



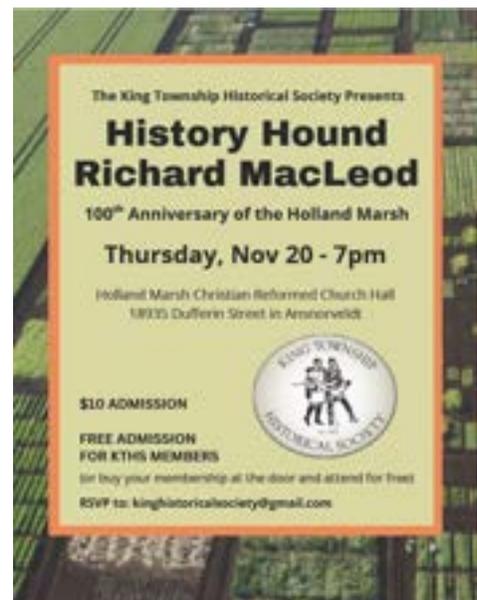
# NEWS FROM KING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**The colours this fall have been glorious -  
Happy Halloween KTHS!**

**Join us for the 100th Anniversary of the Holland Marsh Thursday, November 20 at 7:00pm featuring History Hound, Richard MacLeod.**

Come hear the history of the Holland Marsh at the Christian Reformed Church in the hamlet of Ansnorveldt, 18935 Dufferin Street. Reserve your tickets by emailing [kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com) - FREE for KTHS members and \$10 for non-members.





**The KTHS Christmas Concert is Sunday, December 7th at 2:00pm and features York Region's 22-piece Borealis Big Band on the stage of Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 14485 Jane Street in King.** Email [kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com) to reserve tickets - \$10 for KTHS members & \$25 for non-members.

## Hurricane Hazel Anniversary Event was Worth the Wait!

David T. Chapman, a professional photographer and storm chaser, dazzled our crowd of more than 60 community members sharing stories on the 71st Anniversary of Hurricane Hazel at the Schomberg Community Hall.

He has spent decades chasing storms, but more than anything, he considers himself a forecaster rather than a historian. His fascination began in 1996, when he and his father started researching the violent beauty of storms—the swirling, chaotic forces of nature that could both awe and destroy.

Hurricanes, he explains, are born over warm bodies of water. They begin as modest tropical storms, circling quietly until conditions align: warm air rising, cool air sinking, winds spinning, lightning flashing. The inner eye wall forms first, gradually filling out with energy and ferocity. Winds of 100 km/h are typical, but some storms, like Hurricane Hazel, push much further—Hazel's winds reached a staggering 124 km/h as it barreled toward the Great Lakes.

Hazel's journey began near Granada in the Caribbean, but by October 14, 1954, it had already reached the Bahamas as a Category 2. By the next day, it intensified to a Category 4, gathering strength from the warm, moist air of the tropics. Meanwhile, a cold front moved across the Great Lakes, sinking deep troughs of cold air over Ontario. When Hazel collided with this cold air, the result was catastrophic. The warm, moisture-laden air from the lakes surged east and southeast, fueling winds, rain, and destruction.

Although Hurricane Hazel wasn't the deadliest hurricane in Canadian history (ranking 5th), it was the furthest west and merciless. Nineteen people died in North Carolina. In Ontario, the death toll reached 80, as well as one in Quebec. Rainfall overwhelmed rivers and streams that were already saturated; nearly 90% of Hazel's deluge flowed directly into waterways, washing away bridges, flooding neighborhoods, and creating temporary lakes out of farmland—7,010 acres in Holland Marsh alone. Hurricane Hazel caused the Humber River to flood, sweeping away a portion of Raymore Drive in the Weston neighborhood of Toronto. The river, swollen by



unprecedented rainfall, rose six meters (20 feet) and ripped houses from their foundations, killing 35 people on Raymore Drive alone.



Chapman pointed out the nuances of such storms: the classic waterspouts over Lake Simcoe and Lake Ontario, the difficulty of verifying tornadoes before modern radar, and how hurricanes like Hazel, Connie in 1955, and even Sandy in 2012 often followed eerily similar tracks.

Yet amid the devastation, one truth stood out: the resilience of people. Communities came together, strangers helping strangers, proving that even in the face of nature's fury, humanity could weather the storm.

David's photographs, his research, and his years chasing hurricanes remind him—and all who study these storms—that each hurricane is more than wind and water. It is a story of physics, geography, history, and human courage all rolled into one. Hazel was a lesson, a warning, and a testament to both nature's power and people's determination to rebuild. Our guests enjoyed sharing their memories, family stories and eyewitness testimonies for some time after David's presentation.

## Tune into CHOP FM 102.7 to Hear KTHS Authors Discuss the Perfect Holiday Gift!

Authors Ann Love and Sharon Bentley were interviewed earlier this month by Gary Johnson, host of Writers for Readers on CHOP FM, about the writing of their book, *The History of King Township: A Community Shaped by the Land*. The show will air December 3rd at 6:00 pm, December 6th at 7:00 am, December 10th at 6:00 pm and December 13th at 7:00 am on Community Radio CHOP FM 102.7.

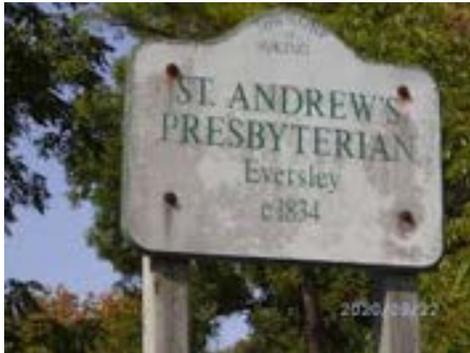
*The History of King Township* makes the perfect holiday gift! The KTHS has a limited number of copies still available for \$40 online at [www.kingtowshiphistoricalsociety.com](http://www.kingtowshiphistoricalsociety.com) with pick-up available at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City. Shipping is also available for an additional \$22 per copy. The book can also be purchased at the King Museum and Pine Farms Orchard.



## The History of the Hamlet of Eversley

### By Bill Salter

One of the earliest settlements in King Township was the hamlet of Eversley. It was located, at the intersection of Dufferin and Sideroad 15 as far back in history as 1828 when John Wells bought 150 acres of land from Daniel Crossley. In 1834, the east half of that property became a cemetery, with the construction of a log building to be used as both the church and schoolhouse. Until then, the community was served by a missionary, Mr. Gordon, who preached in local homes until 1834 Reverend John Tawse became the first Pastor and school teacher until 1860 when he was succeeded by Dr. James Carmichael who continued as Pastor until 1910.



In 1848 a beautiful stone church was built. Although it is no longer in use as a Church, it stands today as the oldest church building in King Township. The building was purchased in 1960 from the church, by Lady Flora Eaton and in 1967 she placed the building in the custody of the York Pioneer and Historical Society who continued to administer it until 2012.

Church services in Eversley Church continued until 1958 when the church was closed and the congregation joined with the congregation of Strange to form St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in King City.

Though the property owned by John Wells had been already in use as a cemetery and school yard/church yard, it was purchased in 1843, from John Wells, for the sum of 5 pounds. By that time there had been 11 burials including several babies and small children. Also buried in 1837, was Ann McHattie, the first wife of the Reverend John Tawse, who died at the age of 33.

Eversley, from 1828, was a bustling village and a small community quickly developed. The first building was a general store opened by James Tinline on the North East Corner of the 15<sup>th</sup> Sideroad and Dufferin Street. Across from the store was Alex Hurst's Blacksmith Shop, and on the North east corner was a wheelwright shop operated by Robert Reddin.

In 1847, John Ferguson, who owned property on the west side of Dufferin just north of the 15<sup>th</sup>, built a Saw Mill on the pond which became busy sawing logs that the local farmers dragged there. The pond continued south of the 15<sup>th</sup> to property owned by Walter Scott. Both ponds were favorite fishing and swimming spots. In celebration of July 1<sup>st</sup>, on a farm known as Sunny Acre Farm, a community picnic was held. This popular event was widely attended and young people danced into the night, on a platform built for the event, to music provided by local bands.

The log building, which had been built in 1834, and had served as both schoolhouse and church was replaced in 1843 by a red brick building. In 1883, a white, one room schoolhouse was built which served the students until 1961 (*Eversley Schoolhouse seen on the right*), when a new two-room school was built. This new schoolhouse continued in use until 1971 when it was closed and the students were bussed to other nearby schools. In 1972 it reopened as The Country Day School, an independent co-educational day school which continues in operation today.



In 1869, Job Wells received a 95-acre property from his father, and in 1878, Job and his brother James, in partnership with W.G. Loyd built a cheese factory on the property. The cheese factory was an instant success and farmers came in the morning to deliver their milk. Later in the day they lined up at the whey pumps to fill their cans with whey to carry home to feed their pigs.

The factory produced butter in the winter months and cheese in the summer months. Ice was cut during the winter to enable the production of butter into the early spring. This business continued to thrive for about 75 years until better transportation enabled larger operations to take over the milk, cheese and butter producing business and in 1914 the factory ceased to operate and the building was demolished.



In 1902 until 1927 while the Schomberg-Aurora Railroad was operating, the railway passed through Eversley and an open station was located on the corner opposite to the present entrance to Seneca College. In 1919, John Eaton purchased lots 12 and 13 concession 3 from the Ferguson family, and he and Lady Eaton established Eaton Hall Farm as their country estate. In 1971, following the death of Lady Eaton, the Eaton Estate was sold and became the King Campus of Seneca College.

## Interested in King's History? We Need You on the KTHS Board!

The King Township Historical Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to heritage preservation, public education, and enrichment.

We are seeking enthusiastic and dedicated individuals to join our volunteer Board of Directors (there are currently 9 of us) and use their leadership and management skills and experience to help the organization move forward in a responsible and relevant fashion.

Business or volunteer experience desired in the following areas: Fundraising, Governance, Finance, Marketing, Heritage



Preservation and Community Engagement.

Directors are required to be actively engaged in the work of the organization, attend monthly Board meetings and events, and support special projects. The time commitment is modest, but the rewards are significant.

Interested parties should contact the [kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com) with their resume. Learn more at [kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com](http://kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com). We look forward to hearing from you!

### 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](http://www.kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com) or by mail.



Follow us on Instagram! @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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
 NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Trees of Giving - Through the Decades



This year, the annual Trees of Giving fundraiser at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre will celebrate the theme of “Through the Decades” in honour of King Township's 175th anniversary as a municipality! Trees will be on display from November 15 - December 12 at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City.

This year’s fundraising recipient is **Kingcrafts Studio**. Founded in 1950 by Lady Muriel L. Flavelle, Kingcrafts is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. For more information, visit [www.kingcrafts.ca](http://www.kingcrafts.ca) or drop by in person at 12936 Keele Street.

## What's New in and Around King?

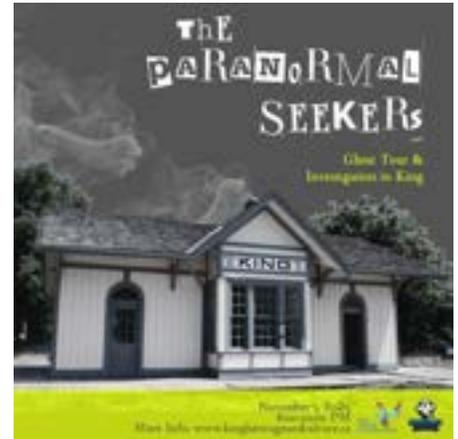
### List of upcoming holiday events offered through ASK & Museum

#### Paranormal Seekers Investigation

Saturday, Nov. 1 from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m.  
King Heritage and Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, King City

Uncover the mysteries within the King Railway Station, King Christian Church, and Laskay Hall as the Paranormal Seekers team conducts a live paranormal investigation, explains how their tech works and invites you to be a part of the exploration.

Ages 16 and older are invited to attend an evening where history meets the unexplained! Tickets are \$45.



#### King Township Public Library

Embrace the spookier things in life at the King Township Public Library branches throughout the month of October. With a lunchtime scream contest, Halloween themed crafts, preschool haunted house and virtual reality haunted houses, the library will get you in the spirit to celebrate.

#### ASK presents the King Artisan Holiday Market – Nov. 22 & 23

Saturday & Sunday, November 22 & 23, 11am - 4pm  
King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road

Step into the charm of the season at the King Artisan Holiday Market. Wander through the beautifully restored historic buildings, a gallery of festive holiday trees, and savour delicious treats. Discover the work of 16 exceptional artisans, offering one-of-a-kind creations perfect for holiday gifting.

Park Once - Shop Twice. Enjoy a seamless shopping experience. Park once at either the King Township Municipal Centre, 2585 King Rd, King City to explore the vendors at the One of a King Homemade Holiday Market or the King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Rd, King City for the King Artisan Holiday Market and shop both locations by boarding our frequently running Shuttle Bus. Dozens of artisans await your arrival!



Further information can be found at [www.ArtsSocietyKing.ca/events](http://www.ArtsSocietyKing.ca/events)

Shop local. Celebrate art. Embrace the holiday spirit.

**GRAND REOPENING WEEKEND**

King Township Historical Society members are invited to celebrate the reopening of the newly restored historic King Christian Church and King Railway Station!

**FRIDAY, NOV 28 - 2 TO 3 PM**

- Ribbon-cutting with dignitaries, King Township staff and community groups
- Refreshments - RSVP preferred

**SATURDAY, NOV 29 - 5:30-7:30 PM**

- Community event - tour the historic church & railway station
- Tree lighting at 6 pm
- McGregor Carollers
- Latte Lane hot beverages
- Trees of Giving display of decorated Christmas trees

kingheritageandculture.ca  
kingmuseum@king.ca

**KING 175 EST. 1850**

KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE

**Kingcrafts**  
Studio Sale 2025

**November 14, 15 & 16**  
**November 21, 22 & 23**  
**10am - 4pm**

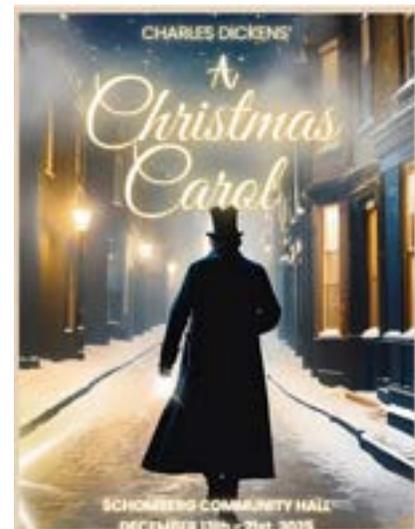
kingcrafts.ca  
12936 Keele St, King City  
(905) 833-1897

### **King Theatre Company Presents A Christmas Carol**

December 13th - 21st, Tuesday - Saturday evening performances at 7:00 pm and Saturday & Sunday matinee at 2:00 pm in the upper floor of Schomberg Community Hall, 325 Main Street

Bring the whole family to this timeless Christmas classic! This 90-minute stage play is the perfect way to celebrate the holidays.

Recommended for ages 6 and up as it has ghost characters. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$30 for children. Visit [www.kingtheatre.ca](http://www.kingtheatre.ca) for tickets.



## The Country Day School’s Holiday Fair

Thurs. & Fri., Nov. 27 2-9pm & Nov. 28 8:30 am - 4:30pm  
CDS Performing Arts Centre, 13415 Dufferin Street

There is something for everyone at CDS’s annual Holiday Fair. Get started on your holiday shopping and bring your friends!

Thursday evening, they offer their signature Sip & Savour event, a chance to enjoy a holiday beverage while you shop.

Check out the vendor list on their website:  
[www.cds.on.ca/holidayfair](http://www.cds.on.ca/holidayfair)



### History of KTHS in Brief:

*The KTHS dates back to 1972 when a group of dedicated residents, with interests in preserving the history of their Township, gathered to form the King Township Historical Society. In 1981 ~1982, the KTHS was incorporated by the Ontario Historical Society under a Provincial Letters Patent. Our goals and objectives are to encourage research into the history, to secure and preserve an accurate account of the progress and development, and to promote public interest in the history of King Township. More information may be found on our website at [www.kingtowshiphistoricalsociety.com](http://www.kingtowshiphistoricalsociety.com).*