

KING TOWNSHIP

*Historical*  
S O C I E T Y

**NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2015**

**AGM  
NOTICE**

**The King Township Historical Society cordially invites you to their  
Annual General Meeting**

**Date: Sunday, March 1st, 2015**

**Time: 12 to 4 pm, starting with a potluck lunch!**

**Location: King City Senior Centre, 30 Fisher St. King City**

***Special Presentation ~ Eaton Hall: Pride of King Township***

Our guest speaker will be *Kelly Mathews* who will talk about her research on Eaton Hall and its history in the Township.

Kelly is the Manager of Community Recreation, Summer Camps, and the Outdoor Education Centre at Seneca College, King Campus, home of Eaton Hall. She is writing a book about the 35,000 sq. ft. Norman-style chateau that will be published in June.

A potluck lunch will be followed by the annual meeting and then Kelly's fascinating illustrated talk.

## 2015 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Renewal of your membership for 2015 is now due. If you have already renewed, then your membership card will be enclosed with this newsletter and we thank you for your support.

We rely on membership fees and donations to cover our operating costs including the printing and mailing of this newsletter and we will be very appreciative of your renewal. A membership application form and pre-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

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## 2014 BOARD MEMBERS

President: Elaine Robertson

Vice President: Ann Love

Treasurer: Bill Salter

Recording Secretary: Ed Millar

Archives: Louise Di Iorio

Programs: Diana Armitage

Media: Alexandra Ney

Museum Liaison: Anthony Rolph

Website: Ken Carter

Heritage King Liaison: Murdene Prozdroski

Director at Large: LeeAnn Craft

## Archives Volunteer Appreciation ~ Louise Di Iorio and Elsa Ann Pickard

### Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer. Author Unknown

The King Township Archives began with the hopes and dreams of a band of enthusiastic local volunteers from the King Township Historical Society, and more than fifteen years later the Archives still depends upon the hard work and dedication of volunteers like Kettleby resident Ann Peat. With a cheery hello and a bright smile, Ann joins her fellow volunteers at the King Township Archives most Monday mornings, and brings with her an eye for detail and a most welcome knowledge of computer applications. Ann has spent the last year indexing and cross-referencing the family names found in 156 local family histories now held by the Archives, and she is creating a searchable database with the results. This has been a time-consuming and painstaking undertaking, but the project will be a terrific boon to Ann's fellow volunteers. Most of the inquiries that arrive on the Archives' doorstep, whether in person or by email, have to do with genealogical questions and Ann's family history database will make our work so much easier. Thank you so much Ann, for your dedication and perseverance and your wonderful company!

If you would like to make new friends and immerse yourself in local history and heritage at the same time, you might consider becoming a volunteer at the King Township Archives. The Archives is located in the King Township Public Library, King City Branch, 1970 King Road, and can be reached by telephone 905-833-5101 or email [archives@kinglibrary.ca](mailto:archives@kinglibrary.ca)

**“Wherever you turn, you can find someone who needs you. Even if it is a little thing, do something for which there is no pay but the privilege of doing it. Remember, you don't live in a world all of your own.” Albert Schweitzer**

# THE GREAT WAR SERIES

## Animals in the Great War 1914 - 1918 Tony Rolph

On the mistaken assumption that this war would be fought by the cavalry, as in previous wars, all countries prepared accordingly and recruited many millions of horses and mules. However the perfecting in 1914-1916 of new tools of warfare, in particular the machine gun and the tank, exposed the vulnerability of horses and mules under battle conditions. The results were devastating. Consequently their role evolved into the transportation of supplies and ammunition, artillery, and the wounded. For this horses and mules were well suited, being much more adept at coping with deep mud and shell holes than motorized vehicles.

Although the horse has dominated our military histories and such contemporary theatrical and cinematic productions as War Horse, many other of our 4 and 2-legged friends also played a crucial role in World War 1. Dogs rescued men buried alive in trenches, laid telephone wires across “no man’s land”, sought out the dead and transported small artillery. Pigeons carried messages in the battlefield and were even fitted up with cameras for aerial photography.

Mascots played a very important role in the morale of the troops and provided entertainment and a sense of loyalty in a very uncertain world. In addition to the horse, with whom his human companion usually formed a very close and devoted bond, mascots for a regiment might include dogs, goats, cats, bears, and even hens and crows. The popularity of one Canadian bear in particular, bred in northern Ontario and named Winnie after the city of Winnipeg, inspired A.A. Milne to create the literary character Winnie-the-Pooh, whose antics continue to charm generations of children.

Sadly vast numbers of animals did not survive, suffering death from wounds, starvation, thirst, exhaustion, poison gas, disease and exposure. It is estimated that World War 1 claimed the lives of at least 8 million animals, the majority horses and mules.

Memorials to the past usually tell a story of heroic endeavours, sacrifice or loss. Monuments honouring war animals can be found in many coun-



Cat Aboard HMS Queen Elizabeth  
Gallipoli Peninsula 1915

tries around the world including Australia, Britain, Canada, France, and the U.S.A. One of the most moving is in Hyde Park in central London, dedicated to the heroism of the many animals that served in wars and other armed conflicts. The only statement on the sculptured entrance wall is “They had no choice.”



Memorial, Hyde Park, London

### VOLUNTEERS

The KTHS Board is looking for volunteers who would like to help with future events and for anyone who is familiar with desktop publishing software to help with formatting our newsletter.

Please contact: KTHS Pres. Elaine Robertson if you are interested.

## The 1914 Christmas Truce Concert ~ Diana Armitage, Programs

Thank you to all the KTHS members, family and friends that supported our annual Christmas concert this past December at the Shrine of Our Lady of Grace at Marylake.



It was a great success! Approximately 290 people enjoyed the same carols and songs sung in the trenches that Christmas in 1914 and listened to letters the soldiers sent home describing their experiences. Villanova College's Senior Concert Band and a vocal quartet from the University of Toronto did a stellar job learning the music, as did Grant Armitage on his banjo. During intermission, a packed crowd viewed Tony Rolph's video of animals used in the Great War.

KTHS raised \$4,245.00 from ticket sales and the net profit was just over \$2,200. The KTHS Board

### The Doris Fawcett Trust—Bill Salter, Treasurer

Several enhancements to the King Township Museum have been undertaken with funding from the Doris Fawcett Trust, a bequest of over \$400,000 from the estate of Doris Fawcett, a long time member of the King Township Historical Society who passed away in the summer of 2010.

As most members know, the Trust funded the cost of a five year strategic plan for the King Township Museum, which was completed in November 2013. Subsequently, in February of 2014, the Trust funded the creation of permanent story boards featuring athletes from King Township who had distinguished themselves in various events in several past Olympic Games. These story boards were displayed in the King Township Schools to tell the students about the athletic events of historical interest to the Township.

More recently, with the handover to the Township of the newly renovated East Wing of the museum, the Trust has funded the purchase of five glass display cases for the secure display of museum exhibits and artifacts. These display cases were delivered in December of 2014 and are now in use in the new wing.

The latest acquisition to be funded by the Trust will be storage shelves, racks and cabinets to be used in the West wing of the museum for the secure storage of valuable artifacts, exhibits and archives. The purchase of this equipment was made possible through a matching grant with the federal government—the museum using the Fawcett funds to match the federal funds. They will be delivered very shortly and will greatly enhance the museum capability. Additionally, Kathleen Fry, Museum Curator, is working on plans for several projects for the coming year and will be applying to the Trust for the funds to make these plans a reality.

To this date, over \$50,000 has been disbursed or committed and we believe that Mrs. Fawcett would be very pleased with the uses to which her bequest is being applied.

