



# NEWS FROM KING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## The Back to School edition

### KHCC & KTHS Speaker

**Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> 11am – 12pm**  
**Indigenous Healer, Medicine Woman,  
Mentor and Author**

Join us this Saturday at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre to hear **Asha Frost: an Indigenous Healer, Medicine Woman, Mentor and Author** of "You Are the Medicine: 13 Moons of Indigenous Wisdom, Ancestral Connection, and Animal Spirit Guidance".

Asha will speak of Truth & Reconciliation through resilience, thriving, healing, storytelling, and drum song to encourage the audience to find their own gift through healing, wisdom, and community.

Admission to this event is \$10 and free for KTHS members.

Register at [www.kingheritageandculture.ca](http://www.kingheritageandculture.ca), call 905.833.2331 or email at [programs@king.ca](mailto:programs@king.ca)





*Save the date for our next KTHS Speaker  
Alistair Jolly, TRCA  
Sunday, September 24th at 1:00pm*

**Alistair Jolly, Supervisor, Archaeology with the Toronto Region Conservation Authority** will be discussing the TRCA's archaeological work as it pertains to King Township and the surrounding area, the archaeological process and how it has worked in Woodbridge and the Carrying Place Trail.

Free admission for KTHS members, \$10 admission for non-members. KTHS membership will be available at the door. RSVP at [www.kinghistoricalsociety.com](http://www.kinghistoricalsociety.com)



## *KTHS Says Goodbye to Longstanding Members & Friends*

**Michael Burns** passed away on June 10. Born in Toronto and raised in King, Michael went on to balance a highly successful business career with a desire to champion local causes and give a hand-up to those less fortunate. His hosting of the Country Day School annual auction is legendary in King Township lore. Michael supported many charities; he chaired United Way Toronto's Major Gifts Cabinet, the new United Way of York Region, the York Regional Police Chief's Gala, and the McMichael Art Gallery, and hosted the G7 leaders and Iqaluit artists. He was also a generous donor to All Saints Anglican Church and KTHS's History of King book project.

**Vicki Hotte** passed away after a long illness on Aug 15. A KTHS member, donor, and article contributor, she had an interest in the natural history of King, including the Kettleby Kabin Klub, since settling here with her husband Paul in the early 1990s. Vicki and Paul's involvement with the Nature Conservancy of Canada stemmed from their appreciation for and desire to protect their home, Happy Valley Forest, as a core natural area for native species, allowing for nature appreciation within our community.

**William Harris** passed away on December 18, 2022. While Bill worked in the finance industry for most of his career, perhaps more meaningful to him were his board positions and volunteer work for higher education, environmental and conservation initiatives, and the arts. In or around 2004, he attended a KTHS talk where TRCA archaeologist Margie Kenedy talked about findings in the area, including one she was leading at Seneca College. Bill commissioned Margie and TRCA to create a report — Archaeological Potential of King Township, 2005 — with a donation of about \$15,000. The report is a wonderful baseline for King historians still today.

## The Story of New Scotland

### by Bill Salter

One of the lesser known of the early pioneer settlements in King Township located to the north and south of the 16<sup>th</sup> Sideroad and to the east and west of the 7<sup>th</sup> concession, was New Scotland. It was so named by the early Scottish settlers because the rolling hills of the township reminded them so much of their homeland which they had left behind.



The first to arrive was **Archibald Kelly**, and his wife Mary, from Argyll Shire, Scotland in the year 1832. They had walked all of the way from York to their allotted property, 100 acres at west 1 / 2 lot 15, 7<sup>th</sup> concession with a small lake on the northern border to become known as Kelly Lake. They spent their first nights in the bush on their property in a rough shelter of pine logs and branches which they had constructed upon their arrival. Subsequent Township assessment records indicate that they had two milk cows which they presumably had brought with them, possibly used as pack animals to carry their belongings.

Arriving at the same time was Laughlin Bowrie, and his wife Jean, who had been allotted 100 acres at east 1/2 lot 16, concession 7, just diagonally north and west of the Kelly property. Township records indicated that they had two oxen and one milk cow.

Other settlers soon followed with names including Mitchell, MacMullen, MacMurchy, MacCallum, MacGill, MacTaggart and Wood, among others.

Life for these early settlers was very hard. Using only the crudest of implements, with only horses and oxen for power, their properties in the dense wilderness had to be cleared of trees, stumps and large stones. The stones were often piled to create fencing. One of these stone fences can still be seen on the trail on the unopened 16<sup>th</sup> Sideroad now known as Green Lane.

By the years 1846 and 1848, Township records show that these hard-working pioneers had cleared from 10 to 20 acres of land, and planted crops sometimes among yet to be removed stumps and stones. It was not until 1894 that a **Stumping Machine**, or Sweep Lever as it was known as, was purchased by Mark Gillham. Until that time, the removal of stumps, particularly of hardwood trees, was very difficult and very strenuous work for the early settlers. They had also built a log house for their now growing families and dug a well to supply them with clean water.



In the first years, the surrounding woods, fields and streams were teeming with wildlife, fish, fruit and edible and medicinal plants. Sugar maples were tapped for their sap

which was boiled to make syrup and sugar, and the softwood trees provided logs for the construction of homes and animal shelters. At least one season had to pass before the planting of crops could begin.

In the following years, grain crops were harvested using scythes or sickles, flailed by hand and winnowed in the wind, until much later when a mill could be built close by. The grain had to be carried a distance of 25 miles to a mill at Hogg's Hollow in York for grinding into flour. Cooking was in kettles over open fires, and bread was baked in covered pans covered with live coals from the fireplace.

Soon a mill for grinding grain would be built in Bolton and a second mill, the first one in King Township was built by Jesse Lloyd in Lloydtown. The distance to either of these mills was only some 15 miles, or 10 miles less than that to Hoggs Hollow, but still a long walk.

Later, a sawmill known as Munroe's Mill was constructed, and it could be operated both as a sawmill and by changing over the belt, as a grinding mill for the grinding of grain into flour. Finally, for the settlers it was but a short walk to have their grain milled into flour.

A blacksmith shop was also built, and the first blacksmith was Edward Heacock. It continued in operation under others until 1909 when the building was sold to Andrew McLure for \$51, removed and relocated to his farm South on the 7<sup>th</sup> concession where the building was used as a pig pen. The residence, in connection with the Blacksmith shop was also sold and relocated north of Bell's Lake on what is now HWY 27.

In 1846, as the settlement continued to grow, it became apparent that a school was required. The **first schoolhouse** was a log and plank building located on the 16<sup>th</sup> Sideroad. The school was heated in the cold winters by a pot bellied stove. The children were responsible for bringing in firewood and tending to the fires, and to carrying water in pails from the well for drinking and washing. By 1891 as families grew and as children were coming from as far as Linton and Bell's Lake, the building was no longer adequate, and a larger frame building was constructed on the same site. By 1898, the school had been bricked and modernized, and in 1914 the school grounds were enlarged to make playgrounds available. The school was also the centre of community activities until 1961, when it was closed and the property sold. It remained unused and deteriorating until a few years ago when it was demolished.



Also in 1846, A building was erected at the northwest of the settlement on the 8<sup>th</sup> concession, for an **Orange Lodge**, known as Northwest L.O.L. 415. On May 5<sup>th</sup> of that year it began operations with Edward Findlay as the first Worshipful Master and 10 members. The Lodge held monthly meetings continuously for over 130 years.



In 1853, the ownership of the east ½ of Lot 16 passed to The Reverend John Eglington Maxwell, and though there was never a Church in the settlement, presumably he ministered to the community and held services in his home and perhaps in the Schoolhouse or the Orange Hall.



Today, except for the stone fence on Green Lane, little remains of the original settlement. The buildings and the settlers log homes have all disappeared and the land has been developed as large estate properties and private residences. In fact, the home of KTHS members David and Ann Love is located on Lot 16, at the 7<sup>th</sup> concession.

As quoted from The Tweedsmuir History, "It has been truly said that to explain the present, one must understand the past that created it. And indeed, as decade follows decade it is increasingly difficult for us to understand how and why they suffered such hardship and privation if there was an easier way. One reason handed down is that although it required pluck and determination, it held adventure, and of this there was plenty in the blood of the pioneer settler."

I am indebted and very grateful for much of the information in this story to the work of Elizabeth McClure Gillham, and her book Early Settlements of King Township; a book I highly recommend to our readers.

## History of King Book Teasers

As co-authors **Ann Love** and **Sharon Bentley** continue their work on the History of King Book project, KTHS will continue to include one or two stories by local guest writers in each newsletter as a lead up to the ultimate publication.

In this issue we feature two stories: Our Barns 1816-2016: Responding to Need – Adapting to Change, written by Phyllis Vernon; and Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns Grow: A History of The Country Day School, written by Kim Sillcox.

## Our Barns 1816-2016

### Responding to Need ~ Adapting to Change By Phyllis Vernon

#### 1816-1865

The Dutch or English Wheat Barns were the earliest known in King. They were rectangular, about 60' (18 m) x 40' (12 m), clad in clapboard or board and batten.

Huge old forest trees provided massive beams, even up to 45' long, hand-hewn with axe or adze into squared timbers. Since the only crop at this time was grain for flour for bread, barns needed to have space for flailing and storage. This necessitated a particularly strong crossbeam to support the structure at one side of the main area. It was named 'the swing beam' since it allowed enough open space in the centre of the barn for the team of horses pulling a wagon of sheaves to go into the barn, 'swing' around and exit the door, thus allowing the sheaves to be unloaded and flailed. With the opposing doors open, the unwanted 'chaff' blew away and the finished grain, was stored in bins.



### 1866-1915

In the 1870s the wheat market declined and it was time to 'adapt to change'. There needed to be space for livestock ~ new crops for feed and storage, space for cows to be milked and stalls for draft horses, pens for pigs, sheep and calves. Feeding processes, pasture and manure handling all had to be developed. To allow for all of this, the existing small barn was jacked up and a foundation of field stones built. This allowed



a lower floor for livestock and an upper floor for crop storage. Often a ramp was added or new barns were built on the side of a hill, producing the most common type of century barn that we see in King called the Bank Barn. Also known as the Pennsylvania Barn, the height of the upper story was increased and mows for hay built, with numerous ladders for access, and openings for ventilation to prevent combustion.



### 1916-1965

**So many changes!** Sawmills, railroads, mechanization, tractors, galvanized steel for roofs, coveralls and walls, electricity, gasoline engines, automobiles, improved roads, silos, livestock specialization, artificial insemination, a multitude of implements! AND, the structure and location of barns was altered as needed. It was quite common to move the whole barn to a better location, or take it apart and use the timbers (plus any from other barns near and far) to continue to respond to new inventions, technologies or efficiencies.



## 1966-2015

As the pace of change revved up exponentially, the search to capitalize on farming possibilities led to AMS ~ Automatic Milking Systems! Introduced in Ontario in 1999, their number has increased by 400%. Cattle live at freedom in a large well-ventilated barn-space, free to roam around, find a comfy bed on a nest of sand, feed at will, and most astoundingly, decide when they would like to be milked! They form a queue to the milking station, where they contentedly munch on a snack while a robot attaches to their teats and the milk flows!



## 2016....

A growing number of farms are practicing organic principles in crop fertilization, livestock feed and foods grown without chemicals. New structures, materials and practices no longer require the use of the classic "barns", and many continue to be



destroyed to make room for housing. However, some are repurposed ~ their outside appearance is retained and the inside is renovated as event spaces for weddings, family and community parties, and even homes. Thus they continue to respond to need and adapt to change, living memories of our rural past.



## The Country Day School: Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns Grow By Kim Sillcox

### The Early Days - Part 1

It began over a casual dinner in early January 1971. Ed Eberts and his late wife, Daphne, were hosting King residents, Moffat Dunlap and his late wife, Margo Bindhardt, when the topic of discussion turned to the merits of the local schools for their children.

At the time, the population of the Region of York was steadily evolving from agricultural to residential and the local government had decided to shut down its country schools



and bus primary students from various parts of King and other rural hamlets to one of the newer and larger regional public elementary schools. Many parents were not in favour of their children being taught in larger classrooms. Others had grown tired of driving their children to Toronto independent schools. There appeared to be a growing demand for a local co-ed alternative to the public and separate school systems, one that remained small and personal, emphasized balance and demonstrated a commitment to teaching excellence.



Neither the Eberts nor the Dunlaps had experience in starting a school. They did, however, know the late John Pratt, an educator from Quebec who was quite knowledgeable about independent schools and curriculum was his area of expertise. As well, Margo was familiar with the country day school movement in the U.S. and suggested they call their proposed school 'The Country Day School.'

In March 1971, a group of interested parents hired John Pratt to conduct a feasibility study. Upon his arrival that June, John and others arranged for one-on-one and general meetings with local families. Follow up telephone calls were made to all who attended, and interested parents were encouraged to submit names of others. It wasn't long before John was able to demonstrate significant parent support for the establishment of an elementary school offering Kindergarten through Grade 8.

The Country Day School Foundation was established in September 1971 to accept donations. The four Trustees were: Ed Eberts, as Chairman; Moffat Dunlap; Howard W. Hunter, a financial advisor with Burns Fry; Christopher Johnston, legal advisor with Strathy, Archibald, Seagram & Cole; and John Pratt as Secretary. By the New Year, John had held seven general meetings, attended by about 125 families. The results of a questionnaire prepared by Margo indicated that 85 families were interested in enrolling their children.

In February 1972, a committee was formed to evaluate John Pratt's research and make a final decision on the viability of the school. The Criteria Committee consisted of the five Trustees and three veteran independent school educators: Dick Howard, Head of Upper Canada College Prep School; Mrs. Janet Dawson, former St. Clement's School Headmistress and wife of Tony Dawson, a music teacher at St. Andrew's College; and Mr. Jack Wright, the founding Headmaster of Royal St. George's College and longtime teacher at St. Andrew's. The late Roy McCutcheon, then Dean of the Seneca College King Campus (and later Seneca's second President), also became involved in an advisory capacity and as an original Board Member later that fall. Roy was instrumental in developing synergies between CDS and Seneca College vis a vis use of facilities and Seneca's Early Childhood Education Program.



"There wouldn't have been another school in Canada that had stronger people advising them," said Moffat. "It wasn't just a holiday for these people; they worked at it, and we knew our kids would be the beneficiaries. These parents were not going to let the school down."

In a final push to spread the message throughout the community, Ed, Moffat and John sought future CDS parent, Ben Rough's, assistance in arranging local media attention. Stories ran in the Aurora Banner, Newmarket Era and Richmond Hill Liberal. Additionally, all three appeared on a half-hour television show on Richmond Hill Cable Television. The panel was moderated by the late Peter Taylor, who at the end of the interview inquired about teaching positions. He was eventually hired and went on to teach for the next 18 years as one of CDS's most beloved teachers. He is perhaps remembered most for his role in the construction of the Longhouse behind the school, which he and his students began building in 1974 and took more than two years to complete. For the next 16 years Mr. Taylor taught his students to appreciate Indigenous history, while preparing bannock and cooking muskrat over an open fire, in the Longhouse; thereby laying a strong foundation for the school's Outdoor Education program that continues to thrive today.

Meanwhile, the issue of location had yet to be resolved. "We could not find a building anywhere in the Newmarket/Aurora area that would suit our needs," remembers Moffat. They looked at renovating barns, considered All Saints Anglican Church in King City and York County Senior Citizens' Home, and just really scouted the countryside. "Parents who were on board would take a detour on their drive home at night to explore every potential venue."



After having numerous requests for a location turned down, their luck changed in spring 1972 when they learned that the York County Board of Education was about to lease recently closed surplus country school properties, including School Section No. 22, Eversley Public School. This property included an original one-room schoolhouse built in 1883 (which is now the Junior School Library) and two large classrooms, now situated at the entrance of the Junior School.

"Negotiating the building lease was the stroke of Moffat's genius," recalls Ed Eberts. The two-year agreement with the York County Board of Education cost \$200 per month. In addition, CDS only had to pay for maintenance, heat and electricity, which amounted to about \$3600/year.

Moffat got a lead on good quality used classroom furniture from the former Ontario Minister of Education and newly elected Ontario Premier, the Honourable William G. Davis, who put him in touch with Clare Westcott, his personal assistant. "We got out the

horse van, washed it, brought it out to a warehouse in Brampton and just loaded it up," said Moffat.

Over the next few months, the entire three-room school was renovated on a volunteer basis by faculty, parents and future students. Phillip Harris, a talented artist, orchestrated the painting of the rooms by colour: blue, green, yellow and orange. John Pratt's father, a renowned World War II entertainer, supervised the construction of a Shakespearian stage in the original one-room schoolhouse. Future parent, Board Chair, and Donor, the late Michael Burns plowed and cultivated the original playing field.

It had been a colossal community effort and a true labour of love. The Country Day School opened its doors to 47 students on September 11, 1972.

CDS just finished celebrating its 50th anniversary year and looks forward to the next 50 years of education with balance in King.

## Help Grow Our Membership by Joining KTHS Today!

Know someone interested in learning about the history of King who would enjoy becoming a member of KTHS? Have friends who are new to King City and looking to get involved in the community? Why not invite them to our next event and encourage them to join KTHS?

We are excited to continue to bring you interesting programming and event opportunities for years to come and encourage you to renew your annual membership (**individual \$25/family \$30**) today so that you may continue to take advantage of all that KTHS has to offer.

We are looking to grow our membership and welcome new members to our Board of Directors as well. Email [kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com) to learn more today!



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) \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

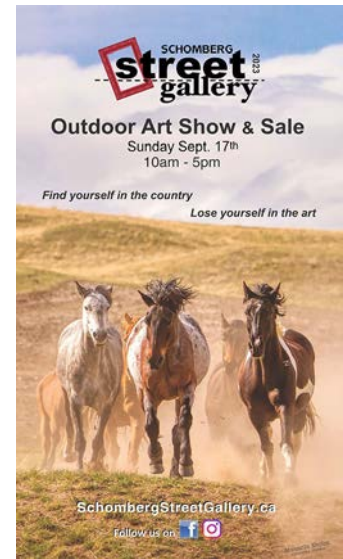
DONATION \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## What's Happening in and around King?

### Arts Society King presents The Schomberg Street Gallery **September 17** on Main Street Schomberg

The Schomberg Street Gallery is an outdoor, juried exhibition and sale of quality fine art. Held in the charming historic village of Schomberg, Ontario. Artist applications are now being accepted. For more details or to apply please visit our Schomberg Street Gallery page at [www.schombergstreetgallery.ca](http://www.schombergstreetgallery.ca)



### Arts Society King in partnership with KHCC Presents its fourth annual Autumn Reflections En Plein Air Competition **September 23-October 21**

You are invited to submit new work produced outdoors on site at any King Township location between **September 23rd and October 21st**. Awards Day will be held on October 21st at a King Township location to be determined.

### Arts Society King is partnering with Christmas in King on a Yuk Yuk's COMEDY NIGHT in KING **Saturday, September 23 at 8pm** Kingbridge Centre - Tickets are \$60

Come out for an evening of comedy featuring Martha Chaves, Patick Haye and Justin Shaw. All proceeds from the show will go toward helping hundreds of people in King Township have a brighter and merrier holiday season. The need is particularly great this year. The King Township Food Bank has seen an increase of more than 50% in the number of people it serves so far this year. Tickets are \$60 and may be purchased through [www.christmasinking.ca](http://www.christmasinking.ca)





**King Heritage & Cultural Centre presents**  
**On the Trail of the Monarch Butterfly**  
*August 19th - November 10th*



Displays stunning micro-photographic images and aerial photographs depicting the monarch's amazing journey from Montreal to the mountains of central Mexico. This exhibit will also explore the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly – visit to see live butterflies as we wait for them to emerge from their chrysalis (timing can't be guaranteed). The caterpillars have been busy eating and growing and will soon go into the chrysalis (pupal) stage. They will emerge as butterflies later this month.

**King Township Food Bank presents**  
**Yalla Casablanca Sip & Savour**  
*Thursday, October 26th 6-9pm*  
**"Sultan's Palace" at Seneca King**  
**Tickets are \$100/person**

Join us for an enchanting cocktail reception decked in a Moroccan theme. Yalla Casablanca will transport you to the vibrant and colourful world of North Africa. Immerse yourself in the rich culture, tantalizing cuisine, and captivating traditions of Morocco right here in King Township. [www.ktfoodbank.ca](http://www.ktfoodbank.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.kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com](http://www.kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com).*

# JENS LINDEMANN

*INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED TRUMPET SOLOIST*

**Performing at  
The Country Day School  
Paul C. Duckett Theatre**

**Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 pm to 7:30 pm**

*Admission is Free  
General Public Welcome*

**Reserve your tickets today at  
[CDS.ON.CA/TICKETS](https://cbs.on.ca/tickets)**

READ MORE ABOUT JENS AT  
[www.trumpetsolo.com](https://www.trumpetsolo.com)

*"Jens Lindemann gave  
a sizzling, high energy  
performance in the American  
premiere of the trumpet  
concerto 'Dreaming of the  
Masters' at Carnegie Hall."*

*- New York Times*



# CDS

The Country Day School

EDUCATION WITH BALANCE