NEWS FROM KING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY





Happy Halloween KTHS!

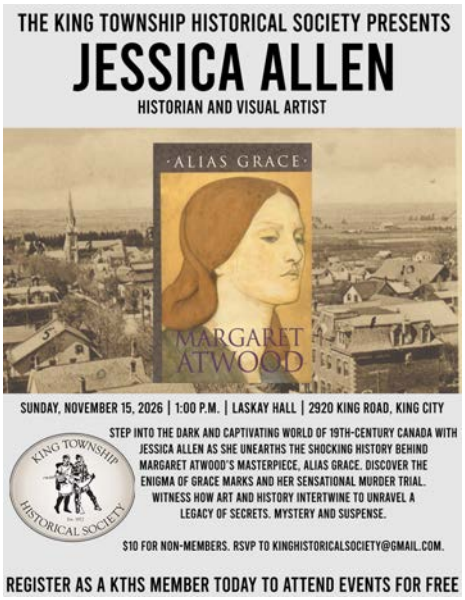
Adam Shoalts, Explorer & Author
Sunday, October 25th at 1pm, Laskay Hall



Join KTHS members as we welcome Canada's premier modern-day explorer and best-selling author, Adam Shoalts, as he unravels one of the greatest cold cases in Northern exploration history! Hear the gripping, true story of Hubert Darrell – a legendary trailblazer who vanished into the uncharted Arctic wilderness in 1910 and join Shoalts as he retraces those lost routes to uncover the truth.

Cost: Free for KTHS members and $10 for non-members. RSVP to kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com today!

Uncover the Mystery Behind Alias Grace Sunday, November 15th at 1pm, Laskay Hall



To coincide with King Theatre Company's upcoming production of *Alias Grace* running from November 6-15 at Schomberg Community Hall, we have invited Canadian historical presenter and author Jessica Allen for a fascinating exploration of the real-life mystery that inspired Margaret Atwood's celebrated novel.

We will step into the dark captivating world of 19th-century Ontario with Ms. Allen as she unearths the shocking history behind Margaret Atwood's 1996 masterpiece. Discover the enigma of Grace Marks and her sensational 1843 murder trial. Witness how art and history intertwine to unravel a legacy of secrets, mystery, and suspense. With her expertise in Atwood's work, Allen brings history and literature together in an intriguing look at the woman behind the story.

Cost: Free for KTHS members and $10 for non-members. RSVP to kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com today!

The KTHS Christmas Concert is Friday, Nov. 27th at 8:00pm featuring the Allison Lupton Band on the stage of Laskay Hall



Come out and join us following the King Township Tree Lighting event the same evening at KHCC from 6:00 - 7:30pm!

Email kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com to reserve tickets - $10 for KTHS members & $25 for non-members.

Author & Historian Ted Barris Brings History to Life



Ted Barris joined KTHS for a fascinating discussion of his latest book, *The Battle of Britain,* on May 31st.

One of the most striking insights was Canada's remarkable contribution to Britain's defence during WWII. Canadians made up the second-largest contingent of pilots in the Battle of Britain,

including 118 young men accepted into the RAF's Direct Entry Scheme in the 1930s. Their service led to the formation of No. 242 "All Canadian" Squadron, which played a vital role during the campaign.

We also learned about the extraordinary contribution of Canadian engineer, Elsie MacGill, the "Queen of the Hurricanes," whose Canadian-built Hurricane fighter aircrafts helped defend Britain during its darkest hours.

Ted brought this important chapter of Canadian history to life and reminded us of the courage, skill, and sacrifice of those who helped turn the tide in 1940. For those of us lucky enough to be in the intimate audience, it was like listening to a university professor bring history to life!

Our Soldiers, Our Families

More information on King Soldiers can be found on the KTHS website under Discover/Local History/Our Soldiers, Our Families

In early September 1915, Laura Granger held close a letter from her son, Lance-Corporal Carl Granger. Dated August 29th, it had been written just two days before he was killed in action in France.

Like many soldiers, Carl corresponded regularly with family and friends at home. Earlier that spring, he wrote, "Just a line to let you know I am still on top… you will be proud to know you have a son who went through one of the greatest battles that was ever fought." He was referring to the first gas attack at the Second Battle of Ypres in April 1915. Four months later, in his August 29th letter, Carl showed a clear awareness of the danger he faced: "My life is not worth ten minutes here now. We are only 100 yards from the German trench."

Carl was born in Kettleby on March 10, 1893, to George and Laura Granger. He and his brother Lewis were the only boys among the Grangers' eight children, and both served in the Great War. Carl enlisted for Overseas Service on September 23, 1914, shortly after war was declared on August 4th. He was among the first men from the 12th York Rangers to go overseas. After arriving in England, he transferred to the machine gun section and was soon promoted to Lance Corporal. His friend Pte. William J. Marmont wrote home: "Lance Corporal Carl Granger is a No. 1 gunner on one of our machine guns. He is admired and trusted by his crew of 12 men."

A blue-eyed, 5' 8" woodturner who had worked at the Canes Factory in Newmarket, Carl was 21 years and 7 months old when he enlisted. He served on the front line without mishap from February 4 until August 31, 1915, when he was killed. Private John McDonald of Newmarket, who had served at the front with Carl, wrote: "A German sniper shot Carl when he got his head above the parapet of the trench." That day, a mine had been detonated beneath the German trenches, and the Canadians advanced to occupy the 84-foot crater. The battalion's war diary reported that the men came under heavy rifle and machine-gun fire and that German snipers were active. Pte. William Marmont described Carl's death in a letter home: "Two days before he got killed, we were sleeping together in a little bivouac. Poor fellow he knew little pain, if any. He was hit in the temple with an explosive bullet. I have his cap, which he had just taken off previously to being hit, in order to sight his gun."

Carl was among the first to enlist and among the first to be killed in action.



Carl's brother Lewis enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) on August 11, 1915, just 20 days before Carl was killed in action on August 31st. Their mother must have endured tremendous sorrow, with two sons overseas and one making the ultimate sacrifice. She was not alone: during the four years of the war, 32 family members of King Township contributed to the war effort. They included brothers; siblings such as Mary Agar and Joseph Matthew Agar; and cousins such as Earl and Lorne Campbell.

In the Campbell family, Harold enlisted on May 22, 1915, Earl on February 17, 1916, and their younger brother Archibald was drafted on May 11, 1918. Their cousin Lorne Campbell, who had encouraged Earl to join the war effort, enlisted on January 24, 1916. That same day, the Acreman brothers, Albert and Leonard, also enlisted.

Three of the Brown family's four sons from Schomberg—Vincent, Stanley, and Harold—enlisted. Vincent was 26 when he enlisted on August 7, 1915; Stanley was 21 when he enlisted on February 23, 1916; and Harold was only 19 when he joined on January 24, 1916, and was 20 years of age when he was killed on September 28, 1916.

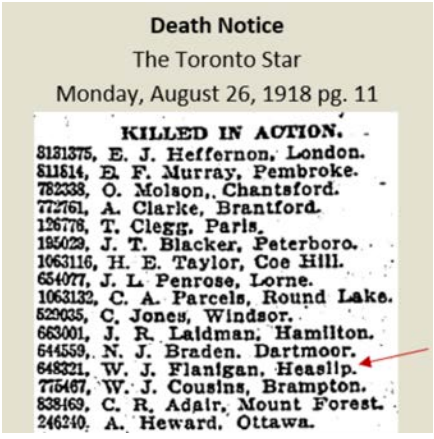
Tragedy also struck the Doyle family of Schomberg. Wilfred Laurier Doyle enlisted on October 30, 1915, was promoted to Sergeant on June 26, 1917, and was killed on November 6, 1917. William Joseph Doyle enlisted on December 31, 1915, and was also killed on November 6, 1917. That day, Canadian and British forces launched an assault to capture the ruined village of Passchendaele.

In Nobleton, Joseph Agar enlisted in the Canadian Engineers on April 8, 1915, and was reported killed in action on June 14, 1916. His younger sister Mary continued the family tradition of military service, enlisting as a Nursing Sister on June 4, 1917, nearly a year after her brother's death. Mary was one of three women from King who joined the Nursing Sisters.

In many families, siblings voluntarily followed one another into military service until August 29, 1917, when the Military Service Act became law. The conscription began quickly calling on all men between the ages of 20 and 34, unmarried, childless or widowers to register. The initial objective was to raise 100,000 men to replace those lost in battles. Among family members drafted were Arthur and Frederick Hope – Frederick on October 30, 1917, and Arthur on March 18, 1918. Edward Marchant was drafted on April 24, 1918, followed four weeks later by his brother Clarence on May 18th.

Between October 5, 1917, and November 6, 1918, 108 men from King Township were drafted—16 in 1917 and 92 in 1918. William Alfred Ireland was the last King Township man drafted, on November 6, 1918, just five days before the war ended on November 11, 1918.

The brave young King soldiers, many who made the ultimate sacrifice, are commemorated on local cenotaphs in Kettleby, Schomberg, and Aurora, as well as at their final resting places overseas.


Death Notice
The Toronto Star
Monday, August 26, 1918 pg. 11

KILLED IN ACTION.
3131375, E. J. Heffernon, London.
811514, E. F. Murray, Pembroke.
782338, O. Molson, Chantsford.
772761, A. Clarke, Brantford.
126778, T. Clegg, Paris.
195029, J. T. Blacker, Peterboro.
1063116, H. E. Taylor, Coe Hill.
654077, J. L. Penrose, Lorne.
1063132, C. A. Parcels, Round Lake.
529035, C. Jones, Windsor.
663001, J. R. Laidman, Hamilton.
644559, N. J. Braden, Dartmoor.
648321, W. J. Flanigan, Heaslip.
775467, W. J. Cousins, Brampton.
838469, C. R. Adair, Mount Forest.
246240, A. Heward, Ottawa.

During the war, the Toronto Star regularly reported the names of those killed in action. One was Pte. W. J. Flanigan (Flanagan), born in Kettleby on January 1, 1895, to Peter and

Margaret Flanagan. At age 21, John Flanagan enlisted in the 159th Battalion on February 17, 1916. Two years later, on August 12, 1918, he was killed in action during the Battle of Amiens. His family was then living in Heaslip, Ontario. His name is also inscribed on the Vimy Memorial, commemorating fallen Canadians with no known grave in France.

Lest we forget





Thank you to Sharon M. Bentley, a member of the KTHS Board of Directors and the Researcher of The History of King: A Community Shaped by the Land, for this thoughtful piece.

KTHS Battlefield Trip Update



As you know, we have cancelled our original trip with GO Ahead Tours because of a refund policy we found to be unacceptable.

KTHS is currently exploring an even more exciting option with Merit Travel for September 2027. More details to follow in the New Year.

Help Us Grow Our Membership by Joining KTHS Today!

Are you 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**. You may submit your membership online through our website at www.kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com or by mail.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook! @kinghistoricalsociety

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 _____ _____

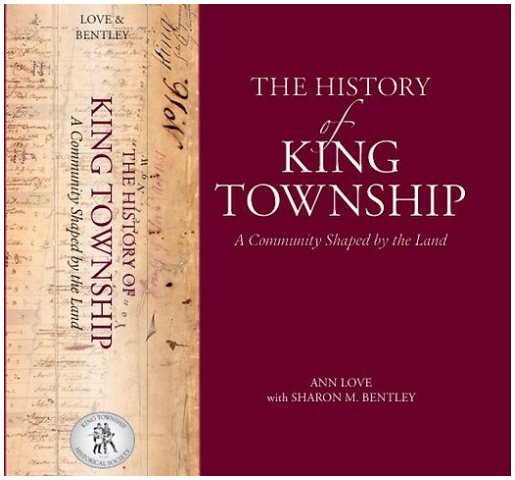
_____ POSTAL CODE _____

EMAIL _____ NEW____ RENEWAL____

INDIVIDUAL $25 _____ FAMILY $30 _____ DONATION _____

ENCLOSED $_____

Looking for a Perfect Holiday Gift?



We still have a few copies left for you to order in time for the holidays!

Published last year alongside the 175th anniversary of King, this historic book, written by KTHS members Ann Love and Sharon Bentley, tells the story of King Township from the Ice Age to present day.

Purchase it today for your family for just $40 either through the KTHS website at www.kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com or at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road.

What's New in and Around King?

Upcoming holiday events offered through ASK, KTC & Museum



Time Traveling Trick-or-Treat!

Saturday, October 31, 2026 from 2-4pm
King Heritage & Cultural Centre
Cost per person: $10

Join us for a time traveling, trick-or-treating adventure. Explore the grounds and buildings, gather clues and win prizes. Each station features a hands-on activity, game, craft or challenge. Big siblings and grownups are encouraged to join in the fun! Geared toward our youngest explorers, this event is stroller/wagon accessible. Outdoor elements weather permitting.

King Artisan Holiday Market

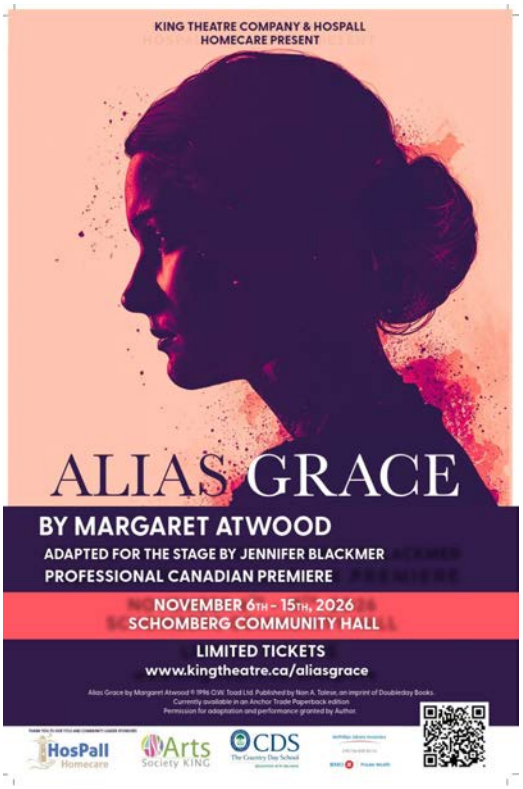
November 21 - 22, 2026
King Heritage & Cultural Centre

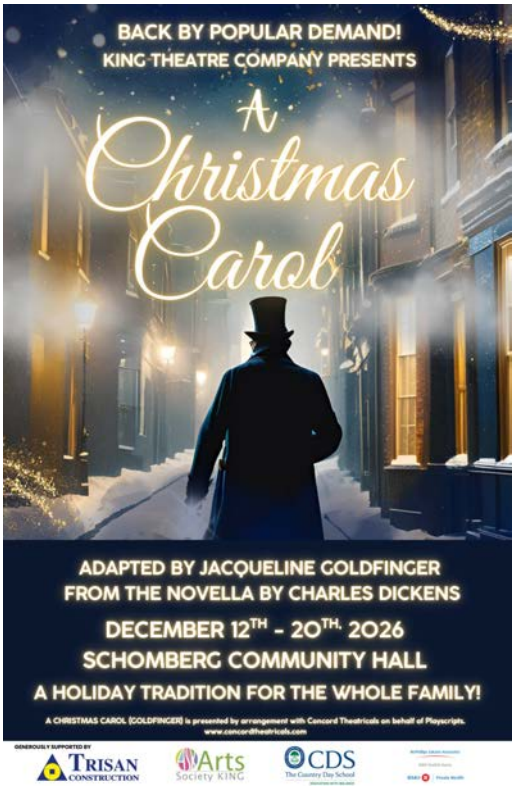
This special event celebrates the creativity, craftsmanship, and talent of our local artisan community. We are seeking artists and makers working in a variety of mediums to showcase and sell their work during this festive holiday market.



King Theatre Company has two upcoming performances at the Schomberg Community Hall you won't want to miss!

Learn more at www.kingtheatre.ca





King City Tree Lighting

Friday, November 27th from 6:00 - 7:30pm (Tree Lighting at 6:15pm)
King Heritage & Cultural Centre

Come for the tree lighting and explore our brand-new interactive exhibit about winter fun before WiFi! Then stay for the KTHS Christmas Concert featuring the Allison Lupton Band at 8:00 pm in Laskay Hall! Tickets are $10 for members, $25 for non-members. See p. 2 for ticket details.

Holiday Creations & Celebrations

Saturday, November 28 from 1-4pm
King Heritage & Cultural Centre
Cost: $18 per person

This festive, family-friendly event brings community together to celebrate the season through creativity, heritage, and holiday traditions. Enjoy hands-on crafts and activities, explore the “Snow Days” exhibits to learn about winters before WiFi, and maybe even meet Santa himself!



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.