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King **MOSAIC**

King MOSAIC is produced and edited by Arts Society King



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- Cheryl Uhrig
- Art Weis
- Colleen West
- Lynn Wilson

CORRECTION

In our Spring issue of MOSAIC, we published an incorrect Instagram address for ASK member Ashley Hug in our Let Me ASK You feature. The correct address is @fuchsiaandfae.

ArtsSocietyKing.ca

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We welcome your feedback, contributions, and suggestions.

Write to us at editor@artsocietyking.ca

FEATURED CONTRIBUTOR: **TIANA NOWZARI**



Tiana Nowzari is a writer and law student whose work explores the intersections of law, culture and society. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology, where her studies focused on the relationship between legal systems and social experience. Tiana is the founder of Nowzari Prints, an online literary platform with legal and social commentary, essays, and book reviews. Her work also appears in numerous magazines, journals, and creative platforms. As a francophone, she is especially interested in language rights and access to justice. Aside from her writing, Tiana has contributed to community-based arts initiatives, including Arts Society King, to support and showcase local artists and writers. She plans to pursue legal studies to work in art law and advocate for artists navigating the complexities of the legal system.

ON OUR COVER

Featured on our cover is a 24x24-inch acrylic painting entitled The Pond by Sherry Dubé. The beautiful, vibrant hues in this painting were captured in a photograph taken at Sherry's summer cottage in the Kawarthas. Sherry is a self-taught traditional artist who creates acrylic works in a highly detailed and realistic style. She loves learning how to express nature's subtle nuances of light and shadow and its enormous array of colors onto canvas. Her specialty is painting landscapes but she also enjoys painting florals, birds and animals. She spends a lot of time outdoors photographing the Ontario landscape, flora and fauna to use as reference material. Her wish is for viewers of her work to gain a new appreciation for the beautiful world we live in and to experience a sense of peace at the end of a long day. In her words, "the beauty I find in nature around me is what inspires my work, and my desire to preserve this vision is what motivates me to create." Read about Sherry on Page 5.



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WORD HAS IT: GREEN LEGAL THEORY

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Painting the natural world, one perfect dot at a time



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.

A chilly March afternoon was warmed greatly by the reception I received at the home of Sherry Dubé. The Newmarket resident had arranged several of her works for me to examine and discuss.

Sherry paints nature in exquisite detail. Based on her stories of technique, the effort behind each work could be described as “painstaking,” bordering on “excruciating.” She is a pointillist, meaning she dabs tiny droplets of acrylic paint onto canvas. The result of the hundreds of hours needed to produce each work...? Every canvas sparkles. Before a drop meets canvas, Sherry applies gesso, a time-honoured substrate, to assist in paint adherence and sheen. The process, along with sanding, continues as the work is developed.

Sherry grew up sketching in her home province of Saskatchewan, moving from village to village as her father, who worked for the Wheat Pool, was transferred. And speaking of work,

Sherry and I discovered we had worked for the same company (now in the IT industry graveyard, sadly) at the same time, in the same building.

Sherry is self-taught, but that’s not to say she is instinctive. She learned the craft of painting by watching two skilful practitioners, Bob Ross and Bill Alexander, on PBS. Sherry graduated from them to videos about working with acrylic paint. Her adaptation of that medium was accelerated by a memorable evening with friends from her scuba diving club. One of her fellow divers arranged a paint night at the studio of a local artist, who provided instruction, along with canvases, brushes and acrylic paints. Not surprisingly, the divers opted to paint a sea creature – a turtle. I wasn’t surprised to learn of Sherry being a diver, as there seems no limit to her capabilities.

I asked her about abstract painting, and her slight frown expressed more than her words. We returned to her métier.

Her most important piece of “kit” is her Carson magnifier. She straps this optical marvel on her forehead, then details the duck feathers, water wake, lily pads, and

all the other elements which deepen her nature works.

Creating Sherry’s meticulous output requires an almost obsessive degree of patience, and a grasp of “pleasure of taking pains.” Sherry puts into practice her deep knowledge of the building blocks of her art. Despite depicting the outdoors in exquisite detail, she doesn’t paint there. Why? Bugs get trapped in works while they are drying! Of course – why didn’t I think of that? A vision of Tom Thomson plucking black flies out of The Jack Pine scuttles across my brainpan. Oil takes longer to dry than acrylic, so the image isn’t totally off-base.

I asked Sherry if she had a whimsical story she could share. She told me of taking “Muskoka Mist” to the Toronto Outdoor Art Fair: It was a work in progress, though not identified as such. Many attendees contemplated the work, then asked why several portions were unfinished. One must wonder who was more chagrined: Sherry for replying, “The work isn’t complete” and nausea, or the questioners – expecting, one assumes, a complex, jargon-laden answer. She resolved to bring only finished paintings to future showings.

Concluding my eye-opening meeting was Sherry showing me the double-

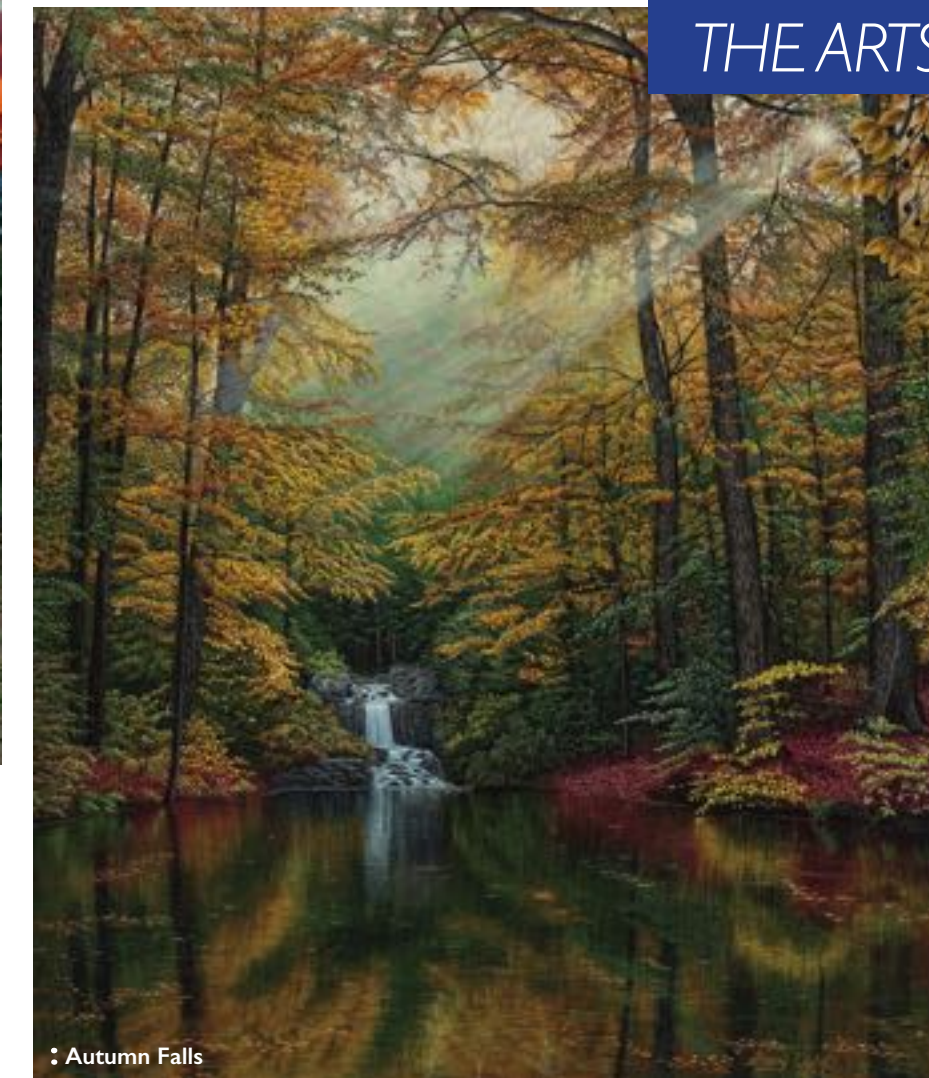
sided insulation bags she creates for safe transportation of her work. It was another, “Why didn’t I think of that?” moment for me, as she pointed out how delicate paintings can get damaged in transit, and how her insulated and right-sized bags mitigate the problem. Sherry can confidently move her works in and out of exhibits, which she does frequently.

She is one of a mere 303 members of the prestigious Ontario Society of Artists (OSA), of which both Thomson and the Group of Seven were members. Proof must be provided of an income from one’s art product, no small feat in a world where “starving artist” is too often an accurate epithet.

All that said, it’s ASK she lauds for being a conduit to opportunities.

Sherry thinks beyond the painting, to the practical issue of placement in a customer’s home. Her giclee (a new word for me) prints are sold with stretcher bars and hanging hardware already in place. Take the work home, perhaps in an insulated bag, hang it up – enjoy.

When we wrapped up, I was acutely aware of how blurred the line can be between art and craft. When both are present, as Sherry proves so well, magic happens.



GARDEN TOUR

HIGHLIGHTS LOCAL CREATIVITY IN SCHOMBERG AND KING TOWNSHIP

WRITTEN BY
ANGELA ROSE

Anyone with a green (or even a brown) thumb will be able to appreciate not only the beautiful gardens but will also be treated to some of King Township's best artists from Arts Society King (ASK) painting outside "en plein air."

Unique to this year's tour is that many of the featured gardens are within walking distance of each other, so if you want to get your steps in, the route is do-able at 3.2 kms. Start at one end, stop for lunch at one of the great restaurants or cafes on Main Street, and continue on in the afternoon. Then hop in your car and visit

the rural properties included in the tour. Return home with fond memories of a lovely day out.

Pat Earl, as the Society's liaison and member of Arts Society King, was approached by the organizers of the garden tour to once again collaborate on this year's event. The call to artists to participate did not go unanswered as numerous members of ASK applied to be part of this long-standing community event. An artist will be paired with a garden where they will set up their displays and demonstrate their art form. This year's tour showcases nine very diverse gardens and properties in and around historic Schomberg, in

picturesque King Township. Some are rarely open to the public.

Beth Egan and Angela Rose, co-chairs of the garden tour, said they are extremely pleased with this year's line-up of gardens. "We are grateful that garden and property owners are willing to invite us into their gardens and share their passion for gardening, care for the environment and commitment to our community at large," added Eleonora Schmied, President of the Schomberg Horticultural Society. "King Township enjoys so many forms of creativity, it makes sense to combine gardening and art. We are extremely excited about this year's tour and are pleased to welcome ASK artists."

The commitment of the 90-year-old horticultural society to the Schomberg community is evident in the public gardens that are maintained by volunteer members. Monthly meetings focus on educating members and guests on everything

Prepare to be inspired by fabulous rural, residential and public gardens on the Schomberg Horticultural Society's bi-annual Garden Tour from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on June 28, 2026.

horticultural as well as instilling a passion to care for and protect the environment. Annual single membership is \$20 and family membership (maximum four persons) is \$30.00. For information on the society, contact schomberghortsociety@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057231228053>.

Details are as follows (also available through the QR code on the poster): Tickets are \$15 and are available in advance starting on June 1 through [Eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca) (fees apply), or in-person on tour day at the Schomberg Library at 77 Main Street starting at 9:30 a.m. (cash only). Ticket holders will receive the self-guided tour map at the pickup location. A confirmation email with the address will be sent two days before the tour. There will be free, convenient parking on the street at all properties. Please note: service dogs only, children to be supervised, there may be uneven ground.

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SUMMER 2026 MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

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

The sun is always shining in beautiful King—and summer brings endless ways to enjoy it together! From countless parks, camps for kids, and family-friendly events to arts, culture and heritage experiences, I encourage everyone to get outside, celebrate and connect.

King's natural beauty truly shines in the summer months. As we recognize June is Recreation and Parks Month with many free activities at our community centres, please also take time to explore the extensive network of outdoor trails and enjoy our parks and green spaces—perfect for walking, cycling, picnicking or simply soaking in the scenery. Our open spaces are at the heart of what makes King such a special place to live. For information, visit king.ca/recreation.

SUMMER CAMPS

Sunny day adventures! The Township's 10 week summer camp season runs from June 29 to September 4, offering more than 45 one week camps for children ages four to 13. Programs span arts and culture, culinary, sports, science and technology, outdoor exploration and leadership in training—ensuring something for every interest and ability. Campers enjoy classic summer fun like water play, optional hot lunches and recreational swim times. Camps are hosted across facilities in King City, Nobleton and Schomberg, including the scenic Cold Creek Conservation Area, with flexible drop off, pick up and extended care options to support busy families. Learn more and plan your summer at king.ca/camps.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Summer in King is all about being outdoors, coming together and making memories. Join us on July 1 for our second **Canada Day** celebration at Memorial Park, where we'll mark our nation's birthday with live music, activities, food vendors and a spectacular drone show evening finale. This free, family friendly event brings neighbours together in the heart of King to celebrate our shared history, community spirit and Canadian pride.

Tee off for community at the **Mayor's Golf Tournament** on July 28 at Nobleton Lakes Golf Club—an annual summer tradition that unites residents and local businesses while supporting essential Township programs, services and facilities.

I encourage everyone to visit king.ca/events for dates, details and more ways to take part in the season's activities.

ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

From June through September, the King Heritage & Cultural Centre offers engaging exhibits and programming that celebrate creativity, history and inclusion. June features **TODAY WE SLAY**, a PRIDE themed art exhibition presented in partnership with Arts Society King, showcasing works by emerging and established 2SLGBTQI+ artists and allies that explore self expression, pride and empowerment.

Visitors can also experience **Reflections of Ourselves**, a collaborative exhibition examining identity, community and shared experiences, alongside **Traversing King: From Trails to Traffic**, which traces the evolution of transportation in King Township from early pathways to modern travel. Complemented by hands on programs and rotating displays that highlight local stories and diverse perspectives, there is always something meaningful to discover—whether you're visiting for the first time or returning to explore something new. Learn more at kingheritageandculture.ca.

As you make the most of the summer months, I encourage you to continue supporting local businesses, volunteering at community events, and staying connected by following King Township on social media and subscribing to Township updates at king.ca/subscribe.



Sincerely,

Steve Pellegrini
Mayor, King Township



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WATER LILY PAINTING BY ASK MEMBER SUSAN WALKER-ING

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NOV. 21 & 22, 2026
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ENRICHING KING TOWNSHIP THROUGH ARTS AND CULTURE

KING KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE

Let me **ASK** you...

featuring **JOE CASHIN & ANGELA FLESARIU**

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.



: Peaceful Campsite View

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

I spent 10 years building LEGO models and doing "building happenings," one of which was at the auto show in Vancouver, where we built a full-sized Formula 1 race car out of LEGO bricks. Another was the highest tower of bricks, which made it into the Guinness World Records.

an opportunity to produce original artistic works and to develop and construct new products. Hélène said I can't live without my phone so this would be the third thing.

HOW DO YOU GET INSPIRED TO CREATE YOUR ART?

A walk in the woods, a hike in the countryside, a canoe trip, camping -- being in nature is probably the best inspiration one could have, other than my wife.



: Joe Cashin

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU MOST DISLIKE?

To be stuck in a creative hole.

HOW DO YOU CONTINUE TO DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS AS AN ARTIST?

Go to galleries to see artists' works. I also take art courses to learn from other artists with different perspectives and styles, which helps me to create my own unique style in different mediums.

WHAT ARE THREE THINGS YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT?

The first thing would be my wife Hélène -- she is the backbone of my inspiration. Second would be not being able to have



: Bunny

JOE CASHIN <https://joecashinart.ca>
has worked with many mediums, such as woodcarving, soap carving, pyrography (a form of woodburning), as well as oil, acrylic and some watercolour painting. He has also experimented with the art of air brushing. Joe found his passion in working with coloured pencils on vellum surface paper and finds they give him the softness and effect that enriches his art.

His painting, *The Bunny*, was inspired by the plentiful rabbits on his property. He enjoys watching them running around the grass and playing, each with their own personality. The Bunny is Joe's tribute to all the cute, little bunnies in this world. The animal's eyes, the main feature of the painting, make the viewer wonder just what is going on in the mind of this bunny? His painting, *Peaceful Campsite View*, reflects the view he sees in late summer from his campsite on Little Sheguiandah Lake in Killarney, Ontario.



: The Morning

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON YOU'VE LEARNED AS AN ARTIST?

Creating is a process, rather than a fixed outcome. I've learned to prioritize intuition and a sense of play over the trap of perfection.

hidden challenge. I would like to decipher the secret of reaching people in a way that helps them understand my art and my process.

WHERE IS YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE TO CREATE AND WHY?

I dream of a high-ceiling industrial studio where I can unapologetically throw paint at massive canvases. For now, my basement corner is my sanctuary; it's a functional balance of tidy organization and the creative chaos necessary to let ideas breathe.

WHAT IS THE TRAIT THAT YOU DEPLORE IN OTHERS?

I wish people were more tolerant and would listen more, approaching others like a complex abstract painting. We shouldn't rush to judge; we should sit with the "layers" until we truly understand them.



: Angela Flesariu

WHICH TALENT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE?

Marketing and sales -- every artist's

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES OR INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF ART?

Reading, long walks and observing everyday life. And people.



: Blue Girl



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• Bea Grant poses beside her piece
 • *McMichael Remembered in a Rug*
 • Hooking Guild show at the Aurora
 • Cultural Centre.



• One of Kim Grant's jackets on display at the Spring Blooms art show and sale in 2025

A HERITAGE OF HAND WORK

In the Grant family, a shared language of fabrics, patterns and stitching techniques often leads to conversations and family bonding. This is how mother-daughter duo **Beatrice and Kim Grant** have shared their stories, identities and aspirations as their artistic journeys have taken shape.



WRITTEN BY
JOANNE BAILEY

Joanne, a retired nurse and college professor; actively volunteers with the Arts Society of King, Nobleton Seniors Centre and Dufferin Marsh Nature Connection. A wood designer and ear candling practitioner; she shares her lifelong passion for the arts.

AS a young child, Bea Grant would darn her own socks, a time-honoured tradition which preserved their warmth, comfort and durability. She didn't know it then, but that simple act of mending would represent the first stitches in a lifelong embrace of the textile arts.

Bea built her life around teaching and textile art, earning the prestigious Ontario Rug Hooking Guild Teacher's Certificate in the 1960s. She shared her skills at the Guildwood School of Arts and Crafts, perched above the Scarborough Bluffs and run by Spencer Clark, the visionary behind Canada's first artists' community, the Guild of All Arts. Over the years, Bea became a familiar presence in quilting circles as well, offering classes and giving demonstrations at the Royal Winter Fair. Her creativity stretched far beyond tradition: she crafted hooked rugs from an eclectic mix of materials – torn clothing, steel wool, bubble wrap, fake fur, even the shiny wrappers from Werther's caramel hard candies.

Through her love of antiques and heritage crafts, Bea found herself drawn not only to making things by hand but to building spaces where creativity could thrive. In 1985, she and a friend opened Piety Ridge Primitives inside the historic Crawford Wells General Store in King. The little shop quickly became a gathering place for people who appreciated the charm of handmade work. Four years later, the business expanded to Schomberg, settling into the Old Schomberg Feed Mill and adding new life to another well-worn building.

Today, Bea still practises the craft that has anchored her for decades. Her living room doubles as her studio. "I love working with a needle and thread, and many colours," she says. "I feel, today, rug hooking does not appeal to the younger generation. They want fast results. It is a slow craft but one of great satisfaction for me."

That satisfaction is visible in her work, with Bea's hooked rugs exploring texture, colour and design. She calls rug hooking "a therapeutic and relaxing craft," and the pieces she creates reflect that calm. A longtime member of Arts Society King (ASK), Bea's design *A Family Tree with Birds* appeared on the cover of the very first MOSAiC magazine in 2011, each bird representing a member of her family, with her three daughters

in a nest at the base. Her more recent heritage crafts, Bea found herself drawn not only to making things by hand but to building spaces where creativity could thrive. In 1985, she and a friend opened Piety Ridge Primitives inside the historic Crawford Wells General Store in King. The little shop quickly became a gathering place for people who appreciated the charm of handmade work. Four years later, the business expanded to Schomberg, settling into the Old Schomberg Feed Mill and adding new life to another well-worn building.

The threads of creativity run through the Grant family, with Bea's daughter Kim also taking up the textile arts. Kim works in mixed media and has taken workshops with ASK and the Aurora Cultural Centre. She has poured her energy into community life as well, serving on the Main Street Christmas Committee and the Schomberg Scarecrow Committee. Together with her husband and two children, Kim is restoring an 1890s stone schoolhouse in Duntroon and recently completed the restoration of the old Schomberg Creamery Building at 203 Main Street.

Kim traces her artistic beginnings directly to her mother. "My mom was my inspiration. I used to watch her sew Barbie clothes, and dresses for herself and for me and my sisters when we were little," Kim says. "I had a fantastic art teacher in high school, and I always loved to paint, sew, make jewellery and anything else creative." During the pandemic, Kim began painting on denim jackets – an ideal canvas for someone who loved fabric as much as paint. "I love denim and had a lot in my closet and felt I could paint, sew, quilt and do almost anything creative on these jackets."

Kim's first jacket was a copy of Van Gogh's "Starry Night," featuring a bold range of colours from deep blue to vibrant yellow. From there, she branched out into vibrant birch trees, irises and waterlilies. Kim made her craft show debut at the Schomberg Street Gallery in 2022 and returned to that event the following year. She has since attended Schomberg's Walkable Saturday, the King Museum Christmas Show, ASK's first Artisan Fair and Newmarket's Fairy Lake Artisan Show.

The Grants' connection to Schomberg runs deep. When Bea and Kim moved to Main Street in 1988, they brought along "Gil the Thrill," Kim's beloved horse, who lived in the barn behind their home. Gilly held the distinction of being the last horse to reside on Schomberg's main street, the end of an era for this historic agricultural village.

Taken together, the artwork of Beatrice and Kim Grant forms a vivid tapestry of self-expression, resilience and storytelling. Their quilts, hooked rugs and painted jackets reveal a shared instinct for colour and pattern – but more importantly, they reflect a family's heritage and a strong creative bond that has made a valuable contribution to King Township's artistic community.

Bea's email: primitiverughooker@gmail.com
 Kim's email: Kimgrant@rogers.com



MPP Stephen Lecce joined by MPP Caroline Mulroney and Mayor Steve Pellegrini breaking ground on the new Southlake Hospital

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STEPHEN LECCE
 MPP King—Vaughan





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HELLO my name is LISA ALLSHIRE

I am a landscape and still life oil painter based in North Toronto. My work is realistic in that it captures the essence of my subject using passages of impressionistic colour. I was born and raised in Ireland, and a memory of mine as a child was an urge on sunny days to scrape the blue off the sky with a knife as if the sky was a solid substance like butter. I harken back to that memory when I layer thick oil paint onto canvas in my favourite colour (blue) to capture the gorgeous Canadian skies of my adopted homeland.

Before finally settling in Canada, I moved frequently, living in the UK, Switzerland, Czechia and Australia. This peripatetic life created a sense of self-reliance and I continued to paint wherever I called home. Living in different places helped

me think, as an artist, in an independent way while absorbing new ideas.

Recently, my art has evolved to highlight the way we remember. We do not perceive the world in a square or rectangular format like a photograph; rather, we recall elements of an experience that make an impression on our consciousness. I have begun to paint my work on custom-designed forms to give a shape to the character of our lived experience. The form of my shaped paintings references the nature of the wind bending the trees or the way the water ripples in a way that captivates and mesmerises the senses.

Website: www.allshire.art
Instagram: @lisaallshire



• Crossing the Finish Line



• Lisa Allshire



• Fresh Oranges

WORD HAS IT

THE ARTS

GREEN LEGAL THEORY



WRITTEN BY
TIANA NOWZARI

Tiana is a law student with a background in the arts and writing who also volunteers with Arts Society King. Her work has been published in a range of magazines, journals and websites.

These poems were inspired by a law school project in a legal theory class. My colleagues and I researched and presented on Green Legal Theory (GLT), a framework that looks at environmental law and the relationship between law and the natural world.

Through this project, I saw how Canadian environmental law often treats land and natural resources as property. GLT challenged that perspective and made me rethink how we value the environment.

I began asking why we treat nature as a commodity, only recognizing its worth when it benefits us. Why don't laws simply acknowledge its right to exist? GLT encourages seeing the environment as a living entity and considering how we might live in balance with it.

After our project, my professor encouraged me to write a haiku. This traditional Japanese form, with a 5-7-5 structure, captures small moments

in nature and invites observation. My haiku reflects this act of noticing, while also echoing the way law frames nature through commanding language.

The second poem continues this reflection. It questions the idea of valuing nature only for what it provides us and asks us to see the natural world as autonomous and deserving of care and respect.

We bend branches low
We cultivate raw soil
River obey us

Oceans set their rules
Tides crash on deafened docks
Reckoning arrives

WHEN SHE SPEAKS

Before the mark, before the measure
there was only listening.
The ground held no margins.
Water moved without asking.
Nothing needed our names.

We bent the land to our designs
as if paper could command water.
Land became category.
Water became quantity.

We learned possession, not relation.
It named the earth still
and read its quiet as permission.

What could not speak
stood in for yes.

So now, let us begin again.

We will trace rivers with our hands
and let their words flow.

We will map the soil by touch
not by titles
or fences.

We will let forests keep their shape
let winds scatter seeds.
Plant us a new way where
we remember our steps.

Until the ground answers back,
until silence is no longer mistaken,
until care replaces claim,
we will stand where borders fail
and learn to listen longer than we speak.



Congratulations Graduates
Class of **2026**

ANNA ROBERTS
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR KING-VAUGHAN
ANNA.ROBERTS@PARL.GC.CA | 905-303-5000

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 exercises, guest speakers and feedback from peers.
Location: King City Public Library, 1970 King Road, King City
Contact: info@kinglibrary.ca for more information

VARIOUS DATES – WORKSHOPS – KINGCRAFTS STUDIO

Looking to get creative and try something new? Kingcrafts Studio offers a variety of hands-on workshops throughout the year, including enamelling, stained glass, pottery, weaving, rug hooking, wire structures and crochet. It's a fun and welcoming way to explore a new hobby, learn new skills, and meet like-minded people. Visit our website to see what workshops are coming up next!
Location: 12936 Keele Street, King City
Website: www.kingcrafts.ca
Contact: info@kingcrafts.ca

MAY 23 – ANNUAL PLANT SALE AND SEEDY SATURDAY – NOBLETON & KING CITY GARDEN CLUB

There will be plants for sale and many other vendors, including the York Food Network, with many seeds available to swap or take.
Location: Laskay Hall, 2920 King Road, King City
Time: 9:00AM to 1:00PM
Contact: nobletonkingcitygardenclub@gmail.com
Website: https://gardenontario.org/society-listing/entry/635/

MAY 25 – NATURAL GARDEN DESIGN – NOBLETON & KING CITY GARDEN CLUB

Shaun Booth will walk us through the elements of creating a natural garden.
Location: Laskay Hall, 2920 King Road, King City
Time: 7:30PM
Contact: nobletonkingcitygardenclub@gmail.com
Website: https://gardenontario.org/society-listing/entry/635/

MAY 29 TO 31 – 176TH AGRICULTURAL SPRING FAIR – SCHOMBERG AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our 176th fair theme is "Hay Bales and Cow Tails!"
Location: Schomberg Fairgrounds
Time: 10:00AM to 10:00PM
Contact: Cathy Pezzo, 905-939-8283
Website: www.schombergfair.com

JUNE 6 – REPAIR CAFE – TOWNSHIP OF KING, YORK REGION & NEWMAKEIT

The Repair Café brings together people with items to repair and volunteer fixers willing to share their skills and tools.
Location: King City Seniors Centre, 1970 King Rd, King City
Time: 10:00AM to 2:00PM
Website: Register at https://www.king.ca/EnvironmentalEvents

JUNE 15 TO 19 – NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK – TOWNSHIP OF KING & KING TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

In celebration of National Pollinator Week, pick up a free pack of native wildflower seeds provided by York Region to start your own pollinator garden.
Location: King Township Library Branches
Time: During operating hours
Website: https://www.king.ca/EnvironmentalEvents

JUNE 22 – THE BENEFITS OF MUSHROOMS – NOBLETON & KING CITY GARDEN CLUB

Geoff Norton will discuss the benefits of mushrooms. Note: This is not a foraging presentation.
Location: Laskay Hall, 2920 King Road, King City
Time: 7:30PM
Contact: nobletonkingcitygardenclub@gmail.com
Website: https://gardenontario.org/society-listing/entry/635/

JUNE 27 – COMMUNITY ELECTRONICS RECYCLING – TOWNSHIP OF KING

Bring your unwanted electronics to ensure they are disposed of safely, recycled and kept out of landfill.
Location: Nobleton Arena parking lot, 15 Old King Road, Nobleton
Time: 9:00AM to 12:00PM
Website: https://king.ca/ElectronicRecycling

JUNE 28 – ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR – SCHOMBERG HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Schomberg Horticultural Society's Annual Garden Tour showcases some of the most beautiful gardens and properties in and around Schomberg. This self guided, self-driving tour featuring about eight gardens that are rarely open to the public in collaboration with Arts Society King and the Township of King. Come and explore the beautiful vistas, rolling hills and down-to-earth hospitality of King Township. Tickets (non-refundable) are available on June 1 on eventbrite.ca and on garden tour day at the Schomberg Library at 77 Main Street at 9:30 am. \$15 per person, rain or shine.
Location: Gardens and properties in the Schomberg area, King Township.
Time: 10:00AM – 4:00PM
Contact: schomberghortsociety@gmail.com

JUNE/JULY – DATE TBC – ARTS SOCIETY KING ART LAB

Watch for the Plein Air Art Lab workshop coming soon
Email: patriciaearl180@gmail.com to be added to the list of interested participants

JUNE 28 – GUIDED APIARY TOUR – TOWNSHIP OF KING & PIONEER BRAND HONEY

In a tour led by third-generation beekeeper André Flys, learn to identify the queen, brood and different types of bees in the hive.
Location: Cold Creek Conservation Area, 14125 11th Concession, Nobleton
Time: 1:00PM to 2:30PM
Website: https://www.king.ca/EnvironmentalEvents

JULY 1 – CANADA DAY IN KING! – TOWNSHIP OF KING

Come together with friends and neighbours to honour our country's heritage and create unforgettable memories as we celebrate the True North with food, live music, a drone show and more!
Location: Memorial Park, King City
Time: 5:00PM to Dusk
Contact: events@king.ca
Website: https://king.ca/events

JULY 1 TO AUGUST 31 – GLORIOUS GARDENS RECOGNITION – NOBLETON & KING CITY GARDEN CLUB

Anyone in King Township is eligible to have their front gardens recognized. Just contact us, and we will do the rest!
Location: Fabulous front gardens in King Township

Contact: nobletonkingcitygardenclub@gmail.com
Website: https://gardenontario.org/society-listing/entry/635/

JULY 9 – BIRD WALK – TOWNSHIP OF KING & TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Whether you're a seasoned birdwatcher or a first-time enthusiast, you'll learn to identify a variety of common bird species by their distinctive calls, vibrant colours and unique behaviours.
Location: Happy Valley Forest, meeting spot will be the intersection of 16th Sideroad & 7th Concession
Time: 4:30PM to 6:30PM
Website: Register at https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/summer-birds-happy-valley-forest-tickets-1978425924197

JULY 25 – COMMUNITY ELECTRONICS RECYCLING – TOWNSHIP OF KING

Bring your unwanted electronics to ensure they are disposed of safely, recycled and kept out of landfill.
Location: Zancor Centre parking lot, 1600 15th Sideroad, King City
Time: 9:00AM to 12:00PM
Website: https://king.ca/ElectronicRecycling

JULY 26 – GUIDED APIARY TOUR – TOWNSHIP OF KING & PIONEER BRAND HONEY

In a tour led by third generation beekeeper André Flys, learn to identify the queen, brood and different types of bees in the hive.
Location: Cold Creek Conservation Area, 14125 11th Concession, Nobleton
Time: 1:00PM to 2:30PM
Website: Register at https://www.king.ca/EnvironmentalEvents

AUGUST 11 TO 22 – THE PAVILION BY CRAIG WRIGHT – KING THEATRE COMPANY

King Theatre Company is thrilled to return to Pine Farms Orchard's beautiful front porch for our third annual outdoor play, The Pavilion, a funny, heartfelt and deeply human rom-com.
Location: Pine Farms Orchard, 2700 16th Sideroad, King City
Time: 7:00PM
Contact: kingtheatrecompany@gmail.com
Website: www.kingtheatre.ca

AUGUST 22 – COMMUNITY ELECTRONICS RECYCLING – TOWNSHIP OF KING

Bring your unwanted electronics to ensure they are disposed of safely, recycled and kept out of landfill.
Location: Trisan Centre, 25 Dillane Dr, Schomberg
Time: 9:00AM to 12:00PM
Website: https://king.ca/ElectronicRecycling

KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE EXHIBITIONS

Location: 2920 King Road, King City, unless otherwise stated
Website: www.kingheritageandculture.ca
Phone: 905-833-2331

JUNE 2 TO 30 – MICRO EXHIBITION – A RAINBOW OF ARTIFACTS

Think old stuff is bland and colourless? Visit the KHCC to see some colourful artifacts in celebration of Pride month.
Time: Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10:00AM to 4:00PM

JUNE 3 TO 7 – ART EXHIBITION – ANN CLIFFORD

The King Heritage & Cultural Centre is pleased to welcome a limited engagement exhibition of wire sculpture by renowned multimedia artist Ann Clifford.
Time: TBC
Website: www.anncliffordarts.com

ONGOING TO JUNE 25 – ART EXHIBITION – JENN BEST

Visit the King Township Municipal Centre (KTMC) to view this limited-engagement exhibition of art by mixed media artist Jenn Best.
Location: King Township Municipal Centre, 2585 King Rd., King City
Time: Monday to Friday, 8:30AM to 4:30PM
Website: www.jennbestcreative.com

JUNE 29 TO AUGUST 13 – ART EXHIBITION – MARY MORGANELLI

Visit the King Township Municipal Centre (KTMC) to view this limited-engagement exhibition of art by King Township artist Mary Morganelli.
Location: King Township Municipal Centre, 2585 King Rd., King City
Time: Monday to Friday, 8:30AM to 4:30PM
Website: www.mariellart.com

ONGOING TO JULY 4 – QUEEN VICTORIA'S SECRETS

Curated by the Richmond Hill Heritage Centre, this limited-engagement exhibition explores changes in Victorian middle-class women's dress and features a selection of textiles and objects from the City of Richmond Hill artifact collection.
Time: Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10:00AM to 4:00PM

JUNE 17 TO JULY 11 – ART EXHIBITION – GERALD WAYNE MCLEOD

The King Heritage & Cultural Centre is pleased to welcome a limited engagement exhibition of mixed-media artwork by Indigenous artist-educator Gerald Wayne McLeod.
Time: TBC

JULY 15 TO 25 – VARIATIONS IN LANDSCAPE: ART EXHIBITION BY BEN BENEDICT

The King Heritage & Cultural Centre is pleased to welcome "Variations in Landscape," a limited engagement exhibition of mixed-media artwork by London, Ontario fine artist Ben Benedict.
Time: TBC
Website: www.benbenedict.ca

AUGUST 1 TO SEPTEMBER 23 – EXHIBITION – HISTORY OF THE AURORA-WHITCHURCH-KING WAR MEMORIAL

The Aurora-Whitchurch-King war memorial was erected in 1925 and restored in 2025. This exhibition relates the history of the memorial and highlights the stories of several King soldiers who lost their lives.
Time: Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10:00AM to 4:00PM

NOBLETON SENIORS 55+

Location: Nobleton Arena, 15 Old King Road, Nobleton
Time: 10:00AM to 12:00PM
Contact: Joanne Bailey 416-706-9375
Email: jbailey133@yahoo.com Website: www.king.ca/seniors

JUNE 4 – HOW BEAUTIFUL IS YOUR GARDEN?

Angela Del Borrello will be leading a décor project to enhance your summer garden. Cost is \$10, which includes all materials. Please register by May 28.

JUNE 11 – THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF ESSENTIAL OILS & SUMMER POTLUCK

Angela Del Borrello will talk about five new essential oils to benefit our health and boost our mood. Participants will make a summer hand scrub to take home. Join our potluck lunch and bring your favourite food as we break for the summer; returning September 11.

KING CITY SENIORS 55+

Location: King City Seniors Centre, 1970 King Road, King City
Time: 10:00AM – Except September 2
Contact: RSVP to King City Seniors Centre at 905-833-6565

JUNE 5 – PRESENTATION

Dr. Carew will discuss gut health.

JUNE 12 – WORKSHOP

Artist Angela Del Borello will provide a hands-on creative workshop. Theme TBA. Cost \$10 per person.

JUNE 30 – PRESENTATION

Kate McCormick will discuss osteoporosis.

SEPTEMBER 2 – OPEN HOUSE

Time: 10:00AM to 2:00PM
Time to catch up after the summer and see what is planned for fall. There will be displays of crafts, information tables and refreshments.



Fall ART SHOW SIGNALS CHANGE IS IN THE AIR

WRITTEN BY COLLEEN WEST

Arts Society King (ASK) is pleased to announce its first juried Fall Art Show and Sale, featuring fine artworks by ASK member artists. The theme, "Change is in the Air," invites artists to interpret what change means to them: from shifting skies, storms and seasons – to anticipation, transition and growth as something ends, begins or becomes new.

Applications open June 1 and close August 31, 2026. The non-refundable entry fee is \$30, and artists may submit up to two works. Non-ASK members may also apply; if selected, they must join Arts Society King and pay a \$50 membership fee, valid through 2027. For art enthusiasts, it provides an opportunity to enjoy fine artworks and find their next favourite piece to take home. Come celebrate the season of change with us!

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Arts Society KING, King Heritage & Cultural Centre, LIT HALL FARM, KING

Arts Society KING

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR

Fall Art Show and Sale

October 13 - November 6, 2026
Tuesday - Saturday / 10am - 4pm
King Heritage & Cultural Centre, East Gallery 2920 King Rd., King City

Mayor's Choice Award and People's Choice Award will be presented.

Arts Society KING, KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE, Scan QR Code for more information or go to www.ArtsSocietyKing.ca

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AFTER THE GUNS *fell* SILENT

A Soldier's LETTER HOME



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.

These letters were discovered inside a rolltop desk in an abandoned farmhouse outside King City.

January 12, 1919
Somewhere in England

Dear Mother:

I'm happy to write to you after such a long period of silence – not by my choice. After being bounced around for weeks, we're finally settled. Even though the Great War has ended, we are still under military jurisdiction, so I can't tell you precisely where I am. I was suffering so much *ennui* (I picked up some French) after all the inactivity that I volunteered to censor letters. Colonel Anderson was happy, as it's a task no one wants. Perhaps I can reveal my location soon, once I'm sure no one censors the censors!

I'm not in France; a nation permanently spoiled for me. The land is beautiful, though city and country are torn up terribly. But I lost so many friends during the months of campaigning we endured. Young men I

bonded with through training in Quebec and then on Salisbury Plain were too often blown to pieces within minutes of their first action. Sometimes I envied them.

Do you remember little Johnny Witherspoon, whose farm was a few sections to the west of us? After he joined our regiment, we got reacquainted and found ourselves spending time together. This was difficult, because with me being an officer, and him a private, we weren't supposed to have more contact than the occasional nod. However, we'd share a *Liegeoise* when we could and talk about home. He was greatly worried about his fiancée, Evelyn, particularly after he learned in a letter from her that she was with child. Her parents were threatening to throw her into the street for creating a scandal.

Johnny came to the front concerned that he wouldn't be able to take a life, but he quickly shed that attitude. We had visitors from the Princess Pat's Regiment tell us how to conduct trench raids, and the weapons used. Johnny's eyes lit up; he volunteered, as did a dozen others. We were getting ready when a strange thing happened. One of our team, an Ojibwa Indian named Francis, told us to wait for 24 hours. I asked him why and he said, "Trust me." I ginned up an excuse to keep the Colonel off my back, then

we re-assembled at dusk the next night. Francis said, "See the full moon. We wait for 10 minutes after darkness, so our eyes will grow large." I didn't know what that meant in the moment, but I soon did. All our pupils reacted to the minimal light by expanding. We could see well enough to crawl to the German trench and infiltrate it without raising an alarm.

To fight trench boredom, the lads had created deadly weapons out of wood and metal scraps. They proved wonderfully effective for close-quarters brawling. Johnny bludgeoned a German on his helmet, then caught him as he fell. "Got one, let's go," he whispered. Suddenly we heard boots crashing along the duckboards and needed to make a hasty exit. I threw some Mills bombs at the noise. Two of us dragged the unconscious Kraut back to our trench.

Next morning, I got details from the RSM. The prisoner was tied to a chair in the Colonel's quarters, then revined with buckets of water. Fritz resisted interrogation until the Colonel fired a bullet past his ear and told him the next one wouldn't miss. His level of co-operation improved greatly.

We didn't lose a single man, and I was mentioned in dispatches.

So much for happy times. The boys are on edge these days, and I dread the future

if we're stuck here much longer. That so-called Spanish flu has been ravaging our troops. Dozens have died, and many more may follow.

Hope for home departure is in short supply, as there's no indication when ships will reach Liverpool. The camp food is abysmal, likewise the weather, and the hours crawl by. What is the point of yet another route march through the non-stop rain?

There is a shantytown the boys call Tin Town, just outside the camp. While there are trashy things to buy, our guys are mostly broke. Several purchased comfort from the local young ladies and have ended up in hospital with the French disease. The doctors can't do much for them, and I fear their lives are permanently damaged.

Boredom afflicts everyone. We're covering a volcano with a blanket here.

Mother, I need a favour: Please find Evelyn, last name Sparks, and ensure she is all right. If she's carrying his child, she and the baby need assistance. I know funds are tight, but I'll pay you back.

Some details must wait until I return. Please trust me and shoulder this responsibility.

Your loving son,
Allen



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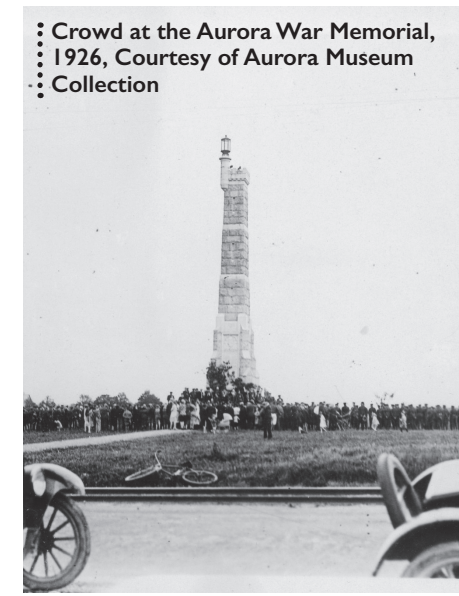
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A CENTURY OF Remembrance

RESTORING THE AURORA WAR MEMORIAL

For one hundred years, the Aurora War Memorial has stood as a powerful symbol of remembrance, collective sacrifice and cross-community cooperation.

WRITTEN BY
MEGAN HOUSTON
 Megan is the Heritage and Cultural Coordinator at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre.

Built at the crossroads of three communities in what is now known as the Aurora War Memorial Peace Park, the monument honours those from Aurora, King and Whitchurch-Stouffville who served during times of war -- particularly those who lost their lives during World War I.

In 2025, the memorial reached its centennial anniversary, an important milestone commemorated through an ambitious tri-community collaboration with staff from King Heritage & Cultural Centre, Aurora Museum and Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum creating an ambitious program of restoration work, exhibitions and public activities that highlighted the memorial's historic significance while reaffirming its relevance for future generations.

The Aurora War Memorial was officially unveiled on October 3, 1925, following years of advocacy and fundraising led by residents across the three municipalities. In the aftermath of World War I, local citizens sought a shared memorial that would reflect the collective loss felt throughout the region. Its inscriptions, engraved directly into the stone and filled with lead, list the names of those who died in service, ensuring individual

sacrifice was permanently woven into the community's landscape.

Designed and constructed by Toronto's McIntosh Granite Company, the memorial takes the form of a tall, tapered tower built from massive blocks of Stanstead grey granite, a material chosen for its strength, durability and dignified appearance. Rising more than 73 feet in height, the tower is crowned by a sculptural bronze lantern, a rare and striking feature among early Canadian war memorials. The lantern was originally illuminated to act as a symbolic beacon of remembrance. Stylistically, the memorial takes inspiration from Scottish Baronial architecture, which can be seen in its buttressed corners and battlemented top.

Over time, the surrounding Peace Park evolved to reflect subsequent conflicts and changing approaches to remembrance. Additions such as the Altar of Sacrifice, the Korean War Memorial and the light armoured vehicle commemorating service in Afghanistan expanded the site's commemorative scope. Together, these elements transformed Peace Park into a layered memorial landscape. It honours service across generations while remaining grounded in the memorial's original purpose.

As the centennial anniversary approached, recognizing both the symbolic and practical importance of caring for the memorial and its setting, municipal staff created a restoration and site enhancement

strategy. Conservation efforts focused on preserving the memorial's historic fabric while addressing wear caused by age and decades of exposure to the elements. Stonework was carefully cleaned and repaired, pathways were improved and new seating and lighting were added to enhance accessibility and visitor experience without compromising the site's solemn tone.

Research undertaken as part of the restoration also led to corrections of select name inscriptions, reinforcing the importance of historical accuracy and respect in commemorative spaces. These careful interventions reflected a broader commitment to stewardship, ensuring the memorial would remain structurally sound, legible and meaningful well into its second century.

Public interpretation and education were equally central to the centennial year: The exhibition *In Their Memory: The Story of the Aurora Whitchurch King War Memorial* was presented on site at Peace Park, inviting visitors to engage more deeply with the memorial's origins and legacy. Developed collaboratively, the exhibition drew on archival photographs, artifacts and historic documents from all three municipalities. It explored how the memorial came to be, the community effort behind its creation and the ways in which remembrance has evolved over time. Presented as an outdoor exhibition integrated into the park, *In Their Memory* transformed the

memorial grounds into an interpretive space, encouraging visitors to pause, read and reflect while moving through the site.

Another component of this commemoration was the creation and installation of memorial street banners across Aurora, King and Whitchurch-Stouffville. Bearing the names of those honoured on the War Memorial, the banners brought remembrance into everyday spaces, fostering awareness and reflection among residents and visitors alike. The banners also served as a visual reminder that the memorial's creation was a shared regional effort and that its legacy continues to connect the three communities.

The centennial year culminated in a formal rededication ceremony held on October 3, 2025, exactly 100 years after the memorial's original unveiling. Led by the Aurora Legion, the ceremony gathered elected officials, veterans, descendants of those commemorated, students and community members. Through music, readings and moments of silence, participants honoured the memory of those who served and reflected on the memorial's enduring significance. The unveiling of the restored monument marked both a conclusion to the centennial program and the beginning of the memorial's next chapter.

Look for *In Their Memory* at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre, running from August 1 through September 22 in the East Gallery.

HERITAGE

Exhibit at Peace Park




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J.E.H. MacDonald (1873–1932), *Sunflower Study, Tangled Garden Sketch* (detail), c. 1915, oil on paperboard, 25.4 x 20.2 cm. Gift of the Founders, Robert and Signe McMichael; Stephen Waddell (b. 1968), *Sunflowers* (detail), 2018, printed 2021, archival pigment print, 149.7 x 233.4 cm. All works McMichael Canadian Art Collection.

McMichael



: Periwinkle Under Tree

DO WE REALLY NEED

BACON

IN OUR YARDS?

: Francis Bacon (1561-1626)



: Lily of the Valley

Not the kind that sizzles in a frying pan, but the 16th-century philosopher **Francis Bacon**.



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.

In his 1625 essay *Of Gardens*, Bacon imagined the ideal outdoor space as a carefully arranged paradise, complete with neatly trimmed lawns, tidy paths and charming plants like periwinkle, ivy, lily of the valley and honeysuckle. That centuries-old vision still shapes the way many of us garden today. Something I never really thought about until I heard a presentation by Claudette Sims, a Master Gardener of Ontario and founder of the Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation. Her presentation focused on raising awareness of the environmental harm that invasive plants will cause.

Some of those classic plants are now considered invasive in many parts of Canada. Many of us, me included, have these invasive plants growing quite happily in our yards. This is not about blame; it is about awareness and perhaps

a gentle shift in perspective (no shovel required...yet).

Let's look at the bigger picture. Plants are the foundation of life on earth. In general, plants fall into three categories. Native plants occur naturally in a region and form the backbone of local ecosystems. Non-native plants are introduced species that may behave well but often don't contribute much to biodiversity. Then there are invasive plants that spread aggressively and disrupt ecosystems, threatening native plants, wildlife, and even human health. In short, they are the uninvited guests who eat all the snacks and rearrange the furniture.

Let's face it, plants don't stay put. They spread by wind, water, birds and, yes, even well-meaning gardeners. I once received a periwinkle plant from a neighbour. I admired its glossy green leaves and delicate purple flowers and thought nothing more about it. It seemed harmless...even charming.

But thanks to Claudette, I have learned what happens when periwinkle escapes into natural areas. It forms dense mats that blanket forest floors, crowding out native plants and preventing tree seedlings from taking root. These areas can become

what are sometimes called "dead forests," where very little else survives.

Removing invasive species is possible, but it is difficult and costly, and forces municipalities and conservation authorities to constantly decide where to direct limited resources. Prevention, as it turns out, is far more effective and far less exhausting.

So here is Claudette's simple idea: don't plant invasive species in the first place. Periwinkle is just one example, and there are many others. A quick search can reveal which plants are considered invasive in your area and might save you from future garden regret.

And here is the conundrum: if we know that invasive plants are a problem, then why are they still sold at garden centres? The answer, Claudette explains, is both simple and frustrating. These plants are easy to grow. They establish quickly, spread readily and tend to resist pests and diseases. They are adaptable, low-maintenance and, let's be honest, very attractive! Gardeners buy them for these exact reasons. Ironically, the very traits that make these plants appealing in our yards are exactly what make them so destructive in the wild.

To be fair, Canada does regulate plants, but not quite in the way you might expect. Existing laws focus primarily on agriculture and seed quality rather than environmental impact. What is needed is stronger regulation for the sale of horticultural plants across the country.

For example, Claudette advised us that, in parts of the United States, certain plants must be clearly labeled as invasive, along with instructions for responsible management. Some regions even maintain do-not-sell lists that prohibit the sale of known invasive species altogether.

So, what can we do? Learn which plants are invasive and avoid planting, propagating or sharing them. You can also join the Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation. Visit their website, ccipr.ca and, in just a few clicks, you can add your voice to the effort to protect our environment by regulating the sale of invasive plant species.

It's about biodiversity. Making space for the native plants that support the ecosystem. Claudette Sims wants us to look at making better choices moving forward, one garden at a time.

Perhaps it is time to keep Bacon in the pan for good.

Mom AND Dad AND THE SEED



AS A BOOMER, I GREW UP ON WONDERBREAD.



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.

and calorie-rich starch, from the mother plant. In most plants, these resources are quickly transferred to the embryo as the seed matures. In grasses like wheat, barley and corn, the endosperm holds onto these goodies. Once the seed is ripe, mom sheds it to the damp soil. When the outer coat splits, the embryo kicks into action. And the endosperm is there to fuel the seedling's early growth spurt.

Not only do seedlings get nutrients from endosperm, so do we! Globally, up to 60 per cent of human nutrient intake comes from grain. Eating rice, or popcorn, or pasta? You're eating endosperm. Beef cattle get generous rations of endosperm. Washing it down with a beer? Made from fermented endosperm!

As you might expect, the bigger the endosperm, the better the chances for a seed to establish itself as a new plant. But grasses like wheat can produce many seeds at a time. This puts the mother plant into a quandary. Should she divvy up her resources to produce a few giant seeds, guaranteeing success to each? Or should she take her chances with lots of tiny seeds, some of which squeak by? Each plant species evolves to some trade off, maturing an intermediate number of medium-sized seeds, each with an acceptable probability of growing into a

new plant. Natural selection favours the set of maternal genes that optimizes this trade-off.

But let's turn to the father's perspective. He casts his pollen to the wind, literally. By chance, one of his pollen grains lands on a mother plant's flower and fertilizes one of its egg cells. Conceivably, each of the many flowers on a mother plant can receive pollen from a different father. And this sets up a genetic conflict of interest between mom and all those dads, a conflict that has long intrigued plant geneticists. Here's how it arises and how it gets resolved.

Imagine a gene that functions in the endosperm. Next, imagine this gene has two versions. One version runs metabolism at a moderate rate, so that the developing seed makes a moderate resource demand on mom. But a rare mutant version of this gene shifts endosperm metabolism into hyperdrive, monopolizing mom's resources to the detriment of her other seeds. The seed size/number trade-off gets thrown off and that mom has fewer successful offspring, lowering her evolutionary fitness.

But that mutation would increase a dad's fitness! If he spreads his mutant pollen to lots of mothers, his offspring will be the biggest and best on each of them, and at the expense of the seeds fathered

by other plants! Do the math and you see that the most successful plants in the next generation carry that dad's mutation, and the rare mutation becomes more common, at least at first. So, here's the conflict: one version of this endosperm gene is favoured when mom passes it to the offspring, while the other version is favoured when dad passes it on. Which gene version wins?

The fact is that many genes impact resource flow into the endosperm. These act at different points during seed development. A mutation in one gene that favours the dad early on can be balanced by a mutation in another that favours the mom at a later point. These come to a dynamic balance between the sexes: a new pro-dad mutation in one gene gets countered by a pro-mom mutation in another. One sex may get the upper hand, but only until the next mutation comes along. It's an ongoing evolutionary spiral.

Crop breeding has improved wheat, corn and other grains, which now produce both big and many seeds. One could say that "artificial selection" resets the balance point between mom and dad's interests to give both more of what they "want." But even so, mom and dad continue to agree to disagree.

FLAP JACKS!

Here's one of my favourite ways to enjoy ground endosperm.

INGREDIENTS:

2 cups all-purpose flour; ¼ cup sugar; 3½ teaspoons baking powder; ¾ teaspoon salt; 2 eggs (room temp.); ¼ cup corn oil (or melted butter); 1¼ cups milk (room temp.); ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract.

DIRECTIONS:

In a large bowl, whisk flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt together. In a second bowl, whisk eggs, oil, milk and vanilla until well combined. Pour egg mixture into flour mixture and, with a whisk, stir gently until just combined. Let batter sit for 10 to 15 minutes before cooking. Next put the skillet over medium heat, add cooking oil, spoon in ¼ cup of batter and fry for two to four minutes. When bubbles form on the upper surface, flap that jack and cook on the other side for another one to three minutes. Serve with butter and maple syrup.



AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Zoo Pass

Unlock SUMMER FUN WITH KTPL'S EXPERIENCE PASSES



Experience Passes



WRITTEN BY
NICOLE GNEO

Nicole is the Interim Program Supervisor for the King Township Public Library.

Looking to plan a fun and memorable family adventure this summer? King Township Public Library has you covered with our fantastic collection of Experience Passes! These passes allow patrons to explore exciting destinations across Ontario — at no cost.

Whether you're craving outdoor adventure, cultural enrichment or local recreation, KTPL offers four unique passes to help you make the most of your summer. Enjoy experiences at the ROM, local recreation centres (Trisan and Zancor), Ontario Parks and the newest addition, the Toronto Zoo. Each pass comes with its own set of guidelines, so be sure to review the rules before borrowing.

If you're a lover of history, art or science, the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM)

Experience Pass is the perfect choice for your next outing. With this pass, you can enjoy world-class exhibits focused on culture, natural history and art. The ROM Pass admits up to four people for free. Simply bring your ROM Experience Pass, your KTPL library card and your checkout receipt. Each ROM pass can be borrowed for seven days, giving you plenty of time to plan your visit.

For those who prefer to spend their summer outdoors, KTPL's Ontario Parks Pass lets you experience the natural beauty of more than 100 provincial parks. Whether you're hoping to take a hike, picnic, swim or enjoy a quiet day with nature, the pass covers your daily vehicle permit, saving you the cost of parking. Plan ahead and check if your chosen destination requires a reservation before your visit. The Ontario Parks Pass has a seven-day loan period.

Animal lovers won't want to miss our newest partnership with the Toronto Zoo.

Part of a pilot program, this pass admits two adults and up to four children (ages 3–15), making it a wonderful choice for families eager to explore wildlife and exhibits. Spend the day discovering over 5,000 animals and learning about habitats from around the world. Like our ROM and Ontario Parks passes, The Zoo Pass can be borrowed for seven days.

If you prefer to stay closer to home, KTPL's RecPass allows you to stay indoors and stay active. Each pass admits one person to the Trisan or Zancor Centres, where you can participate in drop-in programming such as public swimming, fitness classes, play groups or sports like pickleball, basketball and skating. The RecPass comes with an extra bonus of a 10-day loan period!

To learn more about borrowing guidelines, visit your local KTPL branch or explore our website at <https://www.kinglibrary.ca/experience-passes>.

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THE ARTS



Lynn surrounded by her beautiful art at her booth at ARTROAM, April 11, 2026

REMEMBERING LYNN WILSON

An Artist Whose Spirit Touched Everyone She Met



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.

Lynn Wilson was a force to be reckoned with.

Whether you had known her for years or had only just met her, you felt it immediately – her honesty, her warmth, her love for life and her unwavering passion for creativity. She had a way of making an impression that lingered long after the conversation ended.

On May 14, Lynn's loved ones and the art community lost someone truly special. Although she had faced serious health challenges for years, Lynn never allowed them to define her spirit. Her optimism was constant, even inspiring. Just weeks before her passing, on April 28, she emailed to ask about Cabernet & Canvas, an upcoming Arts Society King (ASK) event in September. She and her husband, Mark, had already visited Sherwood Farm to make sure the venue would be accessible so she could participate. That was Lynn, always looking ahead, always determined to stay connected to the creative world she loved so deeply.

Perhaps that is why her passing has come as such a shock. Many of us had only recently spoken with her at ARTROAM at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre. Lynn was delighted that weekend, proudly sharing that she had made some sales. Her joy was contagious. She radiated gratitude and excitement, not just for her own work, but for the opportunity to be surrounded by fellow artists and art lovers once again.

Lynn's talent as an artist was undeniable, but the people who loved her knew her as so much more. She was a devoted wife,

a loving mother, a caring sister and aunt and a loyal friend. Within ASK, Lynn was a valued and longtime member whose presence brought both creativity and kindness into every room she entered. ASK has lost a dear friend, and the community was fortunate to have had such an extraordinary artist in its midst.

But Lynn's reach extended far beyond ASK. Following the news of her passing, social media filled with messages of condolence and heartbreak – many from people who had never met her personally or perhaps had only "met" her through an online course, but had been touched by her artwork, her encouragement or simply her spirit.

Personally, I feel incredibly fortunate to have two of Lynn's paintings hanging proudly in my home. They are more than beautiful works of art. They are daily reminders of her creativity, her courage and the light she brought into the lives of so many.

Deepest condolences to Mark, Michael and the entire family as they navigate this tremendous loss. May they find comfort in the many lives Lynn touched through her art, kindness and enduring spirit.

One of two Lynn Wilson paintings gracing the walls in Patti Skrypek's home.



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