party, countless home cooks gathered there to share their culinary delights with family, friends, and neighbours. "Ladies provide" was the country way of asking the ladies who attended the party to bring food for the pot luck meal which would be served near the end of an event. Meetings, meals, and merriment were always the basic ingredients of any pot luck at Laskay.

As I gathered and reviewed all of the recipes, I couldn't help but be constantly hungry and inspired to try so many. The delicious yet simple recipes help make the hardest part of meal planning - just deciding what to make - a snap. The newer recipes combined with the old-fashioned ones

offer a variety of options to satisfy even the pickiest palate.

But back to the mashed potatoes in chocolate cake. I was interested to learn that potato was a popular addition to cakes during World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II, due to shortages of butter and flour. But I was also skeptical. So I decided to give it a try and it was, well, delicious. I was surprised by the results. The mashed potatoes added both a moistness and density to the cake without imparting any potato flavor, and seemed to intensify the richness of the chocolate. You really can't fully appreciate it until you try it.

The Laskay Women's Institute minute books from 1908 to 1988 repeatedly referenced meals which were held to raise money to preserve the Hall and foster community and social involvement. That tradition continues, with all proceeds from Laskay Lou's Cookbook going to the upkeep of Laskay Hall, in honour of Mary and her late husband Lorne Scott - for whom Laskay Hall played an important part in their lives. You can order your own copy for just \$20 from artsocietyking.com/events/cookbook or pick it up at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre. We can also ship it to you for an additional \$5. This keepsake cookbook will also make a great Christmas gift!

Chocolate Cake
From Phyllis Smith

½ cup margarine (or butter), softened
1 cup granulated sugar
2 large eggs
1 tsp vanilla
1 cup buttermilk
1 cup mashed potatoes
1¼ cups all-purpose flour
½ cup cocoa, sifted
1 tsp baking powder
½ tsp baking soda
½ tsp ground cinnamon
½ tsp salt

Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly spray a 9x9-inch pan with cooking spray.

Cream the margarine and sugar in large bowl. Beat in eggs, one at a time. Add vanilla. Mix. Slowly beat buttermilk into potato in small bowl until smooth. Beat into egg mixture. Stir in next six ingredients in medium bowl. Add to potato mixture. Beat slowly to incorporate flour. Beat on medium for about one minute until smooth. Turn into prepared pan. Bake, uncovered, for about 40 minutes until wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean.

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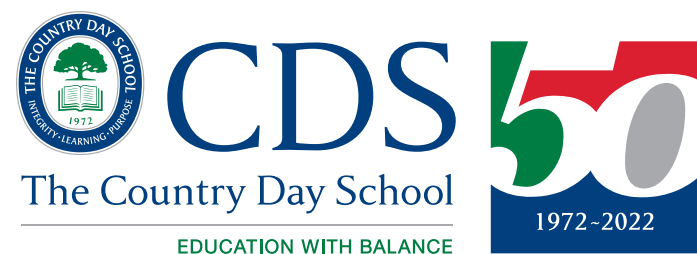
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Events in and Around King Township by Arts Society King just Ask

DECEMBER 1 – ONGOING – WRITENOW!@KING – WriteNow!@King is a writers' group partnering with the 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. Location: King City Public Library, 1970 King Road, King City. Contact: info@kinglibrary.ca for more information

NOW UNTIL DECEMBER 16 – POETRY IN STITCHES – GEORGINA FIBRE ARTISTS AT THE KTMCC – In the exhibition Poetry in Stitches, Georgina Fibre Artists have looked to the poets as muses to create a series of new fibre artworks, each one inspired by a poem. Location: King Township Municipal Centre, 2585 King Road, King City. Time: 8:30 AM – 4 PM. Contact: artsocietyking.ca

NOW UNTIL JANUARY 8, 2023 – HEADWATERS ARTS ARTFUL GIVING – HEADWATERS GALLERY – Artful Giving is Headwaters Arts' Holiday Gift Show and Sale, featuring affordable artful gifts created by our members and other local artists. It is the perfect venue to find unique gift ideas for everyone on your list! We are located in the historic Alton Mill Art Centre just a few minutes from Orangeville. Location: Headwaters Gallery, Alton Mill Art Centre, Alton, Ontario. Time: Wed - Sun 10 AM – 5 PM. Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Contact: info@headwatersarts.org, website: headwatersarts.org

DECEMBER 1, 2022 – MARCH 2, 2023 – KINGCRAFTS STUDIO WORKSHOPS – Kingcrafts Studio is once again offering its popular workshops. Workshops coming soon: folk art painting, pottery workshop, crochet for beginners, and more. Check our website for additional information and registration. Location: Kingcrafts, 12936 Keele Street, King City, L7B 1H7. Contact: kingcrafts.ca

DECEMBER 2 – CHRISTMAS CONCERT FEATURING THE MARION SINGERS – KING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Please join us to hear this accomplished and distinguished choir sing our traditional favourites while performing a cappella. Location: Laskay Hall, 2920 King Road, King City. Time: 8 PM. Contact: kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com, website: kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com

DECEMBER 3 – A MAIN STREET CHRISTMAS – PRESENTED BY THE SCHOMBERG VILLAGE ASSOCIATION – This year we will be bringing back the original format of Main Street Christmas. The day will start off with the Santa Claus Parade, then Main Street Christmas events, and then the local Farmer's Light Up Parade. Location: Main Street, Schomberg. Time: 3 – 9 PM. Contact: info@schomberg.ca

DECEMBER 3 – BAKE SALE – ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH – The amazing pastry chefs at All Saints offer their bakery efforts for your pre-Christmas enjoyment. Location: All Saints Anglican Church, 12935 Keele Street, King City. Time: 10 AM – 12 PM. Contact: Parish Office, 905-833-5432

DECEMBER 3 – HOME-BAKED GOODIES AT A MAIN STREET CHRISTMAS BY THE BELLES OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE – Visit the table of home-baked goodies prepared by the Belles of St. Mary Magdalene – a tradition anticipated by many. Location: Main Street, Schomberg. Time: 4 – 8 PM. Contact: 905-955-2765, website: anglicanparishoffloydtown.com

DECEMBER 4 – NOBLETON TREE LIGHTING – TOWNSHIP OF KING – Join in the family fun and festivities at the annual Nobleton Tree Lighting as it brings the holiday spirit to life each year. Enjoy local food, sing carols, and support your community! Location: Nobleton Public Library, 8 Sheardown Drive, Nobleton. Time: 5 – 8 PM. Contact: 905-833-5321 x 1053 or visit king.ca/communitycalendar

DECEMBER 4 – CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE – KING CITY SENIORS' CENTRE – A time to get into the spirit of Christmas with entertainment and treats. Location: Seniors' Centre, 1970 King Road, King City. Time: 2 – 4 PM. Contact: KCSC at 905-833-6565

DECEMBER 4 – 31 – HOLIDAY LIGHT TOUR – CHRISTMAS IN KING – The Christmas in King Holiday Light Tour is shining brightly once again, with proceeds going to help light up the season for nearly 350 people in King Township. Purchase a map for just \$10 through christmasinking.ca and spend an evening or two driving around King Township to enjoy a wonderful array of outdoor lighted decorations. Look out for the lawn signs that identify participants who have lit up their homes or businesses to help brighten someone else's holiday season. Location: King Township. Time: 6 – 10 PM. Contact: lights@christmasinking.ca

DECEMBER 11 – SCHOMBERG SKATING CLUB SANTA SKATE – Free to the public to enjoy a Skate with Santa. Location: Trisan Centre, 25 Dillane Drive, Schomberg. Time: 2 – 2:40 PM. Contact: aroseinking@outlook.com, 416-855-0580, schombergionsclub@gmail.com

DECEMBER 16 – CHRISTMAS SPECIAL SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS – ALL SAINTS CHURCH – Our new director of music will ensure a festive evening of choral Christmas music while we relive the Christmas story. Location: All Saints Anglican Church, 12935 Keele Street, King City. Time: 7 PM. Contact: Parish Office, 905-833-5432

DECEMBER 19 – SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS – ST. MARY MAGDALENE – Enjoy an evening musical service of Lessons and Carols. Steeped in tradition, Lessons and Carols is one of the most widely-anticipated and well-known events during Advent. Location: St. Mary Magdalene, 116 Church Street, Schomberg. Time: 7 PM. Contact: 905-955-2765, website: anglicanparishoffloydtown.com

JANUARY TO MARCH 2023 – WINTER SKATING LESSONS WITH NOBLETON SKATING CLUB – Winter Canslate/Learn to Skate, Power Skating, and Starskate lessons, taught by NCCP certified coaches. Monday/Wednesday/Friday/Saturday icetimes. Location: Nobleton Arena, 15 Old King Road, Nobleton. Contact: nobletonskatingclub@outlook.com, website: nobletonskatingclub.com

JANUARY 9 – MARCH 3 – PHYLLIS VERNON EXHIBIT – KING TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CENTRE – Come enjoy the artworks of local artist Phyllis Vernon, hanging in the KTMCC main space. Location: KTMCC, 2585 King Road, King City. Time: 8:30 AM – 4 PM. Contact: artsocietyking.ca

JANUARY 14 – MARCH 18 – INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EXHIBIT – KHCC – In partnership with Arts Society King, the King Heritage & Cultural Centre (KHCC) is pleased to announce its 2nd Annual Art Show in recognition of International Women's Day. Location: King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City. Contact: kingheritageandculture.ca

JANUARY 20 – 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. Time: 12:30 PM. Contact: KCSC at 905-833-6565

FEBRUARY 17 – 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. Time: 12:30 PM. Contact: KCSC at 905-833-6565

FEBRUARY 20 – FREE CHALET RENTALS AT COLD CREEK CONSERVATION AREA – Bring your family out to Cold Creek Conservation Area to celebrate family day with free cross country ski and snowshoe rentals at our winter chalet, featuring numerous groomed trails varying in difficulty to ensure a fun experience for everyone. Bring your skates as well to enjoy the outdoor skating rink located on our pond. All activities are weather dependent, be sure to check the Cold Creek website prior to coming for updates. Location: Cold Creek Conservation Area, 14125 11th Concession, Nobleton – Visitor Center building. Time: 9 AM – 3:30 PM. Contact: coldcreek@king.ca, website: coldcreek.ca

FEBRUARY 21 – SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE PICKUP – ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH – Full traditional pancake supper available as take-out to be picked up and enjoyed at home. Location: All Saints Anglican Church, 12935 Keele Street, King City. Time: 5 PM – 6:30 PM. Contact: Parish Office, 905-833-5432

FEBRUARY 21 – SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER – ST. MARY MAGDALENE – Known as the traditional feast day before the start of Lent, enjoy a full pancake supper, complete with sausage, dessert, coffee, and tea – and lovely live musical entertainment. Location: St. Mary Magdalene, 116 Church Street, Schomberg. Time: 5 – 7:30 PM. Contact: 905-955-2765, website: anglicanparishoffloydtown.com



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HERITAGE




King United Church



Reverend Martin Jenkinson

One of a Certain Kind by Barry Wallace

The history of the King Pastoral Charge of the Methodist Church, and later the King United Church, records the service of 31 ministers (30 men and one woman) between 1864 and 2006.

The average stay for these preachers, over the course of 142 years, was just over four-and-a-half years. In the 66 years prior to 1930, the longest-surviving of 21 ministers lasted six years. Then things changed.

Between 1930 and 1941, the Reverend Douglas Davis became a well-known fixture in the United Churches at King City, Laskay, and Teston. In the later part of the 1900s, two other dedicated ministers, Grant Brown and Bruce Irvin, served 11 and 10 years respectively in King, spreading the word and tending their flocks.

There was a remarkable 22-year period between the end of World War II in 1945 and Canada's centennial year in 1967 when the Reverend Martin Jenkinson became the longest-serving minister of three churches. It was a time of inimitable grace and love, acknowledged far and wide by all who lived through it and remembered it.

No one baptized, married, or buried more adherents of the United Churches of King City, Laskay, and Teston than Martin Jenkinson. Many

people saw four generations of their families touched in simple or great ways by this man of the cloth. In the first half of his 50 years as a United Church minister, he baptized more than 300 babies. There were many more in the next 25 years, but he stopped counting.

In Martin Jenkinson's time, Sunday School attendance grew to over 200 children in the post-war years and the 1950s. The bulging Sunday School was a catalyst for a new church building. As luck, or divine intervention, would have it, long-time church member Alfred McBride offered to donate three lots from his farmland, which was scheduled for housing development, to accommodate a new church. Martin Jenkinson, as minister, played a key role in bringing the new church into being in 1963.

The design was 'early-Christian' in spirit; a church-in-the-round in which the congregation, the choir, and the minister formed a complete circle. The communion table was given a place of prominence in the centre, and above it, soaring 50' in the air, was a great five-sided cone or pentaspire, covering the sanctuary.

Martin created a special ceremony for the May 5th sod-turning, at which the sod was turned by three different groups, representing yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Three elder members of the church represented the past, while the present was represented by three young adults. Young children betokened the future and represented old and new families. Martin also referred to the three groups who performed the official sod-turning as 'Faith', represented by the seniors, 'Hope', represented by the youths, and 'Charity', represented by the little children whose active days in the church were just beginning.

The dedication of the new church took place on October 20th. The entrance to the sanctuary had three small, coloured stones embedded in the floor. The stones were brought from the Holy Land; the light-coloured stone from Galilee, the pink from the Pater Noster in the Garden of Gethsemane, and the brown from Bethany. It was Martin who had arranged, with a visitor to Israel, for the stones to be brought to King City.

Throughout his years, Reverend Jenkinson became legendary for the amount of tea he could consume. Each and every visit to a congregant's home began with the same question, as he stepped through the door: "Is the kettle on?". He was warmly teased by many about his vast capacity for his favourite brew, but some were genuinely amazed and said they had never seen anyone who could drink so much tea. He often admitted it was touch-and-go whether he would make it home to the bathroom after drinking many a cup. In a written reflection of his career, later in life, he explained his apparent passion for tea with the following words:

"I have learned to be a good listener and learning how to ease taut nerves by asking for a cup of tea. Again and again when seeking to help the bereaved, especially those to whom the trial came with a startling, unexpected suddenness, I have asked for a cup of tea. I felt it eased the tension and gave the folks something to do and also to enjoy. I'm still practising the gentle art."

Such was the man.



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Let me ASK you...

featuring Melina Lisi, Steve Silverman, and Eva Folks

by Patti Skrypek

MELINA LISI is an abstract resin artist with a long-time interest in the arts. In 2002, when she became afflicted with a chronic condition known as Trigeminal Neuralgia, a disorder which affects the facial nerves, her passion for the arts was reignited. One of the outlets she turned to was her love of contemporary art. A self-taught artist, Melina began to experiment with acrylic paint and then moved on to various other mediums including ink and resin. “Art is my therapy. Art fulfills me,” Melina says. The name of her painting, “Alto-Mare”, also her maiden name, means “high sea” in Italian. While creating this piece, Melina felt as though she was connecting to her roots and loves how it speaks to her.

STEVE SILVERMAN is an award-winning Canadian fine art photographer with a keen and unique artistic vision. His photos are easily recognizable by his use of strong leading lines combined with the interplay of light and shadows to create depth, giving a two-dimensional image the illusion of three dimensions. Steve shot the photo “Winter Solstice” in King Township on the shortest day of the year. It was mid-afternoon in December, and the sun had already begun to sink in the western sky. Driving south along a rural concession road, he saw the bright rays of the sun burst through the trees, casting fence line shadows against the pristine snow. Because of the extremes in lighting, Steve bracketed the camera’s exposures and blended them in post-editing to balance the light.

EVA FOLKS was born and raised in Toronto and has always had an affinity for art, learning her skills through experimentation and a great deal of practice. “I strive to create art that is original, narrative and imaginative in nature. Creating fantasy worlds allows my mind to wander free of everyday life, exploring new ideas and processes,” says Eva. She had been working on dyed wood panels and poured canvas panels for quite a while, neither of which were connected. One day, she wondered how she could combine these two very different artwork styles into one. After some experimentation, she came up with a way to pour on dyed wood panels, making them the perfect backdrop for her paintings. “Pour 221”, a dyed wood panel with layers of acrylic pours which are finished off with a fantasy landscape painting, has a simple name as Eva likes to let whoever buys her paintings name them.

What is the best thing about being an artist?

Melina – Being able to express myself in a way that I otherwise would not be able to. As someone who suffers from chronic pain, art is my therapy and as I concentrate and become submerged in creating art, my pain subsides. I truly enjoy connecting with others by discussing a piece and its deeper meaning.

Steve – My black and white photography has taught me to see the world differently. Shape, form, light and shadow. Tonal nuances. The subtleties of texture. Today, I'm much more cognizant of the world around me.

Eva – Every painting is a new adventure!



MELINA LISI
info@resinartbymelina.com
resinartbymelina.com



STEVE SILVERMAN
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What is the hardest part of creating your art?

Melina – I quite literally pour myself into each piece and it becomes a part of me.

Steve – My photography can be physically demanding. I often must lug around a lot of photographic equipment. It truly is a labour of love.

Eva – Sticking to creating the work I want and not worrying about creating work I think people will want to see.

How do you know when a piece is finished?

Melina – You can easily get lost in creating a piece. But as I watch it take form, I know when it has reached completion.

Steve – The truth is, sometimes I don't. Photo editing can be a long, arduous process depending on the image. In some cases, it can take years before I get the image looking the way I had originally visualized it when I shot it.

Eva – As I get close to the end of a piece, I make a punch-list (a list of items that need to be addressed before a project can be deemed complete). Once everything has been crossed off, I sign the piece and it's done.

What inspired you to pursue art?

Melina – I read an article about art and pain therapy. I picked up a canvas and some paint and it was unbelievable how my full concentration on that canvas took my pain away.

Steve – Partly genetics. I was born into an artistic family of artisans and musicians. My aunt, renowned Canadian-born photographer Reva Brooks, was influential in guiding me through black and white photography.

Eva – It's all I've ever really wanted to do. After trying a variety of careers and never feeling fulfilled, I eventually came back to art.



Steve Silverman: Winter Solstice

Which artists are you most influenced by?

Melina – Jackson Pollock, hands-down. I love creating abstract art and the freedom it gives you as an artist. His drip technique is what I use in a lot of my creations.

Steve – Black and white masters from the present and past including Ansel Adams, Edward Weston, Minor White, Reva Brooks, et al.

Eva – I'm not influenced by any specific artists. Instead, I'm influenced by how different artists use colour, design, and mediums in a specific piece they've created.

Is it hard to part with one of your pieces?

Melina – Yes, yes, and yes! I won't pretend that it isn't. I just put so much heart and soul into each piece. So, it is very hard to let it go.

Steve – Not at all. I'm flattered that buyers want to engage in my photos on a personal, intimate level.

Eva – No. I like working on a piece when I'm creating it but when it's completed, I want it to go to someone who will enjoy having it.

What advice would you give to your younger self?

Melina – I wish I would have discovered the joy and satisfaction of creating art sooner.

Steve – Creativity is not about the camera. It's more about the person behind the camera.

Eva – Follow your dreams, not everyone else's.



Melina Lisi:
Alto-Mare



Eva Folks:
Pour 221

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HERITAGE



HUMBER TRAILS IN PASSING

by Bert Duclos

Effects of the Great Depression's firm grip on the Ontario economy in the mid-1930s were **everywhere**.

Almost one third of the labour force was out of work, 20% of the population was dependent on government assistance, industrial production fell to 58%, and the national income fell to 55%, to that of 1929. It would not seem to be the best of times to invest in property, hoping to entice buyers looking to create a summer get-away along the scenic East Humber River in King Township. Yet, that is exactly what Bertram Realty Co. Ltd. was undertaking.

In its community of Humber Grove, 13 kilometres west of this new undertaking, Bertram Realty had already sold several of the 72 cottage lots subdivided from its 1929 purchase of 100 acres along the Humber River in Albion Township northwest of Bolton. Evidently, tough times did not deter those with the means hoping to escape Toronto's summer heat, and perhaps the sad state of the world, to what seemed to be a bit of paradise along the shores of the Humber River. Wouldn't what appeared to be success along the Humber River in Albion also succeed along the East Humber River in King? Success does breed success, but it can also breed hubris.

In April 1935, Bertram Realty bought the 120 acres of the west part of Lot 3 Concession 7 west of Mill Road in King Township from

Edwin J. Kaake of Nobleton. With the East Humber River flowing under the Mill Road bridge, winding west throughout the unspoiled forested valley, the proposed new community of Humber Trails held abundant appeal. Having 75 acres of the eastern portion of this property surveyed into town lots within seven geographic blocks labelled A to G, in July 1937, Bertram Realty registered a plan of subdivision for Humber Trails as a summer residential district with the Township of King as Plan 280.

Similar to Humber Grove in Albion, many of Humber Trails' cottage lots backed onto the East Humber River with frontage on either the existing unapproved section of Mill Road south of the bridge, or four new roads. Bertram Realty followed its Humber Grove rustic street naming model in naming these four new roads. Running west of Mill Road immediately north of the bridge, the new Humber Trail roadway led to Forest Trail and Riverview Trail. Further south on Mill Road, Elmpine Trail served as the southern limit of the new development.

Humber Trails' first cottage lot to sell was Lot 21 in June 1938 for \$675 to Harry Gorley and Rose Baird. A bargain, seeing as in 1938 the average price of a new house was \$3,900 and the annual average income was \$1,730. However, subsequent sales were slow in

coming. Perhaps the uncertainty of the 1939 onset of World War II delayed potential buyers. But even with the war's ensuing positive effect on the economy ending the Depression, the next Humber Trails lots to sell were almost 2 1/2 years later: in February 1941 to May McLeod for \$575, and in July 1941 to May Soolen for \$334. As all three of these lots were in Block A off Humber Trail, it may be that the other six blocks were not yet improved.

The improving economy and wartime pressures on new housing, helped by the newly opened sections of Highway 27 south of Nobleton and north to Schomberg, boosted lot sales in Humber Trails, largely in Blocks D and F off Elmpine Trail. By early 1950, Bertram Realty sold another 25 lots, with over 50 lots sold in total by May 1954. Now with year-round residences and many of the earliest small cottages winterized, Humber Trails' population in 1955 stood at 125 full time residents, including 84 school age children and 54 summer residents.


Life in the idyllic setting of Humber Trails had its challenges. A deputation to King Township council on April 14, 1954 by the Ratepayers' Association of Humber Trails raised residents' concerns over road conditions, street signs, lighting, water facilities, and garbage disposal.

In addition, William Smith, president of the association, sought relief from children having to cross the river in order to be within the three-mile limit to get to school in Nobleton by road.

Many of Humber Trails' properties were persistently flooded each spring by the overflowing East Humber River. It was common for spring ice jams or fallen trees blocking the fast flowing river to cause rising waters above the first floor of homes. Flooded homes and roads made it too dangerous for school-aged children and others, forcing them to stay home. Described as the worst ever known, the spring flooding of 1954 necessitated the evacuation by boat of several families. "Believe me, we never would have moved here in the first place if we could have afforded to do otherwise," said a mother of four children.

The worst was yet to come. Overnight on October 15, 1954, Hurricane Hazel struck the Toronto area. Winds reached 124 km/h and over 200 millimetres of rain fell in just 24 hours. In Humber Trails, the East Humber River rose steadily in the steady downpour throughout the Friday afternoon. By supertime, it was overflowing, rising 10 metres above normal. By 8 o'clock, the area inundated, homes surrounded by the ever-rising waters,

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AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



• Schomberg's Dufferin Marsh, seen in this painting by Patricia Earl, is a popular local spot for skating

KING'S Life ON ICE

by Joanne Bailey

On that giant sheet of ice, hockey players of all ages control the game.

The constant action and speed of the skaters grants much excitement. The players resemble warriors; blasted by pucks, they encounter slap shots and charge opponents to gain control of the puck, sometimes sustaining bodily injuries. The hockey jargon developed is not always the best. There can be a steady flow of insults to opponents and refs- including profanity.

The history of hockey in King Township dates back to 1906, when the first covered arena in York County was built in Nobleton. The timbers used in the construction of the roof were cut from a bush one mile north of Nobleton. The area was lit by gasoline lamps and ice making was a problem due to the shortage of water.

The first Nobleton hockey team followed in 1907. During the winter of 1912, this arena collapsed due to heavy snowfall. A second arena was built and continued to operate until it was sold in 1944. The current arena in Nobleton, located at 15 Old King Rd., was opened in 1948.

The Schomberg Minor Hockey Association was formed in 1961, and was a way to provide organized hockey for youth in Schomberg and surrounding areas. Volunteers continued to organize this sport at the Schomberg Community and Agricultural Arena, located at 329 Main St., from 1963 to 2011. On March 25, 2011, the last official game was held there. The new "state of the art" Trisan Centre was opened at 25 Dillane Dr. in 2011. On this extensive ice surface, the Schomberg Cougars opened their inaugural season with a 6-2 victory. This centre has one NHL ice pad with seating for approximately 600 hockey fans.

King City's hockey arena, located at 25 Doctors Ln., opened September 5, 1972. Growing up in the small community of King City allowed for a lot of ice time compared to the major cities. Many young boys living in King City started playing hockey at age four, and some carried this passion onwards by improving their skills and eventually coaching or managing the arena's hockey rink.

In the King City arena, signed hockey jerseys hang on the walls from players who were

drafted to the NHL. Jeff O'Neill, #92 of the Carolina Hurricanes, grew up in the community of King City and played for the King City Kings as a youth. Daniel Carcillo, born in King City, started hockey at an early age. His hockey jersey, #13 of the Phoenix Coyotes, is posted on the wall. Nick Boynton, #44 of the Boston Bruins, grew up playing hockey in his hometown of Nobleton, playing for the NobleKing Knights. Alex Pietrangelo, who played minor hockey for the NobleKing Knights and is #27 with the St. Louis Blues, also joins this memorable wall.

In the earlier days, players coming off the ice after a game travelled several miles home by sleigh. Today, hockey has evolved to an expensive sport with the cost of ice time and equipment needed. Families still travel to many areas in and outside of King Township for practices, games, and tournaments. The high level of coordination required make this a very demanding sport.

But despite the availability of indoor hockey rinks, families in King Township continue to construct their own outside

winter ice rinks to keep these committed athletes practicing and preparing for their next tournament. It is a good celebration outside with hot chocolate, warm blankets, falling snow flakes, and family noise.

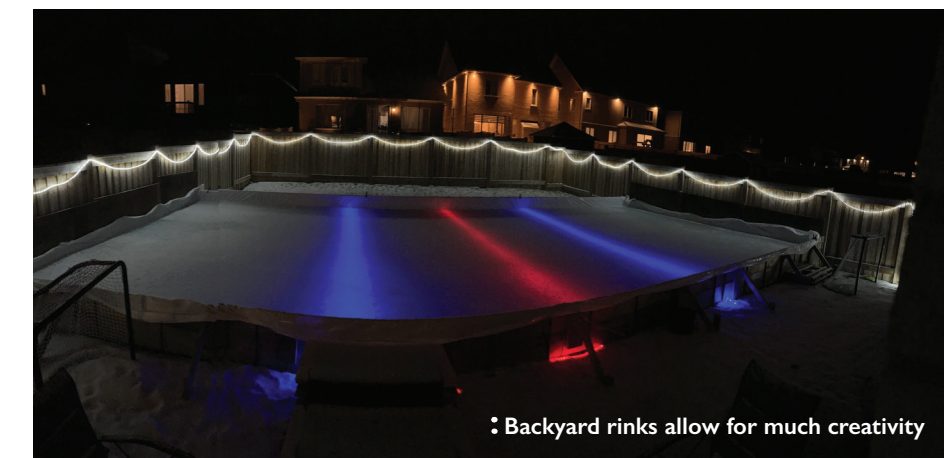
Apart from homemade rinks, the Dufferin Marsh skating rink also allures. Located in the Village of Schomberg, it is a natural area and remnant feature of the Schomberg River. Families gather on the ice for enjoyment and competitive games. A painting of hockey players skating on the Dufferin Marsh is on exhibit by Patricia Earl at the local Olde Mill Art Gallery and Shoppe.

As a community, we are sports-minded, and hockey in all areas of King confirms this. So let us cheer on the young players of the King Rebellion, NobleKing Knights, and Schomberg Red Wings teams. Let us tape those hockey sticks to increase control over the stick and puck!

We never know when the next NHL star will be drafted from King Township- a difficult journey, but one full of excitement!



• Pond hockey is an ever-popular pastime in King



• Backyard rinks allow for much creativity



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