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summer 2025

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## MOSAIC

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We welcome your feedback, contributions, and suggestions.

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### FEATURED CONTRIBUTOR: SUE IABONI



Sue Iaboni has been a freelance writer from the time she became editor of her class yearbook back in Grade 8. Her career path took her into education, where she worked in several capacities for more than 30 years. During that time, she sent numerous stories and articles to various newspapers and magazines, where they often got published. Sue's most memorable role in the writing world happened after she retired. She helped to create MOSAIC magazine and acted as editor for seven years. Sue has since moved on and now writes a weekly blog. Seventy in the City, about her new life in Toronto. Check out her blog at seventyinthecity.net, and see Sue's article about the history of MOSAIC magazine on Page 15.

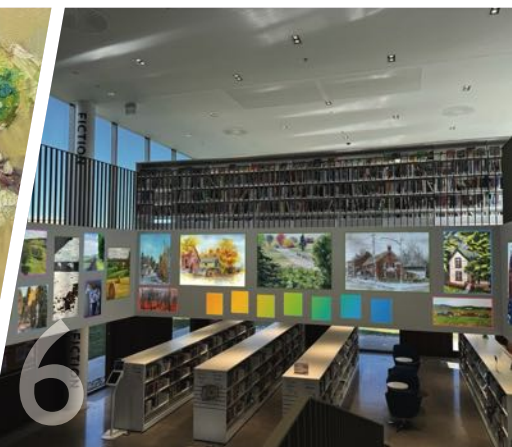


### OUR COVER SUSAN WALKER-ING

Featured on the cover of the Summer 2025 MOSAIC is Bicycle at Market in Rome, a 12x12-inch oil painting on 1 1/2-inch thick gallery canvas by our featured artist, Susan Walker-Ing. A graduate of York University with a degree in Art History, Susan completed her studies in Florence, Italy -- providing inspiration that has stuck with her throughout her career. She is a versatile artist with a track record of success across various mediums, including printmaking, watercolour, drawing, and painting in pastels, acrylics and oils. Her recent accomplishments include receiving an Honorable Mention in the Saugeen Plein Air Competition in July 2020 and, in 2021, earning "Best in Show" for her oil painting at the ASK Autumn Reflections En Plein Air competition. In 2023, she won her second "Best in Show" at the ASK Autumn Reflections En Plein Air competition with her oil, "Celery Harvest, King". Her dedication to plein air painting, which presents both challenges and joys, is evident in her outstanding work. Her art has garnered international recognition and is collected by art enthusiasts worldwide. Susan is the founder and president of Aurora's Creative Connection: A Centre for the Arts and has been recognized for her contributions to the local arts community by being awarded the prestigious Johnson's Culture Achievement Award by the Town of Aurora. Read more about Susan on page 5.



THE BEAUTY OF FLOWERS IN ART



WHISPERING CANVASSES



FOR THE LOVE OF STORY

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# Susan WALKER-ING

## INSPIRED BY NATURE



## THE ARTS

I visited Susan Walker-Ing at her home studio recently. In Susan's case, her home is her studio.



### 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.

To quote W.B. Yeats, "O body swayed to music, O brightening glance / How can we know the dancer from the dance?" There are works everywhere, a condition partly exaggerated as preparation for ASK's Studio Tour, which took place last April 5 and 6.

I enjoy Susan's works for many reasons, one of which is the fact all the colours on her palette are in line for a workout. I quickly lose interest in works overemphasizing dark tones, or those which slip into preciousness due to an excess of pink. Her brushwork is often delicate. We can see the pleasure of taking pains.

Susan creates her paintings on multiple surfaces and perforce with different "raw materials." She is comfortable on paper with water colours, or canvas with oils. If that's not enough, how about the idea of using gesso, a gypsum-based primer

popular for hundreds of years, for painting on metal or wood? Susan has made that idea work, hence her collection of painted canoe paddles. She is someone who finds "en plein air" painting highly appealing, so rendering cottage scenes on the paddles seems apropos.

But she hasn't stopped at merely capturing Ontario's beauty. She has taken her talents farther afield, having made multiple trips to Italy to paint out of doors. She showed me a photograph of her and her three adult sons, taken at a vineyard near San Gimignano in Tuscany, southwest of Florence, set 324 metres above sea level. Talk about a peak experience!

Susan majored in Art History in university and appreciates the opportunity to learn from the most revered artists in history. As part of a university course on Historical Techniques, for example, she dabbled in egg tempera, a technique used by Italian Renaissance artists such as Botticelli and Michelangelo. She has also enjoyed passing on her knowledge and inspiration through decades spent teaching art, though she has limited those activities since retirement. Our subject has

decided a certain degree of selfishness is called for in her later years. She, and we, can't do everything.

A piece of career advice many of us received from our parents was: Find something you love and do it all your life. Or worded with infinitely more grace, we remember, "This above all, to thine own self be true." Susan is one of those who knew her calling as a child. In her seventh year, she was suffering from health issues. Susan had been busily drawing even before her illness. Rest was essential, but the athletically inclined Susan wasn't likely to slow down, so her mother provided her with paper and paint to wile away the hours. Mom knew her daughter; Susan was hooked. Sadly, ailments have dogged her for many years, but Susan remains resolute in her pursuit of her art.

Having explored many different mediums and genres, I wondered about Susan's interest in modernism. She provided an arresting answer: "To me, the works provide confusion rather than the joy of nature."

Susan credits her artistic endeavours with assisting her career of almost three

decades' duration at the Ministry of the Attorney-General. She retired in the advanced role of "Business Analyst." This unhelpful title masks a complex position requiring an understanding of both the problem automation is intended to alleviate, and the tools Information Technology must consider as the best to solve it. One might think of an orchestra conductor; interpreting the wishes of the composer to the instrumentalists. Susan's background for the Business Analyst task may have been unusual, but her success so impressed management that she was informed they would attempt to bring an artist into future project teams.

Susan accepts commissions (information below), which makes sense to me. In a way, she was doing that in her prior profession.

**Web:** <https://www.etsy.com/shop/PaintedWorksbySusan>

**ASK profile:** <https://artsocietyking.ca/meet-ask-artists/#w>

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• Jacqueline England’s “Emergence” painting, representing the horse community of King Township, was one of 34 pieces selected to be part of Celebrate King. (Below)

• An early mock-up of the concept becomes a reality that both beautifies and decreases noise at the King City Public Library. (Above)

# WHISPERING CANVASSES

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.

Vibrant works of art now adorn the stairwell walls, blending creativity with functionality in a project that brings together local artists and acoustic science. The idea for the project began last year when library staff noticed an increase in noise levels due to the growing attendance driven by visitors, study groups and community meetings. While libraries are no longer the silent spaces of decades past, managing sound effectively remains crucial. As a result, an acoustics study was commissioned and one of the key recommendations was to install sound-baffling panels in the library. The issue was brought to the King Township Public Library Board’s Advocacy and Fundraising Committee (AFC) and the idea of Celebrate King, an acoustic art installation, was born. “We looked into traditional acoustic treatments, but they often have an institutional look that didn’t align with the warm, creative energy we wanted at the beautiful new King City library,” explained Rose Grimaldi, chair of the AFC. “That’s when we realized – why not incorporate art and leverage King’s brilliant artists in the endeavour?” The committee put out a call for submissions, inviting local artists and/or members of Arts Society King to contribute artwork images that, if

selected, would be printed on high-quality acoustic panels. The response was overwhelming, with 39 artists submitting 109 pieces of art. All submissions were required to meet the Celebrate King theme – representing landscapes, barns, horses, buildings, local wildlife, etc. – the true DNA of King Township! A Selection Committee carefully reviewed the submissions, not knowing the identities of each submitting artist. It was both a fair and a difficult process as, although each submission was highly worthy in its own way, there were only 34 spots to fill. Each submission received a score between 0 and 5 by each of the Selection Committee members, and the submissions with the highest scores were chosen. Once the final 34 submissions were selected, both the artists and their artwork were professionally photographed by Lisa Pace, proprietor of Lisa Pace Photography. “Seeing the beauty and talent of this artwork was awe-inspiring,” said Lisa. “I can’t wait to see these beautiful pieces ‘blown up’ on the library walls.” One of the featured artists, Susan Walker-Ing, said the project was a unique opportunity to merge her passion for visual storytelling with a public space that serves people of all ages. “I was so pleased that two of my submissions were chosen. Both paintings depict the Holland Marsh, which is an important region in King Township. I love the idea that my work is not only being seen but is also contributing to a better experience for library visitors.”



• Lisa Pace photographed the artists (including Mary Morganelli) and their work for the Celebrate King acoustic installation at the King City Library. (Above)

Patrons of the King City Public Library may notice something new the next time they enter the library to browse the shelves or settle into a cozy reading nook.



Another artist, Joe Trimmelli, who contributed three nature-inspired pieces, said he is thrilled to see his work displayed in a setting where it can be enjoyed daily. “I wanted my pieces to bring a sense of calm,” Joe said. “Libraries are close to my heart, having worked at the Toronto Public Library for 15 years. They are a place of escape for so many people, and I hope my work adds to that feeling.” Beyond the artistic contributions, the Celebrate King acoustic art installation was made possible thanks to a grant from the Mayor Steve Pellegrini 2024 Golf Tournament. “I am so happy to be able to use funds from the golf tournament to support this beautiful and functional project. Good acoustics aren’t just about keeping noise down; they’re about making spaces more comfortable and functional for everyone,” Mayor Pellegrini said. “Since opening, usage of the new King City branch has grown to an average of 275 visitors per day. The community visits their library for many reasons: gathering for group assignments or discussions, children’s activities, meeting with tutors, quiet study and reading, to find a book, or to just be with others,” said Adele Reid, Chief Executive Officer of the King Township Public Library. “The panels will help tone down excess noise so that everyone can enjoy their activities without disturbing others.” The complex design of Celebrate King was created by community member Richard Marejka. He not only designed the four-wall layout and the artist recognition



## SUMMER MOSAIC MAYOR’S MESSAGE

On behalf of King Township Council, welcome to the summer edition of Mosaic. As we embrace the warmer weather, it’s a perfect time to reflect on the importance of recycling and how our collective efforts can make a significant impact on our environment. Recycling is a simple yet powerful way to contribute to the health of our planet. By recycling, we reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfills, conserve natural resources and minimize pollution. Every item we recycle, from paper and plastic to glass and metal, helps to create a cleaner and more sustainable community. To assist with recycling efforts, King Township offers the Recycle Coach app, available at [king.ca/waste](http://king.ca/waste). This app provides valuable information on recycling schedules, sorting guidelines, and reminders to help residents stay on track with their recycling goals.

In addition to recycling, I would like to remind everyone about the importance of monitoring water usage, especially during the summer months. With the onset of warmer weather, it’s a good time to check your home for potential causes of high-water consumption. Property owners can monitor their water usage and sign up for pre-authorized automatic withdrawals on the Township’s online portal. Additional details—including tips and tricks to detect water leaks—are available at [king.ca/WaterBilling](http://king.ca/WaterBilling). Summer is also a wonderful time to get out and enjoy all that King has to offer. Our Township is home to beautiful trails, parks and Cold Creek Conservation Area, providing ample opportunities for outdoor activities and exploration. Whether you prefer hiking, biking or simply taking a leisurely stroll, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Visit [king.ca/parks](http://king.ca/parks), [king.ca/trails](http://king.ca/trails) and [coldcreek.ca](http://coldcreek.ca) to start planning your summer activities.

As we celebrate the 175th anniversary of King Township, we have a series of community events coming up including:

### National Indigenous Heritage Month: Truth and Reconciliation Mural and Medicine Garden Unveiling:

Saturday, Jun. 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre. Recognize the diverse histories, heritage and cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis in Canada. Join King Township as we unveil our legacy public art Indigenous community mural and medicine garden, created in partnership with the York Region Indigenous Action Committee. This free event will feature Indigenous speakers, dancers and musical performances and refreshments will be provided.

### Canada Day Celebration:

Tuesday, Jul. 1 from 5 p.m. to dusk at Memorial Park. Celebrate Canada’s 158th birthday with live musical performances, games, face painting, a drone show, food trucks and beer tent

### Raspberry Social:

Saturday, Aug. 9 at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre. The Raspberry Social was a historic event hosted for generations in the village of Laskay until the hall was relocated to the King Heritage and Cultural Centre in 2017. Since the move, the event was last hosted in 2019. This free event will include live local musical performances, raspberry treats heritage displays, art displays, children’s art activities and plenty of community spirit.

For more information, visit [king.ca/175](http://king.ca/175).

Please have a wonderful summer, continue to volunteer, shop locally as much as you can and visit [king.ca](http://king.ca) for the latest news on all things King.



Sincerely,  
Steve Pellegrini  
Mayor, King Township



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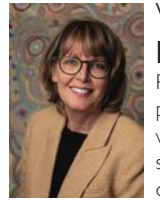


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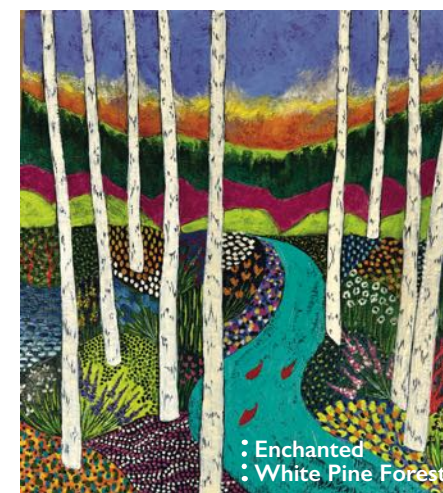
# Let me ASK you...

featuring **DANIEL WU** and **JESS WILKINSON**



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.



### WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING AN ARTIST?

Being an artist offers you the chance to be deeply connected with your creativity and self-expression. Art allows for a lot of freedom and gives you a platform to explore your emotions, thoughts and creativity without boundaries.

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

I value authenticity the most in my friends. Trust and support also play a big role – knowing you can rely on a friend, whether it's for a laugh, advice, or just to be there when needed, is really special.

### WHICH ARTISTS ARE YOU MOST INFLUENCED BY?

Vincent Van Gogh and David Hockney are two artists that have influenced my work. Van Gogh's use of color and expressive brushwork have a way of capturing intense emotion, while Hockney's vibrant, bold compositions and innovative approach to perspective and space are inspiring.

### IS IT HARD TO PART WITH ONE OF YOUR PIECES?

When you put so much energy and thought into a piece, there's an attachment that forms. At the same time, there is something really fulfilling about sharing my work with others and knowing that my work can have meaning for someone else.

### WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR YOUNGER SELF?

I would say, don't be afraid to take risks, explore your passions, embrace the journey and trust the process. Stay true to who you are and don't let fear hold you back from what you truly want.

**: Pink Lotus**

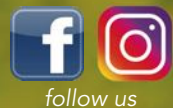


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Quote by Terri Guillemets

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### DANIEL WU

Daniel Wu's travels usually provide the creative spark for his paintings. The "Enchanted White Pine Forest" painting, for example, was inspired by his visit to the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam. He was fascinated with Van Gogh's use of pointillism (a painting technique using tiny dots of various pure colours, which become blended in the viewer's eye) and wanted to create a Canadiana landscape with his own take on pointillism. His "Pink Lotus" painting emerged from his recent trip to China and his visit to the beautiful lotus gardens.

Email: [dan.wu@rogers.com](mailto:dan.wu@rogers.com)

Instagram: [@dan.wu\\_encausticart](https://www.instagram.com/dan.wu_encausticart)

Web: <https://www.danwuencausticart.com>



### JESS WILKINSON

Why be afraid of the dark when you can love it instead? Through her artistic expression, Jess Wilkinson has been sharing her love of the different ways light can bend for more than 30 years. Working with pencils, pastels, oils, watercolours and clay sculpture, Jess gives viewers a colourful journey showcasing the beauty of natural things and, especially, the wonders of the sky at all times of night and day.

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Web: [www.jesswilkinsonfineart.com](http://www.jesswilkinsonfineart.com)

### WHEN AND WHERE WERE YOU HAPPIEST?

My most recent happiest moments were when I first held my babies in my arms. My second happiest moments were summers spent by the water, stargazing with my dad under a clear night sky.

### WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BE AN ARTIST?

I have been drawn (pun intended) to visual art for as long as I can remember. I needed to create. As an introvert, I'm reluctant to use my actual voice to speak. Art is my favourite form of expression. You can't interrupt my paintings, talk over them or ignore my sculptures.

### WHAT IS THE HARDEST PART OF CREATING YOUR ART?

Cleaning up.

### HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN A PIECE IS FINISHED?

When I look at the piece and it feels like I'd like to live there, I know I've accomplished my goal.

### WHAT IS YOUR MOST MARKED CHARACTERISTIC?



People say that I can find beauty in everything. My goal is to show the magic in all the things and places that I observe.





**: Seeing the World  
in a Grain of Sand**



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Yi Mei's Limelight Hydrangea



Amanda Riccio's Ekphrasis



Olga Muhortyh's  
White Peonies

# – THE BEAUTY OF – FLOWERS IN ART

Flowers have long been used in art to represent a wide range of emotions and ideas, such as love, purity and even death.



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.

Over the centuries, the rose has been a symbol of love and passion. One of the most popular flowers in the world, the rose bears exquisite, fragrant blooms whose vibrant colours and velvety petals have been used to convey often complex emotions and sentiments.

The discovery of fossil evidence in Teller County, Colorado shows that some form of rose-like species grew there as early as 40 million years ago. Fossilized specimens have also been found in Norway, Germany, the Balkans, Alaska, Mexico and various other locations, pointing to the plant's early origins around the globe. It's likely that roses were first deliberately cultivated in China around 3000 BCE. They were used in everything from medicine to perfumed oils. It's interesting to note that all yellow roses that exist today descend from a species first found in Central Asia.

Roses were also highly valued in Ancient Egypt. Evidence of this can be found in numerous tombs, including rose petals and paintings of roses discovered in the tomb of Pharaoh Thutmose IV, who ruled during the 18th dynasty in the 14th century BCE.

Famous artists like Claude Monet and Vincent Van Gogh used flowers as a central theme in their work. Monet often painted water lilies, possibly because they symbolize tranquility and represent the artist's own path towards inner peace and emotional healing. He completed a series of 250 paintings featuring water lilies during the last 30 years of his life, spent at his home in Giverny, France. Those works can be found in museums around the world, notably in the Musée de l'Orangerie in Paris.

Vincent van Gogh wanted to be known as "the painter of sunflowers." Other artists might have considered the towering flowers to be coarse and unrefined but that was exactly what made them interesting to van Gogh. He once said to his friend and fellow painter Paul Gauguin, "If Jeannin has the peony, Quost the hollyhock, I indeed, before others, have taken the sunflower." Van Gogh's sunflower paintings serve as visual expressions of gratitude, allowing him to convey his reverence for life's pleasures and the transformative power of beauty. His 1888 painting titled simply, *Sunflowers*, is on display at the National Gallery in London, England.

Yi Mei, a member of Arts Society King since 2023, studied at OCAD University and holds a master's degree in art and design from Donghua University in Shanghai, China. Yi works primarily in oil and acrylic and is inspired by her natural

surroundings. "Flowers have been a part of my life for as long as I can remember," Yi says. "As a child, I would follow my father through the forest while he picked wild mushrooms, but my focus was always on the delicate beauty of the wildflowers around me. I would gather handfuls of daisies, poppies, cornflowers, and lily of the valley, carefully arranging them into bouquets. My fascination with flowers deepened when I started painting. Flowers, for me, are more than just a subject; they are a lifelong love story, woven into my art and my heart." Yi's painting *Limelight Hydrangea* demonstrates her fondness for flowers and art.

Amanda Riccio joined Arts Society King in 2022 and states, "Throughout art history, flowers have stood as important symbols, inspiring artists to interpret the beauty and meaning of these plants through their diverse artistic expressions. My own work often explores the theme of memory preservation, frequently through the stories and experiences shared with me by others. My painting, entitled *Ekphrasis*, takes a slightly different approach, representing one work of art – the flowers of the visually distinct thale cress plant – through another: my painted interpretation. This seemingly ordinary weed possesses a compelling 'story' in its very form and growth, particularly its remarkable ability to regenerate and replace lost parts. This inherent capacity

for renewal, much like the enduring nature of shared memories mirrors my artistic choices in this piece, where traditional materials are consciously substituted: acrylic on yupo (a synthetic paper) replaces more traditional oil paint and canvas, or watercolour and paper."

Olga Muhortyh is a Ukrainian-Canadian artist and designer living in York Region. As a member of Arts Society King since 2024, using mixed media, Olga remarks that, "art and flowers are deeply intertwined because both are expressions of beauty, emotion, and the fleeting nature of life. Flowers have always been a source of inspiration, from my childhood memories of picking wild bouquets to my current artistic creations. Just like flowers, art allows me to capture and preserve moments of beauty, translating their delicate forms and vibrant colors onto canvas. Flowers are also storytellers – they evoke nostalgia, symbolize emotions, love, and carry cultural meanings. Through art, I give flowers a timeless presence, ensuring their beauty never fades. For me, flowers are more than just a subject; they are a language of creativity, memory, and self-expression." Olga's painting *White Peonies* demonstrates her love for flowers.

Besides their uniqueness, flowers carry deep meanings and emotions that can transform a piece of art. Flowers have whispered secrets to artists for centuries and each bloom tells a story.



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# FOR THE LOVE of Story



- A photo of a vintage child's boot
- served as a prompt for a Timeless Tale in years past

We love to tell tales, tall or short.



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.

Despite videography and animation, words evolved and are evolving to shape and attempt to explain our experiences and imaginations and will regale young and old until doomsday. Stories light our way through the deep, dark forest of questions facing humanity's quest for what is Real. They encode ideas that point to the next foothold on the steep face of that mountain called Life. A story holds up a mirror to our shimmering beauty and to our appalling beastliness.

Therefore, my passion for literary arts, which fuels my two pet projects: WriteNow@King! writers group, founded by Sue laboni and Sharon Bentley of King Librairies, is where writers from far and wide join comrades-in-arms to find their measure. And the Timeless Tales writing contest through Arts Society King that discovers and rewards the authors among them.

But just who was writing in our community? Holding a contest, we knew was a good trick. Worked every time. Because history is the food of literature – before imagination steps up to fill in the gaps by asking, “Yes, but what if...” – we teamed up with King Heritage & Cultural Centre and, beginning in 2021, sourced writing prompts from the museum archives. That first year, seven antique photos were offered. A barn-raising, two tiny girls at the reins of a carthorse, a gent with a bloodhound.... In 2022, it was artifacts. A folk doll, a lost baby shoe, a gramophone. *Timeless Tales III ~ The Portrayals* wove stories around photos of perfect strangers – and not a smile on any face! *The Haunts* of 2024 featured King landmarks. Hogan's Inn, the

railway station, the octagonal dead house in Kettleby Cemetery – perhaps it was the ambiguous title that led writers to the dark side! Local artists were invited and paid to illustrate the haunts for the book.

I have the pleasure of poring over each and every story, judged blindly by selected judges with fine credentials as authors, creative editors, librarians and historians. I'd ask Margaret Atwood were she not so busy. Few stories arrive perfected in grammar, spelling and punctuation. All stories are ruthlessly nixed.

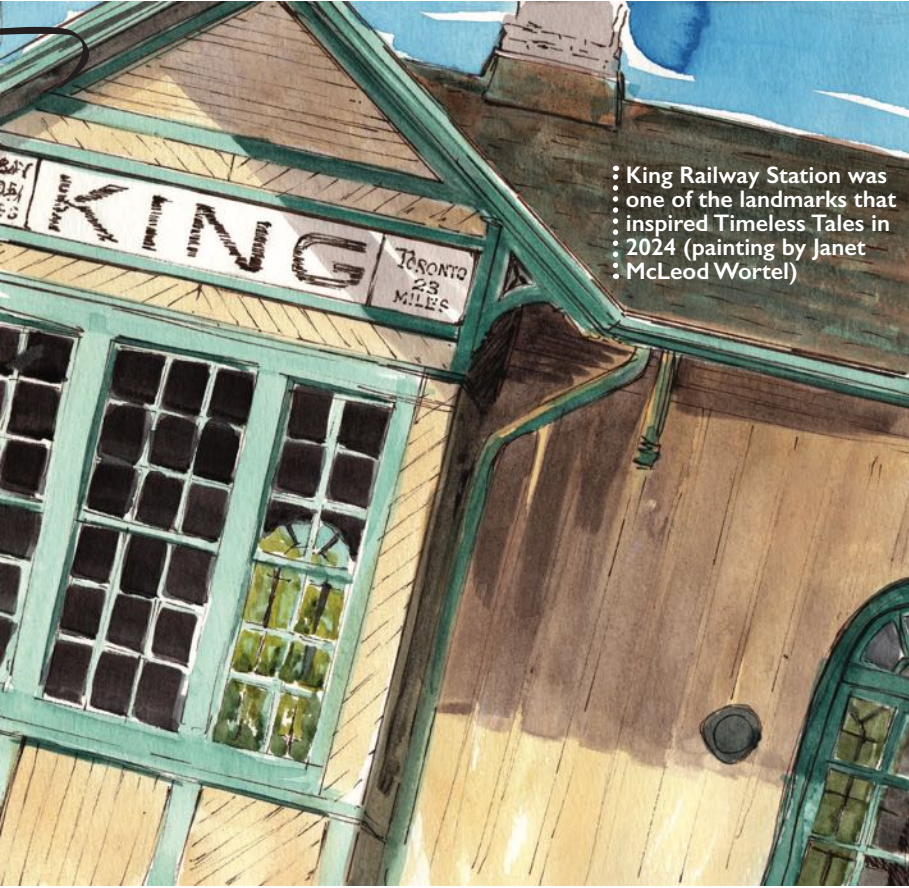
When Shelby Molyneaux won best in the 18-101 category for her third time, and when Dilyn De Alwis recently published delightful children's books illustrated by her son, Rohan, 2024 winner of the Grades 1-4 category, we knew we had struck gold in our aims. The stories from all ages and levels of experience so startled, amused and amazed us that an anthology was born. A *Collection of Timeless Tales* has been published annually and grown from 91 pages to 155. And just to give authors with big dreams a taste of the literary life, our tradition is to hold live readings and book signings on Tale Tellers' Night, this year happening September 18, when Laskay Hall is sure to ring with accolades.

The 2025 contest was expected to prove the most intriguing. *Timeless Tales V ~ The Letters* invited writers to take up the story using lines extracted from letters or from old journals, perhaps to use the same form while spinning their yarns. Readers might know that Anne Frank's diary, *Dracula* by Bram Stoker, *The Martian* by Andy Weir and Alice Walker's *The Colour Purple* are examples of epistolary writing.

*"The girls played a bad trick on Lawrence last night." Where does your imagination fly when reading this? Or "I have started writing you two or three times and something always prevented me."*

Remember; you don't get lost in a book. You get found.

WORD HAS IT...



King Railway Station was one of the landmarks that inspired Timeless Tales in 2024 (painting by Janet McLeod Wortel)



Mary Ann Hollingshead



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**NOW AND 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 to 4 PM. New and experienced writers are welcome to participate in stimulating writing exercise, guest speakers and feedback from peers. Location: King City Public Library, 1970 King Road, King City  
Contact: info@kinglibrary.ca for more information

**MAY 29 TO JUNE 6 – OKSANA BACZYNSKY – 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 to 4:30 PM – Monday through Friday  
Phone: 905-833-5321  
Website: www.ArtsSocietyKing.ca

**MAY 29 TO JULY 12 – TODAY WE SLAY PRIDE ART EXHIBITION – KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE**  
The TODAY WE SLAY art exhibition in celebration of PRIDE features the work of emerging and established 2SLGBTQI+ artists and allies from King Township and beyond. Location: King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City  
Time: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM  
Contact: www.kingheritageandculture.ca; 905-833-2331; kingmuseum@king.ca

**JUNE 1 – BEGINNER BEEKEEPING WORKSHOP – TOWNSHIP OF KING**  
If you are interested in becoming a beekeeper, this is the course for you. The workshop, held in partnership with Pioneer Brand Honey & Maple, consists of classroom sessions and hands-on lessons in the bee yard. All experience levels are welcome. Location: Visitors Centre, Cold Creek Conservation Area, 14125 11th Concession, Nobleton  
Time: 9 AM to 4 PM  
Contact: To register, please visit https://www.king.ca/EnvironmentalEvents For more information, please contact environmentalstewardship@king.ca

**JUNE 2 – COMMUNITY ELECTRONIC RECYCLING – TOWNSHIP OF KING**  
Bring your unwanted electronics to ensure they are disposed of safely, recycled and kept out of landfill. Batteries accepted. Location: King Township Municipal Centre Parking Lot, 2585 King Road, King City  
Time: 9 AM to 12 PM  
Website: www.king.ca/electronicrecycling

**JUNE 5 – TAFELMUSIK BAROQUE ORCHESTRA: MOZART'S KINDRED SPIRITS – MCMICHAEL CANADIAN ART COLLECTION**  
An intimate performance featuring the work of Mozart and his contemporaries Johann Vanhal and Josef Mysliveček (also known as Il Boemo—The Bohemian). Location: 10365 Islington Avenue, Kleinburg  
Time: 8 PM

Contact: programs@mcmichael.com ; 905-893-1121 Ext. 2216; Tafelmusik Cahmber Series 2024/2025 | McMichael Canadian Art Collection

**JUNE 7 – HUMMINGBIRD PAINT PARTY – KINGCRAFTS STUDIO**  
Join us for a step-by-step class, bringing a 16" x 20" canvas to life with a charming hummingbird on a vibrant background. You will learn technique, brushstrokes and have fun creating your own personal art to hang in your home. No prior experience necessary – just come ready to immerse yourself in colour and expression. Level: Beginner but all skill levels are welcome! Instructors: Colette and Christina Tanel. Location: 12936 Keele Street, King City  
Time: 1 PM to 4 PM  
Fee: Non-Members \$55; Members \$44  
Website: www.kingcrafts.ca

**JUNE 14 – INDIGENOUS GARDEN & MURAL GRAND REVEAL – KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE**  
Celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Month with the KHCC as we unveil our Indigenous Truth & Reconciliation mural and community Medicine Garden. Speakers, artists, and tours of garden included. Food and refreshments will be provided. All are welcome. Location: King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City  
Time: 11 AM to 1 PM  
Contact: www.kingheritageandculture.ca; 905-833-2331; kingmuseum@king.ca

**JUNE 23 – THE GIVING PLACE LAVENDER FARM – NOBLETON & KING CITY GARDEN CLUB**  
The owner of Lavender Farm will walk us through the lavender planting process. Location: Laskay Hall, 2920 King Road, King City  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Contact: nobletonkingcitygardenclub@gmail.com

**JUNE 24 – "PLANT HEALTH, BIOLOGY BEATS CHEMISTRY" BY OWEN GOLTZ – SCHOMBERG HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
Owen Goltz, Riverdale Farm and Forest Farmer and Master Arborist, will discuss Biochar, which can improve water quality while reducing greenhouse gases, nutrient leaching, soil acidity, and irrigation and fertilizer requirements. Location: Schomberg Community Hall, 325 Main Street, Schomberg  
Time: 7:30 PM

**JUNE 27 – INDIGENOUS WALK + TALK AND OIL INFUSION WORKSHOP – KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE**  
Explore native medicines at Cold Creek Conservation Area with indigenous knowledge keeper Tanya Gluvakov. Identify and honourably harvest plants along the trails and create your own plant-infused oil. Location: Cold Creek Conservation Area, 14125 11th Concession, Nobleton  
Time: 10 AM to 12 PM  
Contact: www.kingheritageandculture.ca

**JUNE 28 – RAINBOW PLAY & STORYTIME – KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE**  
Celebrate PRIDE Month at the KHCC – add a rainbow full of colour to decorate the museum with sidewalk chalk, bubbles and

flair! Share in a child-friendly Drag Storytime reading, participate in outdoor games, and celebrate everything that makes you and other children fabulous! Location: King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City  
Time: 10 AM to 12 PM  
Contact: www.kingheritageandculture.ca

**JULY 1 – CANADA DAY IN KING! – TOWNSHIP OF KING**  
Join us to celebrate Canada's birthday, while also celebrating King's 175th Anniversary with food, music and a drone show! Location: Memorial Park, King City  
Time: 5 PM to dusk  
Contact: www.king.ca/events; events@king.ca

**JULY 1 TO AUGUST 30 – CHOO-CHOO-OSE THE TRAIN TOUR! – KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE**  
Register for a private tour of the KHCC's newly renovated and oldest surviving railway station. Learn the historic technologies and gadgets that connected King to the wonders of the 19th and 20th centuries! For all ages. Drop-in or call ahead. Location: King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City  
Time: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM  
Contact: www.kingheritageandculture.ca

**JULY 2 TO AUGUST 22 – ARTVENTURE SUMMER CAMPS – MCMICHAEL CANADIAN ART COLLECTION**  
Led by top young art instructors from the GTA, each camp includes time in the museum, outdoor activities, artmaking in the studio and a weekly visit by a special guest to enhance the session's theme. Location: 10365 Islington Avenue, Kleinburg  
Time: 9 AM to 5 PM  
Website: mcmichael.com/event/artventure-summer-camp-2025/

**JULY 5 AND JULY 6 – IN-PERSON OIL PAINTING WEEKEND WITH JUDY SHERMAN – MCMICHAEL CANADIAN ART COLLECTION**  
Through demonstrations, painting exercises and one-on-one feedback, students will learn to view and analyze the world as a visual artist. Location: 10365 Islington Avenue, Kleinburg  
Time: 10 AM to 4 PM  
Website: mcmichael.com/event/in-person-oil-painting-weekend-with-judy-sherman/

**JULY 19 – GRANDMA / GRANDPA + ME: LITTLE GREEN THUMBS – KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE**  
Our "Grandma/Grandpa & Me" series invites you and your grandchildren to the KHCC's new Indigenous Medicine Garden. Learn how to grow and care for plants and work together to grow your own! Location: King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City  
Time: 10 to 11:30 AM  
Contact: www.kingheritageandculture.ca

**JULY 19 TO NOVEMBER 8 – ON TRACK: CONNECTING COMMUNITIES, CREATING A COUNTRY (EXHIBIT) – KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE**  
Curated by the KHCC, this exhibition explores the history and impact of the railway in Canada, featuring archival images, artifacts and interactive elements. Visitors may also tour the newly restored King Railway Station as part of their visit

(summer 2025). Included with regular admission. Location: King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City  
Time: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM  
Contact: www.kingheritageandculture.ca; 905-833-2331; kingmuseum@king.ca

**JULY 20 – COMMUNITY ELECTRONIC RECYCLING – TOWNSHIP OF KING**  
Bring your unwanted electronics to ensure they are disposed of safely, recycled and kept out of landfill. Batteries accepted. Location: Cold Creek Conservation Area, Visitors Centre Parking Lot, 14125 11th Concession, Nobleton  
Time: 9 AM to 12 PM  
Website: www.king.ca/electronicrecycling

**JULY 26 AND JULY 27 – PAINTING A VIBRANT PLEIN AIR LANDSCAPE IN ACRYLICS WITH ANDREW CHEDDIE SOOKRAH – MCMICHAEL CANADIAN ART COLLECTION**  
Leverage the versatility of acrylics while working en plein air on our beautiful grounds. Begin or continue your exploration of how to observe and interpret the landscape to develop a vibrant painting in your own voice. Location: 10365 Islington Avenue, Kleinburg  
Time: 10 AM to 4 PM  
Website: mcmichael.com/event/painting-a-vibrant-plein-air-landscape-in-acrylics-andrew-cheddie-sookrah/

**JULY 27 AND AUGUST 24 – FOREST THERAPY WALK – MCMICHAEL CANADIAN ART COLLECTION**  
Led by Emily Pleasance, an artist and certified Nature & Forest Therapy Guide, this program is designed to help you slow down, drop into the body, and better connect with yourself and the natural world. Location: 10365 Islington Avenue, Kleinburg  
Time: 10 AM to 1 PM  
Website: mcmichael.com/event/forest-therapy-walk/

**JULY 28 TO SEPTEMBER 12 – WINNIE CHEN EXHIBITION – KING TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CENTRE**  
Come enjoy the watercolour works of Arts Society King artist member Winnie Chen. Winnie is an accomplished full-time artist, based in Toronto, and creator of MoonMoon Artwork Studio. Her artistic style is a seamless blend of abstract shapes and realistic forms, infused with vibrant colours that are sure to captivate the senses. Location: King Township Municipal Centre, 2585 King Road, King City  
Time: 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM – Monday through Friday  
Phone: 905-833-5321  
Website: www.ArtsSocietyKing.ca

**AUGUST 9 – RASPBERRY SOCIAL – TOWNSHIP OF KING**  
In celebration of King Township's 175th anniversary, the Raspberry Social is back! Join the celebration with raspberry treats, outdoor games, tours of the newly restored railway station and church (to be confirmed). Fun for the entire family! Bring your own picnic and celebrate summer at the KHCC! Location: King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City  
Time: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM  
Contact: www.king.ca/events; 905-833-2331; events@king.ca

**AUGUST 13 TO 28 (WED THROUGH SAT) – MITCH ALBOM'S "TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE" – KING THEATRE COMPANY WITH PINE FARMS ORCHARD**  
King Theatre Company is thrilled to be bringing live theatre back to Pine Farms Orchard with the stage adaptation of Mitch Albom's best-selling memoir; Tuesdays With Morrie. Location: Pine Farms Orchard, 2700 16th Sideroad, King City, ON  
Time: 7:00 to 8:30 PM  
Contact: www.kingtheatre.ca; 647-622-6055; kingtheatrecompany@gmail.com

**AUGUST 16 – GRANDMA/GRANDPA + ME: ALL ABOARD THE KHCC TRAIN! – KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE**  
You and your grandchildren are invited to tour the KHCC's newly restored Railway Station. Explore all things trains and get inspired to work together to build, paint and decorate your own model train. Location: King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City  
Time: 10 AM to 11 AM  
Contact: www.kingheritageandculture.ca

**AUGUST 23 – COMMUNITY ELECTRONIC RECYCLING – TOWNSHIP OF KING**  
Bring your unwanted electronics to ensure they are disposed of safely, recycled and kept out of landfill. Batteries accepted. Location: King Heritage & Cultural Centre Parking Lot, 2920 King Road, King City  
Time: 9 AM to 12 PM  
Website: www.king.ca/electronicrecycling

**AUGUST 23 – CELEBRATING KING AT THE SCHOMBERG COMMUNITY FARM**  
Celebrate King Township's 175th and the harvest at Schomberg Community Farm! Enjoy a free day of garden tours, fun workshops and a tasty pasta lunch! Location: Schomberg Community Farm, 210 Western Avenue, Schomberg  
Time: 10 AM to 2 PM  
Website: www.schombergcommunityfarm.ca/events.html

**SEPTEMBER 18 – TALE TELLERS' NIGHT – KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE**  
Everyone is invited to enjoy live readings, featuring the best stories from the 2025 all-ages writing contest and published in the anthology A Collection of Timeless Tales V – The Letters. Our most exciting year yet! Books will be on sale and the authors are happy to sign them. Admission is free and light refreshments will be available. Location: Laskay Hall, 2920 King Road, King City  
Time: 6 PM to 8 PM  
Contact: www.ArtsSocietyKing.ca

**NOBLETON SENIORS 55+**  
Contact: Joanne Bailey 416-706-9375; jbailey133@yahoo.com; king.ca/seniors  
Location: Nobleton Arena, 15 Old King Road, Nobleton  
Time: 10 AM to 12 PM

**MAY 29 – BALANCING YOUR LIFE ON YOUR FEET**  
A chiroprapist from Balance Health Studio in Schomberg will speak about the importance of balance and preventing falls.

**JUNE 5 – THE HISTORY OF TATTOOS AND THEIR ARTISTIC EXPRESSION**  
Tattoos have gone through movements and trends. Come and listen to Sapphire as she presents this information.

**JUNE 12 – "THE SOCIAL" – BE A PART OF THE AUDIENCE**  
Join us in the audience for the TV show "The Social". Limit is 10 people. Call Joanne to register. Tickets to the show are free but you are responsible for your own subway/parking fee.

**JUNE 19 – SUMMER PARTY**  
Let's celebrate with a party! This will be our last Thursday until September 11, 2025. Lunch will be provided at no cost. Please bring your favourite dessert and your ideas for September topics.

**SCHOMBERG SENIORS 55+**  
Contact: Lynn at klbird@hotmail.com

**JUNE 2 – CRYPTO ESCAPE ROOMS**  
Solve the clues and escape from Kilgore's Cabin or the Cursed Temple. Cost: \$38. Location: 1220 Stellar Drive, Newmarket  
Time: 3 PM (to be confirmed)

**JUNE 9 – DOWNSIZING DIVA**  
Thinking about moving or downsizing? Arlene Stephenson is ready to help. Cost: Non-members: \$2  
Location: Schomberg Community Hall, 325 Main Street, Schomberg  
Time: 10:30 AM

**JUNE 15 – BLACKHORSE VILLAGE PLAYERS, "DELVAL DIVAS"**  
The antics of four women residing in a federal correctional facility. Ticket price: \$20.

Location: 17272 Mt. Wolfe Road, Caledon  
Time: 2:15 PM

**JUNE 29 – AVALON LAVENDER FARM**  
High Tea in the Lavender Field, \$99+HST  
Location: 347036 Mono Centre Road, Mono  
Time: 2 PM to 4:30 PM

**KING CITY SENIORS**  
Contact: 905-833-6565  
Location: King City Seniors Centre, 1970 King Road, King City  
Time: 10 AM

**MAY 30 – HOW WE THINK IS HOW WE ACT – I'M OKAY, YOU'RE OKAY**  
Gordon Van Dyke will provide an informative look at how our thoughts directly affect how we interact with others. Refreshments will be available.

**JUNE 6 – WHAT TO KNOW WHEN CHOOSING A RETIREMENT HOME**  
Lucy Becker from the Retirement Home Regulatory Authority will guide us on picking the right home. Refreshments will be available.

**SEPTEMBER 3 – OPEN HOUSE AND REGISTRATION – 10 AM TO 2 PM**  
This is an opportunity to see what is available for seniors at the King City Seniors Centre. Membership for 2026 can also be purchased at this time. Refreshments will be available.



• Susan Walker-Ing's Hibiscus





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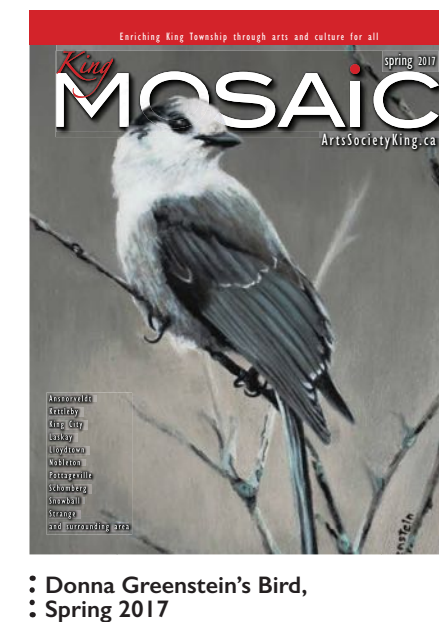
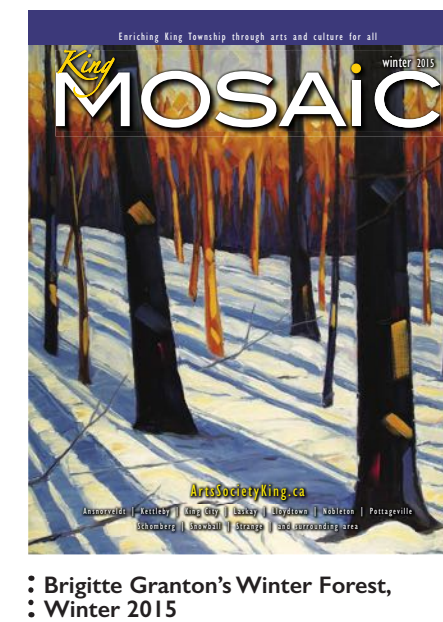
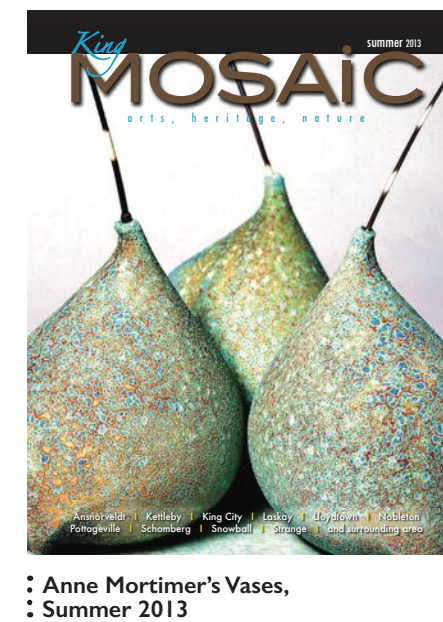
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# MOSAiC's History of Supporting the Arts in King Township



WRITTEN BY  
**SUE IABONI**

Sue Iaboni was editor of MOSAiC magazine for seven years, beginning in 2011, helping to shape it into the publication it is today. Sue now lives in Toronto but continues to write, authoring a blog at [seventyinthecity.net](http://seventyinthecity.net).

With its contents supporting community values and lifestyle in King, MOSAiC digs deep into the soul of the community by, in the words of its motto, "enriching the township through arts and culture for all."

The magazine began in 2007 as a four-page insert in another local magazine, Tapestry, created by ASK founder Judy Craig with support from Tapestry editor Nancy Stenhouse. It included two pages of events and two pages of arts news. Soon, ASK outgrew its promotional space and needed something bigger. A second editor, Sue Iaboni, offered to join Judy and, in the winter of 2011, the first issue of MOSAiC hit the streets -- or rather the sideroads and the concessions.

The premier issue of MOSAiC featured rug hooker Bea Grant's creation, her family tree, on the cover. The two birds at the bottom of the piece represent Bea's grandmother and Bea. The eight leaves and petals symbolize her grandchildren and the heart embodies family love. Family has always been an important part of King. Businesses such as Flys Honey and the Moffatt Dunlap horse

barns have been passed down through the generations, and grandchildren visit on the weekends to go apple picking or skate on a kettle lake. Bea's rug signifies that generational connection.

The first few years of the magazine were tough slugging. The advertising was all done by Judy and sometimes she had to do some big arm-twisting. Sue had to convince potential writers that their work would be widely read in a fledgling magazine. Occasionally, advertisers or writers would run into problems and miss deadlines. The processes of writing, editing and layout were all new to Judy and Sue as they felt their way forward. There were many Sunday meetings as photos were laid out on Judy's dining room table and rotated around from page to page to fit with the articles. Then a "white space" would be discovered somewhere on a back page and an article or ad had to be created quickly.

The draft version was driven to the home of freelance artist Penny Gilbertson, who turned all the bits and pieces into a coherent, and beautiful, whole. Another ASK board member, Tom Wray, printed the 10,000 copies at his company, Main Street Press, and delivered them to the King City Post Office for mailing to King households. Finally, a group of dedicated volunteers, with full gas tanks, picked up the copies destined for businesses, art galleries, coffee shops and restaurants, and spent the day driving around the Township

and beyond to deliver them. It was a massive undertaking.

Slowly, things fell into place. Browsing the pages, one could find diverse articles: the history of the King railway, a recipe for Highland Marsh produce, tips on how to paint snow effectively, an update on the status of artist Richard Serra's SHIFT sculpture, or the Wells heritage home morphed into a beloved coffee shop. Stunning covers, each highlighting a work by a visual artist -- painter, sculptor, photographer, woodworker or weaver -- became a trademark of the magazine. They might feature a local bird, a ceramic vase, a heritage building, a winter forest or a canoe in the Humber River, but they were all coffee-table keepers.

As the years passed, the magazine's dedicated volunteers came and went. Editor Judy Craig moved out west in the spring of 2015 and Sue Iaboni took over as sole editor. The two tasks of finding advertisers and editing content were too great for one person, so in the fall of 2015, MOSAiC partnered with London Publishing. The new publishers found advertising that filled 50 per cent of the magazine's pages, and ASK filled the other 50 per cent with arts events and stories written by a talented cadre of local volunteers. MOSAiC's future was secure.

Since editor Sue Iaboni moved to Toronto in 2018, MOSAiC has had several editors but the magazine has continued to honour its original mission. As Arts Society

Arts Society King's (ASK's) MOSAiC Magazine is a cornerstone of communication in King Township that has been distributed quarterly to King Township households, businesses and public buildings for almost two decades.

King celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2025, writers from across the township still volunteer their time to write stories about King's vibrant artistic and cultural life. The Mayor of King, Steve Pellegrini, begins with a welcome message from the Township council. ASK President Michele McNally compiles the ever-popular calendar of events. University of Toronto professor emeritus Art Weis tells a fascinating story about where our food comes from and provides a recipe to cook it, accompanied by a whimsical illustration by artist Cheryl Uhrig. Anna Santarossa regales us with tips on how to help our gardens grow and flourish. The King Heritage and Cultural Centre and the King Township Public Library highlight their latest activities in each issue.

Throughout its life, MOSAiC Magazine has delivered quality content to King Township citizens and beyond. The impressive artwork continues to attract readers. The overview of events around King is a useful guide for families' weekend planning, the recipes can be found on many kitchen bulletin boards and the stories about King artists give them the publicity their work deserves. Businesses also benefit from the in-depth look at their unique products while libraries, museums and art galleries enjoy added local traffic created by the promotion of their spaces. The natural beauty of the area shines through on every page. And the history of King stays alive through its retelling.









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SOUNDS OF SUMMER

The

HUMMINGBIRD

HUSTLE

One of the best surprises in my garden is when those **tiny, high-speed acrobats** suddenly appear – zipping, hovering, and occasionally pausing just long enough to make you wonder if they’re showing off.



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.

Hummingbirds never fail to amaze with their agility, especially their ability to fly backward like nature’s tiniest stunt pilots.

Here in Ontario, we welcome the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird in early May. They so enchant me that I’ve made it my mission to lure them into my garden, planting their favourite flowers and thinking about hanging hummingbird feeders.

Now, I have to confess, I’m not great at maintaining feeders. Sure, they’re a great way to attract hummingbirds, but they need cleaning every three to four days to prevent bacteria and mold. If you slack off (like I inevitably do), you’ll need to deep-clean with vinegar or diluted bleach – and then rinse like your tiny guests’ lives depend on it (because they do!). Honestly, the pressure is too much for me.

Recently, I learned about a different kind of feeder – one designed to attract fruit flies, which, in turn, attract hungry hummingbirds looking for protein. Just stick a banana inside, wait for the flies to show up, and voilà – hummingbird snack time! But, surprise, surprise, this feeder also requires regular cleaning. So, in the end, I’m sticking to my favorite method: filling my garden with hummingbird-friendly flowers and letting nature do the rest.

In my garden, I have mounds of Bee Balm – its spiky red blooms act like a flashing neon sign that says, “Hummingbirds, stop here!” This year, I decided to mix things up and also planted purple Bee Balm. Will my tiny feathered critics approve of the colour change? Only time will tell.

According to my research (and by research, I mean hours of falling down a gardening rabbit hole), hummingbirds love sun-loving plants like Salvia, Butterfly Bush, Trumpet Vine, Lantana, Honeysuckle, Zinnias, Blazing Star, and Petunias. However, I’ve noticed that in my garden, they also make pit stops at my purple Rose of Sharon, proving that sometimes, they like to keep us guessing. Now, if

your garden is cool and shady, don’t despair! Hummingbirds appreciate shade-loving plants like Columbine, Coral Bells, Foxglove, Fuchsia, Hosta, Wild Bergamot and Jewelweed.

Besides planting nectar-rich flowers and setting up a feeder, what else can you do to roll out the red carpet for these tiny treasures? Hummingbirds need a place to rest; even these little speedsters take breaks! Small branches, trellises, or even your clothesline make great perches. Shrubs and trees provide much-needed shelter from predators and bad weather, giving them a safe place to recharge.

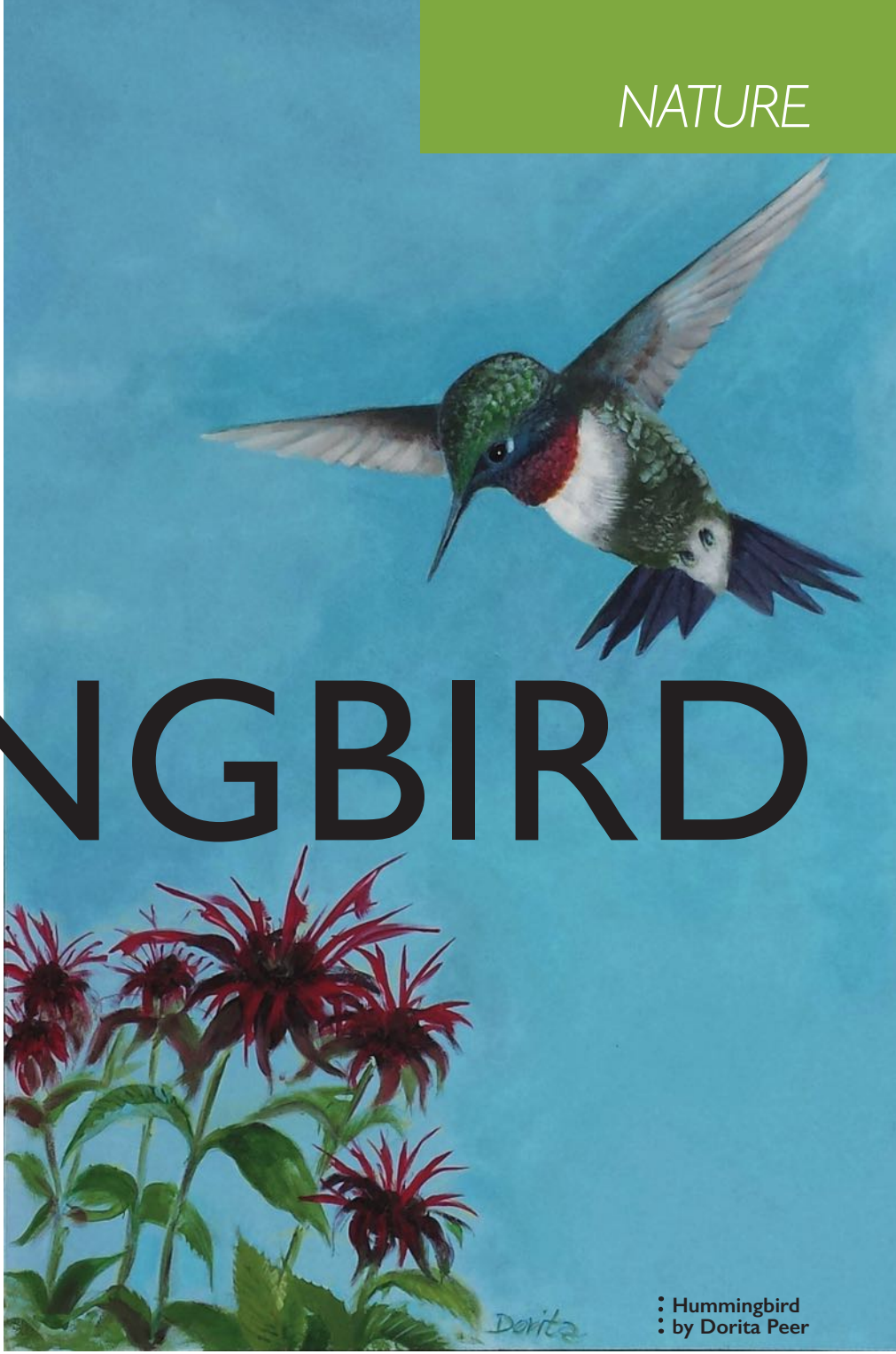
Hummingbirds are drawn to moving water. If you add a shallow fountain or mister to your yard, don’t be surprised if you spot one taking a quick dip (because even they enjoy a spa day). And since they rely on tiny insects for protein, skip the chemical pesticides – let nature do its thing. Give them a reason to visit year after year, and they will inevitably show up.

Why put in all this effort to attract hummingbirds? Because they inspire! Did you know these tiny powerhouses

migrate every single year? They travel from Ontario to the southern U.S. and then – brace yourself – fly non-stop across the Gulf of Mexico. No, they don’t hitch a ride with Air Transat or WestJet. They rely entirely on their stored energy to make the journey.

And if that isn’t impressive enough, get this: hummingbirds have incredible memories. Not only do they remember their flight path between Canada and Mexico, but they also remember your garden. Every flower. Every feeder. And exactly how long it takes for each bloom to refill with nectar. They might even remember you! Imagine being recognized by a hummingbird.

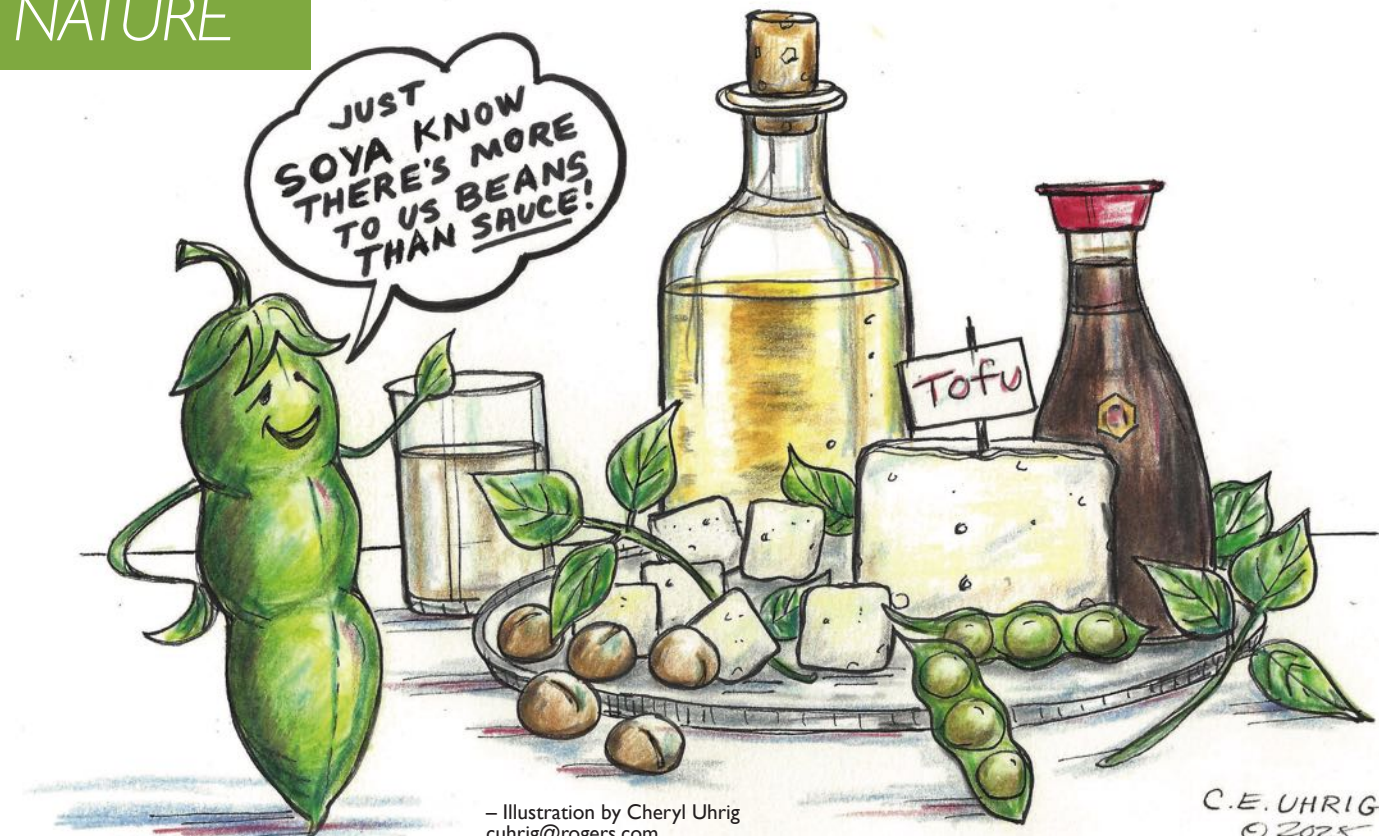
Oh, and just so you know, in Vancouver, they have a species called Anna’s Hummingbird – a stunning variety that, unlike most, doesn’t migrate. Now, I can’t help but wonder: Is there anything I could do to convince these perfectly named birds to relocate to Ontario? Maybe a heated birdbath? A VIP nectar bar? A very persuasive letter? If anyone finds a way, let me know – I have a feeling we’d get along perfectly.



NATURE

Hummingbird  
by Dorita Peer





– Illustration by Cheryl Uhrig  
cuhrig@rogers.com

# SOYA, THE MOST VERSATILE BEAN



## 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.

The staple foods for most cultures are based on seeds. It's not that people eat seeds right off the plant. Wheat and corn get ground into flour and turned into various types of bread. Barley and rye are fermented into beer and whiskey (or whiskey). We eat rice grains but also turn them into noodles and pancakes. Staple foods tend to be processed foods!

Beans tend to be the exception. We prepare most beans, like lentils, chickpeas and pintos, rather simply. Just boil with herbs and a few veggies. When they reach your plate, you can pretty much tell you are eating cooked seeds. Not so with soybeans. Since their domestication in East Asia about 9,000 years ago, people have invented processes that transform the soybean into liquids, pastes and spongy blocks. Some of these products have a mild flavour, while some are pungent. What you see in your bowl may look nothing like a bean.

Tofu is a case in point. When Benjamin Franklin first encountered it in London, he thought it a Chinese type of cheese. He wasn't far off. Like cheese, tofu starts with milk. Soy milk. Ground beans are soaked and boiled for hours in water to produce a slurry. This gets filtered to remove the solid residue, leaving a stable liquid emulsion of protein, fats and water, much like cow's milk. The soy proteins are covered with negative charges, so they repel each other. This keeps them from settling out. To get tofu, you must destabilize the emulsion. So, salts like gypsum or magnesium chloride are added. These molecules attach to, and thereby neutralize, the negative charges. This lets the proteins coagulate and settle to the bottom of the vat. This squishy mass gets scooped into a mold and pressed to expel excess water. The harder it's pressed, the firmer the curd. Silken tofu is barely squeezed and has texture to match its name. Dougan, on the other hand, is pressed hard and then dried. Its texture recalls cooked meat. Most types of tofu taste bland to a western palate, but it can pick up flavours when cooked with spices, sauces and aromatic vegetables. All

in all, the processes for making tofu are like those for cheese, just stopping short of the fermenting and aging steps. But fermentation is essential in several other soy products, including miso.

Recently, I've noticed more and more online recipes that include miso. It's salty, savoury and abounds with the umami taste that enhances the flavours in chicken, fish and pasta. I've even seen a recipe for peanut butter and miso cookies. Miso comes in many varieties, but they are all basically a paste of mashed soybeans, salt, and rice, barley or other grains. These get fermented with a special fungus called "koji" and aged for days to months. As the seed mix ages, the koji releases digestive enzymes. These break down the rice and barley starches into sugars and chop the soy proteins into short chains of amino acids. Soy proteins tend to be rich in one particular amino acid, glutamine. When the glutamine gets cleaved from the protein, it reacts with the salt to yield monosodium glutamate, which you may know as MSG. When we eat miso, the MSG triggers a particular type of taste receptor on our tongues. When it does, our brain says "umami." That's the savoury, rich, meaty

## FIVE INGREDIENT CREAMY MISO PASTA

I recently got this recipe from the New York Times Cooking website<sup>1</sup>. I never would have come up with this on my own. But noodles and miso were both invented in the Far East, so this combo is a natural.

### INGREDIENTS:

- 16 oz. spaghetti or linguini
- 6 T butter
- 3 T miso (white or red)
- 1 C grated Parmesan cheese

### DIRECTIONS:

- Boil the pasta until al dente and drain, reserving 1 C of the pasta water.
- Add the butter, miso and pasta water to the pot and whisk over medium heat until miso breaks down and liquid is uniform, 1 to 2 minutes.
- Add the pasta and Parmesan and cook, stirring vigorously with tongs until cheese is melted and sauce emulsifies. (You need to stir vigorously to achieve a silky, rather than lumpy sauce.)
- Add to bowls and garnish with shredded nori (shredded seaweed). Serves 4.

1. <https://cooking.nytimes.com/recipes/11020979-five-ingredient-creamy-miso-pasta>

flavour that stands alongside the other four basic tastes: sweet, sour, salty and bitter.

Miso comes in many varieties. The two most commonly available here are the red and white. For the red type, known as Akamiso, the soybeans are steamed, which then gives them a darker colour. For Shiromiso, the white miso, the beans are boiled. Ratio of beans to grains also differs between the two, with the white variety being composed predominantly of rice and barley. Regional varieties abound across Japan, each having its own mix of beans and grains and the local genetic strain of koji.

And then there is soy sauce. It's thought that this brew was devised as a way to extend salt, which could be quite expensive in inland regions. It also imparts the umami taste, which should be no surprise since soy sauce is made by a very similar process to miso. Soybeans get boiled, wheat toasted, combined with salt brine and koji, then brewed for several weeks. The liquid is strained from the solids and bottled.

So, the next time you shake a little soy sauce on your food, remember you are eating beans.



## AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

## STAFF PICKS HOT SUMMER READS

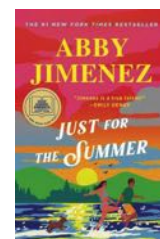


WRITTEN BY  
**NICOLE GNEO**  
Nicole is the Interim Program Supervisor for the King Township Public Library.



**Sarah Suggests:**  
**The Favorites**  
by Layne Fargo

From a young age, Katarina Shaw knows she is destined for an Olympic gold medal. When she meets Heath Rocha, a lonely boy in the foster care system, the two become inseparable. They begin ice dancing, and their journey will take them around the world where they will encounter rivals-turned-frenemies, strict training regimens, family drama, romantic betrayals, and sabotage. Then, a shocking incident at the Olympic Games brings everything to a sudden end, and Katarina becomes one of the most hated celebrities in the world. Ten years later, interest in their story is reignited when an unauthorized documentary is released, promising to reveal the truth. Perfect for fans of ice dancing, Olympians Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, epic love stories, and author Taylor Jenkins Reid.



**Ada Suggests:**  
**Just for the Summer**  
by Abby Jimenez

A perfect summertime read for romance lovers. If you are looking for a feel-good romance with humour, emotional growth and, last but not least, the magic of summer love, Just for the Summer is a great pick.



**Adele Suggests:**  
**When the World Fell Silent**  
by Donna Jones Alward

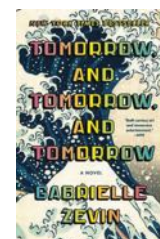
This book is a take on the Halifax explosion during WWI from the perspective of two women, both of whose lives are thrown off course by the war and made more difficult given the restrictions of the time on women. Beautifully written, I learned more about the impact of the explosion than I ever had in history class. However, for me, the most interesting part was how Alward brought these two women to life. It is one of those books that you can't put down, but when you are finished, you want the story to go on.

Do you need to cool off during the hot summer days? Check out what the KTPL staff are reading to take a break from the heat!



**Nicole Suggests:**  
**Stone Cold Fox**  
by Rachel Koller Croft

What a fantastic read! A psychological thriller with a little bit of dark humour. Follow along with Bea's story and how her ambitious ways to better her life and run from her past have her playing a dangerous cat-and-mouse game with Collin's family and friends. It's interesting to see how far she will go to con her way into Collin's life as she tries to avoid ending up like her mom and spending her life swindling men for money.



**Heather Suggests:**  
**Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow**  
by Gabrielle Zevin

The depiction of the depth of relationships that can morph and mutate between friendship, love, animosity, and back again was enthralling. I also liked being brought into the behind-the-scenes process of a small group of people building a creative project that eventually grows into a giant business, and the fact that success can be a double-edged sword. A fantastic read from cover to cover.



**Theresa Suggests:**  
**Remarkably Bright Creatures**

*Remarkably Bright Creatures* is the wonderful, heart-warming debut novel by Shelby Van Pelt. Readers will adore the main characters and want to learn more about their backgrounds and how their stories unfold. Tova, a 70-year-old widow who works at the Sowell Bay aquarium, is coping with the mysterious disappearance of her son decades ago. Cameron is a young man struggling to find his way. Finally, we have Marcellus, a curmudgeonly, humorous and intelligent giant Pacific octopus who lives at the aquarium and befriends Tova. Do not let the fact that one of the narrators is a giant octopus deter you from reading this book! *Remarkably Bright Creatures* is beautifully written and explores themes of grief, loss and loneliness, community, family and unlikely friendships. I highly recommend this book!

• Marc (Josh Palmer) laughs with Yvan (Ganesh Thava)  
• as Serge (Fred Kuhr) turns away

THE ARTS



# KING THEATRE COMPANY MOUNTS 2025 SEASON

The King Theatre Company (KTC), in partnership with the King Heritage and Cultural Centre, recently staged 10 performances of the play **Art** at Laskay Hall under the direction of Chloë Rose Flowers.

The comedy, written by Yasmina Reza, revolves around three friends – Serge, Marc and Yvan -- and their conflicting opinions about a modern painting purchased by Serge. As it turns out, the debate over the painting exposes deeper issues in their long-term relationship.

Next up for KTC is Tuesdays with Morrie, which will hit the stage August 13 to 28 at Pine Farm Orchards, the same venue that hosted KTC's production of *Salt-Water Moon* last summer. It tells the real-life story of sportswriter Mitch Albom's reconnection with his

former sociology professor Morris (Morrie) Schwartz after learning that the older man was suffering from the terminal illness Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Albom visited every Tuesday for 14 weeks as Morrie's disease progressed, offering comfort and companionship but also gaining invaluable life lessons from his mentor.

The KTC's 2025 season will wrap up Dec. 16 to 21 at Schomberg Community Hall with a production of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

For tickets, go to [www.kingtheatre.ca](http://www.kingtheatre.ca).







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• The King Township Historical Society Board of Directors were out in force for the book launch

# From ICE AGE TO PRESENT DAY

## HISTORY OF KING TOWNSHIP BOOK CHARTS A FASCINATING JOURNEY

WRITTEN BY  
**KIM SILLCOX**

Kim has served as a King Township Historical Society board member for the past eight years and is the Director of Communications & Marketing for The Country Day School

Three years ago, at the start of the King Township Historical Society's (KTHS) 50th anniversary year, local author and King resident Ann Love and retired King Township deputy chief librarian Sharon Bentley took on the monumental task of researching and writing *The History of King Township: A Community Shaped by the Land*. This labour of love, which chronicles the fascinating evolution of

King Township, made its debut on April 24 at a special book launch hosted by the KTHS at the Township Municipal Centre, coinciding with the launch of King's 175th anniversary.

"In this digital age, it's heartwarming to see a crowd of nearly 200 gather for the launch of a 476-page printed hardcover history book," Ann said. "It's no doorstopper -- it's a showstopper!"

Sharon echoed Ann's enthusiasm: "*The History of King Township: A Community Shaped by the Land* is not just another boring history book. It is a page-turner with stories of crime, deception, intrigue and romance. We even threw in invasion from our southern neighbours and

the infamous McKinley tariffs. We have everything covered!"

The celebratory event featured book signings, author presentations and dramatic readings by Arts Society King (ASK) actor Laura Martini, reading an 1838 letter from early settler Phoebe Lloyd, and ASK President Michele McNally, reading a letter from Merelda Campbell to her brother on the WWI front. King Mayor Steve Pellegrini was there to congratulate both authors and return their original manuscript after being one of the first to read the book.

Entirely funded in advance by generous donors throughout the township, the project faced significant challenges during

the pandemic due to the closure of archives across the province. Undeterred, Ann and Sharon embraced the challenge and proposed a fresh approach -- one that would explore the history of King through the lens of its landscape. Their vision was to delve into how the land and natural environment have transformed over time, and how people have adapted to and shaped it.

"Our book traces the interrelationship of the natural and cultural heritage of our township -- how the land shaped the people, and the people shaped the land -- from the end of the Ice Age to the beginning of the 21st century," said Ann.

**To enrich the narrative, the authors have included vignettes by local history buffs — many of whom are no longer with us. These stories, shared by voices from King's past and present, offer intimate glimpses into the Township's history.**

*Out of Sight* by Margie Kenedy  
*Responding to Need, Adapting to Change Part 1: The Wheat Barn* by Phyllis Vernon  
*What Happened to the Rank-and-File Rebels from King?* by Patricia Blackstock  
*Septimus Tyrwhitt* by Bertrand Duclos  
*Henry Frost* by Richard Vien

*Responding to Need, Adapting to Change Part 2: The Bank Barn* by Phyllis Vernon  
*Whatever Need Existed in the Community; the Institute Was There* by Louise Di Iorio  
*The Long-Lost Trail* by Ken Carter  
*The Mount St. Francis Catholic Land Settlement Corporation* by Bev Flanagan  
*The Lady in the Mud House: Blair's Story (1884 – 1985)* by Gillian Watt  
*Pine Farms Orchard* by Tony Rolph  
*The Pottageville Swamp: Zoological Studies Begin in Ontario* by Vicki Hotte  
*King Township Public Library* by Gordon Craig and Sharon Bentley  
*Hospice King* by Susan Deschamps and Philomena Duley  
*The Accidental Archives* by Elsa-Ann Pickard

The KTHS is deeply grateful to Ann and Sharon for their dedication to writing and researching *The History of King Township*. Their meticulous research and heartfelt storytelling have given us a treasure to enjoy for generations to come. The book celebrates the unique history of King

Township and the people who have called it home.

Beautifully crafted in hardcover with surveyor Stegmann's 1800 map of King beneath the dust jacket, the book is selling for \$40 online at [kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com](http://kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com) and is available for pick up at the

King Heritage and Cultural Centre. For those interested in purchasing it in person it is also for sale in the KHCC's gift shop for the same price. This long and storied history makes a wonderful gift and addition to every household in King!

Interested in joining the King Township Historical Society? We are always looking for new members to take part in our ongoing speaker series and events throughout the year. Visit [kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com](http://kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com) to learn more and purchase a book today!



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Tickets are \$75.00 and include continuously served hors d'oeuvres, a drink voucher, and a paddle for bidding in the live auction.

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"W.A. Mozart, Laudate Dominum," Ernestine Tahedi RCA, OSA, Acrylic on Canvas, 2018 (Image Courtesy of Ernestine Tahedi)

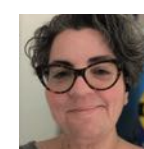
**KING**  
**175**  
**EST. 1850**



HERITAGE

# KING TOWNSHIP: A COMMUNITY ROOTED IN HERITAGE

In 2025, the Township of King is celebrating a remarkable dual milestone: its 175th anniversary as a municipality and the 100th anniversary of the start of the Holland Marsh drainage project — an undertaking that transformed the area into **one of Canada's most productive agricultural regions.**



WRITTEN BY  
**MEGAN HOUSTON**  
Megan is the Heritage and Cultural Supervisor at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre

past, building our future." It's a moment not only to look back, but to reimagine what's ahead for a place that continues to balance preservation with progress.

## The Holland Marsh: Ontario's "Salad Bowl"

While King's anniversary marks the long arc of a township's growth, the centennial of the Holland Marsh drainage project celebrates a bold and transformative chapter in Canadian agricultural history. Stretching through parts of King and neighboring Bradford-West Gwillimbury, the Holland Marsh is often called "Ontario's vegetable patch" for good reason. Its deep, dark organic soil — often referred to as "muck soil" — is among the most fertile in the country.

However, the area wasn't always a thriving agricultural zone. For centuries, it was a vast, swampy wetland shaped by the Holland River. In the early 20th century, the marsh was largely considered unusable — until two visionaries, farmer Dave Watson and Professor William H. Day from the Ontario Agricultural College, proposed a radical idea: drain the marsh to access the nutrient-rich soil beneath.

The proposal initially met with skepticism and resistance. Local municipalities were wary of the cost and feasibility. Tragically, Watson passed away before the plan was realized, but Day continued to champion the project. By 1925, approval was granted, and a massive engineering effort was

launched. Over the next five years, crews dug 28 kilometres of canals, built pumping stations and cleared more than 7,000 acres of land.

The impact was immediate and profound. With its exceptional growing conditions, the marsh quickly became home to hundreds of farmers — many of them immigrants — who cultivated a wide range of crops, including carrots, onions, lettuce and celery. Today, the marsh remains a critical source of fresh produce for Ontario and beyond, with over 60 types of vegetables grown annually.

## A Shared Story of Growth and Resilience

The stories of King Township and the Holland Marsh are inextricably linked. Parts of the marsh lie within King's boundaries, and its success as an agricultural engine contributed significantly to the township's economic and demographic development throughout the 20th century. The influx of farmers and farm workers brought new energy to the area, spurring growth in infrastructure, education and communities like Ansnorvelt.

Both anniversaries — 175 years of the township and 100 years since the marsh's transformation — highlight themes of perseverance and ingenuity. The settlers who founded King carved out lives in a rugged landscape, building institutions and communities that endure to this day. The engineers,

farmers, and labourers who drained the Holland Marsh overcame immense technical and environmental challenges to turn wilderness into farmland.

In 2025, King Township is not only celebrating its own history, but we are working closely with our friends in Bradford-West Gwillimbury to also pay tribute to the people and projects — like the draining of the Holland Marsh — that helped define it.

## Looking Forward

As King Township moves into its next chapter, we do so with a deep appreciation for the past, and a drive to learn more about those who came before us, while creating opportunities for progress. In a rapidly urbanizing region, we continue to prioritize conserving our natural heritage and green spaces, strengthening local food systems and supporting community-focused development.

The Holland Marsh, now facing challenges such as climate change, urban encroachment and soil management, is also entering a new era. Farmers and scientists alike are working on sustainable solutions to ensure the marsh remains productive for another century.

Together, the 175th and 100th anniversaries are more than just milestones. They are reminders of what's possible when vision meets action, and when communities come together to shape their landscapes — and their legacies.





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