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winter 2023

# *King* MOSAIC

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# DISCOVER

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# CDS

The Country Day School

EDUCATION WITH BALANCE

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We welcome your feedback, contributions, and suggestions.

Write to us at [editor@artsocietyking.ca](mailto:editor@artsocietyking.ca)

FEATURED CONTRIBUTOR:

**IRENE ZONTA, MED, RHN**

Irene Zonta, an OCT English/French teacher, shares her love of nature with her husband and two wonderful sons. Raising a family, combined with long commutes, a busy career, and many extracurriculars led to a desire for more balanced and holistic living. In 2010, Irene's family gratefully settled in the beautiful countryside of King. She transitioned into holistic health coaching and continues to educate and inspire others to live life with optimum physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual wellness. When she's not writing, editing, or preparing a nutritious family meal, she finds inspiration in the natural world and can be found working on intricately detailed needlework pieces, which she describes as meditation in action. Additionally, she enjoys reading, going for forest walks, and joyfully volunteering as a singer in the local community.

**CONTEST WINNER**

**Congratulations to Leslie Jarvis!** Dressage is the equestrian sport widely represented in King Township, a national hub where Olympic teams are developed. The article was written by Dorita Peer.

**CONTEST**

In this issue of MOSAic, a writer describes six skills from a specific art form that can have long-term benefits for academic success and future career prospects. What is the name of that art form and who wrote the article?

Submit your answer to:  
[Editor@ArtsSocietyKing.ca](mailto:Editor@ArtsSocietyKing.ca) by January 12, 2024, for a chance to win a **\$50 gift card** to a local establishment in King Township.

**OUR COVER**

**PATRICIA GRAY**

On the cover of this winter edition is "EYE OF THE BEHOLDER" (17 1/4" x 17 1/4" Framed. Acrylic on gallery wood panel) by featured artist Patricia Gray. Patricia's work is largely inspired by Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula as well as the areas of Lake Sup  rior, Temagami, and the James Bay Lowlands, where she grew up. From the Artist: "Each one of us has a unique perspective of the world around us. And it is the function of art to take us beyond our individual thoughts, conditioned beliefs, and interpretations, into the realm of pure experience. It is here, beyond all conventionalities, that we may find ourselves filled with a sense of awe as we behold the beauty that surrounds us." Read more about Patricia Gray's work on page 4.

LAVINIA-MARIA'S SEVERAL WORLDS

BORCSOC FARMS: HOME OF THE GIANTS

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# A THOUSAND *expressions* OF A SINGLE THOUGHT



WRITTEN BY  
**ALADIN JARRAH**  
Aladin is a versatile wordsmith and a culinary enthusiast with a passion for exploration into life's narrative.

*"Let yourself be drawn by the strange pull of what you really love. It will not lead you astray."*

This quote from Rumi, a 13th Century Sufi mystic and poet, comes immediately to mind when you look at Patricia Gray's work. Her use of colour, texture, and materials combined with her vibrant, intuitive style, and obvious passion for her subject matter, make every piece both unique and part of a larger homage to the land.

Gray is not the first artist to be inspired by the rugged beauty of the Canadian Shield. Most obviously, the work of the Group of Seven, on permanent display close by in Kleinburg, comes to mind. But nature, and more specifically the nature of Ontario's North, has inspired artists from all backgrounds for generations.

Browsing through the library of Gray's work shows the depth of that inspiration. Her paintings are of a unique style where you can feel the soul of the painter flowing through the hands, into the paints and onto the wood. Each painting captures a moment in an endless series of moments; it also captures the totality of its subject matter and our inexorable connection to it. Gray recognizes the immense healing power of nature and its ability to help us reconnect with our own True Nature.

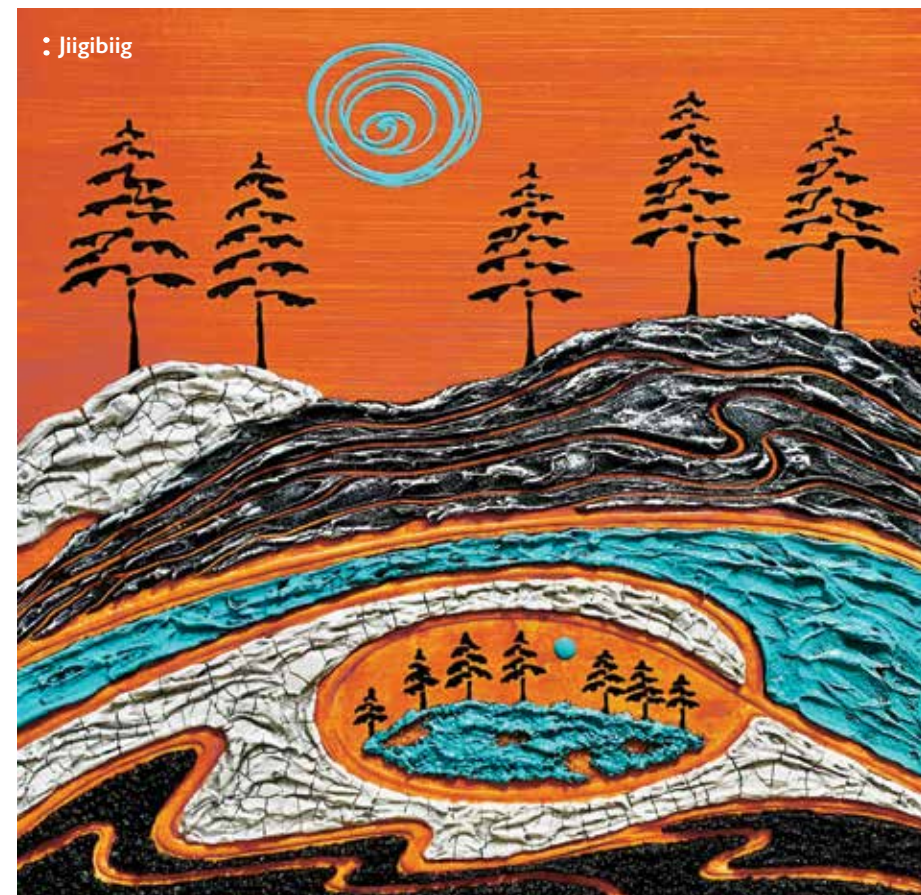
As an artist, she has worked in both porcelain and acrylic mediums as a way of processing and expressing her

many and varied cultural and wilderness experiences. She paints on Gallery Wood Panels using a wide array of acrylic paints, gels, pastes, and grounds, to create enchanting relief, designs, and highly textured surfaces that engage and transport the viewer.

Gray is a self-trained, full-time artist of Mi'kmaq ancestry and spent her childhood in the James Bay Region of Northern Ontario, living amongst the Mushkego Cree. Eventually, she went on to study healing and wholeness from a cross-cultural perspective, earning a Master's Degree from the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology in Palo Alto, California. Her studies included the Nature of Consciousness, Creativity, Indigenous Wisdom and Ecology, Indigenous Approaches to Wellness, Shamanism, and Dreams & Archetypes.

Her personal history, extensive study and innate empathy is reflected in her work. Says Gray, "Visual art, like music, is a unique form of communication in that it provides a vocabulary to articulate the musings of the soul. Recognizing the immense healing power of the natural world and its ability to reconnect us with our own True Nature, I hope that my wilderness paintings might somehow act as a portal of transformation for others, and communicate how imperative it is that we seek out our own sacred spaces; those places that can support and foster the exploration of the more subtle realms of our spiritual nature in an effort to discover the truth about *who* and *what* we are -- and deepen our understanding of how everything in the manifested world is truly the *One Great Mystery* revealing itself in form."

Thematically linked, Gray's paintings feature trees, water, rocks and the



sun/moon. She uses vibrant, saturated colours and textured layers which somehow project a sense of season and time-of-day onto each magical piece.

Gray's work has attracted considerable critical acclaim and has become increasingly popular with private collectors. She displays and sells at galleries, markets and shows, and is a regular fixture on the Bruce Peninsula Society of Artists Studio Tour. Most recently her work was featured at the Schomberg Street Gallery last September, which was a great experience for her. "It was a great opportunity to meet so many people and be able to hear how my work impacts them. It's how I measure success... it's wonderful to sell paintings of course, and I'm so grateful for that support... but meeting people and doing something that positively affects them is really something special," she said.

Gray has also produced a series of beautiful greeting cards, commissioned works and has paintings for sale on her website [www.blacksprucestudio.com](http://www.blacksprucestudio.com), where you can see a wide range of her captivating work.

She spends much of her time hiking, camping, kayaking, canoe tripping, and snowshoeing with her Anishinaabe artist husband, Mark Nadijwan, in the wilderness regions of Temagami, Lake Superior, and Georgian Bay. It is these activities that are the inspiration for her work. She lives and works from her studio at 240 East Road just North of Lion's Head on the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula, where she welcomes visitors. She calls the studio Meraki, which is a Greek word derived from Turkish with no English equivalent. It means 'to do something with soul, creativity, or love, to put part of your own essence into your work.' Patricia Gray certainly does that.

*Thematically linked, Gray's paintings feature trees, water, rocks and the sun/moon.*

Be Still  
My Heart



Closing  
Time



# LAVINIA-MARIA'S SEVERAL WORLDS



WRITTEN BY  
**DORITA PEER**  
Dorita is a poet, writer, sculptor, painter, musician, and gardener. She made her living first as an optician, then as an equestrian trainer, coach, breeder, and international official.

*I woke up on the ceiling  
and saw myself sleeping  
down below*

*little did I know  
about perspective*

This article about a metaphysical poet I greatly admire is illuminated by her eloquence. Lavinia's poems – most brief and untitled – speak better than any narrative I could have erected around her immigrant experience. She, herself, will describe her emergence from the chrysalis of youth to full bloom under all kinds of weather. A poet of prodigious sensibility, when asked, Lavinia cited two books she loves; no surprise they are Saint-Exupéry's, *The Little Prince*, and Kundera's, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, for she, too, roams the world on the archetypal hero's quest...

*my inner voice  
no longer speaks  
my mother tongue*

These words leave no doubt about her struggles with questions about belonging and home. It was a thirteen-year-old Lavinia who left a life in Bucharest, Romania, the attachment like a heart-shaped locket, a keepsake. She tells us, "It's always bittersweet going back. On one hand you love it so much and it fills your soul's cup. There is also sadness every time I revisit places from my childhood. Some have changed so much, others have altogether vanished. You go looking for ghosts. I'm learning to build new experiences there rather than relive old ones. I feel my relationship with my original culture is constantly evolving..."

*I don't know  
how many more times  
I have to arrange  
and rearrange*

*myself  
mseyfl  
seflmy  
to understand  
the letters that make  
you up.*

There, she attended art school from age eleven. Here, she studied at OCAD and now makes her living in graphic design, specializes in branding and art direction, and has lately turned her focus on photography.

*I flattened the forest  
with my camera  
so I can hang it on my wall  
and remember the feeling  
of being in its depth*

As a daring observer of worlds inner and outer, writing is a form of therapy for her; she tells us, as well as a way to document her existence and experiences. Moving to Schomberg, "Escaping the grip of city life" offered her new inspiration; her garden and the beauties of country landscape "Wells of inspiration." Lavinia's personification of nature, her metaphors ring justly.

*I found a square of moonlight  
on the floor,  
and stepped inside.  
if light could travel backwards,  
in 1.3 light seconds  
my feet  
will have touched the moon.*

Our meetings with nature are immediate and organic as befits our descent from a single common cell, but what we take away is less literal. True *feeling* is a provenance of the even longer journey of psyche, spirit, soul, call it what you will, where we hope to meet our true selves. The search goes on between the lines.

*he started playing Lacrimosa  
on the piano  
while I was cutting onions,  
and my tears got confused.  
on the edge of my knife,  
on the edge of his keys,*

*we both lingered -  
music notes and onion notes  
colliding in the air*

The poet has recently begun to "dip her toes" into writing in her mother tongue. "Romania has a lot of famous poets and poetry is often part of the curriculum. So I was exposed to good poetry at an early age. Given that my Romanian is not what it used to be, this has been challenging but also rewarding. It makes me feel connected to my cultural roots."

Instagram (@m.lavinia.maria) is where to find most of her treasures for now. One day soon she intends to publish. "I would love to merge

my design, photography and poetry skills to create a beautiful book that showcases both my aesthetic and my writing"

"My life tends to be wild," Lavinia says. In that I hear a promise of mysteries to be uncloaked in lines like shooting stars and vastly adventuresome for us as for her.

## At the Nail Salon

*"Go pick a colour," she says. And then time warps, and sucks me into every colour between sunrise and sunset - hypnotizing, paralyzing! While my index finger tries on 100 different plastic hats, I can't help but think that whoever put the two in second-guessing, highly underestimated the depth of doubt.*







⋮ (above) Fulford Cup Debate Winners 2022: Diviya Amarnath, Kaitlyn Zhang, Audrey Jiang, Jack Brown



# THE Art OF DEBATE



WRITTEN BY  
**KERSTIN  
WYNDHAM-WEST**

Kerstin is a retired English and Drama teacher. She continues to coach debating skills to students at CDS.

## Are you afraid of public speaking?

If so, you're not alone. It's estimated that 75 per cent of the population experiences 'Glossophobia,' the fear of public speaking. For some, even the mere thought of speaking in public induces nervousness, while others grapple with full-on panic and fear. They might avoid public speaking situations at all costs or, if necessary, endure shaky hands and a weak, quavering voice.

## Can this fear be overcome?

The reassuring answer is that, with preparation and practice, most people can learn to speak in public without fear. What's even more encouraging is that teaching students the art of debate during their formative years virtually eliminates any fear of public speaking. Furthermore, teaching children debate skills brings a range of remarkable benefits that help them excel in school and beyond.

As a debate coach at The Country Day School in King City, working with elementary and secondary students for over 25 years, I have witnessed the positive impact of teaching the Art of Debate to learners of all ages and academic abilities.

**What is the art of debate?** In simple terms, a debate is an organized argument or contest of ideas in which participants discuss a topic from opposing sides. Each side presents, in an organized and clever way, why they believe they have the right answers. They use examples and evidence to support their ideas while working toward a conclusion. It can be a relaxed affair where students in a class are split into two groups and everyone gets a chance to express their point. But it can also be a much more formal and even competitive activity, and yes, it can even be fun!

**So, why should schools teach the art of debate?** This engaging exercise fosters numerous skills, including:

**1. Verbal and non-verbal communication.** Debating teaches students to modulate their voices to vary the tone, volume, and

pace. They also learn how to use non-verbal tools, such as body language and facial expressions to convey meaning and persuade.

**2. Active listening.** Debaters need to listen carefully to their opponents to refute effectively. This encourages them to consider that there are two sides to every argument and improves listening comprehension.

**3. Critical thinking.** Debating encourages problem-solving by getting students to research and decide what's most important to share. It also encourages them to evaluate different perspectives and come up with logical arguments and solutions to problems. Debate helps teach students how to make informed decisions based on logical reasoning and evidence.

**4. Collaboration.** In a debate, students must work with other team members to produce a cohesive argument. They also need to respond to their opponents' arguments in a professional, calm manner. This prepares them for the collaborative approach needed in both school and the workplace.

**5. Writing and general knowledge.** Researching and preparing for a debate encourages students to read widely and to write detailed notes, improving note-taking skills while broadening their general knowledge. There is actually a correlation between debating participation and improved academic standing.

**6. Confidence and self-esteem.** Practicing the art of debate helps students to hone their speaking and argumentation skills, gaining confidence in their own abilities by being organized and prepared.

Investing time and effort in developing debating skills can have long-term benefits for academic success and future career prospects. Whether you're a student looking to enhance your communication skills or a parent or educator aiming to empower children, consider starting or joining a debate club or public speaking training program. You might find that instead of being one of the 75 per cent who fear public speaking, learning the art of debate might actually help you enjoy it.

**KING.ca**

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

I'm excited to say there are several fantastic holiday events coming up, including the always popular Main Street Christmas in Schomberg on Saturday, Dec. 2. The event is presented by the Schomberg Village Association, a non-profit organization.

There will be street performers, carollers, children's entertainers, fireside readings, children's crafts, holiday creations, an art and craft show and, of course, Santa Claus.

The event starts with the exciting Santa's Parade at 4 p.m. where local businesses and community groups in their creative floats march alongside several bands playing rousing tunes.

Between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. you are invited to wander up and down Main Street to enjoy the sights and sounds of a bygone era with carollers singing and music playing, enjoying food and the Christmas Market in the newly refurbished Schomberg Community Hall.

The evening is brought to a spectacular close with the Farmers' Parade of Lights, where farm equipment is driven down Main Street by the local farming community.

That great event will be followed the next day on Sunday, Dec. 3 with the Nobleton Tree Lighting festivities.

Enjoy local food and sing carols at the Nobleton Gazebo at 8 Sheardown Drive from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.

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



*Sincerely,*

Steve Pellegrini  
Mayor, King Township



# Stephen LECCE

MPP for King-Vaughan

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## Let me ASK you



**DINA ARTMAN** [imag\\_in@outlook.com](mailto:imag_in@outlook.com)  
[@imaginreality](https://www.instagram.com/imaginreality)

was born in Romania and grew up in Israel. She was introduced to photography at a young age and her father was her inspiration. She enjoys creating mixed media pieces, using both digital photography and paint. She has been teaching computers for most of her life and is always looking for the best way to combine technology, photography and art. The photo for “Streets in White” was taken while walking the streets of Santorini, Greece. Dina was attracted to the bright colours of blue and white and the unique buildings along the narrow street. When she took the photo, she could see the whole picture put together in her mind. The painted extension opens the narrow street, adding details, depth, and texture. The unusual protruding roots caught her eye at “Eugenia Falls”, on the Niagara Escarpment. So many textures, she knew that making it monochromatic would bring it to life. The black and white with all the shades of grey in between create a unique panoramic look. The roots painted on the frame pop out in various levels of texture.



Streets In White

### WHAT IS THE ONE THING PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO LEARN ABOUT YOU?

When I was 16, I started helping in the darkroom, developing pictures after school and on weekends. I still have my father's TLR 6x6 cameras, Rolleiflex and Yashika.

### HOW DO YOU GET INSPIRED?

While driving or travelling, I study the colours of nature, unique buildings, historical landmarks or narrow streets. I love to visit galleries and exhibits.

### WHAT ARE THREE THINGS YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT?

Those close to me—my kids and my partner—who provide support, along with the positive energy from being around my grandkids, all kinds of art, travelling to new places, and good food.

### WHAT IS YOUR PROCESS IN CREATING?

Once I take a picture, I use the painting



WRITTEN BY  
**PATTI SKRYPEK**

Patti is a retired communications professional and active volunteer who applies her creative skills to support a number of not-for-profit organizations within the community.

extension to create a new panoramic view of the original photo. The paint portion opens endless possibilities of colours, angles, and textures.

### HOW DO YOU CONTINUE TO DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS AND STAY MOTIVATED AS AN ARTIST?

I never stop learning new techniques, attending workshops, meeting other artists and listening to their advice while admiring their work.



Eugenia Falls

### WHAT WERE YOU LIKE IN HIGH SCHOOL?

I was a pretty regular good boy, never got into trouble... but I most liked spending time with my grandfather after school building things in his workshop. I learned early on the saying: 'form follows function.' I always strive to make the best looking forms without compromising function.

### WHAT DO YOU MOST VALUE IN YOUR FRIENDS?

Knowing your friends are always ready to help without hesitation is the greatest value. When your friends are ready to party without hesitation, that is an added bonus!

### WHAT IS IT THAT YOU MOST DISLIKE?

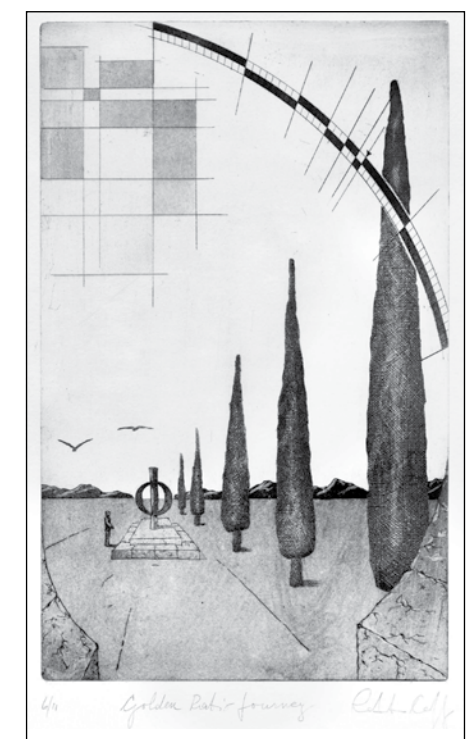
Racism, fake news, and overcooked pasta.

### WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST EXTRAVAGANCE?

Learning to fly and owning a share in a sailplane. It had always been one of my dreams and has turned out to be the best time and money I have ever spent!

### WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF PERFECT HAPPINESS?

Sipping Lagavulin 16-year-old Islay Single Malt Scotch Whisky in front of a campfire on a lake late in the day with my family and friends.



Gold Ratio Journey



Seaside Town

**ROBERTO CENTAZZO** [robertocentazzo@icloud.com](mailto:robertocentazzo@icloud.com)  
[www.stonefolio.com](http://www.stonefolio.com)

studied graphic arts in Italy and had an extensive career in the printing and imaging industry. In 2010, Roberto traded his digital world for the ancient art of mosaics and, in 2022, he began exploring the complex art of copper plate etching printing. With his graphic background, Roberto works in a contemporary style creating works that express incredible dimension and a powerful organic feel. Roberto has received awards at several art shows and has exhibited his mosaics in Toronto and Florence, Italy. “Golden Ratio Journey,” an etching with aquatint (a printmaking technique that produces tonal effects by using acid to eat into the printing plate creating sunken areas which hold the ink), is part of a series where Roberto studies the aesthetics of the golden ratio and incorporates it into his designs. Here, the traveller arrives in front of the golden ratio symbol. “Riverside Town” OR “Seaside Town,” an etching with aquatint and hand painted, is an aerial view inspired from one of his many sailplane flights.



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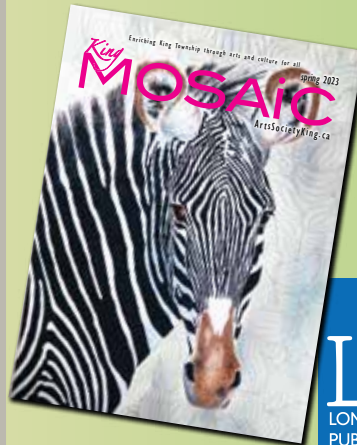
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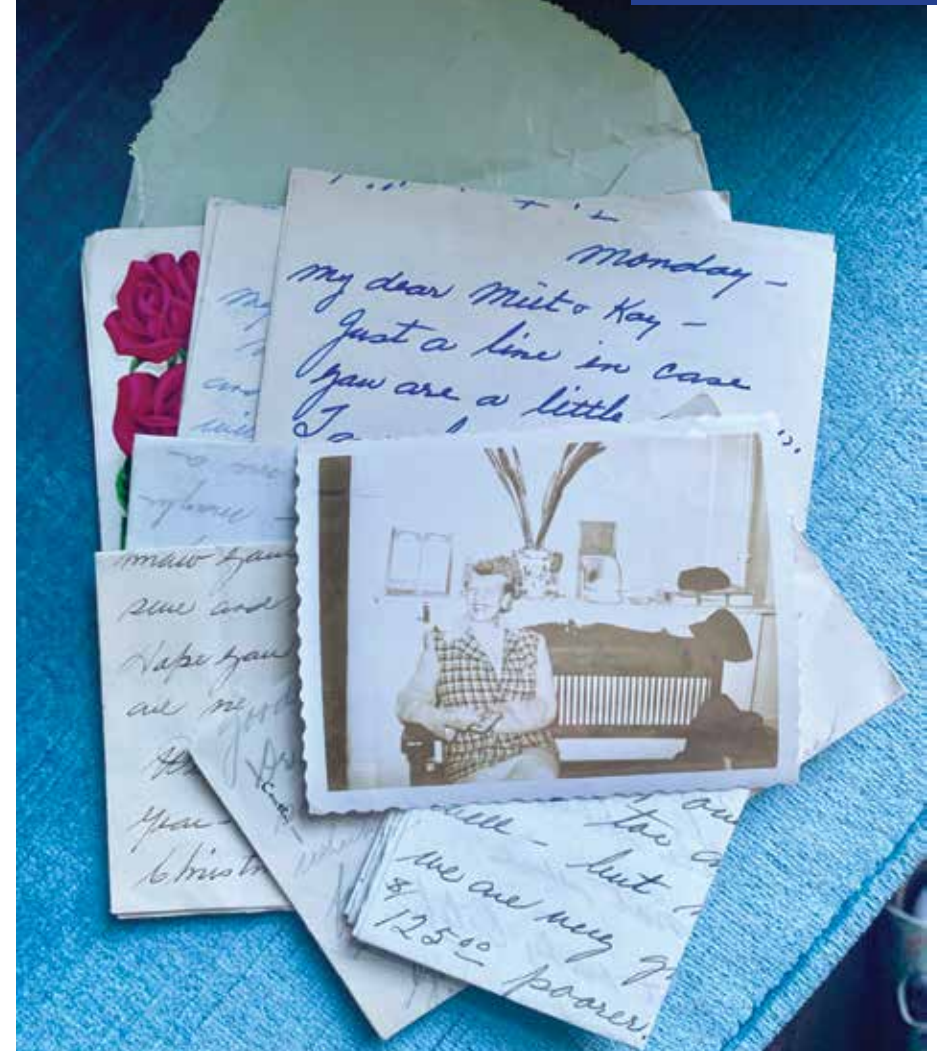
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# THE REVIVAL OF Cursive Writing

The grandmother I never knew  
Leslie Hobson



THE ARTS

CURSIVE WRITING WAS RELEGATED IN 2006 IN ONTARIO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND KEYBOARDING SKILLS BECAME PREDOMINANT ALONG WITH THE USE OF ELECTRONICS: TABLETS, COMPUTERS AND CELL PHONES.



### WRITTEN BY JOANNE BAILEY

Joanne is a retired college professor and registered nurse. She is an active volunteer with the Schomberg Community Farm, Arts Society King, and the Nobleton Seniors' Centre.

We live in a digital age where keyboards and touchscreens dominate. It might seem like cursive writing is fading into obscurity, however, there's a quiet resurgence of this elegant, fluid script in elementary school curriculums across the province.

Cursive writing is experiencing a revival, and for good reason. As a retired educator, I believe that cursive writing represents both a life skill and a form of art that fosters fine motor skills, enhances hand-eye

coordination, and refines letter formation.

Carolyn, a resident of King City and a supporter of the King City Seniors (55+) Group, boasts a 19-year teaching career. While she did not teach cursive writing in school, she acknowledges its numerous benefits. Cursive writing actively engages the left side of the brain, which is our language centre, it nurtures fine motor skills, aids individuals with dyslexia, and bolsters creative and artistic skills.

Gillian Virona, a retired high school teacher of almost 40 years, recalls the shift in student writing from cursive to predominantly printing over the years. "This was a concern because cursive writing is crucial for igniting brain neurons necessary for idea connectivity and fine motor skills," Gillian emphasizes. "I'm very

glad that it has returned to the curriculum. Unfortunately, many teachers will need to learn it, as they haven't had to do so in their own academic journey."

The Schomberg Seniors (55+) Group recently participated in a handwriting exercise, led by Elaine Charal, a handwriting analyst. She believes that one's handwriting mirrors their personality and that most people deviate from the school-form writing they learned. These deviations reflect the uniqueness of one's personality. Elaine also feels that cursive writing enhances hand-eye coordination, improves brain plasticity, and promotes self-esteem.

It's interesting to note that Aristotle, back in 300 BC, believed that handwriting is the visible form of speech. As our young children develop this skill of cursive writing,

it will help their brains learn and remember. Young adults might find adopting this skill challenging, as they've gravitated toward electronic devices and perfected those skills, resulting in illegible signatures or printed text.

A handwritten note or letter is a personal effort of time and attention that carries a sense of tradition and fosters a deeper connection desired by the author. It is not too late to unleash your creativity and convey your feelings and emotions through the art of cursive writing.

As a retired educator and parent, I'm happy to support the return of cursive writing, with hopes that future generations can navigate the digital world while also appreciating the beauty of the handwritten word.



Elaine Charal  
Certified Graphologist

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# GATES OF ELEGANCE:

AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

## THE HARMONIOUS MARRIAGE OF AESTHETIC BEAUTY AND SECURITY



### WRITTEN BY BRIAN BOAKE

Brian is a survivor of decades in the IT industry, husband, father of two, supporter of the arts, and Toronto Raptors fan.

Driveway gates can be forbidding. By their basic function they provide security, prohibiting unwelcomed guests from entering. However, they can also represent a thing of beauty as an extension of one's home, adding character with a dash, or more, of personality.

There are numerous homes in King Township sporting driveway gates that marries security with aesthetics. Featured below are a few that caught my eye.

The first example offers a dollop of whimsy, which for this writer at least there's never enough of.



The creator of these gates was the homeowner, who took extraordinary steps to achieve the finished product. He not only designed his asymmetrical gates, that embed the initials N and G, but he built them as well, out of hollow tube structural steel. The tubes were welded, rust-proofed, then painted. The final detail was a glass insert at the top, made by a speciality firm called Hanscomb, to the owners' specifications. Night lights come on after dark.

In my view, this gate is both practical and fun, which is a pair of attributes seldom successfully yoked.



As with many gates, the decision about design is a labour of love. Considerable effort was expended to find inspiration for the gates above. The family's vendor, Estate Advancements of Newmarket, provided a catalogue of gates, from which the choices were narrowed down. The final pick included some customization, such as rounded pillar tops rather than pointed ones which are popular as bird deterrents. Decisions were finalized about the gates' proportions relative to the size of the house, and the detailing of the iron work. The family is happy with their new gates and look forward to rendering seasonal decorations.



Seasonal decoration is a point of pride for this particular homeowner. The custom-designed ironwork itself presents as quietly elegant amidst a garden, lush and resplendent in summer or a blanket of snow in winter.

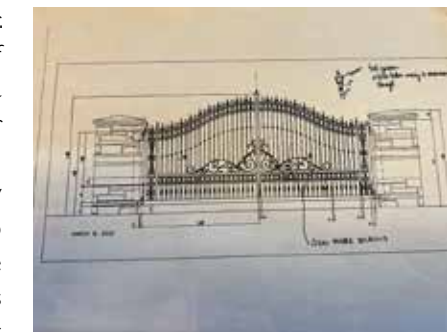
The Christmas season is when they shine brightest. Passersby are treated to the gates being supplemented with pine and cedar branches, pinecones, swags and bows adding bright colours against the snow, and even gnomes 'guarding' the entrance. A display of lights on the gates and surrounding trees do winning battle against winter's dark.



We've seen so far that the design of gates is a complex process. This estate owner found inspiration in Paris. As any visitor can tell you, dwellers in the City of Light seldom miss the opportunity to add decorative touches to their entrances. Even Parisian doors can be unique and playful.



These gates feature fleurs de lys, and the bits and pieces chosen offer homage. The structure (i.e., including the support pillars, which are also designed and built with care and attention to detail) is set back from the street. That memorable gates and pillars can't come about unless imagination and care are taken in their design. Here's a detail of the plan in its late stage for the above gates:



The homeowner gained a new respect for the complex skills of ironworkers during the process. So should we all — artisans are to be honoured.



The gates above were already in place when the current homeowner purchased the property 18 years ago. Though the stylized initial in the middle doesn't match the residents', they enjoy the gates' gestalt too much to change anything.

"Striving to better/oft we mar what's well" offered an adviser to King Lear in the eponymous play. How true. These gates are a treat to the eye, as the vertical bars are modulated by the playful filigree work at the top and base.

The gates perform their practical charter as well, which includes providing a safe environment for the family dogs.

The homeowner offered an interesting perspective on the importance of quality gates. She discovered that their high quality was a prelude to the excellence of the rest of the property. That provided additional comfort when closing the purchase transaction.

Each gate featured has the ability to contribute to a property's curb appeal by adding character and charm to make a lasting impression that truly defines the concept of home.

## THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IS WHEN THEY SHINE BRIGHTEST.



# Winter 2023 events in and around King Township

COMPILED BY ARTS SOCIETY KING

## NOVEMBER 30 – ONGOING – WRITENOW!@KING

WriteNow!@King is a writer's group partnering with King Township Public Library who meet on the first and third Thursday afternoons each month from 2 – 4 PM. New and experienced writers are welcome to participate in stimulating writing exercises, guest speakers and feedback from peers.

Location: King City Public Library, 1970 King Road, King City  
Contact: [info@kinglibrary.ca](mailto:info@kinglibrary.ca) for more information

## DECEMBER 14 – WE NEED A LITTLE CHRISTMAS – KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE

The King Heritage & Cultural Centre presents "We Need a Little Christmas", a Diva in the Rough concert. Music, comedy and carolling. Tickets are \$25. Location: Laskay Hall, next door to the King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City  
Time: KHCC opens at 6 PM for all to peruse. Laskay Hall, doors open at 6:30 PM and show starts at 7 PM  
Contact: For reservations and further information email [kingmuseum@king.ca](mailto:kingmuseum@king.ca)  
Phone: 905-833-2331

## NOW – DECEMBER 16 – TREES OF GIVING – KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE

Trees of Giving is a display of beautiful Christmas trees, decorated by local groups and businesses, that also raises money for a worthy cause. This year, step into a Festive Forest and vote for your favourite tree! Monies raised this year will be donated to the Oak Ridges Trails Association. East Gallery – admission is free.  
Location: King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City  
Time: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM  
Contact: 905-833-2331  
Email: [kingmuseum@king.ca](mailto:kingmuseum@king.ca)  
Website: [www.kingheritageandculture.ca](http://www.kingheritageandculture.ca)

## NOVEMBER 30 & DECEMBER 1 – HOLIDAY FAIR – THE COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

Join us for this one stop holiday market featuring a variety of vendors with

something for everyone right here in King! Location: The Country Day School's Performing Arts Centre, 13415 Dufferin Street, King City  
Time: November 30, 2 PM – 9 PM & December 1, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM  
Email: [events@cds.on.ca](mailto:events@cds.on.ca)  
Website: [www.cds.on.ca/holidayfair](http://www.cds.on.ca/holidayfair)

## NOW – FEBRUARY 29 – KINGCRAFTS STUDIO WORKSHOPS – KINGCRAFTS STUDIO

Kingcrafts Studio is once again offering its popular workshops. Workshops coming soon, Enamelling on Copper, pottery workshop, crochet for beginners, and many more. Check our website for additional information and registration.  
Location: Kingcrafts Studio, 12936 Keele Street, King City  
Website: [www.kingcrafts.ca](http://www.kingcrafts.ca)

## NOW – DECEMBER 15 – IVANKA PIPINIKOVA ART EXHIBITION – KING TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CENTRE

Come enjoy the artworks of ASK artist Ivanka Pipinikova in the KTMC main space.  
Location: KTMC, 2585 King Road, King City  
Time: Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM  
Website: [www.artssocietyking.ca](http://www.artssocietyking.ca)

## DECEMBER 2 – A MAIN STREET CHRISTMAS – SCHOMBERG VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

An evening to celebrate Christmas with our community. There are street performers, carolers, children's entertainers, fireside readings, holiday creations, two parades, and, of course, Santa Claus.  
Location: Main Street, Schomberg  
Time: 3 PM – 8 PM  
Website: [www.amainstreetchristmas.com](http://www.amainstreetchristmas.com)

## DECEMBER 2 – SCHOMBERG SANTA CLAUS PARADE – SCHOMBERG VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

The best way to kick off the seasonal holidays with your family is by taking your little ones to a Schomberg Santa Claus parade. From local musicians and popular bands to special guests and

famous celebrities (like Santa!), there's something to excite people of all ages. Location: Main Street, Schomberg  
Time: 4 PM – 4:45 PM  
Website: [www.amainstreetchristmas.com](http://www.amainstreetchristmas.com)

## DECEMBER 2 – FARMERS PARADE OF LIGHTS – SCHOMBERG VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

The evening is brought to a spectacular close with the Farmers' Parade of Lights brought to you by our local farming community with brightly decorated farm equipment driven down Main Street, starting at 7:30 PM. Location: Main Street, Schomberg  
Time: 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM  
Website: [www.amainstreetchristmas.com](http://www.amainstreetchristmas.com)

## DECEMBER 3 – CHRISTMAS CONCERT – KING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Traditional Christmas Concert for the old and the young with the Holy Redeemer Choir from Toronto. Location: Laskay Hall, 2920 King Road, King City  
Time: 2 PM  
Contact: [kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.kingtowshiphistoricalsociety.com](http://www.kingtowshiphistoricalsociety.com)

## DECEMBER 3 – NOBLETON TREE LIGHTING – TOWNSHIP OF KING

Join 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: 8 Sheardown Drive, Nobleton  
Time: 5 – 8 PM  
Contact: 905-833-5321  
Email: [events@king.ca](mailto:events@king.ca)  
Website: [www.king.ca](http://www.king.ca)

## DECEMBER 14 – ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCH AND TOY DRIVE – KING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Join us for a delightful lunch this year, and please consider sharing the joy by bringing a toy or gift card to brighten the Holidays for those in need. Location: Kingbridge Conference Center, 12750 Jane Street, King City  
Time: 12:00 PM  
Contact: [info@kingchamber.ca](mailto:info@kingchamber.ca)

Website: [www.kingchamber.ca](http://www.kingchamber.ca)

## DECEMBER 17 – 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: [www.anglicanparishofloydowntown.com](http://www.anglicanparishofloydowntown.com)

## DECEMBER 21 TO JANUARY 27, 2024 – EXHIBITION – ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL – KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE

An exhibition with images pulled from the KHCC archives, featuring our furry – and feathered – friends! East Gallery – admission rates apply. Time: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM (holiday closures may affect opening hours)  
Contact: 905-833-2331  
Email: [kingmuseum@king.ca](mailto:kingmuseum@king.ca)  
Website: [www.kingheritageandculture.ca](http://www.kingheritageandculture.ca)

## JANUARY 2024 – ADULT AND YOUTH CURLING LEAGUES – KING CURLING GROUP

If you are interested in learning to curl or joining a league, please contact: [registration@kingcurling.com](mailto:registration@kingcurling.com)  
Location: Trisan Centre, Schomberg  
Website: [www.kingcurling.com](http://www.kingcurling.com)

## JANUARY TO MARCH – WINTER SKATING LESSONS – NOBLETON SKATING CLUB

Learn to skate, Adult Learn, Power Skating and Starskate sessions offered. Location: Nobleton Arena, 15 Old King Road, Nobleton  
Time: Monday/Wednesday/ Friday icetimes  
Email: [nobletonskatingclub@outlook.com](mailto:nobletonskatingclub@outlook.com)  
Website: [www.nobletonskatingclub.com](http://www.nobletonskatingclub.com)

## JANUARY 23 – THROUGH THE GARDEN GATE – SCHOMBERG HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

A photographic tour of fantastic member's gardens, plants and stunning flowers.  
Location: Via Zoom  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Email: [schomberghortsociety@gmail.com](mailto:schomberghortsociety@gmail.com)

## JANUARY 27 – MAYOR'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST – TOWNSHIP OF KING

Join us for the Annual King Township Mayor's Pancake Breakfast! Followed by a free skate with the Mayor. Location: Trisan Centre, 25 Dillane Drive, Schomberg  
Contact: 905-833-5321  
Email: [events@king.ca](mailto:events@king.ca)  
Website: [www.king.ca](http://www.king.ca)

## FEBRUARY 3 TO MARCH 30 – FOOD FOR THOUGHT – 3RD ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE

The King Heritage & Cultural Centre is pleased to present the 3rd annual exhibition in recognition of International Women's Day. FOOD FOR THOUGHT invited artists to interpret this food-related theme, as it relates to their own lives and work, in both art and artist statement (e.g. – eating disorders, food insecurity, farming, genetically modified food, community gardens, food waste, etc.). East gallery – admission rates apply. Location: King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City  
Time: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM  
Contact: 905-833-2331  
Email: [kingmuseum@king.ca](mailto:kingmuseum@king.ca)  
Website: [www.kingheritageandculture.ca](http://www.kingheritageandculture.ca)

## FEBRUARY 5 TO MARCH 22 – GEORGINA FIBRE ARTS EXHIBITION – KING TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CENTRE

Come enjoy the artworks in the KTMC main space.  
Location: KTMC, 2585 King Road, King City  
Time: Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM  
Website: [www.artssocietyking.ca](http://www.artssocietyking.ca)

## FEBRUARY 7 – FOOD FOR THOUGHT EXHIBIT OPENING – KING HERITAGE

## & CULTURAL CENTRE

Join us at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre to celebrate the opening of FOOD FOR THOUGHT, the 3rd annual exhibition at the KHCC, in recognition of International Women's Day. Refreshments. RSVP preferred. Location: King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City  
Time: 6 PM – 8 PM  
Contact: 905-833-2331  
Email: [kingmuseum@king.ca](mailto:kingmuseum@king.ca)  
Website: [www.kingheritageandculture.ca](http://www.kingheritageandculture.ca)

## FEBRUARY 24 – ARTIST FORUM – KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE

An artist forum is being planned in conjunction with Food for Thought, the art exhibition for International Women's Day 2024 – visit [kingheritageandculture.ca](http://kingheritageandculture.ca) for more information. RSVP preferred. Location: King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City  
Time: Morning and afternoon sessions (inclement weather date is Saturday, March 2, 2024)  
Contact: 905-833-2331  
Email: [kingmuseum@king.ca](mailto:kingmuseum@king.ca)  
Website: [www.kingheritageandculture.ca](http://www.kingheritageandculture.ca)

## FEBRUARY 27 – EVENT TITLE TBA – SCHOMBERG HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

General meeting.  
Location: Via Zoom  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Email: [schomberghortsociety@gmail.com](mailto:schomberghortsociety@gmail.com)

## FEBRUARY 29 – THE MAYOR'S CULTURAL GALA: AN EQUESTRIAN AFFAIR – KHCC, ASK, KING TOWNSHIP

King Township is a vibrant and exciting community and part of what makes it unique is its heritage and culture. The Township of King is committed to keeping this spirit alive, but we need your help. The Township of King is partnering with Arts Society King (ASK) to bring you the Third Mayor's Cultural Gala in support of arts, culture, and heritage in King Township. Location: The Manor, 16750 Weston Road, King

Contact: 905-833-2331  
Email: [kingmuseum@king.ca](mailto:kingmuseum@king.ca)  
Website: [www.king.ca](http://www.king.ca)

## MARCH 8 – INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT – KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE

An event is being planned to celebrate International Women's Day 2024 – visit [kingheritageandculture.ca](http://kingheritageandculture.ca) for more information. Location: King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City  
Contact: 905-833-2331  
Email: [kingmuseum@king.ca](mailto:kingmuseum@king.ca)  
Website: [www.kingheritageandculture.ca](http://www.kingheritageandculture.ca)





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## AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



WRITTEN BY  
**STEPHANIE WILCOX**  
Stephanie is the Community Outreach Specialist at the King Township Public Library.



## COZY STAFF PICKS FROM THE KING TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY TEAM

Winter is finally here and it's the perfect season to find a hot drink and fuzzy socks to curl up on the couch with! Of course, what cozy winter evening would be complete without an equally cozy book to read? This season, we wanted to share some of our staff's favourite wintertime reads available at the Library!

Happy reading from the King Township Public Library team!

**Dana's Pick:**  
**"Sleep No More: Six Murderous Tales"**  
by P.D. James

This is an anthology of six murder stories that are thrilling to read, especially while under a blanket by the fireplace with a mug of hot apple cider. Each of these stories are in short, bite-sized pieces, easy enough to read in a short afternoon, or before bedtime, and stay in the mind long after the book has been closed. If you are short on time, yet crave thrilling tales, then "Sleep No More: Six Murderous Tales" by P.D. James might be just for you!

"Sleep No More: Six Murderous Tales" is available in both print and digital formats for all library users.

**Kim's Pick:**  
**"Death in Provence"**  
by Serena Kent

Who doesn't dream of a stone house in Provence France? Well, that is exactly what retired and divorced Penelope Kite is looking for, by leaving her old life behind and finding a new life in Belle Provence. Penelope finds her dream house, in need of major restoration, but she will overlook that as the sweeping views, overgrown garden and a swimming pool! However, there's only one problem; there's a dead body floating face down! Penelope is warned by the village tradesmen and the handsome Mayor, to leave this to the police to investigate. However, Penelope cannot help herself and wants to solve the mystery herself, finding clues and not so trusting neighbors.

Grab a croissant and coffee, travel with Penelope as she navigates the intrigue and the lingering resentments simmering beneath the surface of the sunny French countryside.

"Death in Provence" is available in print format for all library users.

**Sarah's Pick:**  
**"The Only Game in Town"**  
by Lacie Waldon

When an eccentric millionaire passes away, he leaves his fortune behind to his beloved town of Redford. Jess Reid and rest of the town are thrilled to learn that a huge sum of money has been left to them... however, there is big catch! The residents will have to compete for the prize in a scavenger hunt and only the winning team will inherit the money. This book has everything you could want in a romantic comedy: a cozy small-town setting where everyone knows each other, a likeable heroine, and a heart-warming romance. The hilarious cast of secondary characters are well-rounded and don't feel flat, rather they have back stories and a reason to root for them. The whole book feels like it could be an episode of tv series like Gilmore Girls or Schitt's Creek!

"The Only Game in Town" is available in print format for all library users.

**Stephanie's Pick:**  
**"A Psalm for the Wild-Built"**  
by Becky Chambers

Set somewhere far in the future, "A Psalm for the Wild-Built" follows a young tea-serving monk named Dex who sets off in search of greater meaning and an answer to the lingering question: "what do people need?" Amidst their journey, they stumble across a sentient robot named Mossap who similarly finds itself on a personal journey—though with the aim of making contact with and developing an understanding of humans. Together, Dex and Mossap travel between towns and the wilds, learning from one another what love, community, and shared understanding look like in a world that seems almost utopic. Cozy and tender, Chambers' first book in the Monk and Robot series is sure to bring warmth and gentle contemplation to your winter days.

"A Psalm for the Wild-Built" is available in digital format for all library users.

## HERITAGE



: Kathy Morgan



: Green & Blue Farm



: Grazyna Tonkiel

## THE EMPORIUM: NEW GIFT SHOP AT THE KHCC



WRITTEN BY  
**LIZA MALLYON**

As Collections & Exhibits Coordinator with KHCC, Liza has extensive experience in municipal museums and expertise in collections management, exhibit development, research and anything creative.



: Illuminated Essentials

King residents may be familiar with the Laskay Emporium, a general store and post office opened by Joseph Baldwin in the village of Laskay in 1845. The store operated into the 20th century and now resides in the heart of Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto. With a historical nod to that 19th century emporium, a new on-site gift shop named "The Emporium" has recently opened at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre.

Canadian general stores of the 19th and early 20th centuries offered a multitude of goods for sale: fabric to food and hardware to home goods. At the centre of many communities, post offices often operated out of the general store as well. Across King Township, there were dozens of stores in almost every village.

The new Emporium at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre also carries a variety of goods, featuring local products, and homemade items. Current offerings include local history books, local art, reproduction toys, sweet treats and more! Much like the general stores of the past, the inventory will change seasonally.

The KHCC Emporium takes curated consignment products and is currently featuring the work of four local artists: Kathy Morgan, Grazyna Tonkiel, Green & Bloom Farm, and Illuminated Essentials.

Kathy Morgan is a proud member of

the Métis Nation of Ontario. Her beautiful artwork includes decorative pins, wallets, dream catchers, and bags created using glass seed beads and deer, elk moose and buffalo skins. Kathy teaches classes for secondary school students and workshops at the KHCC.

Grazyna Tonkiel is a local artist who creates exquisite butterflies using Prismacolor art pencils and gold leaf. She is dedicated to butterfly conservation efforts, frequently writes articles about butterflies for the media, and is a sought-after lecturer about butterflies.

Nat & Shea are the founders and farmers of Green & Bloom Farm. The team strives to maintain a sustainable lifestyle, work in nature, and eat nutritious food. They grow and dry the flowers used in their wreaths, arrangements, and framed art on their farm.

Two Schomberg teens who share a passion for creativity and business are the team behind Illuminated Essentials. Their jarred soy candles are created using quality-conscious ingredients and practices, with a focus on excellence and sustainability — and they smell great too!

The Emporium is a great place to shop for stocking stuffers, housewarming gifts or that unique item for yourself! The shop is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre.

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## HONOURING MOM AND DAD

### A SON'S STORY OF HIS PARENTS' WAR EXPERIENCE



#### WRITTEN BY BRIAN BOAKE

Brian is a survivor of decades in the IT industry, husband, father of two, supporter of the arts, and Toronto Raptors fan.

Remembrance Day 2023 arrives at a particularly fraught moment. Local vicious wars threaten to explode into much larger catastrophes, just as they did in 1914 and 1939.

For me, Remembrance Day evokes memories of my parents, both of whom served in the Canadian Forces in the Second World War. My mother's time in uniform was unintentionally brief. She was in training to provide radio support to coastal defences, but was discharged on compassionate grounds due to her mother's terminal illness. My father, Herbert Boake, volunteered for the Army in 1942, and wasn't 'demobbed' (demobilized, i.e., returned to civilian life) until 1946. Herb traveled to Camp Borden to enlist. This base, located about 40 minutes north of Schomberg, is a bustling training ground for Canadian soldiers to this day. One can only imagine what a hive of activity the Camp must have been in the war's third year when Herb volunteered. He was actually told to go away by the guard on duty because he was being a fool! Herb rejected that sound advice, enlisted as a Private and in relatively short order was promoted through NCO (Non-Commissioned Officer)

ranks. Following several grueling months, he graduated Officer Training school as a Second Lieutenant. It wasn't until July of 1944 that he and the other members of the Royal Regiment of Canada (Note: Not the Royal Canadian Regiment; a different beast entirely) were transported to France. The D-Day invasion of the previous month was a famous victory, but not the end of the war on the Western front by any stretch. The Germans were proving a most difficult opponent to overcome. They were masterful at defensive warfare, in particular the use of the Norman countryside, which might have been custom-built for their needs. In most cases, Herb told me, the only way they knew the Germans were about was when our troops were fired upon. The retreating Nazis would hide among the hedgerows, orchards, and barns of the region, and attack when they pleased. As an officer, Herb had to lead attacks or be pinned down, an unacceptable alternative. He knew that when he gave the order to "Charge" with a goal of getting to the other side of the hay field, or into a farmhouse, that he wouldn't have as many troops at the end as at the beginning. Some of them would 'fall', the soldiers' euphemism, and not get up. This weighed on him, as did the fact that some reinforcements he welcomed at breakfast would not make it to lunch. He told me of a sniper who called him

over to tell him of a plan. The sniper pointed to a haystack a few hundred yards away and said, "Watch that." Herb had no idea why, but acceded. A few minutes later, the stack rose up ever so slightly, and a shot rang out. A German sniper was carefully concealed – or so he thought. Our sharpshooter said, "The next time that stack lifts, I'm going to plug the bastard." Which is precisely what happened; when Herb's troops overran the Germans later that day, the sniper was found with a bullet between his eyes. The Canadian sniper lasted perhaps another week, before he couldn't perform his task anymore and had to be sent to the rear. Herb sensibly theorized that the fact the sniper could see his targets' faces so closely through the scope proved too much to cope with. In "Enemy at the gates", the astounding story of the Battle of Stalingrad, a Russian woman sniper talked of how she witnessed the brutality of German soldiers early in the invasion of her country, and decided they weren't humans, but sticks. Thereafter she spoke of how many 'sticks' she had broken on a given day. She never needed to be relieved.

Herb's war ended abruptly, as is so often the case for frontline troops. Oddly enough, he was enjoying a 24-hour pass and was behind the lines for the first time in too long. A call came through to the Canadian command post



: Second  
Lieutenant  
Herbert  
Boake, 1944



: Norma May

that there were a considerable number of Germans holed up in a chateau, ready to surrender.

However, the Germans were insistent the Canadians taking them rearwards had to be led by an officer, probably concerned that surrendering to NCOs might lead to...a short life. Herb said he'd take on the task, since he was already on hand and the chateau was close. He assembled a platoon which included jeeps, as the Germans had wounded who needed transportation. The surrender was incident-free, but not the trip back.

German mortars, called 'Moaning Minnies' by Allied soldiers, began shelling the Canadians and their prisoners.

Herb suspected that a fanatical platoon of 'Hitlerjugend', already known to be numerous in the sector, were enraged to see Germans surrendering. There were many more Germans walking down that ill-fated road than Canadians, so the theory seems reasonable. As he heard the screaming sound of shells beginning their lethal descent, Herb dove for the ditch, but too late – the shrapnel likely hit him in mid-air. It carved up his chest. MASH-style meatball surgery saved his life, but there were months of recovery (and further operations, in more efficacious surroundings) to follow. He went to his grave (at age 94, thankfully) with metal in his body.





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## Blue Cheese Dressing

The best way to enjoy Roquefort, and other blue cheeses, is to nibble them all on their own. You can serve crackers or tart apple slices on the side, but the unadulterated cheese must be front and centre. The second-best way, in my opinion, is in blue cheese salad dressing. It's easy to make a much better version of it than you can buy.

**INGREDIENTS:** 4 oz of blue cheese; ½ C mayonnaise; ½ C yogurt; ¼ t garlic powder; ¼ t Worcester sauce.

**DIRECTIONS:** Crumble the cheese into bits by scraping away on it with the tines of a fork (or buy a container pre-crumbled). Mix in bowl with the mayonnaise and yogurt, then the other flavourings. Cover the bowl and keep in the refrigerator for several hours before serving.

Serve a generous dallop on a simple salad of romaine lettuce and thinly sliced carrots and scallions—think of the veggies as dressing for the cheese! And although Marie might not approve, this is my go-to dip for Buffalo chicken wings.

that a cheesemaker would see the value in it. That's pretty much what happened in the laboratory of Alexander Fleming. A random spore of the mould *Penicillium rubens* took up residence on a Petrie dish where Fleming was culturing bacteria. As the mould colony grew, it killed the microbes. He eventually discovered that this mould produced a particular ketone that could fight infection. We call that ketone penicillin. And what of those flavourful ketones in blue cheese? By producing them *Penicillium roqueforti* quite probably prevents the other fermenting microbes from taking over—it's how the mould hangs on in the competitive cheese wheel ecosystem.

But I have two nagging questions that not even Marie could answer: Did the shepherd boy get the girl? And if so, what did she think of the mouldy cheese?

creamy in texture, Roquefort's flavour can be described as strong and assertive. What gives rise to this unique combination of traits? Putting it plainly, blue cheese is mouldy cheese!

Roquefort starts out as a soft, white mass of curdled sheep's milk. The first step is to add rennet (an enzyme traditionally taken from inner lining of calf stomach) and bacterial cultures to the vat. The ensuing biochemical reactions make the milk solids coalesce into curds, which float atop the liquid, called the whey. The soft curds get packed into circular frames, then pressed to form a 'wheel' of fresh cheese. In this way, Roquefort starts out much the same way as cheddar, gouda, parmesan, or any other cheese. But one extra step turns it blue.

Enter *Penicillium roqueforti*. It's a species of fungus found in soil and decaying organic matter just about everywhere in the world. Its colonies look much like green bread mould, its close relative. To make cheese blue, you sprinkle a bit onto the curds. But the mould struggles once the curds are packed into a wheel. Unlike most of the many bacteria living

in aging cheese, *Penicillium* needs oxygen. So, cheesemakers give it plenty of air and growing space by piercing numerous veins into the wheel with a wire-thin tool. When they do, the *Penicillium* goes wild, filling the veins and producing plenty of ketones, the chemicals that give blue cheese its bold flavour. And, as I learned from Marie, the best Roqueforts are aged in caves where the temperature and humidity favour the right balance between the mould and the other microbes that are fermenting the cheese.

You've got to wonder who the heck thought this up. The legend goes that one day a young shepherd boy from the village of Roquefort sat eating his lunch of curds and whey, when he spied a beautiful maiden off in the distance. Smitten, he stashed the young cheese in a nearby cave to pursue this vision of loveliness. Returning to the cave a few months later he found the aging cheese had grown mouldy, but delicious!

The details of this legend may be fanciful, but it is entirely plausible that a mould would randomly land on a bit of fresh curd being aged in a cave. And



### WRITTEN BY ART WEIS

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

Maire owned the fromagerie. She made it her mission to walk me through the local cheeses. It all happened last year on a month-long working visit to Université Montpellier, in the south of France. Keeping up with my collaborators, two world class bio-mathematicians, was an exciting but exhausting daily challenge. So, for evening rest and relaxation it was off to the market hall to find exotic ingredients, then back to my petite apartment for a cooking adventure. The market butchers and green grocers became nodding acquaintances. But my fondness of cheese led to a serious working relationship with Maire. Despite my limited *maîtrise du français*, she taught me the many cheeses of the surrounding provinces. And for me, the Roqueforts were the most delicious.

Riven by blueish veins, crumbly yet



WRITTEN BY  
**MANUELA STEFAN**  
Manuela is a Toronto-based travel, lifestyle, and equine photographer, with a love for storytelling through images and words.

## BORCSOK FARMS: HOME OF THE GIANTS

In the world of agriculture, the pursuit of enormous, record-breaking vegetables is a fierce competition that draws growers from across the country to showcase their colossal creations at various fairs. These massive vegetables, that can weigh as much as a small car or stand as tall as a single-story house, are the result of years of dedicated cultivation and the embodiment of a unique fusion of science, art, and sheer determination.

Joanne Borcsok's roots to King Township date back to the 1950s, when her parents decided to leave the city and move to the Holland Marsh area to farm onions and carrots on 10 acres of land. Years later, Joanne married the boy next door, Charlie, and they have carried on

with this tradition.

In 2002, Joanne's neighbor and farmer Frank Weening (a winner at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair) encouraged her to try growing giant vegetable and participate in the Fair. What began as an experiment, fueled by the desire to educate the young public, led to a surprising and exciting journey.

Joanne joined the Ontario Association of Giant Vegetables, sourced high quality seeds, accustomed herself with the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair rules, and began a new adventure. Since then, she has won numerous prizes for perfectly shaped (and colored) onions, peppers, squash, super tall sunflowers and corn, as well as giant cabbage, beets, and pumpkins. Joanne smiles at the memory of winning first place at the

Royal with a 53.4-pound beet, a 27.1-inch-tall corn stalk, and a 38-pound cabbage.

The Royal isn't the only fair the Borcsoks enter. They also participate in The Woodbridge Fair, where Joanne has also won many firsts. She has built and cultivated a solid team of workers, who have become a part of the family, and an invaluable contribution to the smooth functioning and great success of the farm at the fairs.

Joanne's special 'giant garden', boasts her pride and joy. An array of mums sits next to her extra-large pumpkins. Joanne explains that the placement of flowers among vegetables is aimed to bring in bees to help with pollinating the pumpkin flowers.

Aside from the typical farm challenges,

like weather or machinery breaking down, Joanne also focuses her attention on protecting her giants from unwanted visitors, such as mice, that have often chosen to feast inside her large creations, leaving them hollow.

With retirement nowhere in sight, Joanne continues to wholeheartedly pursue her passion for growing giants. This is 'her hobby' as she likes to say, allowing her to play and have a lot of fun in the process.

I sense the big secret behind Joanne's giant success is more special than what the world might think, beyond fertilizers and tactical care, and is more to do with the way she radiates her beautiful energy over her bounty.

## The GIFTS OF THE SUN DOG



### WRITTEN BY IRENE ZONTA, MED, RHN

As a wellness advocate with 30+ years of teaching experience and education in holistic health, Irene is deeply passionate about helping others live their best life.

One crisp winter morning, I stepped outside onto my verandah to the sight of frost decorating glass blade tips across the lawn. Preparing for a mid-morning forest walk near my home, I stretched my body and hands up to the bright sky in gratitude for a new day ahead. Unexpectedly, a beautiful luminescent halo around the Sun caught my attention. I was amazed to see what the Indigenous Peoples call a *Sun Dog*, appearing like a rainbow encircling the Sun.

For a moment, I stood in awe... captivated by this marvel of nature. To form a Sun Dog, sunlight passes through ice crystals formed in the upper atmosphere, refracting the light like a prism, to create the spectacular corona of colours around the Sun. This rare phenomenon is known in meteorology as a *parhelion*; the term Sun Dog, or sundog as it is also written, has been adopted by scientists across the globe.

The appearance of the Sun Dog, also gave me pause for reflection. It felt like my life journey had come full circle, symbolized by the Sun Dog's shape. Life experiences have brought me knowledge of a variety of cultures and traditions that are interconnected like spokes on a wheel, connected outwardly by the circle of life, and inwardly at the centre



or heart – a place of **oneness** made out of love for love. This theme of “one” did not go unnoticed while I was driving on the highway one day, as a big pink truck with the words ONE printed in large white capital letters on the tailgate door pulled right in front of me. While merging with oncoming traffic, another truck with the reverse colour scheme and the same message pulled up right beside the other! It was hard to ignore the pink and white messages of ONE presented side by side, travelling in front of me. Shortly thereafter, the opportunity to write this article came up and I recognized that the messages of “one” I saw were meant to be shared and integral to understanding the gift of the Sun Dog.

To see a Sun Dog is considered a fortuitous sign. According to the ancient

Navajo, it is also a portent for their Whirling Rainbow Prophecy, which speaks to a time of peace on Earth, when humanity will come together as one from a place of equality. The global equalizer - the Internet, is just one such tool, that when used judiciously, unites. Positive thoughts, regular meditation, and prayer practices can help grow our capacity for sustained inner peace – the place where world peace starts. Visible from on high, the Sun Dog reminds us to have hope for and keep the peace; and, as we navigate challenging times to stay strong and have faith that “this too shall pass”. The Sun Dog also bears the timely gift of ONE, reminding us that all of creation is interconnected, as in the words of the Lakota Sioux prayer, “Mitakuye Oyasin” which means “we are all related”.





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