



NEWS FROM KING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

KTHS IS AN INDEPENDENT, VOLUNTEER-LED, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF KING.

KTHS 2025 AGM Update

The roster for the 2025 KTHS Board of Directors was presented and approved at the March 2nd AGM and is as follows:

2025 KTHS Board of Directors

Bev Flanagan – President
 Richard Vien - Past President
 Ann Love – Vice President
 Murdene Pozdrowski – Secretary
 Sharon Bentley – Membership
 Linda Similas – Treasurer
 Kim Sillcox – Newsletter/Media
 Still to be filled - Programs

Tony Rolph – *Director at Large*

Bill Salter – *Director at Large*

Liza Mallyon – *Ex-Officio*

Members of the **Fawcett Bequest**

Committee include: Ann Love, Linda Similas and Murdene Pozdrowski. Richard Vien serves as an ex-officio member.



The KTHS attempted twice to host a **70th anniversary of Hurricane Hazel** last year, but had to cancel twice due to illness. This fall, we will host **David Chapman**, a professional

photographer with a strong interest in storm photography, on the **71st anniversary Sunday, October 19th at 1pm in Schomberg**. Location and details to follow.

Free admission for KTHS members, \$10 for non-members. Purchase an annual membership for \$25 for individuals/\$30 for a family at the door and attend for free!



Adam Bunch Tells the Story of Toronto's Founding Dog

At our **April Speaker Series event**, award-winning author and host of Canadiana documentary series, **Adam Bunch**, amused KTHS members with the highly entertaining story of how John Graves Simcoe went from being a veteran of the American Revolutionary War to becoming the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, credited with founding the town of York, present day Toronto.

After first falling in love with a revolutionary spy, Simcoe returned to England where he married Elizabeth Gwillim, with whom he had 11 children. Elizabeth and Simcoe came to Canada in 1791, living with their family in a very large canvas tent that moved with them from Kingston to Niagara to York.

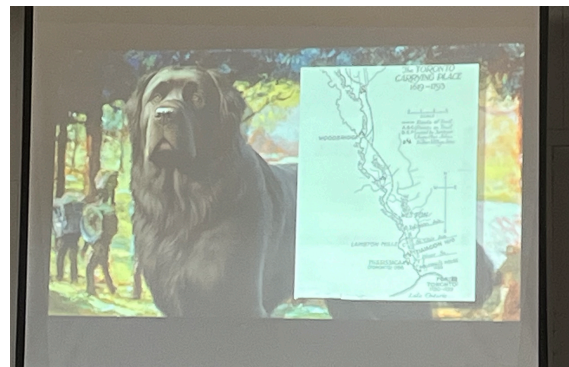
According to Adam, Elizabeth kept a very detailed diary with a day-by-day account of the founding of our province while her husband set up the colony, government and legal system. She also worked hard to import culture to Niagara and York (Toronto) and hosted fabulous parties with the settlers.

As the Simcoe's travelled throughout Upper and Lower Canada, they accumulated some animals, including Jack Sharp, his trusted Newfoundland dog, while living in Niagara.

Simcoe would take Jack Sharp with him when he went exploring, including on his canoe trips north following the ancient Indigenous Carrying Place trade route, connecting Lake Ontario to Lake Simcoe through the Humber River Valley.

On one of these forays into the wilderness, Simcoe and some of his fellow explorers got separated from the main group with only one day's worth of provisions. The group found themselves contemplating eating Simcoe's trusty dog in order to survive. Fortunately for Jack Sharp, they found their bearings the next day - Lake Ontario was in sight!

A fellow nature lover, Elizabeth also travelled on some of these trips and Simcoe named East, West and North Gwillimbury after her maiden name Gwillim and Lake Simcoe in honour of his father. The Simcoes returned to England in 1796 having left their mark on Upper Canada.



KTHS Unveils History of KingTownship at Special Book Launch

The King Township Historical Society Board of Directors were out in force for the Book Launch: (l-r) Sharon Bentley, Ann Love, Tony Rolph, Murdene Pozdrowski, Richard Vien, Diana Armitage, Beverly Flanagan, Linda Similas and Kim Sillcox. Missing from photo is Bill Salter.





The King Township Historical Society proudly debuted *The History of King Township: A Community Shaped by the Land* with great fanfare at a special book launch event on April 24th at the Township Municipal Centre.

Written by local author and King resident **Ann Love** and retired deputy chief librarian of King Township Public Library **Sharon Bentley**, this labour of love chronicles the fascinating evolution of our township. Hosted by KTHS, with assistance from King Township staff, the event provided the perfect backdrop for the launch of King's 175th anniversary.

"In this digital age, it's heartwarming to see a crowd of nearly 200 gather for the launch of a 476-page printed hardcover history book," said Ann Love in her remarks. "It's no door stopper, it's a Showstopper!"

Sharon Bentley echoed Ann's enthusiasm in her remarks, "*The History of King Township: A Community Shaped by the Land* is not just another boring history book. It is a page turner with stories of crime, deception, intrigue, and romance and we even threw in invasion from our southern neighbours and the infamous McKinley tariffs. We have everything covered!"

The celebratory event featured book signings, author presentations and dramatic readings by ASK actor Laura Martini, reading a letter from early settler Phoebe Lloyd from 1838, and ASK President, Michele McNally, reading a letter from Merelda Campbell to her brother on the WWI front. Mayor Pellegrini was there to congratulate both authors and return their original manuscript after being one of the first to read the book.

Entirely funded in advance by generous donors throughout the Township, the KTHS is indebted to all who placed their faith in this monumental project. The KTHS is also deeply grateful for Ann and Sharon's meticulous research and heartfelt storytelling; giving us a treasure to enjoy for generations to come.

Thanks to our Major Supporters	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ahmad, Carol & Shaheen ▶ Armitage, Diana & Ian ▶ Atkins, Virginia* & Tom* ▶ Bentley, Sharon ▶ Burns, Michael* ▶ Country Day School ▶ Davis, Joan & Rolph & Davis Family ▶ Flavell Family Foundation ▶ Hotte, Paul & Vicky* ▶ Iaboni, Sue & Peter ▶ Jackman, Reverend Edward* ▶ Hal Jackman Foundation ▶ King Township ▶ Ladies Literary Liquid Lunch Book Club ▶ Love, Ann & David ▶ Mathews, Darlene & James 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ McCormick, Carol ▶ Millar, Ed* ▶ Nobleton Lions Club ▶ Peavoy, Shirley & Robert ▶ Potter, Mary Jean & Frank ▶ Pozdrowski, Mordene ▶ Rolph, Tony ▶ Schaefer, Debbie & Dan Brown ▶ Scotia Bank ▶ Silcox, Robert ▶ Simlas, Linda & Daryl ▶ TD Bank Trust ▶ Tenenbaum, Judith ▶ Uplands, Foundation ▶ Vien, Richard & Lisa ▶ Wallace, Barry
<p style="text-align: right;">*deceased</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thanks to ALL who donated to the book project</p>	

Beautifully crafted in hardcover with surveyor Stegmann's 1800 map of King beneath the dust jacket, the book is selling for \$40 online at kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com and is available for pick up at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre. For those interested in purchasing it in-person, it is also for sale in the KHCC's gift shop and Pine Farms Orchard for the same price. This long and storied history makes a wonderful gift and addition to every household in King. Don't delay – purchase your copy today!

History of King Book Teasers

Although Ann Love and Sharon Bentley launched their epic History of King book on April 24, they were not able to include all of the local vignettes submitted and have been sharing a few in each edition of the newsletter over the past few years.

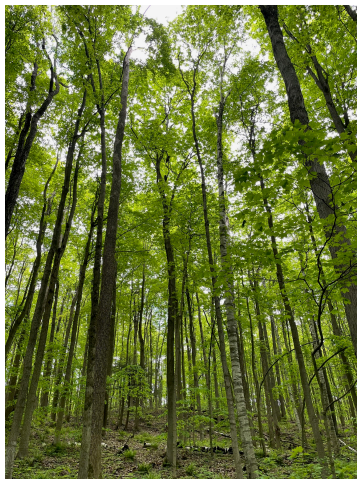
In this issue we feature three more of these stories: *Protecting the Magic of Happy Valley Forest* by Mark Stabb; *Edward John Bartram - Artist & Teacher* by Mary Bromley; and *All Saints' Anglican Church in King City* by Diana Armitage.

Deep in a Thousand-Hectare Woods: Protecting the Magic of Happy Valley Forest

by Mark Stabb, Central Ontario-East Program Director for the Nature Conservancy of Canada

One day it rained red in Happy Valley Forest, and I was there to see it.

It wasn't the red rain of cast-off maple leaves that cascades to the ground each fall. This rain painted tree branches in the spring, and I have witnesses.



This is how it went down.

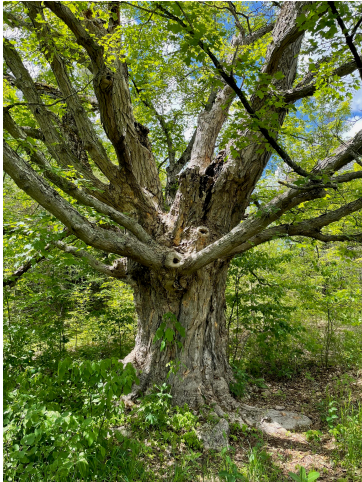
It was 2016 and I was spending a lot of time in the forest as a staffer with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), a private land conservation charity. I was responsible for projects in and around King Township and was immersed in a flurry of land acquisitions aimed at conserving the core of Happy Valley Forest. This 1,000-hectare woodland, one of the largest deciduous forests on the Oak Ridges Moraine, is in many ways the green heart of King Township.

I was guiding a small family group along a hilltop trail deep in the forest. We were enroute to visit Dr. Henry Barnett (aka 'Barney'), a champion of conservation who had introduced the family to NCC's work there. Their late father's bequest

helped pay for the property we were traversing.

With spring bird migration well underway, one family member wondered if we might get lucky and see a **Scarlet Tanager**. These bright red, slim-billed relatives of cardinals, aptly described as 'black-winged redbirds', are known to thrive in these deep woods. Amazingly, I soon heard its distinctive call, and spotted one through a gap in the leaves. I was pointing it out when we saw another red form drop down nearby, and another. I put down my binoculars and gazed skyward to see dozens of this uncommon bird sprinkled across the forest canopy.





We were awe-struck. I had never seen anything like it before, nor have I since.

Later over tea we told this story to Barney, who was an avid birder. We could see the twinkle in his eye as we shared his excitement about the significance of this forest habitat, and the fact that this rare sighting played out on land now protected from development.

I think back at that magical moment as a microcosm of the people, events and visions that together are helping conserve the Happy Valley Forest and other significant natural areas in King Township.

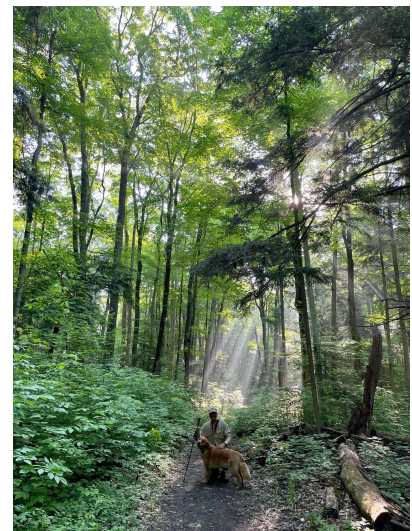
Barney eventually had to leave the forest. True to his commitment, he sold his property to NCC. His sale became one of 19 different transactions that NCC led or supported to help build a roughly 324-hectare (800 acre) network of conservation land in the Happy Valley Forest (as of 2022).

The Creed and Love families made generous land donations. The Taskers and Barnetts donated conservation easements, which involve permanently giving up development rights to properties. Most land deals were outright purchases, with many involving 'conservation severances' of land. This special legal tool lets landowners convey portions of properties for conservation in the core of the Oak Ridges Moraine, where normally no subdivision of land was allowed.

As it turns out, the first landowner to offer up property was an early advocate of protection of the Oak Ridges Moraine, the late Dorothy Izzard. A retired teacher, Dorothy was driving force behind STORM (Save the Oak Ridges Moraine), a group still active to this day. Over tea in her forest home, I recall Dorothy saying how pleased she was to see how much conservation land has been created since her original land donation back in 2001.

NCC's private conservation land – now called the Happy Valley Forest Nature Reserve - is linked to protected public lands in the forest. NCC helped Toronto and Region Conservation Authority purchase 'Humber Source Woods' to the south and Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust worked with York Region to purchase their 'Happy Valley Tract' to the north. King Township's unopened road allowances help connect all these lands and a 2008 Council motion commits the Township to protecting this municipal land and managing it in a 'green' natural state for long-term public access to the forest.

Today, the trail where the Tanagers rained down is part of a much-loved walking trail network through Happy Valley Forest. The trail crosses over a patchwork quilt of conservation land,



pieced together over almost two decades. Each step had a different story, and each step was expensive. On a per-hectare basis, the purchases were among the most expensive land NCC had ever purchased. But with the generous support of private donors, government grants and willing landowners, the community came together to build a permanently protected and connected network of conservation land.

Each landowner, donor, supporter and volunteer champion has had different motivations to be involved in the ongoing effort to protect Happy Valley Forest. But all share a common love for the forest, whether for its beauty, its breathing space, or its bright and beautiful birds.

That rain of Tanagers was (so far) a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me. And in a way, the conservation of the heart of Happy Valley Forest was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the community. It was a broad community that met that challenge.

The legacy is a place where nature's magic will play out forever and where, just maybe, you might have your own Tanager moment. Let it rain.

Photo credits: Ann & David Love

Edward John Bartram: Artist & Teacher

By Mary Bromley

On the banks of the East Humber River at King Creek, printmaker, painter, and photographer Ed Bartram created his iconic images of the Canadian Shield. Although his inspiration came from the Precambrian rocks of Georgian Bay's 30,000 islands, King Township was where most of his complex creative process took place.

Born in London, Ontario in 1938, Ed completed his high school studies in Switzerland at Neuchatel Junior College which provided him the opportunity to visit the great galleries of Europe, an experience that shaped the direction he would take in his career as an artist.



With a B.A. from the University of Western Ontario and an M.A. (Art and Archaeology) from the University of Toronto, Ed's love of works on paper began with his Master's thesis research on medieval manuscripts. After university, he decided to teach to support his art more seriously. Vera Frenkel, an innovative printmaker at the time, was teaching the Specialist in Art program with UofT's Faculty of Education and inspired Ed to see the exciting possibilities of experimenting with colour in etching. Ed's commitment to printmaking was clinched!

“Only after I started to work in the medium of etching did I become intrigued with the flat rock surfaces etched so incredibly by nature over millennia...[the] abstract rock surfaces as dynamic as any paintings of the Abstract Expressionists ... My rockscapes are a testament to the primordial forces that created the nucleus of the continent – the Canadian Shield – and the power of the northern Canadian landscape.”

A CBC 5-part TV documentary, *Geologic Journey* (Great Lakes section), has a small segment in which Ed and a geologist walk along the Bartram Island rocks, talking about their geological significance and their influence on Ed's artmaking.

In 1972 Ed bought his property on Mill Road overlooking the East Humber and, shortly after, purchased his own etching press, moving it eventually to the little historic cottage property next door. The cottage is one of the last to remain of the Humber Trails development that, in 1954, was destroyed by Hurricane Hazel on the lower floodplain across the river.



Spending his childhood holidays at an old farmhouse in Leith on the southern shores of Georgian Bay, it is no surprise that his love for “the Bay” became embedded in him by the time he started going to Camp Hurontario on its eastern coast. Cookouts were frequent on an abandoned, unnamed, outer island which he would later purchase in 1965 and which would officially be named Bartram Island in 1991.

Ed began teaching in 1963 at Scarlet Heights Collegiate, Etobicoke; then, Lawrence Park Collegiate. From 1971-86 he was the printmaking and history of art teacher at Central Technical School's Special Diploma in Art program, where he met and later married his former student, Mary Bromley. In 2003 Ed would finish his 40-year teaching career as Intaglio Instructor at the Ontario College of Art & Design.



Jurying exhibitions, giving printmaking workshops and lectures about his work were all part of Ed's career as an artist. Solo and group exhibits include across Canada and internationally. In 2017, the King Heritage & Cultural Centre, in King City, organized an exhibition and catalogue, “Three King Artists”, with work by Ed, Helen Lucas and Ernestine Tahedl.

Long considered one of Canada's foremost printmakers, Ed's prints, along with his iconic canvases, have been collected by many public galleries and corporations across Canada and abroad, including the Art Gallery of Ontario, Tom Thomson Memorial Art Gallery, Canada Council Art Bank, City of Bradford, England, Swiss Bank, ScotiaBank,

the Ontario Government Collection and the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, where he had a solo exhibition in 2009 titled 'The Eye Within'. He was also an elected member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts and member of the Ontario Society of Artists.

Ed loved gardening and was a great cook. There wasn't a restaurant around that could measure up to his own *Confit de Canard* and his island daylily/rhododendron garden remains spectacular. He would return to Europe many times with his wife, Mary, and daughter, Jess, to be immersed in all the culture that set him off on his artistic journey so many decades before. In 2019, Ed was still painting and gardening on the island when he suddenly fell ill and died shortly thereafter. His work continues to be represented by the Mira Godard Gallery, Toronto (since 1977) and Galerie Jean-Claude Bergeron, Ottawa.

**"Ed Bartram: Rockscapes of Georgian Bay"*, Joan Murray, published by Fitzhenry & Whiteside

The History of King City's All Saints' Anglican Church

By Diana Armitage

In 1855 the founders of All Saints met for worship at the Isaac Dennis Hotel in King City, later rebuilt by Isaac's son-in-law as Hogan's Hotel. Within two years they had plans for a church, currently the chapel. It is believed that James Pulford, an early settler of King, donated land on the east side of what is now Keele Street for this original board and batten structure built from pine trees cleared from the property and milled by Christopher Stokes of King Creek.



The Right Reverend John Strachan, first Bishop of Toronto, opened the church on All Saints Day, November 1, 1857. The building was clad in bricks in 1871, a basement was hand dug in the early 1920s and the larger church and hall on the north side were opened in 1960. Music has been an important part of worship at All Saints since its beginning. Both the chapel and the main church house their own pipe organs.

Early church records often mention the difficult road conditions getting to and from church. The Township's roads were frequently muddy, icy or blocked. Confederation year, 1867, was made memorable by a concerted effort to attend church and parishioners were known to slog their way to church through deep mud in bare feet, carrying their boots.

Over the years, All Saints hosted Christmas craft sales, bake tables, seasonal dinners, teas, and dances. Some of the events celebrated the ends of wars, coronations, and the harvest at home. Many dinners were open to the wider community. In the 1960s and

1970s, the Men of All Saints King (MASK) held large community dinners on the south lawn often feeding several hundred. In the 1980s, the popular Women's Dinner began as a thank you to the women of the parish, and guests, where the men would cook and serve a delicious dinner with spectacular desserts. During the worst time of the pandemic, parishioners pivoted to serving dinners with drive by pick up.

The Rummage Sale started in the 1980s and has grown to be a huge event selling good quality used items that are sorted and stored for months then unpacked around the church building in up to nine different departments. Over the years, Rummage has recycled thousands of items and provided inexpensive treasures, jewellery, housewares, furniture, and clothing for many.

All Saints is often active in community projects, such as Christmas in King, the food bank and cooking for a group home. In 1983 a group of women visited England to study the Hospice Movement and founded Hospice King (now Hope House). It operated out of the church building until it expanded to include Aurora, then Richmond Hill. Since the mid 1990s, when All Saints became part of the Anglican United Refugee Alliance (AURA), 11 Iraqi and Syrian families have been sponsored by All Saints and warmly welcomed to Canada. As well, First Nations are supported by the sale of orange t-shirts, and the church has provided clothing and funds for water projects.



King Loses Long-time Resident, Friend and Volunteer - Ed Millar

The KTHS lost long-time member and director, King resident and friend, Ed Millar, on February 6, 2025. He was 85. Predeceased by his wife Sheila, he was the loving father to Susan (Mike), Julia (Stéphane) and James (Ellie), and cherished Grampie to four grandchildren.

Ed was born in Prince Edward Island (March 22, 1939), where he lived with his family until moving to Ottawa at the age of 10. After graduating from high school, he trained in meteorological studies before moving to then Coppermine, NWT (Kugluktuk, Nunavut). He would be there for six years, ultimately managing the weather station, before moving to Toronto to continue his career with Environment Canada and marrying Sheila. Together they raised their three children in King City and became proud grandparents.

Ed was a long-time member of All Saints' Anglican Church in King, an avid member of the Oak Ridges Trail Association since 1994, and past Chair of the King Chapter. As a hiker, he conquered both the Bruce and Ganaraska Trails (among others) end to end, and led hikes until the fall of 2024; often seen out doing trail maintenance. His hard work and dedication were honoured with the naming of the Ed Millar Side Trail.

Among other volunteer activities, he was a member of the King Township Historical Society since 1988, serving as Board member and Secretary, the York Branch of the National Association of Federal Retirees (NAFR), and no one will forget 'Ed's Bread' and famous desserts (including his Blueberry Trifle) at All Saints' Annual Women's Dinner. To recognize his service to the community he was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award by King Township in 2016.

King Township has lost a great volunteer in Ed, but his spirit and memory live on in all the people and organizations he impacted in his unique and quiet way.

Photo from the 1980s: Ed Millar is on the left putting up one of the Carrying Place Trail road signs with fellow long term member of KTHS, John Manson.



Rafferty's Corners: A Forgotten Settlement of King Township

By Bill Salter

One of King Township's earliest settlements was Rafferty's Corners. In 1818, Thomas Ferguson and his wife Kathleen arrived from Scotland, settling first on Yonge Street before purchasing 400 acres of forested land south of King Side Road and east of today's Dufferin Street in 1826. The land had originally been granted to James McCauley in 1802.

In 1831, Francis Rafferty acquired 70 acres at the northeast corner of the intersection and built a combined residence and hotel. A small settlement grew around this hub, eventually known as Rafferty's Corners. Rafferty's son James operated the hotel until 1875, when it was sold to James Wells, who converted it into a residence. The building stood until 1915 when it was torn down, but the name "Rafferty's Corners" endured.



Thomas Ferguson, a skilled weaver, found the task of clearing 400 acres daunting. He bartered his weaving services for help from neighbours, and in 1832 sold off 200 acres —100 acres each to Barnes Beynon and Henry Stewart. By 1844, Ferguson had paid off the land, and his sons had cleared much of it, even planting and establishing a thriving orchard. Thomas died on November 7, 1849, and the land was divided among his wife and two sons: eight acres without the house and orchard went to his wife, Mark received the house, orchard, and 92 acres; and John received the other 100 undeveloped acres. A third son, Alex, though not officially granted land, planted maple trees and was later listed as the property's owner on an 1860 map.

Mark Ferguson married Agnes Scott in 1863 and named their farm "Maple Avenue Farm" after the maple-lined path. The property remained in the family until 1928. One of

Mark's sons, Rev. Henry Ferguson, became a missionary in China but was captured by bandits and never heard from again. Though the Ferguson family eventually scattered from Saskatchewan to Florida, the property was later owned by an unrelated couple, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ferguson.

Other early settlers included Adam Harman, who built a residence in 1847. By 1907, the house was occupied by woodworker James Ness, who also operated a shop nearby. The area also featured a blacksmith shop, a slaughterhouse, and eventually "The Fountain Restaurant" in 1846. Local farmers formed a "Beef Ring," taking turns providing cattle to be butchered and evenly divided among members. The distribution would change each time so each farmer would share equally in the best cuts.



Residence of James Ness, Rafferty's Corners

By 1928, most original buildings had vanished, except the Harman house. That year, Thomas and Alice Ferguson (descendants of Mark) purchased and renovated it. It later passed to Mr. and Mrs. James Ness and remains the only original structure still standing at the intersection.

In the 1880s, the Gillies family bought 100 acres at the southwest corner of King Road and Dufferin Street and built a house. A.B. Wells purchased the property in 1907, and it remained in residential use until the 1970s when it was destroyed by fire.

Today, only the name survives in the park and soccer fields known as "Rafferty's Corners Park," located east of Holy Name Catholic Elementary School. Few who drive through the busy intersection are aware of the settlement's rich history. Many of those now living in King Township, and those speeding through the intersection, have never heard of Rafferty's Corners, but this is the way it used to be!

I am deeply indebted to Elizabeth McClure Gillam, whose work in *Early Settlements of King Township* and *Album of Oldies* provided much of the information and imagery.

My Research Trip to Ireland

By Patricia Blackstock

During our life span, there are moments that stand out. In September 2024, I was gifted an incredible journey to Ireland to tour and research family. I have four family lines who came out to Canada from Ireland, two on my mother's side and two on my father's side. The two on my father's side were the Bells and Pringles from Queens County (County Laois), Ireland who emigrated to King Township. Seven members of my family surprised me by accompanying me on this trip. One of those was the 3x great-granddaughter of John R. Brown who was



arrested, jailed and banned from Upper Canada for his participation in the 1837 Rebellion.

We had a fantastic time touring County Cork and County Clare. The town of Cobh was the last stop of the Titanic before its maiden voyage. A sea voyage was taken by a large group to tour the Cliffs of Moher. I even blew a kiss at the Blarney Stone in Blarney Castle.

I went fortified with information that would help me in my research.

I knew that my 3x great-grandfather William Pringle emigrated to Prince Edward Island in 1817. After the death of his wife on April 3rd, 1818, he sailed to the States and from there travelled north to Upper Canada. In April, 1820, William petitioned for land in Upper Canada. In his petition he states "That your petitioner is a native of the Queen's County Ireland from whence he emigrated to Prince Edward Island where he buried his wife leaving three small children on his hands for support in the month of April 1818 and has resided in this Province since Sept. last. That the petitioner is desirous of settling on some of the waste lands of the Crown and has but slender means; Humbly prays that your Honour will be pleased to order him a grant of fifty acres of land."

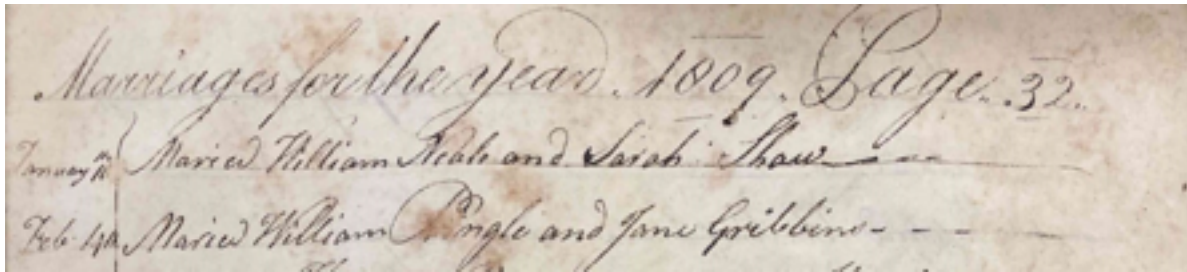
William was granted 50 acres in Tecumseth, on the southwest corner of current day 6th line and Hwy. 27. This was two years after the survey of the area after it was supposedly relinquished by the Indigenous people. For William and his three young children, life must have been very difficult. Within the first year they had to clear five acres of land, build a house, plant a garden and clear the road in front of their property. His children were 11, 8 and 6 years of age when the land was granted. Catherine the oldest must have had her hands full caring for the family. On June 13th, 1828, William sold the property to Thomas Hughes for 15 pounds. At the time he was listed as living in Vaughan Township, where he taught school in Thornhill.

William, next appears living in King Township where he settled early in the 1830s. He again petitioned for a land grant and was given 100 acres on concession 8, lot 9 (Hwy. 27 in Nobleton) in King Township. In 1837, he was also listed as the Overseer of Highways.

His son George, my 2x great-grandfather, had the 100 acres on the east side of the lot. A biography was written about him in the History of Toronto and County of York, vol. II. It fortified the information I already knew about my family. His wife Susannah Bell was the daughter of Rowland Bell and Susannah Meares. She came to Upper Canada around 1830 with her family.

I made arrangements to visit the Church of Ireland Library in Churchtown, Dublin prior to my visit. I was allowed to request five church registrars. As I knew that both groups arrived between 1817 and 1830, I limited myself to Diocese records for dates up to 1830. I was able to find 60 records about my Bells and Pringles dating from the late 1700s up to 1830. I found:

- The marriage of William Pringle to Jane Gribbens on February 4th, 1809 in Mountmellick



- The baptism of George Pringle my 2x great-grandfather on April 10th, 1812 and his sister Martha's on January 22nd, 1815
- Burials of William's parents George Pringle on March 12th, 1801 and his wife Martha in Mountmellick
- Baptisms for Ally (Alice) Bell daughter of Rowley Bell and his wife Susannah Meares on August 15th, 1807; son Rowley Bell on September 9th, 1810 and daughter Jane Bell on November 3rd, 1816 in in Rosenallis.

I was able to gather a great deal of information about the Bells and Carters who emigrated from Ireland to Tecumseth in 1830.

When I visited County Queens (Laois), I saw the graves of my 4x great-grandfather John Bell and my 5x great-grandfather William Bell in St. Brigid's Cemetery in Rosenallis. I enjoyed touring Mountmellick, Rosenallis, and Portlaoise in Queens County. I visited the site of Emo Court where Jeremiah Meares had been the land agent.

Upon my return to Dublin, I visited the Epic Museum. Prior to leaving Canada, I was able to submit information about my lines to their site and view it during my visit. Across from the museum was the Elaine Johnson ship which brought Irish famine victims to Canada. It was interesting to tour the boat and get a sense of what people endured during their ocean trips. A further visit to the Irish National Archives proved resourceful as well.

I can't thank my family enough for my incredibly, wonderful birthday gift!

Seeking Photos of Fallen WWI King Soldiers

By Liza Mallyon, King Heritage & Cultural Centre



In 1925, a war memorial was erected in Aurora's Town Park to commemorate soldiers from Aurora, Whitchurch and King, who lost their lives in the Great War.

Later this year, the 100th anniversary of that war memorial will be recognized with an on-site exhibit in Aurora, a digital exhibition, and a street banner program in each community. Staff at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre (KHCC) are collaborating with colleagues at the Aurora Museum & Archives and the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum on this project.

In addition to using images from the King Township Archives, KHCC staff are asking for your assistance in locating photographs for these soldiers. If you have a family connection to one of these WWI soldiers and have a photograph that could be scanned for this project, please contact Liza Mallyon, Coordinator of Collections & Exhibitions at kingmuseum@king.ca or 905-833-2331. Thanks for your assistance in this project!

Agar, Joseph Matthew
Brown, Harold Joseph
Brown, Sherman Rogers
Burton, Harry
Chamberlain, William James
Clift, Russell Cornelius
Douglas, Edgar Samuel
Doyle, Maxwell Charles
Doyle, Wilfred Laurier
Doyle, William Joseph
Ferguson, John
Ferguson, Leonard Llewellyn
Folliott, John Henry
Granger, Carl
Gray, Gilbert Arthur
Hill, Lorne A (Allen)
Howard, George Thomas
Jones, Christopher William (CW)
Kay, Arthur John
Leland, Bert

Little, Telford Samuel
McMaster, Thomas
Marshall, Aubrey Milton
Martin, Leslie D
Merchant, (John) Wallace
Parker, Russell Clayton
Payne, Arthur Edgar Simpson
Ralston James Alfred
Routledge, John Robert
Stocks, Roy James
Stuart, Harry
Sydie, John Henry (Jack)
Watson, Ernest Townley
Webb, Oscar Melville
Wickens, Ewart Roland
Willis, Garnet
Wood, Lowell Wallace
Woodruff, Edward Charles

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.kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.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 _____		_____	
_____		POSTAL CODE _____	
EMAIL _____		NEW _____ RENEWAL _____	
INDIVIDUAL \$25 _____		FAMILY \$30 _____	
_____		DONATION _____	
_____		ENCLOSED \$ _____	

What's New in and around King?

Join King in celebrating its **175th Anniversary!** Learn more about these upcoming events at www.king.ca/175



Indigenous People's Day Saturday, June 14th from 11am - 1pm King Heritage & Cultural Centre

Truth and Reconciliation Mural and Medicine Garden unveiling at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre. All are welcome! RSVP at kingmuseum@king.ca or Drop-in for the event!



Canada Day Celebration Tuesday, July 1st at Memorial Park 5pm – Dusk

Enjoy live musical performances, games, face painting, a drone show, food trucks and beer tent.

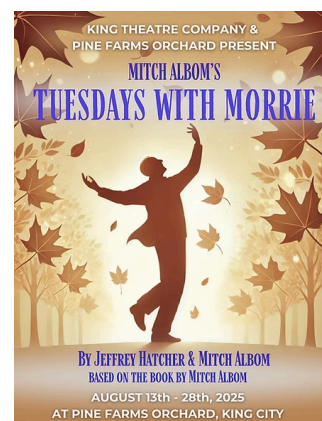


Raspberry Social Saturday, August 9th from 11am – 2pm Laskay Hall, KHCC

The Raspberry Social was an historic event hosted for generations in the village of Laskay until the hall was relocated to the King Heritage and Cultural Centre in 2017. The event was last hosted in 2019. This free event will include live local musical performances, raspberry treats (think pie and lemonade) heritage displays, art displays, children's art activities and plenty of community spirit. Fun for the whole family!

King Theatre Company presents *Tuesdays with Morrie* August 13-28 from 7:00-8:30pm Pine Farms Orchard

Following their sold-out hit "Salt-Water Moon", King Theatre Company is thrilled to return to the beautiful Pine Farms Orchard with "Tuesdays with Morrie"—a deeply moving play based on the best-selling memoir by Mitch Albom. Visit www.kingtheatre.ca/tuesdayswithmorrie to learn more.



Exploring Mixed Media & Abstract Art

Discover your inner creativity

Explore the endless possibilities available with mixed media! You will learn about mark-making, collage, colour theory, composition, various mediums, tools and techniques to create two paintings on professional gallery-wrapped canvases.

All supplies are provided.
Thursday, June 5th & 12th. 7 pm - 9:30 pm
Laskay Hall in King City
Early Bird pricing until May 11th!

jennbestcreative.com

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.kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com.