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spring 2025

King MOSAIC

ArtsSocietyKing.ca

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King MOSAIC

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We welcome your feedback, contributions, and suggestions.


Write to us at
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FEATURED CONTRIBUTOR:
LESLIE HOBSON




Leslie Hobson is an award-winning writer and photographer who has called King home for nearly 40 years. A former advertising executive, she has turned her creative work into successful fundraising efforts for both Hope House Community Hospice and Holland Bloorview Children's Hospital. Her community choir, The King City Angels, has performed in every seniors' facility in our area. When she's not volunteering or singing, she enjoys travel and games with her friends and family. See Leslie's article on our cover artist, Patricia Earl, on Page 5.

OUR COVER
PATRICIA EARL




Featured on the cover of the Spring 2025 MOSAIC is a 9½ x 13-inch watercolour painting entitled Scents of Spring by our featured artist, Patricia Earl. Patricia paints to convey the light, colour, and mood of what she sees and feels around her. She doesn't have to travel far to find subjects that inspire her: The gentle rolling hills, farmlands, forests and wildflowers that she loves to paint are found in abundance in Ontario's countryside, on the hiking trails and in her own backyard. Some of her inspiration comes from her view from the pillion/backseat of their motorcycle as she and husband Jim travel the Ontario countryside or American southwest. Read more about Patricia on page 5.




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IN NATURE AS IN LIFE, TIMING IS EVERYTHING



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KING TOWNSHIP TURNS 175!



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HELLO, MY NAME IS... DOUGLAS ROBINSON

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WRITTEN BY
LESLIE HOBSON
Award-winning writer and photographer Leslie Hobson has lived in King for nearly 40 years.

Don't be alarmed. Slow down and look a little closer — you will probably notice a sketchpad in her hands. You have just spotted award-winning King Township artist Patricia Earl in her natural habitat.

A first-generation Canadian, Patricia comes by her artistic talent naturally, as both of her Dutch parents were extremely creative. Growing up in Canada, she appreciated the pleasure they derived from their creative endeavours and the craftsmanship that they both exhibited throughout their lives. Everything was homemade — from cabinets and cards to dress patterns and toys. As well, many other family members in Holland were creative artists.

Patricia really turned to art when she was a young mother. After the birth of her first child, an aunt in Holland sent her a painting. It struck a chord with her. She considered taking art more seriously but was busy with a second child and

managing a fitness centre. Finally, with three children under four, she decided she needed some time to herself and enrolled in a drawing course at Seneca College's King Campus. Those three hours away from her home and family became almost a meditative practice for her. She was able to give absolute focus to the work in front of her. This was the beginning of a lifelong career.

That course at Seneca was the first of many courses and workshops Patricia has taken over the years. It was not an easy balancing act, but she made the commitment and had a husband who supported her efforts. These courses and the hours she spent perfecting her craft have paid off with both awards and international sales. Patricia says that she really felt like an artist when she stepped away from the practice of copying images and began to create her own original interpretations.

Today, Patricia works in both acrylics and watercolours. She likes acrylics for their vibrancy and intensity, as well as the fact that they are more forgiving. She loves the spontaneity of watercolours, the lack of complete control, what she calls the "consent challenge." It's here, in

the chaos that ensues, where the magic actually happens.

A perfect example of that magic in action is her piece, "Fishing Tales." Rare to see human forms so beautifully done in watercolours, the energy of the piece, and the connection between the two men is very clear and powerful. She graciously allows that, with watercolours, sometimes you get "happy accidents."

Patricia loves to bring her paints with her when she travels, bringing just a 10-colour transportable set of watercolours, her paper and a few brushes. As always, she is drawn to the outside for her work.

Whether the American Southwest by motorcycle, Vancouver Island in the spring, or touring the south of France, Patricia has painted them all. Her favourite thing is to travel with other artists. Sometimes, they will live together and travel from village to village for two weeks, painting at a different spot every day. Many long hours are spent in some of the most beautiful places on earth — immersing herself in the smells, sounds and colours. This longer immersion creates a deeper impact than just taking a photograph. As Patricia says, "to paint is to see."



If you find yourself driving along a particularly scenic stretch of road in King Township, you just might come upon a car parked at the side of the road with a woman using the hood for her easel.



Beyond just the beauty of the areas she visited, Patricia enjoyed immensely the camaraderie and shared experiences with the other artists that participated.

Today, Patricia takes most of her inspiration closer to home right in King Township. She loves to work "en plein air" and in all four seasons. She is drawn to the local flowers and barns, particularly old, tired barns. She feels that she can't get the same emotion working in the studio as she does outdoors. Her outdoor work is often a study that she uses as a reference for a larger work once back in the studio. Sometimes, however, she will work with watercolours outside even in the winter — to experience and enjoy the magical things that the elements will do to both the paint and water. The wind, the cold, the snow and the sun all create effects that cannot be reproduced in the studio. That is the magic.

So, if you see her on the road sketching, slow down. There is probably something beautiful right there in front of you.

Website: <https://pearlsart.ca/>

Let me ASK you...



SONJA GOLCHIN
Sonja Golchin is a watercolour artist and educator based in Nobleton. Her work reflects a playful connection to nature and emotion, while her studio, Art Spot, serves as a hub for fostering creativity and connection in the community. Believing that art is a universal language, Sonja is dedicated to helping others discover their creative potential. Through her classes, she inspires confidence and instills a lifelong love for art, guiding students to explore their unique artistic journeys. As both an artist and mentor, she is passionate about creating opportunities for connection, believing that art has the power to inspire, heal and unite.

Instagram: @myartspot.ca
Web: www.myartspot.ca Email: info@myartspot.ca



WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE ART?
Creativity has always been in my blood. After years of trial and error, I realized art wasn't just something I loved—it was something I wanted to share with others to help them discover their own creative voices.

WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF PERFECT HAPPINESS?
Perfect happiness is doing what you love, being surrounded by uplifting people, and being present. For me, it's seeing someone light up after creating something they're proud of.

WHAT IS THE ONE THING PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO LEARN ABOUT YOU?
I spent years in the corporate world before opening Art Spot, a difficult but life-changing decision.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES OR INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF ART?
I love spending time with my husband and two kids, exploring hidden gems like

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.

small towns, unknown artists, and new restaurants.

WHAT MESSAGE DO YOU THINK THE WORLD NEEDS TO HEAR RIGHT NOW?
Creativity is not a luxury—it's essential. Art reminds us of our shared humanity, resilience, and our capacity to imagine better futures.



SUSIE CATTEDRA
Susie Cattedra is a self-taught artist who exhibited a natural talent at a young age. She enjoys finding connections with others through her artwork. When Susie transitioned from using graphite to acrylics, she found herself immersed in a world of colour. An award-winning artist, Susie takes inspiration from the natural world, taking note of its magnificent variation of colour and light, which play a defining role in her works. Her paintings can consist of simple subjects, but her attention to focal details allows her to enhance the unique characteristics of the subject. "I find I get lost in my work, allowing every stroke of the brush and variance of colour guide me and transform the painting into something that I perceive as beautiful," Susie says.

Instagram, Facebook and TikTok: susiecattedra_artist
Web: susiecattedra.com Email: info@susiecattedra.com



CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR CREATIVE PROCESS AND HOW YOU APPROACH CREATING A NEW PIECE OF ART?
Most of my paintings start with a reference photo. When I'm in need of calmness, I lean towards painting landscapes, which brings me back to being on a hike or being lakeside. When I want to bring life into my studio, especially during our long winter months, I love to paint florals.

WHAT TECHNIQUES AND MEDIUMS DO YOU USE IN YOUR WORK, AND WHY DO YOU PREFER THEM?
My medium of choice is acrylic. I like to paint in many layers to achieve depth in my paintings, so I find that the fast-drying time is beneficial.

WHAT DO YOU MOST VALUE IN YOUR FRIENDS?
Trust. It's easy to be around people in good times; however, it is in the most difficult times when you're most vulnerable that you need to be able to trust someone with your emotions without judgement.

HOW DO YOU SEE YOUR ART EVOLVING OVER TIME, AND WHAT GOALS DO YOU HAVE FOR YOUR ARTISTIC CAREER?
I would love to keep pushing my boundaries and expanding to different subject matter, different styles (such as hyper-realism) and trying other mediums. I would love to have my work more visible, possibly have my work in art galleries.

WHAT'S ONE OF YOUR DREAM PLACES IN THE WORLD TO VISIT AND WHY?
It would have to be Italy. Having family in the Northern part of Italy and in the South, I get to immerse myself and appreciate the beauty and diverse cultures at a more intimate level.



Spring Mosaic Mayor's Message

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

I am thrilled to share the incredible success of the official opening of the Zancor Centre, a vision 20 years in the making that has finally come to life. On Sunday, Jan. 26, we celebrated this momentous occasion with an impressive turnout of residents and visitors, showcasing the true spirit of our community.

The Zancor Centre, Canada's first zero-carbon, combined aquatics and ice sports facility, is a testament to the power of collaborative partnerships. Located on 25 acres at the southeast corner of the King Campus of Seneca, this state-of-the-art facility drew an amazing crowd for a day filled with fun and free activities.

The festivities began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, where I had the honor of speaking about the partnerships that made this dream a reality. We were joined by Premier Doug Ford, MP Francesco Sorbara, MPP Stephen Lecce, MP Anna Roberts and Seneca Polytechnic President David Agnew, along with numerous dignitaries from York Region.

One of the highlights of the day was the annual Mayor's Pancake Breakfast, where I, along with members of King Township Council, served delicious breakfast dishes prepared by the King City Lions Club. It was heartwarming to see so many families enjoying the meal together.

Throughout the day, residents explored the Zancor Centre's incredible amenities on staff-led tours and participated in a variety of activities. From swimming, skating, and sports to building, coding, and playing with robots, there was something for everyone.

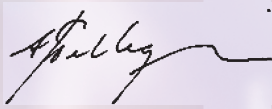
The day concluded with an exciting Ontario Junior Hockey League game between the King Rebellion and the Caledon Admirals, with free admission in exchange for donations to the King Township Food Bank. I'm happy to report the Rebellion won the game 4-2 in front of a packed crowd.

I encourage you to visit the Zancor Centre and take advantage of the many programs and services it offers. For more information, please visit king.ca/ZancorCentre.

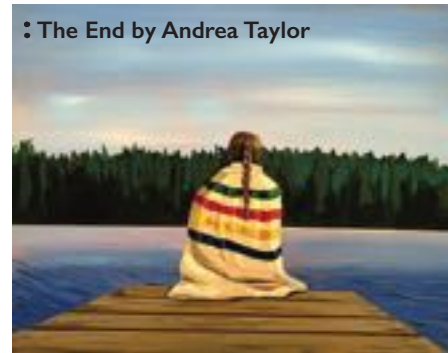
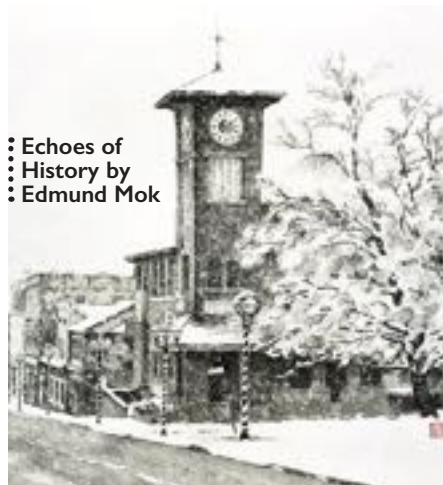
Please continue to volunteer, shop locally as much as you can and visit king.ca for the latest news on all things King.



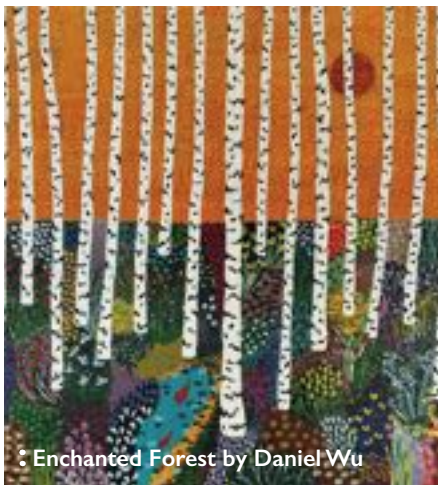
Sincerely,
Mayor Steve Pellegrini



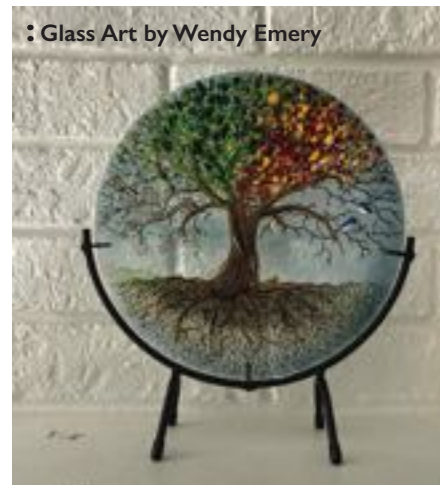
: The End by Andrea Taylor

: Echoes of
History by
Edmund Mok

: Enchanted Forest by Daniel Wu

: Jewellery
by Nadia
Popovici

: Glass Art by Wendy Emery



: Basketry by Michelle Zikovitz



: Italian Stretch Bread by Lisa Allshire

: Cedar Rail
Fence Vase by
George Burt

CELEBRATE LOCAL ARTISTRY: 20TH ANNUAL STUDIO TOUR KING ART SHOW & SALE

Art Society King's Studio Tour King Art Show and Sale is celebrating its 20th year with its largest event yet, featuring 45 artists!

The Show and Sale will take place on April 5 and 6, 2025, from 10 AM to 5 PM across various locations in King Township.



WRITTEN BY ANNE AHRENS-EMBLETON

Anne is the Heritage and Cultural Administrative Assistant with the Township of King and the King Heritage and Cultural Centre.

Studio Tour King offers a unique opportunity to view and purchase the works of talented local artists, speak with them about their artistic process, and explore their workspaces. Plus, you'll enjoy the beautiful landscapes of King Township's countryside and villages!

Artists will be set up at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre (all four buildings, including the newly renovated Church and Train Station), Schomberg Community Hall, King City Seniors Centre and several home studios open to the public. Visit our website for a complete list of locations (www.artsocietyking.ca) or view on the Toureka App (<https://link.toureka.app/studiotourking>). Toureka! is free to download and use. Available on Google Play and the Apple Store.

Here's an overview of the diverse art you'll encounter during the Studio Tour. There's truly something for everyone, regardless of what type of art you enjoy! For detailed information on each artist, including photos of their work and contact details, please visit our website.

BASKETRY

Michelle Zikovitz: Michelle creates functional baskets and decorative pieces that incorporate her hand-dyed reed whenever possible.

CERAMICS

Katie Argyle: Katie's ceramic works showcase storytelling, or illustrating

conversations, with humour and wonder underpinning it all.

Veronica Meloche: Veronica's art is about texture, colour and the memory of the human touch and experience on the clay or canvas.

Maryam M. Khani: Maryam combines hand-building techniques with detailed decoration to create functional yet meaningful pieces.

Laura Smith: Laura is inspired by all things natural and finds herself drawn to explore a different version of herself in the world or ceramics.

FIBRE AND TEXTILE ART

Karen Hunter: Karen's quilts showcase her love of colour and pattern.

Kathleen Rodgers: Kathleen creates fibre art designs based on colour, shape, and movement for wall hangings, table runners and journal covers using her hand-dyed fabrics and batiks.

GLASSWORK

Wendy Emery: Wendy's functional and decorative art draws inspiration from nature as well as the physical world around her.

INK

Wendy Cho – Once Upon a Design: Wendy's artwork (ink and lacquer) is regarded as simple, clever, whimsical and storybook-like: her signature style.

Edmund Mok: Edmund loves the contrast of black and white; thus, Chinese ink is his favorite medium for his artworks.

JEWELRY

Karen Hunter: Karen creates jewelry pieces by hand-cutting Niobium and anodizing it to produce a rainbow of colours.

Rubina Panjwani: Rubina works with wire and gemstones to create intricate jewelry pieces inspired by the colourful world and nature.

Nadia Popovici: Nadia creates one-of-a-kind wearable art with diverse beads and techniques, transforming ordinary materials into extraordinary pieces.

MIXED MEDIA

Jenn Best: Working in mixed media with oil, Jenn is passionate about the healing and transformation that comes from art-making and creative expression.

Olga Muhortyh: When the COVID pandemic struck, Olga found time to immerse herself in studying oil and acrylic painting, modern techniques, and interior design art.

Jacqueline Raynor: When Jacqueline discovered the encaustic process, she knew she'd found her medium; she's always thrilled to walk into her studio and smell the heady aroma of beeswax, a reminder of summer gardens.

Lynn Wilson: Lynn's work has been described as "strong, bold and colorful" florals, abstracts, streetscapes, portraits, and includes many mediums on various substrates.

Daniel Wu: Daniel's encaustic paintings are inspired by his love of travel, featuring landscapes, nature, and abstract themes.

PAINTING

Lisa Allshire: Lisa works in oil and acrylic and was a muralist in Dublin and London for twelve years before moving to Canada in 1999.

Olesya Betin: Olesya's art is in the realism and impressionism styles, incorporating media such as oil, acrylic, watercolour and pastel.

Susie Cattedra: Susie's current collections of acrylic paintings consist of florals, landscapes and seascapes.

Winnie Chen: Working primarily in watercolours, Winnie's art focuses on landscapes, flowers, and birds, deeply influenced by her connection to nature.

Spenta Chothia: Spenta uses oil, acrylic, and spray paint to extract the beauty and sentiment from the subject, feeling and moment.

Alexandra Conrad: Alexandra paints landscapes, cityscapes, portraits, nature and abstracts in oil and acrylic using warm and vibrant colours applied with energetic brush strokes or a palette knife.

Nicolette Di Stefano: Nicolette crafts striking black-and-white portraits in acrylic that aim to capture the true essence of each subject, striving to make her work as lifelike as possible.

Patricia Earl: Patricia's watercolour and acrylic paintings of farmlands, wildflowers and landscapes reflect the beauty of King Township and Ontario's countryside.

Jacqueline England: Jacqueline has worked in various mediums but favours oils as she loves the intense colour that is achieved by using them.

Angela Flesariu: Angela creates abstract art using acrylics and watercolours, drawing inspiration from nature and from day-to-day life.

Barbara Karabin: Working in oil, Barbara is passionate about King Township: this land, its colours and textures and countryside.

Linda Mackey Lang: Linda is best known for her Arctic icebergs, glaciers, and climate change oil paintings.

Katy MacFarlane: Katy creates tiny watercolour, ink and collage paintings of interesting places, inside and out.

Hans Martin: Working in watercolours,

Hans has won several awards, including three first prizes and two honourable mentions.

Veronica Meloche: Veronica's acrylic art is about texture, colour and the memory of the human touch and experience on the clay or canvas.

Mary Morganelli: Mary has brought together her lifelong passion of painting – where secret gems of hidden ponds are discovered within forests, and sunsets leave skies in unbelievable bursts of colour to be captured on canvas to live on in their glory.

Dorita Peer: Working in oil and acrylic as well as sculpture, Dorita engages in her art skills through illustration, advertising design, political action and free personal explorations.

Ivanka Pipinikova: Ivanka's oil paintings aim to create beautiful, impactful art that conveys the feeling and mood of a

moment in a way that the viewer can become a part of it.

Amanda Riccio: Amanda works in acrylic, ink, and watercolour, with her latest series the result of capturing a fleeting feeling.

Manizhe Sabet Sarvestany: An established artist, Manizhe works in oil, acrylic, and watercolour, with numerous solo and group shows in Canada and Europe.

Melissa Sherman: Melissa's current artwork uses dogs and other animals as metaphors to express her emotions, thoughts and ideas using paint, clay and mixed media.

Sylva Stroujian: Painting with cold wax and oil, and acrylic, the boundless beauty of nature is the inspiration for Sylva's landscape paintings.

Andrea Taylor: Andrea works in acrylic and has been teaching visual art

in the Toronto District School Board for 18 years.

Joe Trimmeliti: Joe's oil and acrylic paintings are original impressions inspired by his natural surroundings and rich imagination.

Susan Walker-Ing: Susan is dedicated to plein air painting, creating art in mediums such as printmaking, watercolour, drawing, and painting in pastels, acrylics, and oils.

Debra Wronzberg: Working in acrylics, Debra is a great admirer of Kintsugi art with its metaphor for life, "what is broken can be repaired and be stronger than it was."

PRINTMAKING

Andrea End: Andrea's reduction and linocut prints are inspired by the sunlight – its colours and shapes that are created in forests and lakes.

Alexandra Conrad: In addition to painting, Alexandra carves and prints hand-made woodcuts.

WOODWORK

George Burt: George creates beautiful pieces through turning wood that would otherwise rot or be used as firewood, transforming cedar rail fencing or old hydro poles.

Dan Glassco: Dan cuts, mills, and kiln-dries wood himself from his family-owned woodlot to make cutting boards, rustic furniture, paddles, pens, and other small turned items.

Studio Tour King Art Show and Sale is a free community event open to all visitors. The artists look forward to seeing you and sharing their work with you. Find yourself in the country, lose yourself in the art.



HELLO
my name is

Douglas
Robinson

Born in Vancouver and raised in Toronto, I formally began painting at the age of 10 while enrolled in painting classes at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

After receiving an Honours in Art, I attended OCADU to study Communications & Design. This led to a vibrant career in advertising as Art Director/Chief Creative Officer at a number of Canada's most awarded ad agencies.

Returning to painting full time, my work can be found in galleries and shows/exhibitions across Canada. I work between my two studios in Nobleton and Muskoka, doing commission work or getting ready for the next big exhibition or show.

My paintings are visual stories, informed and inspired by my life experiences. My

art is intuitive, with colours, layers and contrasts supporting each brush stroke. The palette knife creates a sense of motion and rawness. I love how abstract art can engage the mind on a deep level.

It has a power to wordlessly communicate and provoke our emotions. That's why I've always been drawn to abstract art and its imaginative gateway. My art is open to interpretation and that is one of the beautiful things about it.

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• Jessica Volpe in her Studio



• Dream Walker



• Somewhere
Between Earth
and Sky



• Held in Stillness

BRINGING THE CITY TO THE COUNTRY

WRITTEN BY
JOANNE BAILEY

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

During her teenage years in Etobicoke, Jessica would lose herself for hours drawing and painting and experiencing different mediums. That was when she first realized her calling to art and how art became her way of expressing herself and understanding the world.

"I come from an Italian family that has always valued creativity, although not necessarily in the arts," Jessica says. "My mother and sisters always had a great eye for art and design, and I think I inherited that love for aesthetics. I feel their support has been a huge part of my artistic journey."

A native of Toronto, Jessica studied painting, illustration, fine art and advertising at the Ontario College of Art and Design University (OCADU), with a focus on conceptual art. Before fully committing to an art career, she dabbled in biology and

psychology studies. Jessica felt that period really helped her fully understand the value of creative expression in all aspects of life.

In 2013, Jessica moved to New York City and the following year to California. Backpacking adventures in California's national parks brought significant meaning to her work. For almost a decade, she immersed herself in the U.S. art scenes and found it an incredible experience. In 2022, Jessica moved back to Canada, to King City. "Moving shaped my perspective and gave me other opportunities for my work. The difference between the urban and rural life of cities like New York, L.A. and Toronto, in contrast to King City and the natural world, often influences the subjects I choose to explore."

Jessica's medium of choice is oil, because she favours the vibrant colours and depth that oils create. "It's the one medium I return to time and time again when I want to push my work to new levels. As of late, I've been experimenting with watercolours."

In December 2024, Jessica won a contest to have one of her watercolour paintings featured on the cover of Schomberg's

"A Main Street Christmas" poster and brochure. The image of the child in the colourful snowsuit pulling the sleigh was of her daughter, a photo that she had taken herself. "I wanted to capture the vibrant beauty of winter in a village, filled with the warmth and joy that the season brings."

As a single mom of two, Jessica says, "balancing art and motherhood is challenging, but it's also deeply rewarding. My children are my constant inspiration, and their presence in my life infuses my work with love."

Aside from her own painting, Jessica has taught private art classes and group classes at UNISON in Toronto for developmentally challenged adults. She has also done group painting and workshops in Ottawa and was an artist-in-residence for the Canadian Bar Association in Toronto in 2023.

Outside of art, Jessica likes to travel. She has travelled to Europe and West Africa and says many of her paintings were inspired by those journeys. Jessica also enjoys reading and photography and finds that these activities often intersect

"My home studio is my sanctuary. It is where I find my peace and inspiration to create. Within this space, my ideas take shape." Jessica Volpe

with her art in unexpected ways, providing new perspectives or materials for creative exploration.

As a member of Arts Society King for almost two years, Jessica has found many benefits in the chance to interact with other creative people. "The community, opportunities for collaboration and meeting other artists gives me new perspectives and experiences while boosting my self-confidence and increasing my overall satisfaction as an artist."

Jessica concludes by stating, "The vibrant natural landscapes of King Township are incredibly inspiring. I am constantly finding new ways to channel the energy and spirit of my surroundings into my work."

The art that Jessica has created offers viewers an opportunity to connect with nature on a deeper level, providing a sense of tranquility and inspiration.

Website: www.jessicavolpe.com
Instagram: @jessicavolpeart
Threads: @jessicavolpeart
FB: www.facebook.com/jessicavolpeart
Email: info@jessicavolpeart.com



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WORD HAS IT *Poems* BY NICOLE DALCOURT

Nicole Dalcourt's confessional voice, exploring themes of grief, heartbreak, rebirth and belonging, first struck that sacred chord among her peers at Writenow@King in early 2024. Her presence also graces a growing number of poetry venues all over Ontario. Here is a taste of her sensibility and imagery, much awaited in the upcoming sixth issue of Writerly Magazine and in her full-length poetry collection to be released in Spring 2025. At home in Canada, Nicole spends as much time in the woods as she can.



On the Side of a Country Road, I Forgave Myself

The sun dropped low
preparing the Goldenrod for rest
the tremble of evening light
pressed against the wheatgrass
making it lay down and
weep beside me

I used to come here as a child
all lean and free
the dirt under my nails
black as a catastrophe and
thin whips of womanhood
trailing down my back

I am her now
a woman with regret as
long as her shadow
aching for the child who
didn't know what was coming
while the light dissolves around me like a
promise

I Told No One and Still, It Is True

I am small,
growing beside a river
until I am a switchblade of truth
I lay down in honesty and
remember how the sky starts
to bruise without ever being touched
much like I have done

look at me,
breathing underwater
a tiny pink fist of a lung
gasping for someone to hear her

I Forgive in Flowers

I plant wildflowers down my spine
and my back arches for the light
my thighs ache
the lilacs moan and open
and my pale skin waits to bruise
as I beat forgiveness into my chest

How To Surrender

first,
you must let your hair down
let it whisper a
secret language across your back
while you wade out to a
field of moonlight
calling in the gods by name
and letting grief roll in like thunder

In nature, as in life, timing is everything!

Every spring, I marvel at my
hellebores — the overachievers
of the garden world — blooming
defiantly through the snow like
they've got something to prove.



• Hellebores are
• among nature's
• early bloomers



WRITTEN BY ANNA SANTAROSSA

Anna is a retired teacher and the founder of ARYCT (Active Retired York Catholic Teachers.) She is also highly active in the community, serving on King Township's Heritage Advisory Committee, and as co-president of the Nobleton and King City Garden Club.

Seeing those first brave flowers always sparks a fire under me to tackle the endless list of gardening tasks. But then I remember: it's spring, which means it's time to hurry up...and wait!

I know how tempting it is to grab a rake when the snow melts, revealing all that leaf litter just sitting there, begging to be tidied up. But hold your horses (or your rake)! Cleaning up too early can do more harm than good by evicting the beneficial insects that rely on that leaf litter and those dead plant stalks for shelter. Think of it as their cozy winter retreat — ladybugs, butterflies, moths, beetles, and bees are all in there, waiting for the weather to warm up before making their grand entrance.

I don't clean up my garden in the fall — it's not laziness, I promise! I pull out the annuals, leaving the stalks of perennials standing like little insect condos for the winter. And those flower seed heads? They stay put too, doubling as a buffet for hungry birds during the chilly months.

Knowing that some bees like to hibernate by burrowing into the ground, I leave patches of uncovered soil just for them, while the rest of the garden gets a nice cozy blanket of leaf litter. I spend plenty of time raking leaves off the grass, only to dump them right onto my flower beds — yes, it's as satisfying as it sounds. These leaves insulate the plants from the harsh winter weather and will add nutrients to the soil, nature's version of composting magic.

The downside of providing cozy winter retreats for insects is that, come spring, I have to exercise patience and resist the urge to clean up the mess too soon. I've even considered putting up a sign in my garden that says, "This untidiness is intentional — I'm saving pollinators!"

Instead, I tackle jobs like cleaning and repairing the garden furniture, then I move on to taming any overgrown evergreens. After that, I shift my focus to the seedlings I've sown, pouring all my energy into hardening them off for their big debut in the garden.

Meanwhile, those brown, wilted stalks stare at me like a messy pile I'm just itching to clean up. It's a real struggle to resist grabbing a rake or pruning shears. The stalks come out of the ground so easily, almost inviting me to yank them free. But I remind myself — there are insects in there! So, with great effort, I resist the temptation...until the time is right.

When should you start your spring garden cleanup? Many experts recommend waiting until daytime temperatures consistently hit at least 10 degrees Celsius before grabbing your rake. But me? I'm always a little more cautious and like to wait. I don't get around to tidying up until I'm ready to plant my tomatoes — usually around the end of May. By then, I figure the insects have had plenty of time to make their exit.

I know, I know — it might sound a little extreme, but my main goal is to ensure cavity-nesting bees and other beneficial insects survive the season and don't end up as compost bin fodder. Occasionally, I spot new plant growth pushing up through the dried stalks from the previous year. When that happens, I gently remove the dead stalks and stack them upright against a fence or wall in a sheltered spot in my garden. In my head, I imagine the insects giving me a little "thank you" nod for preserving their winter homes, and that thought alone makes me smile.

While you might be itching to grab your rake and declare war on the winter mess, hold off! Instead, take a moment to let your neighbours know that your garden isn't a neglected jungle but a carefully curated sanctuary for insects. Ultimately, your restraint will pay off, and your garden will thrive. After all, you're not making the street look shabby — you're saving the planet, one bug at a time!

ARTS SOCIETY KING EVENTS

Website: ArtsSocietyKing.ca
Contact: Info@ArtsSocietyKing.ca

NOW AND ONGOING –
WRITENOW!@KING

WriteNow!@King is a writer's group partnering with the King Township Public Library that meets 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 for more information

UPDATES TO BE DETERMINED – THE ART LAB SERIES

Artists! The popular ASK-sponsored workshops are back with three top artists of international renown. Open to ASK members of all levels for a small registration fee. All workshops will be held in the bright upstairs space of the Schomberg Community Hall. Please stay tuned for announcements of the confirmed clinicians and dates in spring, summer and fall.

MARCH 24 – APRIL 17 – MAYOR'S CELEBRATION OF YOUTH ARTS

Come join Country Day School, King City Secondary School and Villanova College art students and faculty as we celebrate the opening of this unique art show on March 26. Vote for your favourite pieces for the "People's Choice Award." Exhibition continues through April 17.
Location: King Township Municipal Centre, 2585 King Road, King City
Opening Reception Time: 6 PM – 8 PM
Regular Hours: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

APRIL 5 & 6 – STUDIO TOUR KING 2025 ART SHOW & SALE

Celebrating its 20th year, Studio Tour King is featuring 45 artists and artisans in six public and five studio locations, including the King City Seniors Centre, Schomberg Community Hall and all four buildings on the King Heritage & Cultural Centre (KHCC) site! Come see the newly renovated Church and Train Station and be impressed by the wonderful artworks. See the article in this MOSAiC issue as well as the enclosed brochure for details.
Location: KHCC, 2920 King Road, King City; King City Seniors Centre, 1970 King Road, King City; Schomberg Community Hall (both floors), 325 Main Street, Schomberg
Time: 10 AM – 5 PM
Contact: info@artsocietyking.ca and/or artshow@artsocietyking.ca

APRIL 12 – MAY 31 – TIMELESS TALES V: THE LETTERS WRITING CONTEST – ARTS SOCIETY KING

From the archives of KHCC come antique letters to prompt the imaginations of writers of all ages in the 2025 Writing Contest. Open to writers from York, Peel and Simcoe Regions with the best in each age category awarded \$100 and a copy of the anthology. All writers are eligible for publication in the anthology. Contest opens April 12. Entries close May 31.
For rules and entry forms visit www.ArtsSocietyKing.ca

14 MOSAIC spring 2025

APRIL 22 – JUNE 6 – OKSANA BACZYNSKY EXHIBITION – KING TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CENTRE

Come enjoy the artworks of Arts Society King artist member Oksana Baczynsky. Oksana's love of the Canadian landscape has inspired her to capture its majesty and beauty in both acrylic and watercolour.
Location: King Township Municipal Centre, 2585 King Road, King City
Time: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM – Monday through Friday
Phone: 905-833-5321

MAY 10 – VE DAY DANCE – KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE WITH ARTS SOCIETY KING

Dust off those dancing shoes and test out your Lindy Hop, Jitterbug and West Coast Swing for our VE Day Dance to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. This 1940s-themed event will host a performance by musician "Diva in the Rough," opportunities to dance and dress the part in historic style!
Location: King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City
Time: TBA
Website: www.kingheritageandculture.ca
Phone: 289-800-2522

MAY 24 – SPRING BLOOMS PLANT & POP-UP ART SALE – NOBLETON & KING CITY GARDEN CLUB & ARTS SOCIETY KING

Art Society King partners with the Nobleton & King City Garden Club's annual plant sale to bring enthusiasts a wide variety of plants and art for purchase. Locally grown plants for sale at reasonable prices. The Garden Club members will help you choose the right plant for the right spot in your garden! Rain or shine.
Location: King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City
Time: 9 AM – 1 PM
Email: info@artsocietyking.ca or nobletonkingcitygardenclub@gmail.com

KING HERITAGE AND CULTURE EVENTS

All events at King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City unless otherwise specified
Website: www.kingheritageandculture.ca
Phone: 289-800-2522

FEBRUARY 27 – DIGITAL GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Learn the tips and tricks of digital research as your KHCC museum guide teaches you how to track your family history step-by-step online and through a variety of archival databases, including Ancestry.ca.
Location: King City Public Library, 1970 King Road, King City
Time: 10 AM – 11:30 AM

MARCH 8 – RESIST & PERSIST – ART EXHIBITION FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – OPENING RECEPTION & ARTIST FORUM

Join us at the KHCC for the opening of Resist & Persist, the 4th annual art exhibition for IWD at the KHCC. Meet the artists and hear them speak about their work (to be confirmed). This exhibition is on from March 8 to April 26.
Time: 1 PM – 3 PM
Regular Hours: 10 AM – 4 PM, Tuesday to

Saturday
Email: kingmuseum@king.ca

MARCH 11 – MARCH BREAK MUSIC CAMP: RHYTHM ADVENTURES

Calling all kids to embark on this one-day camp to develop their fundamental rhythm, composition and recorder skills, while collaborating with their peers through teamwork, games and creativity!
Time: 9 AM – 4 PM

MARCH 14 – GRANDMA/GRANDPA & ME: MY FAMILY TREE

Our "Grandma/Grandpa & Me" series is back this March Break! We invite you and your grandchildren to tour the KHCC archives, discover your family roots and design your own family tree. Get inspired by King's history to shape your own together! *Stay tuned for more programs and events in this Grandma/Grandpa & Me series!
Time: 10 AM – 11:30 AM

MARCH 18 – MAY 6 – LIFE DRAWING

Sign up for in-class life drawing instruction, facilitated by award-winning artist Giovannina Colalillo. Giovannina will instruct you in specific drawing techniques to capture gesture movements, shading, perspective, body proportions, as well as skeletal and muscular structure with reference to professional live art models. All levels welcome.
Time: Tuesdays 1 PM – 4 PM

MARCH 22 – INDIGENOUS SALVE WORKSHOP

Learn from Indigenous artist Tanya Gluvakov about Indigenous medicines and plants and integrate them into a custom salve created by you!
Time: TBA

APRIL 12 – EASTER EGG HUNT AT THE MUSEUM

The Easter Bunny is "hopping" by with Easter eggs scattered across the museum – waiting to be found! In this family-friendly event, participate in an egg hunt, themed craft and Easter photo op.
Time: 10 AM – 11:30 AM

MAY 8 – JUNE 26 – KING TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CHOIR LESSONS

Participate in King Township's first official choir, led by Musical Director 7 Organist Ernesto De Luca. In this eight-week program, develop a variety of vocal techniques to harmonize your voice into a choir setting and perform at King Township's Canada Day!
Location: All Saints Anglican Church, 12935 Keele Street, King City
Time: Thursdays – 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

MAY 17 – TODAY WE SLAY – ART EXHIBITION FOR PRIDE – OPENING RECEPTION AND ARTIST FORUM

Join us at the KHCC for the opening of Today We Slay, the second art exhibition for PRIDE at the KHCC. Meet artists and hear them speak about their work (to be confirmed). This exhibition is on from May 17 to July 12.
Time: 1 PM – 3 PM
Regular Hours: 10 AM – 4 PM, Tuesday to Saturday
Email: kingmuseum@king.ca

MAY 24 – LIVE HISTORY ESCAPE ROOM

In partnership with Live History, interact with costumed actors in the KHCC's newly restored train station and solve their mystery to conquer this live-theatre escape room.
Time: TBA

TOWNSHIP OF KING EVENTS

Website: www.king.ca
Email: events@king.ca
Phone: 905-833-5321

MARCH 1 – COLD CREEK MAPLE SYRUP FEST

Join in the family fun and festivities! Enjoy pancakes with maple syrup and other local foods, outdoors activities and vendors. Pre-registration is \$10 per person or \$35 for a family of four; prices increase at the door.
Location: Cold Creek Conservation Area, 14125 11th Concession, Nobleton
Time: 10 AM – 2 PM
Contact: For more information visit coldcreek.ca/MapleSyrupFest or contact events@king.ca or call 905-833-5321

MARCH 22 – EARTH HOUR ACTIVITY (FREE)

In celebration of Earth Hour, switch off your lights and join us for a fun afternoon exploring Cold Creek Conservation Area. Help us deck the trails with seeds and berries by hanging pinecone bird feeders along the trail. All supplies will be provided.
Location: Cold Creek Conservation Area, 14125 11th Concession, Nobleton
Time: 1 PM – 2:30 PM
Contact: To register, please visit www.townshipofking.perfectmind.com, registration code: 24354.
For more information, contact environmentalstewardship@king.ca

APRIL 10 – YOUTH OPPORTUNITY FAIR – MAYOR'S YOUTH ACTION TEAM

The Youth Opportunity Fair will showcase various vendors that have education, employment, volunteer and youth recreational programming opportunities. The fair will also include drop-in sports activities and food and beverages, while quantities last.
Location: Zancor Centre, 1600 15th Sideroad, King City
Time: 3 PM – 7 PM
Website: www.king.ca/myat
Email: volunteers@king.ca
Phone: 905-833-6557

APRIL 19 – KING COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

Get outside and celebrate Earth Week by taking part in the annual King Community Clean Up. Do your part and help pick up litter to keep our parks, streets, ditches, and neighbourhoods clean and green.
Information: www.king.ca/CommunityCleanup

MAY 1 – GREEN YARDS PROGRAM

Turn your property into an oasis for pollinators by taking part in King Township's annual Green Yards program, aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and supporting pollinators. Throughout the month of May, both residents and non-residents can take a step towards greening their yards by registering to purchase native wildflower kits, rain barrels and backyard composters online at www.king.ca/greennyardsprogram

MAY 1 – 7 – NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK – MAYOR'S YOUTH ACTION TEAM

In celebration of National Youth Week, King Township will be offering various activities to celebrate youth and their active participation in the King community, please visit www.king.ca/myat for scheduled activities.

MAY 3 – SPRING INDOOR COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Join us for the annual Community Indoor Yard Sale. Sellers – secure a table today; buyers – looking for a unique item or a special find? Visit us at the Community Yard Sale and bring along your unwanted electronic recycling to be properly disposed. Free for buyers!
Location: Trisan Centre, 25 Dillane Drive, Schomberg
Time: 8 AM – 1 PM
Website: www.king.ca/communityyardsale

MAY 19 – NOBLETON VICTORIA DAY

This year's event will begin with the annual parade, starting at the Nobleton Library and ending at Nobleton Arena & Community Sports Park, where the rest of the festivities will include a vendor's market, midway rides, a main stage with musical acts throughout the day and a spectacular fireworks show to end the event.
Location: Dr. William Laceyby Nobleton Arena, 15 Old King Road, Nobleton
Time: 11 AM – DUSK
Website: www.king.ca/nobletonvictoriaday

MCMICHAEL CANADIAN ART COLLECTION EVENTS

All events (except online events) at McMichael Canadian Art Collection, 10365 Islington Avenue, Kleinburg
Website: https://mcmichael.com/upcoming-events/
Phone: 905-893-1121

MARCH 2 & 9 – ABSTRACT PAINTING WORKSHOP WITH LYDIA PANART

Through visual explanations, painting technique demonstrations and one-on-one feedback, Lydia will guide the students along the layering process, exploring two elements of their choice.
Time: 10 AM – 4 PM
Contact: https://tickets.mcmichael.com/selection.aspx?item=694

MARCH 10 – 14 – ART VENTURE MARCH BREAK CAMPS

This interactive full-day art camp is an opportunity to explore the McMichael exhibitions, discover new artists and artistic styles and creatively experiment with various artmaking methods in a safe studio environment.
Time: 9 AM – 5 PM

MARCH 22 & 23 – OIL PAINTING WORKSHOP WITH JUDY SHERMAN

This in-person weekend program will offer artists of all skill levels an intensive weekend of study in oil painting technique.
Time: 10 AM – 4 PM

MARCH 23 – TAFELMUSIK BAROQUE ORCHESTRA: SOLO, A VIOLINIST'S JOURNEY

This program features the remarkable G-Minor Sonata that opens Bach's collection, as well as works for solo violin by his compatriots Westhoff and Telemann.
Time: 2 PM – 3 PM

MARCH 29 – MAY 24 – SATURDAYS AT THE MCMICHAEL: CHILDREN'S ART CLASSES

These popular children's art classes offer a creative exploration of various art mediums, encourage skill development, cultivate art appreciation and introduce children to the art of Canada through in-gallery activities.
Time: Saturdays 10 AM - 12 PM
Website: https://mcmichael.com/event/saturday-art-classes-2024-2025/
Phone: 905-893-1121

APRIL 24 – JUNE 5 – ACRYLIC PAINTING STUDIO WITH ANDREW SOOKRAH

The McMichael and art instructor Andrew Cheddie Sookrah are pleased to offer a new series of in-person studio acrylic painting sessions where beginner and intermediate artists will focus deeply on colour hues, tonal values, shape and form in acrylic painting.
Time: Thursdays 6 PM - 9 PM

APRIL 29 – JUNE 3 – ONLINE OIL PAINTING STUDIO WITH JUDY SHERMAN

This virtual studio experience led by artist Judy Sherman will offer instruction to emerging artists on working with the challenging but rewarding medium of oil paint.
Location: Zoom
Time: Thursdays 3 PM - 6 PM

KINGCRAFTS STUDIO EVENTS

All events at Kingcrafts Studio, 12936 Keele Street, King City
Website: www.kingcrafts.ca

APRIL 5 – WIRE BIRD WORKSHOP

Come out and create your own whimsical wire bird. Your sculpture will be approximately 8" to 10" tall and waiting to be named! Level: Beginner
Time: 10 AM – 1 PM

MAY 2, 3 & 4 – SPRING SALE 2025

Kingcrafts Studio is once again having their Spring Sale. Come in and browse the unique handmade items created by our talented artists just in time for Mother's Day.
Time: 10 AM – 4 PM

MAY 24 – STAINED GLASS HOT AIR BALLOON WORKSHOP

Try your hand at making your own 8" hot air balloon from glass. The glass is pre-cut and we will be using the copper foil method. No prior experience is required.
Time: 10 AM – 2 PM

NOBLETON & KING CITY GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

All events at Laskay Hall, 2920 King Road, King City
Email: nobletonkingcitygardenclub@gmail.com

MARCH 24 – KICK-START YOUR LAWN & GARDEN

Stephanie Andrade provides tips and tricks.
Time: 7:30 PM

APRIL 28 – FORAGING IN NATURE

Karen Stephenson will discuss the benefits of foraging.
Time: 7:30 PM

MAY 26 – BEEKEEPING – NOBLETON & KING CITY GARDEN CLUB

Melissa Vona will take us through the amazing world of beekeeping.
Time: 7:30 PM

SCHOMBERG HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY EVENTS

All events at Schomberg Community Hall, 325 Main Street, Schomberg unless otherwise specified
Email: schomberghortsociety@gmail.com

MARCH 25 – DESIGNING WITH EDIBLE PLANTS

Helen Battersby will get us thinking of exciting new ways to integrate beautiful edibles and edible beauty into our flower beds, vegetable patches and menus.
Time: 7:30 PM

APRIL 15 – SCHOMBERG HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

Frank Ferragine, aka Frankie Flowers, promises to delight us with "Facts, Folklore and Fun About the Wacky World of Gardening." Details to follow.
Time: Flower Show 6:30 PM, Presentation 7:30 PM

MAY 10 – ANNUAL PLANT SALE – SCHOMBERG HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Location: To be announced
Time: 8 AM – 3 PM (or until sold out)
Email: gorsline@sympatico.ca

MAY 23 – 25 – 175TH AGRICULTURAL SPRING FAIR

Location: Schomberg Fair Grounds
Time: Varies
Website: www.schombergfair.com
Contact: Cathy Pezzo, 905-939-8283

MAY 27 – NATURALISTIC LANDSCAPES THAT GO BEYOND THE VISUAL

Randy Tumber, renowned landscape designer, will open your eyes to how you can unlock the full potential of your environment while creating the private oasis you've always dreamed about.
Time: 7:30 PM

NOBLETON SENIORS 55+ EVENTS

All events at Nobleton Arena, 15 Old King Road, Nobleton
Time: 10 AM – 12 NOON
Contact: Joanne Bailey 416-706-9375
Email: jbailey133@yahoo.com
Website: www.king.ca/seniors

FEBRUARY 27 – CRIME PREVENTION, YORK REGIONAL POLICE

Constable Danielle Froud will talk about frauds, scams, vehicle safety and information on the Community Safety Data Portal and more.

MARCH 6 – THE HISTORY OF TATTOOS AND THEIR ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

Sapphire Dorion will explain how tattoos have gone through movements and trends.

MARCH 13 – AGEISM AND ELDER ABUSE

Yellow Brick House will talk about the relationship between ageism and elder abuse in this interactive workshop.

MARCH 20 – THE HISTORY OF THE KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE

Learn about the museum in King City, the research they do and the history of the centre from a museum representative.

MARCH 27 – SPRING FLORAL PAINTING

Artist Angela Del Borrello will provide step-by-step instructions on how to complete an acrylic floral painting. Cost is \$10, which includes all materials. Register by March 24.

APRIL 3 – MANAGING OPTIMAL HEALTH

Learn the importance and benefits of vitamins and minerals in our daily food and the effects on our body. Presented by researcher Henry S.

APRIL 10 – IT'S A PIZZA PARTY

Come join Rose and learn how to make homemade pizza. Cost is \$5. Register by April 7.

APRIL 17 – EASTER DÉCOR FOR YOUR HOME

Artist Angela Del Borrello will guide you through making an Easter centrepiece for your table. Cost to be determined but will include all required materials. Register by April 14.

APRIL 24 – COPING WITH LONELINESS

Learn practical strategies to overcome loneliness and social isolation. Presented by Annie Tulk, Registered Psychologist.

MAY 1 – HERBS AND THEIR IMPRESSIVE HEALTH BENEFITS

Learn the healing properties of some common herbs, (basil, oregano, rosemary, garlic, cloves), and how they can enhance our health. Presented by researcher Henry S.

MAY 8 – ESTATE PLANNING. HOW TO CREATE A TAX-EFFICIENT ESTATE PLAN

Spence Locke Group – IG Wealth Management will discuss ways to optimize your income to avoid large estate taxes and share some information on what to do to avoid probate tax.

MAY 15 – KING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sharon Bentley will talk about the history of the society, how it began in 1972, and special events, including the 50th Anniversary and more.

MAY 22 – PAINT A GARDEN SIGN FOR YOUR BACKYARD

Come and paint a wooden garden sign for your backyard with artist Angela Del Borrello. Cost is \$10 which includes all materials and instructions. Register by May 19.

KING CITY SENIORS 55+ EVENTS

All events at King City Seniors Centre, 1970 King Road, King City
Time: 10 AM – Except May 16 at 12 noon
Phone: 905-833-6565

MARCH 7 – PRESENTATION

Representatives of Hospall will outline the services provided.

MARCH 21 – WORKSHOP

Create a spring floral wreath with artificial flowers.

APRIL 4 – PRESENTATION/WORKSHOP

Topic to be announced.

MAY 2 – PRESENTATION/WORKSHOP

Topic to be announced.

MAY 16 – POTLUCK LUNCH

Each participant is asked to bring either a main course item or a dessert to add to the buffet table. This is a great time to enjoy a meal with friends, old and new.
(Time: 12 noon).

SCHOMBERG SENIORS 55+ EVENTS

All events at Schomberg Community Hall, 325 Main Street, Schomberg (except May 26)
Times: Variable
Contact: Lynn at klbird@hotmail.com

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

NAVIGATING SENIOR CARE

We Offer Trusted Solutions For Your Family

Compassionate Care Support

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- RN supervised
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AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



MARCH 3 – ALEX KRUTOW, ASTERI FOOT CARE
Alex will speak on balance, stairs and all things chiropody. Cost: Non-members, \$2. Time: 10 AM for coffee; 10:30 AM for speaker.

MARCH 10 – JOSEPH SHARON
Curious musical instruments with interesting history and unique repertoire. Sponsored by Lalsa Prepa, AudioPro Audiology Clinic. Time: 10 AM for coffee; 10:30 AM for speaker.

MARCH 31 – LYNN HOLDEN – VOYAGE OF THE VIKINGS
Author and photographer Lynn Holden backtracks the route Canada's first Viking visitors took. Time: 10 AM for coffee; 10:30 AM for speaker.

APRIL 14 – GREG PORTER, 113TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SINKING OF THE RMS TITANIC
Afternoon tea with stories of the "unsinkable" RMS Titanic. Cost: Non-members, \$2. Time: 2 PM – 4 PM

MAY 14 – ICE CREAM SOCIAL
Make your own ice cream sundae and enjoy a sing-along with Brian Wright. Sponsored by Delmanor Aurora. Time: 2 PM – 4 PM

MAY 26 – MASTER GARDENER KATHLEEN GORSLINE
Kathleen will speak on garden bulbs. Location: Trisan Centre, Curling Lounge, 25 Dillane Drive, Schomberg
Time: 10 AM for coffee; 10:30 AM for speaker.

OTHER EVENTS
MARCH 29 – CONCERT IN KING – CHRISTMAS IN KING
Join us for a very special fundraising event with Jacob Moon's Classic Troubadours Live: The songs of James Taylor, Joni Mitchell, Jackson Browne and Carole King. All net proceeds go to support Christmas in King, a volunteer-run organization with a mandate to offer everyone in King Township a happy holiday season. Tickets are just \$60 and are available at ChristmasinKing.ca
Location: Kingbridge Centre, 12750 Jane Street, King City
Time: Doors open at 7 PM, Show starts at 8 PM
Website: www.christmasinking.ca
Contact: Patti Skrypek, pskrypek@rogers.com, Phone: 416-727-1335

APRIL 24 – KING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY – HISTORY OF KING TOWNSHIP BOOK LAUNCH
Authors Ann Love and Sharon Bentley will sign copies of their 476-page book, *The History*

of King Township: A Community Shaped by the Land, which explores the Township's unique natural landscape and the lives of those who shaped it. Copies will be available for pre-order online through the KTHS website in February for \$50 and for purchase at the launch at a discounted rate of \$30.
Location: King Township Municipal Centre, 2585 King Rd, King City
Time: 4:30 – 6:30 PM
Website: www.kingtowshiphistoricalsociety.com

MAY 3 – HIKE – HAPPY VALLEY FOREST (NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA) – OAK RIDGES TRAIL ASSOCIATION (ORTA)
Non-members are welcome to join this moderate-paced (4 km per hour) two-hour hike at Goldie Feldman Nature Reserve, Happy Valley Forest and Love Mountain (Nature Conservancy of Canada).
Location: Weston Road and 16th Sideroad
Time: 9:45 AM for a prompt 10 AM start
Contact: Karen Graham 289-356-7366 (text or call) Website: www.oakridgestrail.orgail.org

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Spring into These Upcoming Reads at the Library



WRITTEN BY
NICOLE GNEO
Nicole is the Interim Program Supervisor for the King Township Public Library.

Want more recommendations?
Check out our staff-curated lists!



KING_READS FOR ADULT RECOMMENDATIONS



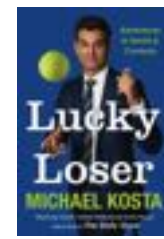
KING_KIDS FOR CHILD RECOMMENDATIONS



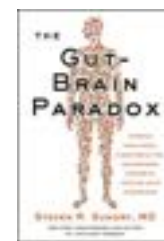
Ambush
by Colleen Coble
Release Date: March 4, 2025
Fifteen years after her parent's murder, Paradise Alden is back home in Nova Cambridge, Alabama. Starting fresh, on her first day as a veterinarian, a body is discovered on the grounds. Something dark lurks in town and Paradise refuses to let it destroy any more lives.



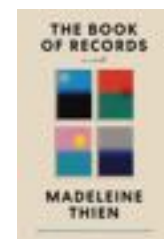
Beach Vibes
by Susan Mallery
Release Date: March 18, 2025
Love or loyalty? What will Beth choose when she discovers her brother Rick's secret affair? Will she risk it all and keep the secret to herself? Or tell Jana – Rick's girlfriend and Beth's best friend – and possibly lose her newfound love interest, Jana's brother?



Lucky Loser: Adventures in Tennis and Comedy
by Michael Kosta
Release Date: March 11, 2025
Stand-up comedian and The Daily Show host Michael Kosta shares his unlikely journey from professional tennis player to professional comedian.



The Gut-Brain Paradox: Improve Your Mood, Clear Brain Fog, and Reverse Disease by Healing Your Microbiome
by Steven R. Gundry
Release Date: April 15, 2025
Steven R. Gundry explains how healing your gut microbiomes can help heal your mind. Check out the compelling evidence of the relationship between our gut microbiomes and neuronal health.



The Book of Records
by Madeleine Thien
Release Date: May 20, 2025
Caring for her ailing father in the mysterious building she grew up in, The Sea, Lina spends hours listening to the stories of her three neighbours. Uncovering the truth of how she and her father came to live in the building – she decides to embark on her own journey into an uncertain future.



Accidentally on Purpose
by Kristen Kish
Release Date: April 22, 2025
Season 10 winner and now host of Top Chef Kristen Kish dishes on finding purpose in the kitchen and navigating through life as a Korean adoptee in the Midwest.

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A Wartime Romance

2025 marks the **Township of King's 175th anniversary** and the King Heritage & Cultural Centre is taking the lead in its celebrations.



WRITTEN BY
KRISTI KUKUK
Kristi is the Heritage & Programs and Volunteer Coordinator with the Township of King and the KHCC.

With each issue this year, we invite our readers to explore the Township's dynamic history, full of action, drama, mystery, love and heartbreak. Let our museum archives and collection serve as the key in unlocking the stories that shaped our community.

We must start the year with a recent donation that captivated our hearts, known as the "Townley Letters". Private Ernest Townley Watson (1891-1918) of Kettleby, Ontario, enlisted on September 24, 1914, and served in Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) until he was killed in action during the battle of Moreuil Wood in 1918. His letters and photographs capture his experiences throughout WWI, but, most interestingly, his budding romance and later engagement to Stella Wood-Sims of Glasgow, Scotland. In a letter to

his mother, Watson (who went by his middle name, Townley) writes: "We only get a green envelope about once in ten days and I have been sending all mine to Stella for quite a long time now. I will tell you all about her when I go on leave." The couple met through Stella's brother Ken, who worked with Townley building the railroad in North Battleford, Saskatchewan before the war. According to Townley and Stella's letters, Townley visited Ken's family when he was on leave, meeting Stella on many occasions. From France on February 25, 1918, he writes to his sister Olive: "In your letter you said you wondered what it was like to be in love. If you expected I could tell you I am afraid I will have to disappoint you. I might be able to say it sometime, but I am not a writer."

While Townley was not a self-proclaimed poet, it was clear that his relationship with Stella was built upon love and adoration. They had planned to marry after the war and live in Canada together; however, their dreams were cut short when Townley was killed in March 1918. While Stella

continued to write to Townley's mother for years, they never met.

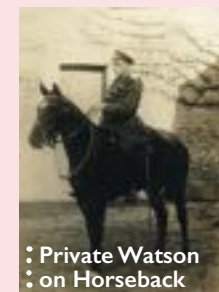
In our archives, their story's paper trail ended there. Yet staff at the KHCC were not satisfied with that ending! Despite heartbreak, was Stella able to find happiness? What became of her life after the war ended? In search of a happy ending, we tracked Stella's journey through Ancestry.ca, where we discovered that she became a silent-movie actress in the 1920s and married Eric de Banzie in 1924. With de Banzie, she had two children and continued to live in the UK until her death in 1980. While we do not have any anecdotes about their relationship, we hope that Stella was able to have a second shot at true love after all.



Excerpt from Private Ernest Townley Watson's Letter to his Mother



Private Ernest Townley Watson's Grave in France



Private Watson on Horseback



Private Ernest Townley Watson



“You see an ugly fish, I see CAVIAR!” — Illustration by Cheryl Uhrig
cuhrig@rogers.com

A BEAUTIFUL TREAT FROM AN UGLY FISH

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.

A hundred dollars may seem a lot to pay for a tablespoon of raw fish eggs, but caviar is scrumptious, and the supply is dwindling. My one encounter with the real thing came years ago when I attended a conference at the Siberian Forestry Institute. The Soviet Union was dissolving, and times were tense. The meals were mostly bland, but the closing banquet started with an unforgettable treat: a savory pancake topped with a dab of sour cream and a generous dollop of small, glistening, greyish spheres. Those tiny dark specks filled the mouth with a salty goodness, followed by a sumptuous, buttery explosion. Caviar lived up to its hype. (The vodka was pretty good, too.)

Caviar may be a beautiful dining experience, but it comes from a decidedly homely fish...actually, from a specific group of fishes, the sturgeons. Eggs from fishes like salmon and trout are often labeled as caviar, but purists refer to this as just salted roe. Grocery store caviar is tasty, but it's lumpfish roe.

The 20-some species of sturgeon stem from an ancient branch on the fish family tree. Fossils show they have changed little over the last 200 million years. Lacking scales, their backs are sheathed in bony plates. Rather than a jaw, their mouth is a wide, fleshy tube used to vacuum crabs and shrimp from the sea floor. And they are big! The beluga sturgeon, which yields some of the most prized caviar, can grow as long as six metres. It takes a beluga female 20 years to reach adulthood. Some live to 100. They spend most of the year lumbering about in the shallow, salty waters of the Black and Caspian Seas. In springtime, belugas meander up the rivers of Ukraine, Russia and Iran to spawn. Older, larger females can carry several million eggs each. And as they head upstream, fishermen are waiting.

How do you catch a sturgeon? Without a jaw, they can't bite, so a standard fishhook won't do, at least not at a commercial scale. People along the Volga devised a system in about 1700. First, build a low wooden wall across the river bottom. Then, as the sturgeons plod along in search of a gap, snag them by the tail with a sharp, stout grappling hook. Efficient harvesting was the first step in making caviar an export commodity.

The harvested females are sliced open to extract the ovaries. These get

gently sifted through a sieve to free the eggs from the membranes. The eggs are rinsed, then salted. It seems that 40 grams of salt per kilo of roe is best. The salted eggs get packed in lacquer-lined tins and shipped.

Railroads and refrigeration in the 1800s finally vaulted caviar from local delicacy to international luxury. While salting preserves the roe, its shelf-life is still limited. With quick transport at cool temperatures, caviar soon became all the rage in Milan, London, Paris and beyond. As journalist Inga Saffron wrote in her book, *Caviar: The Strange History and Uncertain Future of the World's Most Coveted Delicacy*, "By the end of the nineteenth century, a time poetically recalled as the Belle Epoque, newly moneyed merchants and manufacturers would do almost anything for a dollop on toast."

To satisfy the growing demand, new fisheries popped up along the European and North American coastlines to harvest roe from the Atlantic surgeon. At one point, the world's most productive operation was in a small New Jersey town on the Delaware River. They even named the town Caviar. People loved the stuff. In fact, they nearly loved it to death. In the 1890s, an estimated 180,000 female sturgeons per year spawned in the Delaware River. Today's average is

No food connotes luxury like caviar.

about three. Caviar the town is gone. Overfishing eventually doomed most of the sturgeon startups.

It's easy to see why sturgeons would be especially vulnerable to over-exploitation. The move upriver concentrates the fish into a small, predictable space for harvest, so few females escape. And while an escapee can lay a million eggs, juvenile mortality is astronomically high. The chances for a new hatchling to reach adulthood are little better than your chance of winning Lotto Max. If you keep harvesting too many egg producers, sooner or later, the population's luck runs out.

When the Bolsheviks took power in 1917, Russia was the one place left with sizable sturgeon populations. Seeing caviar as a reliable source of foreign revenue, the new regime strictly controlled harvest. But when the Soviet Union fell in the 1990s, controls were lifted, illicit trade boomed, and fish stocks declined. No doubt my Siberian colleagues got our appetizer from the black market. When supply drops, prices rise, and so sturgeon farming is now beginning to be profitable. The upfront investment in facilities is great and the time for the first female to produce eggs is long, so caviar is sure to remain a luxury. But hey, salted salmon-, trout- and lumpfish-roe are pretty good too, so try this simple recipe.

CAVIAR OMELET

This simple recipe lets the caviar speak for itself. It's great for a late brunch with a glass of prosecco!

INGREDIENTS:

3 eggs; 1T butter; 1t chopped dill weed; salt and pepper to taste; 1T sour cream; 2T lumpfish or salmon caviar.

DIRECTIONS:

Beat the eggs with a teaspoon of water along with the salt, pepper and dill; melt the butter in a non-stick frying pan over medium heat; pour in the eggs, give a brisk swirl, and let the eggs solidify; slide the omelet onto a plate, folding or rolling it neatly; spoon the sour cream on top, followed by the caviar; garnish with more dill or chopped chives.

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KING TOWNSHIP CELEBRATES ITS 175th ANNIVERSARY

From time immemorial, Indigenous groups have lived on Turtle Island, the continent now known as North America.



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.

They established travel routes and advanced trading systems long before European settlers arrived on the continent about 500 years ago. When surveyors, missionaries and settlers started to arrive, they relied heavily on the knowledge of these Indigenous groups for all aspects of exploration and settlement.

One popular travel route, connecting lakes and rivers from the south to the north, passed through a part of the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee peoples (King Township). Now known as *The Carrying Place Trail*, this 45-km *Tkaronto* portage route, which followed the Humber River valley, was used by settlers not only as a portage route but later as a base for roads, railroads and hydro lines.

Survey and Settlement

When the Township was first surveyed in 1800 by John Stegman, Deputy Surveyor of the Surveyor-General's Office of Upper Canada, there were only 20 recorded settlers. The Township was surveyed in a grid pattern of concession roads (running roughly north-south, parallel to Yonge Street) and sideroads (running roughly east-west). Each lot of 200 acres measured 1¼ miles long by one-quarter mile wide; individual lots were identified by a lot number (starting at King Township's southern border and counting north) and by the concession number (starting at Yonge Street and counting west). A road allowance separated each block of 1,000 acres (five lots) on all sides. These 200-acre Crown lots were granted to early settlers, but many were later sold and/or divided into east and west halves.

Settlement grew first along Yonge Street, as a major artery, and later pushed west into the Township. Communities like Lloydtown, Schomberg (then Brownsville) and Kettleby grew around waterways where tanneries, gristmills and sawmills were established. Towards the mid-19th

century, with improved roads, larger numbers of settlers began to arrive in the Township. King was surveyed a second time in 1851 when the County of Simcoe was created. This survey resulted in changes to the northern boundary of King; a portion of the township known as North King was detached from West Gwillimbury, and this triangular-shaped piece of land was annexed to King.

Early Records

Municipal records for the Township exist as far back as 1809 and are held in the archives at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre! The population of that year was recorded at 160 inhabitants with 33 heads of families, with surnames such as Rogers, Doan, Gamble, Love and Hollingshead.

The first meeting of residents was held on March 6, 1809, at the home of Nathaniel Gamble, who owned an inn on Gamble Road (now Mulock Avenue), just west of Yonge Street. The meetings continued in this way until 1849, when a Statute of Upper Canada declared that all Townships surveyed in the 1800 survey in Ontario must form a municipal government, starting in 1850. It was under this act that on January 21, 1850, the first official Township of King Council meeting was held at Carmichael's Inn, with Joseph Wood presiding as Chair. Although King has been recognized as a Township since 1850, it was not officially incorporated until the Municipal Act of 2001.

Modern King Township

Today, King Township is known as the largest municipality in York Region by area, with the smallest population. Largely rural, settlements are clustered around the towns of King City, Nobleton and Schomberg. The Township has many of the benefits of being located near an urban centre but has retained its own character and charm. As King marks its 175th anniversary, we look forward to a successful future for the Township.

To learn more about the history and heritage of King Township, visit the King Heritage & Culture Centre, Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm or www.kingheritageandculture.ca



Survey Marker



Gunter's Chain

HERITAGE

Chain by Chain

The term *chain* used by surveyors refers to *Gunter's Chain*, a physical chain used for measurement, invented in 1620 by English mathematician Edmund Gunter (1581–1626). Each chain comprised 100 links, measured 66 feet (20.1 m) in length, and had a brass tag every 10 links to make measuring easier.

This low-tech method of measurement enabled plots of land to be accurately surveyed and plotted for legal, commercial and practical purposes. The chain became the standard system of measurement in England and the rest of the British Empire.

Concession ranges of five 200-acre lots were divided by road allowances every 100 chains (1¼ miles or two kilometres). Each 200-acre lot measured 10 chains by 20 chains.

Eventually, the physical metal chains were replaced by steel ribbon tape measures, but the chain as a unit of measurement (66 feet) continued to be used. British railways still use this system of measurement as a location identifier and Canadian road allowances generally still measure 66 feet, or one chain, across!



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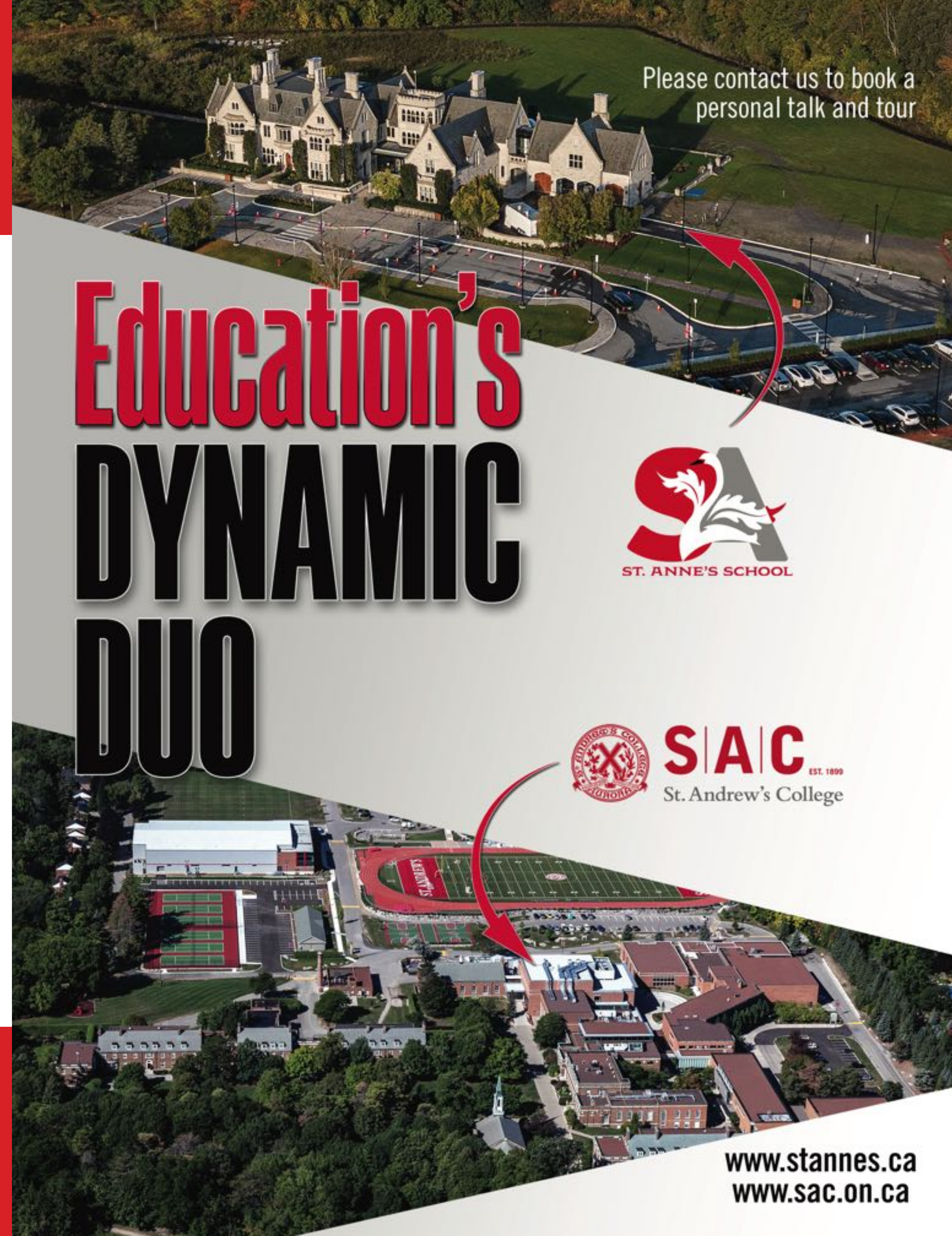
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