



NEWS FROM KING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

KTHS Annual General Meeting

Sunday, March 7, 2021

1:00 noon to 2:30 pm

Join us on Zoom!

We will start right at **1:00 pm sharp** and immediately following our 2021 AGM, we will be joined by **Carol Field**, a fourth generation King resident and local author of *Memories in King*. Carol will share some of her delightful stories of growing up on her family farm and a glimpse into our Township's past. **Please join us! We will send you the link a few days in advance.**

Have you visited our new website?

We are happy to report that the **new KTHS website** launched in the fall and encourage you to have a look. It offers a much smoother navigation and additional historic content than previously. As well, it allows the user to submit questions, make your annual donations, and once we are able to meet in person again, RSVP to KTHS events!

Have a look for yourself at www.kingtowshiphistoricalsociety.com



History Repeats Itself: 100 Years Later

by Elaine Robertson

The Spanish Flu of 1918-1919 lasted from February 1918 to April 1920, and until now, was the worst flu pandemic in history. In four successive waves, 500 million people all over the world were infected. The death toll was 50 million. Without drugs or vaccines to treat it, and with limited medical help due to the war, it quickly spread around the world. Similarly to today, people were ordered to wear masks, and schools,



Thank you to all of our donors who have generously contributed to the History of King book campaign.

Although COVID-19 has temporarily delayed this project, we look forward to its resumption once conditions permit.

churches, theatres and businesses were closed as bodies piled up.

Due to WW1, reports of the increase of the disease were minimized in an effort to maintain morale. It is uncertain of the origin of the disease, but Spain was especially hard hit, thus the name Spanish flu. Overcrowded Army medical camps and hospitals coupled with poor hygiene all contributed to the spread of the disease.

The first recorded incident was March 4, 1918 at an Army training camp in Kansas, U.S.A. When the U.S. entered WW1, the disease quickly spread to other U.S. Army camps and then to Europe (France, Great Britain, Italy and Spain).

Prisoners of war took it to Russia when they were sent home from Germany. From



Europe, it spread to North Africa, India, Japan and eventually China. It began to recede after reaching Australia. 75,000 deaths were reported in the first six months of 1918 in the U.S. 292,000 deaths were reported in the second wave. A third wave killed tens of thousands. In 1920, a fourth wave again tore through Europe and the U.S. Troop ships and large gatherings such as the Armistice Day celebrations were major super spreaders. Businesses in the service and entertainment industries suffered loss of revenues. Non-medical measures, such as mask wearing and quarantine helped to minimize the effect on the economy. The effects of the flu gradually faded over the decades until the 1990s.

How were we faring locally? The following excerpts were taken from articles in the *Aurora Banner* in November and December 1918: “The flu claimed another person in Aurora, Perry A. Pugh, one of our young married men whose home was on Wells Street ...” The Pastor Rev. C.E. Scott conducted the funeral service giving a short address at the cemetery, it being thought inadvisable for friends to congregate at his home.” All articles advised wearing a mask and avoiding crowds.

“The action of the Mayor and Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Stevenson in cancelling the dance and bazaar of the Girls Red Cross Society is one which should meet with hearty approval of our citizens. The flu epidemic is very bad in Bradford, Schomberg and Whitchurch Township and as several young people were coming to the dance, the authorities thought it was in the interest of the town to cancel it. Had our schools and churches not been closed during the recent epidemic, there is not the slightest doubt that there would have been many more cases and many more deaths.”

In Stouffville, the “library and pool-rooms” were closed and “all public meetings were forbidden. Dr. Dale issued a warning not to do Christmas shopping in crowded stores.” Special arrangements were being made to prevent crowds of people waiting at the post office for their Christmas mail and mail from Overseas. “New cases are being daily reported ... Christmas entertainment in many villages and hamlets throughout the country are not being held for the first time in many years.”

In the hamlet of Strange, “Owing to the serious outbreak of the Spanish influenza in our midst, the school and church are closed for the present.” New Years dances were “called off on account of the large number of flu cases.”



“Influenza tips” were posted in most newspapers. Among these were the following – “Avoid needless crowding; smother your cough and sneezes; clean mouth; clean skin; clean clothes; keep cool when you walk and warm when you ride and sleep; open the windows always at home; your fate may be in the own hands; wash your hands before eating; avoid tight clothes, tight shoes, tight gloves; when the air is pure, breath freely all of it you can.” Other articles advised wearing a mask or gauze and had specific “solutions” with which to wash them. The importance of quarantining was greatly stressed.

Several letters from families in the hamlet of Laskay, to a soldier overseas talked of friends and neighbours who were sick or who died. They also described their symptoms which, given the distances and difficulty traveling, as well as the shortage of medical help because of the war, put an added burden on local families.

Paulie, sister to soldier Earl Campbell (Overseas) wrote from Laskay, “I got up the first morning and was so dizzy I couldn’t stand on my feet so they made me go to bed again and here I am still ... I am weak as a kitten and can hardly hold this pencil.”

In another letter to Earl from his friend Mary December 31, 1918, she wrote, “the Flu was very bad in the fall, but fortunately it did not come to Laskay till a few weeks ago ... Jim C’s were all sick too and Howard’s wife who lives there too, died last Sunday. She leaves behind a small baby which makes it very sad ... So with all this sickness we had a very quiet Xmas. Not a blessed thing to do.”

An article from the *Aurora Banner* December 6, 1918 ends with this message: “It is devoutly to be hoped that the recent epidemic has enabled students of medical science to arrive at a more

accurate conclusion with respect to the causes and remedies for influenza so that recurrences of pandemics or even epidemics may be greatly lessened.”

Have we learned? At least we haven't been dealing with a World War and the loss of so many, especially young men to it.

In my research, nothing surfaced specific to Kettleby. Perhaps there is still a stash of letters out there yet to be uncovered!

Thank you to the hardworking staff at the King Township Museum and Archives for the research assistance. completed book will be in Spring 2021.

Illustrations for this article are by Bill Slavin, who illustrated Ann Love and her sister, Jane Drake's book, "Pandemic Survival: It's Why You're Alive" eight years ago.

Locally Made KTHS Christmas Ornament Adorns Tree of Giving

These little wooden wonders were handmade by our talented Board member Diana Armitage who provided the wood to The Country Day School's Computer Engineering Teacher, Chris Wappel, who used a special printer to etch the logo into the wood. They were on display over the recent holidays at the King Museum on our communal Tree of Giving!



Climate Action in King

Story by Councillor Debbie Schaefer on behalf of Climate Action King

There is an urgency to respond to climate change. All levels of government have announced targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions by 2030; some levels have announced net zero GHG emissions by 2050. People may argue about the goals and question whether there is action to deliver those goals; but there is no question that our governments cannot do it alone. Citizens need to get engaged and make modifications to how we live, work and play.

A new citizens group in King has been formed to inspire, encourage and support action by individuals, families and businesses. **Climate Action King (CAK)** aspires to play a role in reducing climate threats and consequences and promote climate resilience and economic adaptation. The group is working on educational resources that demonstrate actions to respond to climate change and show the benefits of such actions. Like governments, CAK cannot do this alone and wants to partner with other groups to make this a community effort.

Citizens working together have been successful in fostering change in King. For example, **Concerned Citizens of King Township (CCKT)** has been active for more than 50 years and partnered with citizens in other municipalities to help establish the **Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan**. **The Dufferin Marsh Nature Connection** is a local community group; along with its partners, it works to protect and restore the Marsh. And, under the auspices of a municipal advisory committee, citizens came together in 2009, at the King City Arena, to learn

about reducing their carbon footprint when the Micro FIT program was introduced under the *Green Energy Act* (2009). The hall was overflowing with people interested to learn about the economics and the “how to” from experienced persons. Many people and the Township went on to create Micro-FIT solar arrays and have been lowering their carbon footprints ever since.

There are many ways citizens can take action to respond to climate change and reduce GHG emissions, including choices in the clothes we wear, the food we eat, how we heat our homes, how much we travel and how we travel. Transportation causes 25% of GHG emissions in Canada, not including the contribution of the oil and gas sector that contributes 26%. As King Township is largely a commuter community, CAK has decided to focus initially on ways to reduce GHG emissions through the transportation sector.

Climate Action King’s first initiative is to **host a series of on-line seminars on Electric Vehicles (EV)** as an opportunity to learn from people who use electric vehicles every day. The pros and cons, costs, savings, range issues, charging options, availability, and day to day routines from real owners and experts will be presented. There **are two more seminars on February 24 and March 24 at 7pm.** The first seminar was extremely well received. Visit www.climateactionking.ca to register.

Climate Action King welcomes new members and looks forward to working with everyone who wants to see a healthy future for all. Contact CAK at <https://climateactionking.weebly.com/contact.html>.

Are You Ready
for an All
Electric Vehicle?

Are you thinking about buying an electric car but have questions? Hear from those who have experience owning an EV car.

Free Webinars:
Wednesday February 24
OR
Wednesday March 24
7 pm

A recent attendee praised the webinar saying “Keith has a compelling case for electrifying your mobility!”

To register go to:
www.ClimateActionKing.ca

Sponsored by:
Climate Action King
(www.ClimateActionKing.ca)
EV Society of Ontario
(www.evsociety.ca)



Help KTHS Grow Our Membership!

Are you interested in joining the King Township Historical Society? Would you like to help support and preserve the history of King? Join today for only \$25/individual, \$30/family membership. Submit your membership online at www.kingtowshiphistoricalsociety.com or by mail. Questions? Please email us at kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com.



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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2021

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

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

INDIVIDUAL \$25 _____
FAMILY \$30 _____
DONATION _____

ENCLOSED \$ _____

What's New at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre



Stories of King



Staff at the KHCC are thrilled to have teamed up with *Treasured* to produce *Stories of King*, a new online exhibit created specifically for this platform. New to the scene, the *Treasured* team invited the KHCC to be involved in a pilot project and staff jumped at the chance.

Treasured is a local software company innovating in the Canadian Arts & Culture Community. The *Treasured* Platform is an modern all-in-one hub for editing, collaborating, publishing, and promoting stories and exhibits online. They offer an affordable way for cultural storytellers (individual curators, museums, galleries, genealogists, authors) to publish online exhibitions seamlessly across any device, or web browser.

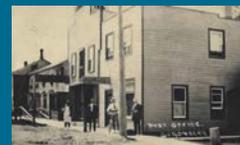
The *Stories of King* exhibit will launch the week of February 8th on [Treasured.ca](https://www.treasured.ca). Staff at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre would value your feedback.

On This Spot Walking Tour App Coming to King

On This Spot (OTS), the highly popular, immersive walking tour app is launching its first tour in King Township on February 15th. An action outcome of the *Schomberg Main Street Revitalization Project*, in partnership with the Economic Development Division and the KHCC, the development of the tour was funded by Digital Main Street/FutureProof Lab.

Based in Vancouver, this Canadian start-up has quickly spread across Canada. The app helps people understand the local history that surrounds them while highlighting unique local businesses housed in the historic buildings. *On This Spot* has been working with the King Heritage & Cultural Centre and local historians to do research for this project. Please contact the KHCC if you have stories of Schomberg that you'd like to share.

The Schomberg tour will have a soft launch on February 15th and will be officially launched in the spring. The app will be fascinating for visitors and residents alike.



Memories: An Oral History Project



Led by long-time Archives volunteers Elsa-Ann Pickard and Louise Di Iorio, the *Memories* project seeks to engage seniors in social activities, while adding to the historical record.

During these last months, many have spent time reminiscing about better days, and we want to save those memories for the benefit of future generations.

Stories collected will be added to the archival collection at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre to be used for research, exhibits, and online content. Consent forms will be given to all participants and their families.

This project will commence, pending funding, in April 2021. For more information, or to get involved either as a storyteller or a volunteer, please contact kingmuseum@king.ca



What's New with Arts Society King?



Calling photographers - amateur and pro divisions!

Visit their website for details! <https://artsocietyking.ca>



History of KTHS in Brief:

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.

COVID-19 A King Township Perspective

The global coronavirus pandemic of 2020 is history in the making. The King Heritage & Cultural Centre would like to record the *local* impact of the crisis. You are invited to complete this questionnaire and record your experiences for the historians of the future.

Name _____ Age _____ (optional)

Relationship to King Township:
(select all that apply)

Live Work School Visit Shop Other _____

What words would you use to describe your feelings during the COVID crisis?
(select all that apply)

Fearful Stressed Lonely Anxious Depressed Angry Happy Calm
Relaxed Hopeful Connected Joyful Creative Disappointed Confused
Helpless Grieving Panicked Bored Overwhelmed Resigned Sad
Optimistic Frustrated Grateful Blessed Lucky Loving Productive
Other _____

Describe how your daily life has changed during COVID:

What have you spent time doing during the COVID pandemic?

(Work? School? New hobbies or activities?)

The best part of COVID has been....

The worst part of COVID has been....

Thank you for sharing your experiences of COVID-19

(please continue on additional pages if you require more space)

My signature acknowledges that my personal responses may be used by the King Heritage & Cultural Centre in future research, exhibits or social media:

immediately in 10 years (2030) in 25 years (2045) in 50 years (2070) in 100 years (2120)

Name (please print) _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____

(participant or parent/guardian if participant is under 18 years of age)

Personal information collected here is protected in accordance with Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA). Should you have any questions or concerns with regard to collection of personal information (PI) please contact the Collections Coordinator or designate, King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City, L7B1L6 (905) 833-2331 or kingmuseum@king.ca