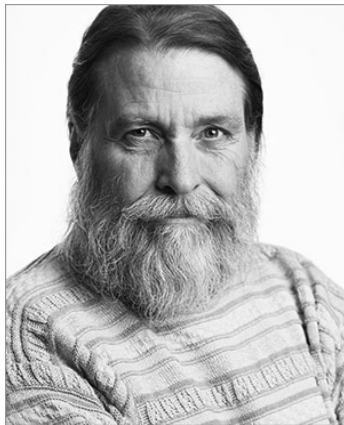




NEWS FROM KING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY



MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!



Dave Patterson - a.k.a.

'The 1492 guy'

Sat, May 4, 1:30-3:00pm

The King Township Historical Society

(KTHS) presents its first speaker series of the year on **May 4th** – **Dave Patterson** on the subject '**Dispelling the Myths of 1492**'. In his talk, Dave Patterson (aka '**The 1492**

guy') will help us to better recognize the extraordinary number of gifts to the world endowed by the aboriginal peoples of the Americas. '**The 1492 guy**' challenges audiences to go out and **transform some world views and attitudes** so that they may experience their own personal truth and reconciliation.

Free admission and refreshments – help spread the word!

**ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING**

THANK YOU to all who came out to the KTHS AGM on **February 24!** In spite of the threatening weather, we had a respectable turnout of about 40 members and a delicious pot luck luncheon followed by a reading by **Kelly Mathew's** of the very rich and extensively researched forward to her upcoming book on the history of King. Thank you **Alexandra Ney**, Chair of the Museum Committee, for your **Then and Now** slideshow presentation, full of interesting historical King references.

To date, we have received 24 donations to the history of King book fund and are getting closer to reaching our fundraising goal!

THANK
YOU!

KTHS is still looking to raise \$18,020 - will you join us in funding this project? Please consider a donation of \$50, \$100, \$500 - any amount is appreciated. Donation by credit card is also an option through **Canada Helps**, available on the KTHS website.

As a registered charity, we provide a receipt for income tax purposes, and those who donate \$250 or more will be listed in the book as patrons if they wish.

Donate Today!

Thank you Elsa-Ann Pickard for Volunteering for 33 Years & Counting

Story by Kathleen Fry



Elsa-Ann Pickard (left) was recently presented with a Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Award for Lifetime Achievement by the LG Elizabeth Dowdeswell and Ontario Heritage Trust Chair, Harvey McCue, at Queen's Park.

Since 1986, **Elsa-Ann Pickard** has worked tirelessly to preserve and interpret the history of the Township of King. Starting with the local Historical Society, she has served as secretary, treasurer, archives co-chair, and director-at-large over the years. Elsa-Ann played an integral role in the creation of the King Township Archives in 2000 and has continued to volunteer and help the organization grow ever since.

Her dedication to the King Township Museum has been steadfast and strong, providing ideas, hard work and initiative to a small community museum. She now volunteers a minimum of two days a week working to better both the Archives and Museum operations; working with researchers and genealogists, assisting with Museum exhibits and collections management, and by sitting on the Museum Board in the roles of recording secretary and vice-chair.

“I have learned so much over the years and it has always been reward enough to be able to share that knowledge in a meaningful way,” said Elsa-Ann Pickard. “I have only committed myself to the Museum and Archives [for all these years] because I loved it and believed that what we have been doing there was of real value in preserving the history of King.”

Through staff changes and renovations, Elsa-Ann continues to dedicate a large part of her week to helping us preserve and care for the material culture of the Township. Her steady work ethic is an example to young people. Even after 33 years, Elsa-Ann is still willing to help with most initiatives, including programming at the museum as we work to generate revenue. Thank you Elsa-Ann for your continued years of service!

King Township to Assume Responsibility for Archives



On April 15, the King Council voted to take over the archives from the volunteers of the King Township Historical Society (KTHS). The archives will continue to be managed out of the King Heritage and Cultural Centre on King Road.

The KTHS first established the archives as a subcommittee of their Board in 2000. Thanks to the generosity of friends and former KTHS members, **Virginia Atkins** who successfully procured a \$35,500 Trillium Grant to get things going and created a model to build upon approved by the Ontario Historical Society, and **Bernice Bell**, whose generous donation of \$25,000 in 2006, the archives has continued to evolve and strengthen over the past 13 years. Among other things, the Bernice Bell funding has paid for a computer, organizational containers to preserve rare documents, solutions to restore documents and other assorted administrative costs.

The two volunteer heroes behind the evolution of the King archives have been **Elsa-Ann Pickard** and **Louise di Iorio**. These ladies have worked tirelessly on curating the physical collection over the years. Since the physical collection was transferred to the Cultural Centre site in 2015, the overall management and operations have continued to grow into something that warrants a full-time archivist, in addition to volunteers.

With the blessing of the KTHS Board, a decision to transfer the responsibility to the Township was made with the best interests of the longevity of the archives in mind. The hope is that through the Township's acquisition of the archives, the collection will continue to grow under a full-time archivist, become available online, and be preserved long into the future.

Councillor Debbie Schaefer said, "King is very fortunate to have the quality of archives that we enjoy." They are due to the dedicated and passionate volunteers. And Mayor Pellegrini praised the amazing work by **Elsa-Ann Pickard**, **Louise di Iorio** and KTHS Board Chair, **Ann Love**.

The Way Things Used to Be: Linton & Bell's Lake

Story by Bill Salter

Travelling North on Highway 27 (or Concession 9), just past the 16th Side Road (formerly known as Trainor's Side Road), you will pass on the right hand side, a small kettle lake known as Bell's Lake. And a little further north at the 17th Side Road you will pass what was the hamlet of Linton, known at one time as Linton on the Ridges of King. These two hamlets had their beginnings in about 1800 when a few pioneer families built log cabins in the dense bush.

In 1805, John Wilson received the first Crown Patent on lot 28, west half of Concession 8, but did not build a permanent residence on the property. In 1848, Joseph Lynn purchased the property for the sum of \$1,500 and built a house for his wife and four sons. One of his sons, Joseph Lynn Junior, married Annie Bain of Glengarry, Scotland, and built a house on one acre at the 17th Side Road, which his father had purchased for him some time before for \$560.



In 1858, the government decided to establish a Post Office, which opened on July 1, the same year in the home that Joseph Jr. had enlarged to accommodate both the new Post Office and a small store, and the settlement became known as "Linton".

With the arrival of the Post Office came the stage coach carrying both the mail and freight as well as and passengers travelling to and from Aurora, Kettleby, Pottageville, Nobleton, Lloydtown and Schomberg.

When the railway came to Schomberg in 1902, the stagecoach service terminated, but the Post Office continued mail delivery, operated after Joseph Jr.'s death in 1910, by his daughter Francis, until 1916 when rural mail delivery began in the area. The store, however, continued to serve the community for several years until the widening of Highway 27 required its demolition. A Blacksmith shop where a horse could be shod

with a used shoe for 10 cents, or with a new shoe for 25 cents, was operated by a Mr. Graham in Linton until 1860. It was then moved to Nobleton where it continued to operate behind the Nobleton Feed Mill until 1964 when it was taken down. Today there is little evidence of the once bustling hamlet of Linton.

Meanwhile, south of Linton and just north of the 16th Side Road was the neighbouring hamlet of Bell's Lake. In the mid 1800's, the hamlet was known as Kingsville. It was at the time a larger settlement than Nobleton. The hamlet was later known as Loch Erne and over time had a store, a lumber mill, a machine shop, a woodworking shop, a school, a church and burying ground, a hotel, a livery stable and a dance hall. The hotel was built in 1890 by a man named Bell and it is from his name that the hamlet then became known as Bell's Lake.

A tourist resort known as Bell's Lake Cabins, and a small park and picnic area continued after the Hotel was closed and torn down in 1912 and as late as the 1970's the cabins on the north side of the lake continued to be rented during the summer months to vacationers from Toronto, and the picnic grounds and bathing beach were available for an entrance fee of 25 cents.

The Church at Bell's Lake, St Paul's Presbyterian Church, also known as the Linton Church, was built in 1851 on the South West corner of Highway 27 and the 16th Side Road. The first minister was the Reverend James Adams, known to his parishioners as Preacher Adams. It continued to serve the community until 1958 when it was closed, and in 1972 it was removed. In the burial ground behind the church, where many of the early settlers were buried, the first was the infant daughter of Nathaniel and Nancy Irwin, Letitia, who died at the age of 10 months on February 7, 1851, the year that the church was built. The cemetery is still there and although some of the graves have been removed and relocated to other cemeteries, there are still more than 40 graves located there, including that of Preacher Adams who died in 1879.

I came to live east of Highway 27 on what was then Trainor's Side Road with my family in 1967. We made use of the beach and picnic grounds at Bell's Lake with our children. At that time, there were **two prevalent legends** about the early days at Bell's Lake. The **first legend** was that there had been a trail through the bush from Bell's Lake to Pottageville and beyond, and that in "olden" days, it was not unusual in the early spring after the deep snow had melted, to find the frozen body of an unknown reveler who had lost his way going from the hotel at Bell's Lake to continue his revelling at the hotel at Pottageville.

The **second legend** was that Bell's Lake was very deep, and that all of the kettle lakes in the area were connected by underground waterways. As the story goes, once upon a time a swimmer had drowned in Bell's Lake, and his body had surfaced in Lake Wilcox several kilometres away, having been carried by the current through the subterranean waterway connecting the lakes.

Believe them or not, I'm merrily sharing the stories I've heard over the years!



What's Happening in and around King?

Best of the Best Rummage Sale at All Saints' Anglican Church
Saturday, April 27 from 9am-2pm, 12935 Keele Street, King City
 Loonie entry (children 12 and under free). Donations welcome!



Kingcrafts Spring Studio Sale

Sat., April 27 & Sun., April 28, 10am - 4pm, 12936 Keele Street

Large selection of quality handmade items by local artisans. Jewellery, pottery, fine art, wire art, stain glass, fused glass and much more. *Ask about their May-July workshops: Acrylic Abstract Painting - May 5, Beginner Pottery - May 11 and June 1.*

www.kingcrafts.ca

Arts Society King presents the 2019 STUDIO TOUR KING

Saturday & Sunday, April 27 & 28 throughout King Township, 10:00am-5:00pm

Enjoy one-of-a-kind work from various genres in fine art, sculpture, jewellery, textiles, metal, wood, leather and more. Map and brochure provided and available at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre. This is a self-guided art experience throughout beautiful King Township and for all ages! Free admission to all. ArtsSocietyKing.ca

Student Art Exhibit at the King Municipality through May 3

Close to 100 examples of local student artwork representing the three secondary schools in King: The Country Day School, King City Secondary School and Villanova College are on display through May 3rd at the King Township Municipal Centre. Stop by to see this bounty of artistic talent during office hours between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm!

Spring Cream Tea

Saturday, May 4 at Christ Church Kettleby, 292 Kettleby Road, from 1:00-4:00pm

Enjoy a traditional British tea served in Bone China cups and saucers, as in the 19th Century. Shop for books, treasures (old and new) and plants, including heritage varieties. Cost \$7 for adults. www.anglicanparishoffloydtown.com or 905.939.2314.

Arts Society King presents Summer Blooms Art Exhibit & Sale AND Noble King Garden Club Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, May 25 at Laskay Hall, King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 10:00am-4:00pm Inside Laskay Hall will be a themed original art sale in partnership with the Garden Clubs' annual plant sale. Featuring a wide variety of plants and art for sale (instructions from club on how and when to plant).



Oak Ridges Trail Association, 13th Annual Moraine Adventure Relay on Saturday, June 8, 2019: Paddle, Bike and Run in teams across the Moraine, from Rice Lake to King City. There are two races to choose from: The **Full Relay course** runs from Gore's Landing on Rice Lake south of Peterborough, going 160 km westward to King City. Teams paddle, bike, hike/run in this event. The **Half Relay**, is 80 km and starts at the Purple Woods Conservation Area in Oshawa continuing to the finish line at Seneca College in King City. For more information, please visit <http://www.oakridgestrail.org/adventure-relay/> or call Michele at 905.833.6600 or 1.877.319.0285 or email us at: info@oakridgestrail.org



Help KTHS Grow Our Membership!

Have you renewed your membership for 2019? Do you have any friends who would like to support and preserve the history of King? Please help us grow our membership by spreading the word and encouraging membership. Only \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a family membership. Why not join today? Thank you!



King Township Historical Society, 2920 King Road, King City ON L7B 1L6

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2019

(PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION AND MAIL CHEQUE TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS)

NAME(S) _____ PHONE _____
 ADDRESS _____ FAX _____
 _____ POSTAL CODE _____
 EMAIL _____ NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

INDIVIDUAL \$20 _____ FAMILY \$25 _____ DONATION _____

ENCLOSED \$ _____

A Brief History of the KTHS:

The KTHS dates back to 1972 when a group of dedicated residents, with interests in preserving the history of their Township, gathered to form the King Township Historical Society. In 1981 ~1982, the KTHS was incorporated by the Ontario Historical Society under a Provincial Letters Patent. Our goals and objectives are to encourage research into the history, to secure and preserve an accurate account of the progress and development, and to promote public interest in the history of King Township. More information may be found on our website at www.kingtowshiphistoricalsociety.com.