



KING TOWNSHIP
Historical
SOCIETY

Summer
2017

The King Museum looks forward to a very busy year! *King Heritage & Cultural Centre receives Government Grant for redesign of the Kinghorn Schoolroom*

In a letter dated May 3, 2017, The Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage announced to Kathleen Fry, Museum Curator and Cultural Services Supervisor at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre that a grant in the amount of \$98,050 had been awarded to King Township to help the organization carry out its activities under the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund Program. Congratulations is in order to Kathleen Fry who successfully executed the laborious and arduous grant application process for funds available as part of the government of Canada's 150 grant program. Specifically, these funds have been earmarked for the redesign of the Kinghorn Schoolroom which is currently the historic core of the Museum, and utilized predominantly as a community program space.



This funding will be allocated over one government fiscal year 2017-2018 and is subject to certain terms and conditions; the appropriation of funds by Parliament; and, the budget levels of the Program. The government awarded the money on the understanding that this project would also be supported by funding from The Fawcett Trust which currently has a balance of +\$380,000. The Fawcett Trust Committee has reviewed the Federal funding proposal for the renovation of the Kinghorn Schoolroom to accommodate a permanent King Township Exhibit and, subject to a formal proposal for funding from the Museum, is in agreement that the project will meet Mrs. Fawcett's criteria for funding.

Through the use of funds from The Fawcett Trust, the Museum has already received support for about six other smaller projects to the tune of approximately \$70,000. It is anticipated that the request for, and funding from The Fawcett Trust will match, if not exceed the \$98,050 from the Government, making this one of the largest program-related projects undertaken by the Museum in quite some time. We can be confident that Mrs. Fawcett's bequest will go a long way to support Heritage in King and we are sure that she would be well-pleased with this new endeavour. There will be a steering committee for this project – the makeup of this committee has not been determined at this time.

This is exciting news for the Museum and the heritage and preservation of King Township. With the redevelopment of the Kinghorn Schoolroom, plus the move of Laskay Hall to the Museum later this year, and the development of the Museum parking lot, it is evident that the King Museum is going to have a very busy and prosperous 2017.



Repurposing a heritage structure turns something from the past
into something for the future—which is also...
a little like magic!

Message from the Newsletter Team

We would like to welcome new and returning KTHS members alike. We hope you have been enjoying our Newsletters. If you have any suggestions for upcoming issues, questions, or have written an article you would like to share, please send an email to: kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com

DID YOU KNOW?



John Graves Simcoe (February 25, 1752 – October 26, 1806) was a British army general and the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada from 1791 until 1796. He founded York (now Toronto) and was instrumental in introducing institutions such as courts of law, trial by jury, English common law, freehold land tenure, and the abolition of slavery.

August Civic Holiday Timeline:

1869 - Toronto City Council originated a midsummer holiday for a "day of recreation".

1871 - A Bank Holiday was established by the House of Commons in England. Sir John Lubbock declared that Toronto in Canada had found an August holiday "advisable and satisfactory."

1968 - Toronto City Council officially called the civic holiday "Simcoe Day" after Major-General John Graves Simcoe, who was appointed the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada on September 12th, 1791. One of his crowning achievements was to begin the phasing out of slavery in Upper Canada, which officially ended in 1810 – 23 years before it was abolished in the British Empire and 55 years before the Emancipation Proclamation in the United States.

Happy Summer!



CANADA

FACTS

EH?

- Canada has more than 200 national parks, world heritage sites, and national historic sites.
- Canada has so much going on it needs six time zones to fit it all in.
- Canada has more water than anywhere else on planet Earth...and the purest tap water in the world!
- You can send mail to the Canadian Government for free within Canada.
- 247 car accidents involve a Moose every year in Canada.
- 40.6 is the average age of a Canadian.
- 2.4 million reindeer live in Canada.
- 1/5 of Canadians were born outside of Canada.
- Canada is the 2nd largest country in the world!



DID YOU KNOW

May 24 was first declared a holiday by the legislature of the Province of Canada in 1845 to celebrate Queen Victoria's birthday... 172 years ago!

Canada Day Jokes:

Q. How do you get a Canadian to apologize?
A. You step on their foot!



Q. How do you get 100 Canadians to get out of a public swimming pool?
A. You calmly and quietly say "can you please get out of

Important Dates in 1867

March 29 – Queen Victoria gives royal assent to the British North America Act, 1867.

July 1 – The Province of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick are united into the Dominion of Canada by the British North America Act.

July 1 – Sir John A. Macdonald becomes the first prime minister of the Dominion of Canada.

July 16 – J. S. Macdonald becomes the first premier of Ontario.

August 7-September 20 – The 1867 Canadian election sees John A. Macdonald's Conservatives elected as government.

November 6 – The 1st Canadian Parliament meets.

December 7 – The first federal budget is presented by Finance Minister John Rose.



CANADA 150
1867-2017



Announcing: Doors Open King Township 2017 ~ Kelly Mathews ~

The King Township Historical Society is excited to partner with the King Township Heritage Advisory Committee to announce the return of Doors Open King Township 2017. This year's event will take place on Saturday September 23, 2017 from 10am-4pm. This is a great opportunity to visit and enjoy a 'behind the scenes' glimpse of some of King Township's heritage treasures! For more information visit: www.doorsopenontario.on.ca/kingtownship.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED—we will require volunteers to greet visitors at each of the venues. We will be offering three shift options: Full Day 10am-4pm; AM 10am-1pm; and, PM 1pm-4pm. This event would not be possible without the support of volunteers in our community. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us through our website at: kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com.

Registered Venues (as of May 1, 2017):

King Heritage & Cultural Centre
Kingcrafts
Marylake Monastery & Property
Christ Church Kettleby
Hogan's Restaurant

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (Engel & Volkers)
Kettleby General Store & Post Office (Dorio's Kettleby Bakery)
Crawford & Maud Wells House (The Roost Café)
Eversley Schoolhouse (The Country Day School)
Dr. Vaux House (Schomberg)

KTHS AGM Report ~ Diana Armitage ~

The KTHS 2017 Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday, March 5th, and it didn't start without a hitch... after a quick change of venue due to a blocked pipe, the AGM was successfully held at the King Township Heritage and Cultural Centre. We apologize for any confusion. We wish to thank Kathleen Fry for arriving early and staying late at very short notice. The new kitchen facility worked well for the lunch. A short meeting was held to update members on the past and future plans of the Society. Then, board member, Richard Vien, led the group in a brainstorming session about the Society's logo and what KTHS means to us. The guest speaker was Michael Redhill, author of *Consolation*, a historical-fiction novel about Toronto's past and present. Michael has been a fan of Toronto's cityscape since he was a young boy and led us in a discussion about Toronto's changing streets and buildings. Thank you also everyone who contributed to the amazing potluck!



Canada150 in King—mark your calendars!

Why fight the Canada Day Long weekend cottage traffic when you can celebrate Canada's 150th birthday right here in King at Kettleby Tyrwhitt Park!

Planning is well underway for a very special King Township Canada Day in Kettleby, hosted by the Kettleby Village Association (KVA)! On Saturday July 1st festivities will commence at 4pm and continue until dusk where the day will culminate with an evening of spectacular fireworks. Event day activities include but not limited to: beer garden/tent; wonderful stage and grounds entertainment; games for adults and children; historic tours of Kettleby (care of KTHS); artisan demonstrations; craft booths; photo booths; and more! Many community groups are involved alongside the Township including: the Kettleby Village Association, ASK, KTHS, Lions Clubs and others! The KVA is still looking for event crafters and volunteers, **if you're interested and able to support the event in either capacity please contact the Kettleby Village Association.**

Sue: (905) 727-2611 or susan.zweep@hotmail.com
Nicolette: (905) 713-7119 or nicolette39@sympatico.ca
Elaine: (416) 824-1613 or elainekitteridge@gmail.com



WEAR YOUR RED & WHITE

HERITAGE NEWS

Bites

Heritage News Bites is a new feature in the KTHS Newsletter. The purpose of this section is to provide KTHS members with a snapshot update of the work being undertaken by their King Township Historical Society Board, as well as share news that comes from the King Heritage Advisory Committee, and within the community proper under the heading of history and heritage—we hope you enjoy it!

2017 Ontario Heritage Conference: The 2017 Ontario Heritage Conference will take place in Ottawa from June 8-10, 2017. For more information or to register, you can visit their website at: www.ontarioheritageconference.ca. The theme for this year's conference is: *Canada 150: Past, Present and Future of Heritage Conservation*. (Kelly Mathews)

Laskay Hall: On Tuesday April 25th the Township held a Public Information Session regarding the proposed move of Laskay Hall to the Museum property at 2920 King Road. The meeting was attended by local residents, members of the Laskay Hall board, Mayor Pellegrini, Councillors David Boyd and Debbie Schaefer and township staff. The proposed re-location of Laskay Hall is a strategic move that is part of an overall municipal strategy to address an underutilized building already owned and operated by King. The move will ensure the preservation of a very significant heritage structure and revitalize the space as a performing arts centre, thus increasing programming opportunities at the Heritage and Cultural Centre. (Kathleen Fry)

KTHS Memberships & Nominations: Spring is time for renewal — renewal of your membership to KTHS and your commitment to the work we do. We are looking for members to spring forward as Board Members and Committee members. Do you have a skill in website administration or finance and bookkeeping? Do you like to get involved with events; conduct research; write articles and more? Let us know. We are looking for new ideas and new energy. For more information, please email: kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com. (Anne Love)

The KTHS Logo Report: The KTHS AGM was a great time to ask for feedback from our members about our logo and get some ideas for either a brand new look or to stay with the same theme. After an exercise where everyone was asked to put ideas on sticky notes under specific themes our membership told us loud and clear that they like the heritage aspect of our logo. So our logo committee decided to stay with the same one but to tweak it a bit to update it and make it a little more identifiable. We are working with a local King Township designer to come up with not only the refreshed logo, but with new public information/display boards that we can take to township events to proudly show what we are all about. We are very excited about this project and can't wait to share with everyone. Stay tuned... (Murdene Pozdrowski)

The Alan Bray Collection Tour: On Saturday, April 29th Alan Bray opened his collection up to the community and it was a roaring success. KTHS President Ann Love said "we enjoyed one last sweet ride at Alan's remarkable museum when he opened his doors to the King Township Museum, Art Society King, and the King Township Historical Society – friends came by the carload!" KTHS helped to promote the tour along with ASK and the King Township Heritage and Cultural Centre. Over one hundred people toured the large, spotlessly clean barn where the collection is stored. This was the last chance to view the collection in place, as it will be auctioned on June 7, 8, 9 and 10 at 19230 Bathurst St, north of Highway 9. Check Shackelton Auctions for more information. (Diana Armitage)

King Pioneer Cemeteries: The Township of King has retained a consulting firm to develop a Heritage Restoration Plan for the Township's 12 Pioneer Cemeteries to guide the future maintenance and preservation of these important cultural heritage resources. As these important cultural heritage resources continue to age it is imperative that the Township take a proactive approach to their conservation to ensure their continued presence in the community so that future generations are able to experience these important historic assets. The Plan will examine the existing conditions of the Pioneer Cemeteries, undertake historical research, and identify potential conservation methods and prioritization for each marker. It is anticipated that the Plan will be completed in Fall 2017. (Jeff Elkow)

2017 King Heritage Award: The King Township Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) has resurrected a previous heritage award concept with a new twist! This initiative builds off of a very successful program conducted by previous Heritage Committees prior to 2013. Like the original program, the heritage award is meant to celebrate our cultural heritage in King and put a spotlight on specific properties which contribute to our unique culture and heritage. The new twist is that this year, the program has been redesigned to engage the public in identifying the properties of interest. A building does not need to be listed or designated to be nominated. The public will be invited to submit their nominations (and a photo if possible) in person (at the Town office), by mail or email between May 31, 2017 – July 3, 2017. The owner of the winning building will be awarded a framed artist rendering of their building or home by a local artist and will be awarded their original print during the September Council Meeting. More information to come! To make a nomination or for more information email: heritage@king.ca (Debbie Schaefer)



A PARCHMENT TREASURE in the King Township Archives

~ Virginia Atkins ~

It's an artifact of prominence, historical significance and royal intrigue. At the moment it is stored in an acid-free box with a blanket of acid-free tissue in Kinghorn's basement where the KTHS sometimes held meetings. It is a parchment (vellum) land grant dated 1803, given by the Crown to an applicant who wanted to farm. Or did he? The land was soon sold to another man. Eventually it belonged to the Sproule family who built a handsome brick house in the mid 1860s.

Still standing, the house faces Highway 27, opposite the Brownsville plaza. The old land grant in a wooden frame with a piece of cardboard backing for support, hung in the dining room of that venerable house until 2005. The Wiggins, who then owned the property, had to move away, and offered to give the fledgling King Township Archives the priceless document, with its George Third wax seal and the scar from the ribbon that held the King's puck-sized seal affixed to the parchment.

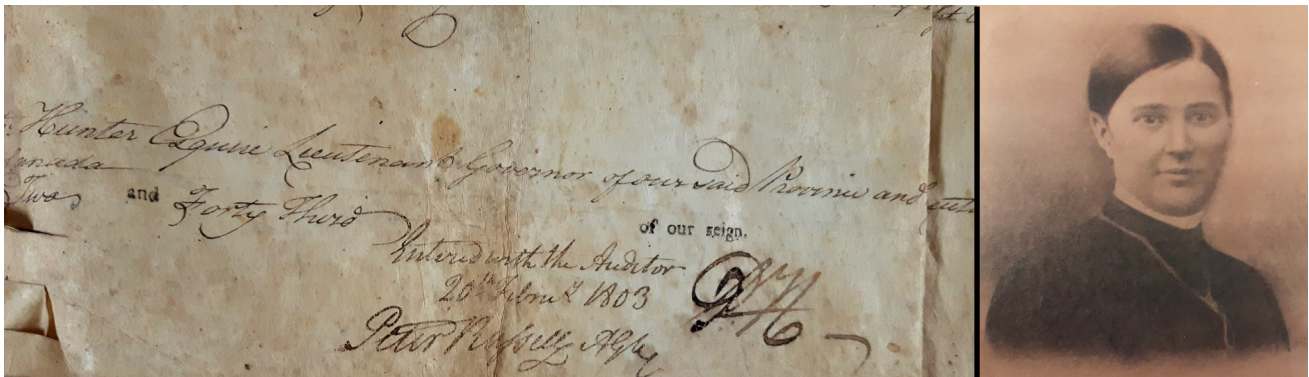
We took the lop-sided frame containing the land grant and cardboard to the conservator's lab at the McMichael Gallery. She carefully removed the frame, exclaiming "Well, look at this!" as the cardboard backing came to view, revealing a portrait of a serene lady. It is assumed to be a picture of Mrs. Newton Sproule, captured by an itinerant photographer and touched up with pencil or charcoal. Then we had two wonderful rarities for the archives, a thrill to be sure, but more to come.

The parchment document stated the royal grant was issued by "George Third, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland." In a volume of pictorial history, we found an image of a similar land document that had been granted in 1805, without "France" in the list of King George's domains. Here's why:

In the 1800s Britain and France had been waging continuous chaotic war for control of global trade throughout Europe and the distant possessions acquired by European states. When France's Bonaparte claimed power in 1799, the British deemed realignment suitable so there was a peaceful truce when the Treaty of Amiens was signed. Britain passed an Act of Union in 1800 uniting Great Britain with Ireland, dropping the traditional "France" in George III's title. Probably an existing supply of parchment grant forms had to be used, like this one for King Township in York County, Home District of Upper Canada, dated 1803. Later versions of this form eliminated the word "France." Thus the Archives' parchment treasure testifies to not just local history, but to Ontario, Canadian, British and world history.

Dry, warm conditions of places like the Middle East yield ancient caches, books and scrolls on parchment several millennia old for scholars today to read and interpret. Effective but expensive preservation for an ancient document is provided by sealing it in an inert-gas frame to avoid deterioration.

Magna Carta, the fount of our liberties, was inscribed on vellum; many other unique documents such as manuscripts of the Qur'an, dating back to the 7th Century, were recently displayed in Washington, D.C. Medieval illuminated manuscripts, created as religious works such as a "Book of Hours," had vivid illustrations and amazing calligraphy. You may want to dig deeper for information on parchment; try searching international library sites and world-renowned museum galleries. Meanwhile, our unique 1803 document survives... and remains a King Township treasure!



Land Grant 1803 and picture of Mrs. Newton Sproule. Photographer Unknown. Source King Township Archives.

2017 So Many milestones

KTHS is Born: Springtime of the First Year (1972)

CELEBRATING
YEARS

45
1972
2017

As the late winter winds blew through King Township March 23, 1972, a meeting was convened at the Schomberg Community Hall by the Mayor, Ken MacTaggart; its purpose was to establish a King Township Historical Society, as instructed by the municipality's Board. To conduct business pro tem, he appointed Bill Foran as Chair and Alden Winter as Secretary.

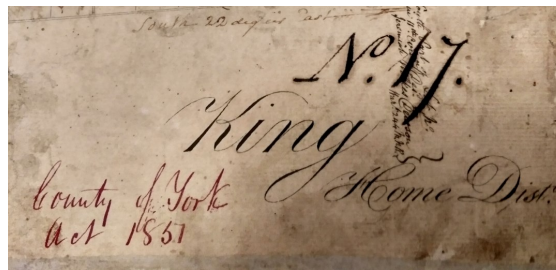
Speaking to the proposal, David McFall summarized the importance of the township's history to his own family and outlined the purpose of such a society with the formal requirements of organization. Jesse Bryson, a member of the Vaughan Historical Society followed by introducing Russ Cooper, representing the Historical Division of the Toronto Conservation Authority, who stressed the value of preserving pioneer history. President of the Vaughan Society, Mr. Snider, heartily endorsed the goals and asked Mr Cooper to show a film about Black Creek Pioneer Village.

After discussion the meeting agreed to appoint a three-person nominating committee with responsibility for drafting a constitution and proposing a slate of officers; Norma Etheridge, Murray Sheardown and Alden Winter accepted the task and set March 30th for their first working session.

Those in attendance at the March 23rd gathering were the above mentioned individuals plus: Patricia Ham; Doris Willoughby; Elizabeth Gillham; Bernice and Chester Ellis; Leonard Osin; Margaret Britnell; Eric D. Scott; Mr. And Mrs. J. Smithyes; Betty Molnar; Norman Greensides; Victor Marchant; Mr and Mrs. Frank Beatty; Tom and Joan Styles; Jean McFall; Ruth Urquhart; Sinclair Stevens; Risdon Atkinson; Stan Kunki and one other illegible name.

Not long afterward, on the evening of April 13, 1972, the King Township Historical Society's charter meeting opened with 32 persons singing "O Canada". The nominating committee was ready with a full slate: President, Alden Winter; Vice President, Frank Beatty; Treasurer, Norman Greensides; Secretary, Betty Molnar with Assistant Secretary, Doris Winter; Publicity, Ann McWilliam; Programme Committee, Norma Etheridge and Doris Willoughby; Membership Committee, Bernice Ellis and William Craig. Directors: Jean Goodfellow; Jack McBride; Ruth Urquhart; Margaret Britnell; Bill Poulis; Alex von Svoboda. Mayor MacTaggart conducted the installation of the new executive.

KING
220th



Portion of Land Records Map for King Township. King, Map No. 17, Home District, County of York. Source: Ontario Archives

Happy 220th King Township! As we all know, 2017 represents Canada's 150th birthday but you may not be aware that King Township has another anniversary this year as well... 2017 represents the 220th year since the first 6 land patents were awarded in King Township. The following are the original 1797 patentees for King Township as given in the "Domesday Book," exclusive of the portion known as North King, which was subsequently annexed: Thomas **Hind**; John **McKay**; Edward **Wright**; Thomas **Phillips**; William **McClellan**; and, Archibald **Thompson**. At this time, petitions were directed to His Honour Peter Roberts Esquire. The first communities in King formed along Yonge Street as it provided easy access to the wilderness of the area. Yonge Street, the first road through King, was completed in 1794, just three years before the first patents.

180
years

Did you know... 2017 represents 180 years since the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837! More to be discussed in the next newsletter!



UPCOMING Events

King Township Historical Society 2017 Event Listing

Doors Open King Township

Saturday September 23, 2017

10:00am-4:00pm

Multiple Sites; no fee. See Pg 3 for details



KTHS Speaker Series

King Township Heritage and Cultural Centre

Sunday, November 5, 2017

2:00pm-4:00pm

Free Event: *Coffee & Tea provided*

King Township Librarian, **Sharon Bentley** will talk about her research to discover members of King Families that were involved in World War I and II.

KTHS Annual Christmas Concert

All Saints Anglican Church, 12935 Keele Street, King City

Friday, December 1, 2017

7:00pm

KTHS Members \$15 per ticket

Non-members \$20 per ticket

Anne Lederer and Friends return for a fantastic Canadian fiddle and folk music concert.

Baked goods, coffee & tea provided.

ArtsSocietyKing.ca

Arts Society King is hosting our second fundraiser Car Rally on **Sunday, June 4th**. Our first rally, in 2014, was a big success and this one promises to be even better! There are over 20 stops along the route. All of them are new, and several feature King's historic properties. Tickets are selling fast. Register now for this afternoon of adventure at ArtsSocietyKing.ca



King Heritage and Cultural Centre Summer 2017



Special Wedgwood Exhibit: "Canada...on a Plate"

Exhibit Open: May 2 – July 1

Admission is Free

Canada's largest collection of Canadian commissioned Wedgwood is now part of the King Township Museum collection! Please stop by and check out our special Wedgwood exhibit "Canada...on a Plate" celebrating Canada 150!

Special Exhibit: "A Little Bit of Everything"

Showcasing the artwork of Judy Sherman and Eva Folks

Exhibit Open: July 4 – August 19

Special Reception on July 8 from 1pm to 4pm

Father's Day Sweet & Savoury Celebration

Chocolate history and tasting experience

June 18 2pm – 4pm, \$20 per person



2017 ORTA Adventure Relay!

What?

A fabulous 160km relay race, divided into 14 stages, including canoeing, biking and running legs, an amazing experience for Elite, Recreational and Corporate teams.

When?

Saturday, June 10, 2017

Where?

The route runs from Rice Lake in the east across forest trails and country roads to the finish line at Seneca College, King Campus in King City.

Who?

Teams range from 2 to 15 members, everyone from veteran adventure racers to active recreational athletes looking for a brand new challenge or wanting to push themselves further.

Why?

Why not?

For more information or to volunteer at a Race Checkpoint on the event day please email: info@oakridgestrail.org or visit www.oakridgestrail.org/adventure-



KINGCRAFTS

May 27, 9:30am-4:00pm, Soyra Workshop

June 15, 7pm-9pm, Fused Glass Workshops – Necklace Pendant

September 9, 10am-1pm, Fiber Arts Workshop – Felted Scarf

For more information please visit: www.kingcrafts.ca



workshops



Christ Church Kettleby ~ 125 Years Book Project

A book is currently being compiled about the life & times of Christ Church during the last 125 years. Over the generations, a close-knit community (some still living here in this unique and beautiful village) have made it, and the Church, into a rich and living legacy. We believe that Kettleby itself goes back to circa 1840. Many people still have connections or have lived in the area in and around Kettleby, and a few of the descendants of the original families still live in the village or close by. Christ Church welcomes you to share your story, history and images with us. **CONTACT:** Gerry Alletson 905-251-1693 or email gerry-alletson@gmail.com



Looking for your MARYLAKE (Lake Marie) stories from 1900 to today!

Kelly Mathews, author of *Eaton Hall: Pride of King Township* is currently researching her second book on the history of Marylake (Concession IV, Lot 11-14). If you have any pictures or a story to share about the land, buildings or previous inhabitants, please contact Kelly directly via email: kellymathews@hotmail.com or call 647-408-1144 before July 1, 2017! Thank you!

Renewal of your membership for 2017 is now due. We rely on membership fees and donations to cover our operating costs including the printing and mailing of this newsletter. We are very proud of our membership and appreciate your renewal.



**IT'S TIME TO
RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP!**



KING TOWNSHIP
Historical
SOCIETY

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2017

(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 \$ _____