



NEWS FROM KING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*KTHS IS AN INDEPENDENT, VOLUNTEER-LED, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF KING.*



KTHS 2026 AGM Update

Thank you to all who joined us for our March 1st AGM! In addition to a delicious potluck lunch, we heard from two fabulous speakers from the Township of King: **Denny Timm, Township Clerk** and **Michael Maugeri, Planner - Heritage & Development**. They have kindly submitted two stories to this newsletter on pages 3-5 for your enjoyment!

The roster for the 2026 KTHS Board of Directors was presented and approved as follows:

2026 KTHS Board of Directors

- Beverly Flanagan – President
- Andrew Crawford – Vice President
- Richard Vien – Past President
- Murdene Pozdrowski – Secretary
- Sharon Bentley – Membership
- Linda Similas – Treasurer
- Kim Sillcox – Media & Newsletter
- Ann Love – Member at Large
- Bill Salter – Member at Large
- Tony Rolph – Member at Large
- Ann Rockley - Member at Large* (*joined KTHS Board in May 2026*)

Members of the **Fawcett Bequest Committee** include: *Ann Love, Linda Similas and Murdene Pozdrowski*. *Richard Vien* serves as an ex-officio member.



Save the Date for two upcoming KTHS Speaker Series Events!

Free admission for KTHS members, \$10 for non-members. Purchase your annual membership at the door and attend for free!

A Front-Row Seat to History: Ted Barris Honours the Heroes of the Battle of Britain

On Sunday, May 31, the King Township Historical Society (KTHS) will host renowned military historian **Ted Barris** at Laskay Hall for a presentation on his latest book, *Battle of Britain: Canadian Airmen in Their Finest Hour*.

Ted Barris has built a distinguished career by meticulously uncovering the human heartbeat behind global conflicts. In this newest volume, he shines a light on the often-untold stories of the Canadians who stood at the forefront of the resistance against the Nazi invasion. Beyond the pilots in the cockpits, Barris captures the grit and determination of the ground crews, engineers, aeronautical designers, medical officers, and civilians whose collective courage helped defend the world’s freedom.

This presentation is a centrepiece of the KTHS Speaker Series, offering a rare opportunity to hear one of Canada’s most engaging storytellers bring these monumental historical moments to life.

Date: Sunday, May 31st at 1:00 pm

Location: Laskay Hall, KHCC (2920 King Road)

Admission: Free for KTHS members; \$10 for non-members.

RSVP: Space is limited; please reserve your seat by emailing kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

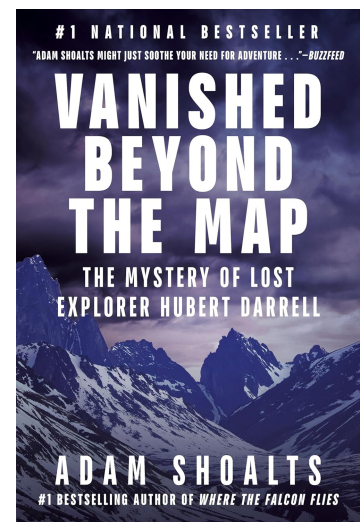
His books will be available for purchase and signing following the presentation.



Canada’s Legendary Explorer & Writer, Adam Shoalts

Looking ahead to the fall, KTHS is excited to once again host modern-day explorer and writer, **Adam Shoalts**, again talking about his newest book *Vanished Beyond the Map: The Mystery of Lost Explorer Hubert Darrell*. It combines first-person adventure, biography, and detective work as Shoalts retraces the route of a legendary explorer who vanished in the uncharted Northwest Territories in 1910.

Adam will join us on Sunday, October 25th in Laskay Hall, KHCC, 2920 King Road. RSVP to kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com to reserve your space. This event is free to KTHS members, \$10 for non-members. Adam will also have his books available for purchase at the event.



Thinking Beyond the Market: Film About Affordable Housing Coming to King - May 26th

The community of King City is preparing for a meaningful evening of cinema and conversation centred on a topic that hits close to home for many: the search for a place to call our own.

This documentary follows University of Waterloo Professor Brian Doucet on a cross-country trek to find real-world answers to the national "affordability crisis." From the innovative planning policies of Whistler to the unique housing projects in Prince Edward Island, the film showcases inspiring success stories from across Canada.

The event, hosted by King Housing Partnerships (KHP), has already drawn significant local interest, with Mayor Steve Pellegrini and several members of the King Township Council confirmed to attend. Following the film, the screen will give way to a live panel discussion and Q&A session. Professor Doucet will join King Policy Planner Kristen Harrison and experts in senior housing to explore how these national insights can be leveraged to create attainable housing options right here in our township.

Whether you are a long-time resident or looking toward the future of our community, this is a standout opportunity to engage with the visionaries shaping the next chapter of Canadian housing. Learn more or RSVP to attend this free documentary on **Tuesday, May 26th at 7:00 pm at the King Bible Church Ministry Centre, 1555 King Road** (West of Dufferin St.) at www.housingfilm.ca/screenings-3



From Forgotten to Protected: Restoring the Laskay Cemetery By Denny Timm, Township Clerk, Township of King

Tucked quietly into the hamlet of Laskay, on Mill Street just off Weston Road in King Township, is a small cemetery that reminds us how easily important places can fade from view and how deliberate care can bring them back to life. The restoration of the Laskay Secessionist Presbyterian Cemetery has been one of the more complex—and meaningful—projects I have worked on during my time with King Township. It is a reminder that historic cemeteries do not preserve themselves. They require care, coordination, and a willingness to navigate complex challenges where solutions are not readily defined, but must be worked through carefully.

I inherited this cemetery file when I was appointed Township Clerk in September 2022. At that time, the site had largely slipped from public view over several decades and was, in many respects, at risk of being forgotten. A disturbance at the cemetery earlier in 2022, involving ground disturbance and impacts to monuments within the cemetery boundaries, brought renewed attention to its condition and prompted the Township to take a more direct and active role in its ongoing care and oversight.

Cemetery restoration is not routine municipal work. There is no single guidebook to follow and no clear path from problem to solution. Each issue uncovered requires navigating complex



oversight across multiple agencies. In this instance, the Township worked through requirements from the Bereavement Authority of Ontario, coordinated with the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services' Archaeology Unit, and engaged specialists—step by step—to support the work required to restore the cemetery.

A critical early step, before restoration began, was undertaking a boundary investigation. Preserving a cemetery requires clearly understanding and protecting where it begins and ends. This work was supported by a new property survey, along with Stages 1, 2, and 3 archaeological assessments and a cemetery investigation. These efforts confirmed site conditions and ensured restoration could proceed in a responsible and compliant manner. They also enabled the installation of a fence along the eastern boundary, adjacent to a neighbouring residence—clearly defining the cemetery limits and helping protect the site from future disturbances. While this may seem straightforward, it is one of the most important—and likely the most often overlooked—elements of cemetery preservation. Without clearly defined boundaries, historic cemeteries are vulnerable to gradual encroachment over time, particularly where sites are not actively monitored.

Following the boundary work, restoration turned to the monuments themselves. Displaced monuments were carefully relocated, reassembled, stabilized, and cleaned to preserve their condition and readability. This work reflects the importance of each monument as part of the cemetery's historical record and helps restore dignity to those laid to rest there.



Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to present the Laskay Cemetery restoration to the King Township Historical Society. Preparing for that presentation underscored how much knowledge has been built since 2022—and the importance of sharing that learning with colleagues and the broader community.

With the physical restoration now complete, including final surface improvements through terra seeding, the next phase focuses on addressing the cemetery's outstanding legal and administrative matters. The Township is applying to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice under

section 101.1 of the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act to have the cemetery formally declared abandoned, which will resolve legal ownership and allow the lands to be conveyed to the Township, and complete remaining title matters, including registering the heritage designation by-law passed in 2009.

The cemetery has now been formally assigned its own municipal address, and work is underway to design and install new signage, along with an educational panel to share the history of the site and the individuals laid to rest there. These additions will help bring the cemetery's story back into view—ensuring it is not only preserved, but also understood and remembered as part of King Township's heritage.

With a clearer understanding of the legislative and regulatory landscape, the Township is now better positioned to address other pioneer cemeteries requiring attention—ensuring these places are not overlooked, but thoughtfully cared for and protected for generations to come. While there is still more work ahead, efforts are already underway across the Township to address other sites with the same level of care and long-term stewardship.

Mapping the Past, Planning for the Future

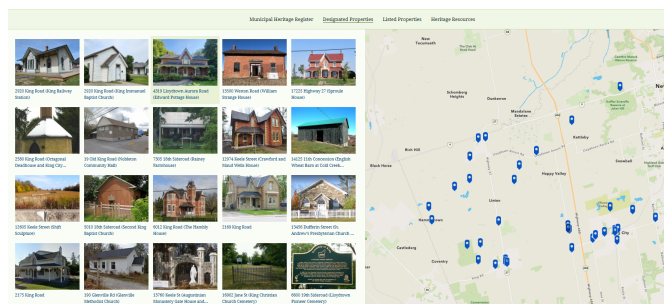
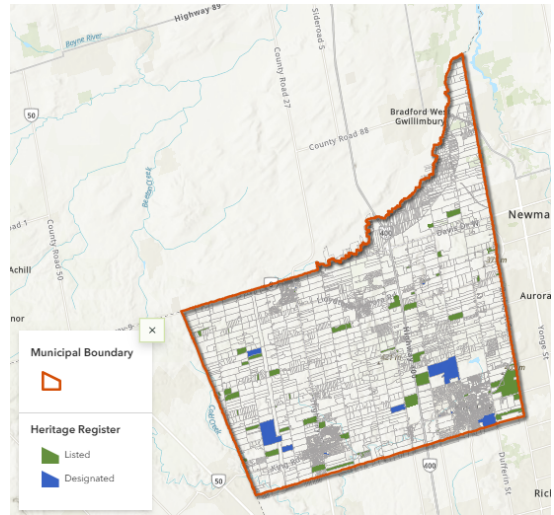
By Michael Maugeri, Planner - Heritage & Development, King Township

On a quiet morning walk or an afternoon drive through King Township, it's easy to miss the stories woven into its historic buildings and landscapes. A weathered farmhouse set back from the road, a modest shed tucked behind mature trees, a main street storefront that has quietly adapted over generations. These places don't announce their history, but together, they tell it. Two recent projects are helping to bring those stories into focus: the **Township's Designation Strategy** and the newly launched **GIS Heritage Story Map**.

The Township's Heritage Designation Strategy was created as a proactive response to legislative changes affecting all municipal heritage registers across the Province, including new time-sensitive constraints with respect to when Council can advance designations. In this evolving legislative context, municipalities are required to be more strategic and deliberate in how heritage resources are identified and protected.

Rather than reacting property-by-property, the strategy establishes a proactive, structured, and transparent workflow. This began with a preliminary screening of all King Township's listed properties, informed by provincial criteria and local considerations such as physical integrity, architectural significance, historical associations, and contextual value.

Practically, this work has formed a phased approach: screening the listed property inventory site by site to confirm what still exists and prioritizing specific properties for further research and consideration. This process helps ensure that limited municipal resources are focused where they are most needed, while also providing clarity, consistency, and defensibility in how heritage decisions are made over time.



Running alongside the Designation Strategy is the **GIS-based Heritage Story Map**. Built using interactive mapping technology, the Story Map presents heritage information in an engaging and accessible way. This tool explains core concepts, such as what a heritage register is, and the difference between listed and designated heritage properties. The Heritage Story Map also lets users explore all of the Township's

listed and designated heritage resources on an interactive map accompanied by detailed descriptions. The Heritage Story Map can be accessed at King.ca/heritage.

Together, these projects support two important goals: the Heritage Designation Strategy helps ensure heritage conservation decisions are strategic, well-informed, and aligned with provincial legislation and local priorities, while the Heritage Story Map ensures that heritage information is current, publicly accessible, and engaging. Taken together, they reinforce the idea that heritage

is not only about protecting the past, but about understanding the places we share today—and making thoughtful choices about how their stories continue into the future.

Are You Interested in Canadian World War History?

Stay tuned for some **BIG NEWS** from KTHS coming in the very near future!



KTHS Speaker Events are Free if You are a Member - Be Sure to Renew Your KTHS Membership Today & Tell a Friend!

Interested in local history and learning more about how to support and preserve the history of King? Maybe you are new to King and looking to meet like-minded people. Consider joining the King Township Historical Society for just **\$25/individual and \$30/family annual membership**. Submit your membership online here www.kingtowshiphistoricalsociety.com or by mail. We hope to see you soon!



King Township Historical Society, 2920 King Road, King City ON L7B 1L6
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
 (PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION AND MAIL CHEQUE TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS)

NAME(S) _____ PHONE _____
 ADDRESS _____

 EMAIL _____ POSTAL CODE _____
 NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

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

What's New in and around King?



King Heritage & Cultural Centre

Secrets Revealed: How Undergarments Shaped Victorian Fashion, May 28, 7-9 pm King Heritage & Cultural Centre

Guest speaker, Dr. Alana McKnight, a Toronto-based Historian, Fashion Expert, will delve into the myths and realities surrounding our modern perception of corsets and discuss the fascinating world of crinolines, bustles, and the full evolution of underpinnings throughout Queen Victoria's reign.



Secrets Revealed
 How Undergarments Shaped Victorian Fashion

Guest Speaker: Dr. Alana McKnight
Thursday, May 28, 7:00 pm
 King Heritage & Cultural Centre
 2920 King Rd., King City

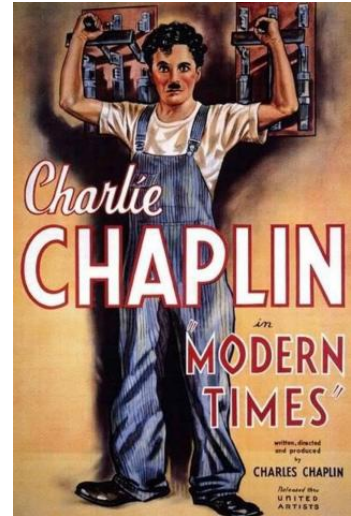
Tickets \$10 + HST
 Available in person at the KHCC or
 visit kingheritageandculture.ca




This talk is presented in conjunction with Queen Victoria’s Secrets, a visiting exhibition that is on display at the KHCC from May 9 to July 4. The exhibition will be open to guests at the KHCC from 6:00 pm onward. Tickets are \$10 + HST and available at www.kingheritageandculture.ca/whats-on/events/

Night at the Museum
Reel Revival: Modern Times (1936)
with Charlie Chaplin
May 21, 7-9 pm
Historic King Christian Church, KHCC

Experience the brilliance of silent comedy at its most enduring with *Modern Times* starring Charlie Chaplin, presented in the historic King Christian Church. Audiences are invited to laugh, reflect, and reconnect with a timeless film that celebrates humour and the human spirit. Tickets are \$5 per person - all ages welcome! Register today - space is limited - www.kingheritageandculture.ca/whats-on/events/reel-revival-modern-times



Local Artists Display their work in a series of short-term exhibits through Art Space King at KHCC - stop by anytime for a visit!



- June 3-7: Ann Clifford, Equine Reverie
- June 17-July 11: Gerald Wayne McLeod
- July 15-25: Ben Benedict, Variations in Landscape

King Theatre Company presents
The Pavilion
August 11-22 from 7:00-8:30pm
Pine Farms Orchard in King

Following their sold-out hits *Salt-Water Moon* and *Tuesdays with Morrie*, King Theatre Company is thrilled to return to the beautiful Pine Farms Orchard for a third summer production of *The Pavilion* from August 11-22. Visit www.kingtheatre.ca to learn more.

Other upcoming KTC productions this year also include *Alias Grace* and *A Christmas Carol* in November and December, both in Schomberg!




PRESENTS

WINE TASTING • LIVE PAINTING
 EST 2025

CABERNET — AND — canvas

SEPTEMBER 13 2026

Join us for an afternoon of live art, music and wine tasting!

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026
 1PM–5PM (Rain or Shine)

SHERWOOD FARM
 12485 Concession 7, King City, ON

Experience artists capturing the beauty of the landscape en plein air while you enjoy wine tasting and live music in a stunning outdoor setting. You'll also have a chance to vote for your favourite artist and purchase some artwork! All net proceeds go to Arts Society King to support arts and culture in our community.

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, including details on membership, may be found on our website at www.kingtowshiphistoricalsociety.com.