



Celebrating 50 Years
**KING TOWNSHIP
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
 1972-2022

**Kudos to all involved in
 planning and supporting last
 month’s Mayor’s Cultural Gala!**

Members of KTHS’s Board of Directors enjoyed “an evening in Tuscany” in support of the arts, culture and heritage in King Township at the second biannual Cultural Gala.

Photos: Clockwise - KTHS Board Members at one of the two KTHS tables; performances by David Moore of Aurora performing “Little Annie Rooney” and opera singer Sara Papini; and KTHS President Richard Vien.



What a Lovely Day for a Countryside Tour of King!

by Sharon Bentley

The weather could not have been better on Saturday, September 17, for our King Township Historical Countryside Tour. Eighty-two people in 43 cars took part in the self-guided tour of 12 historic venues throughout beautiful King. Taking part in the tour was a 1950 Plymouth Coupe similar to the one pictured on our invitation.

The tour scheduled to begin at 12:30, kicked off even earlier due to a couple of very keen registrants who arrived closer to noon. Each car received a loot bag, including the 50th Anniversary Countryside tour map, a few instructions and some KTHS related goodies, and were sent on their way.

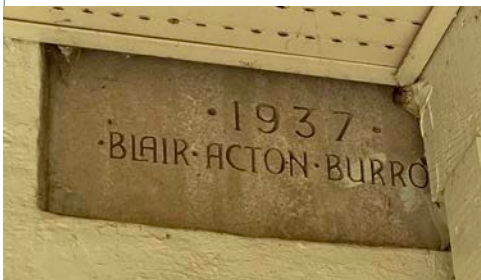
Five of the 12 spots had volunteers stationed who were familiar with the site. **Elaine Robertson**, who was dressed in Edwardian costume including a black armband to



honour Queen Elizabeth II who had passed away on September 8th, was at the Eversley Church and Cemetery. **Gerry Alleston** was at the Kettleby Anglican Church. **Mary Asselstine** was at the Schomberg Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, and **George Burt** at the Masonic Hall in Schomberg. George at the Masonic Hall reported, “Thanks to KTHS we had the opportunity to meet and welcome 22 interesting and interested visitors to our historic Masonic Building. Three of the male visitors had fathers who were Masonic, which added to their visit.”



However, the highlight of the tour was the Blair Burrows Mud House, where the current owner, Mimi Barrow, generously gave tours inside this unique home. KTHS Director, Murdene Pozdrowski, was stationed at this site and reported that between 60-70 people visited the site that day and got a rare look inside this 1937 pise de terre (rammed earth) house.



Following the tour, all participants were encouraged to return to Laskay Hall at the KHCC site to enjoy some refreshments and an opportunity to win door prizes. About 50 people returned to partake in a delicious cake from Dorio’s Bakery in Kettleby and a chance to win one of our incredible locally donated door prizes.

Thank you to all of our participants and volunteers. It was a fabulous afternoon enjoyed by all!

Progress Update on the History of King Township Book

When **Ann Love** and **Sharon Bentley** took on this project, they told the Historical Society Board they would like to write the history of King with the landscape in mind. How the land and the natural world has changed over the time people have lived here and how people have adjusted their lives to the land.



They are not rewriting the story of the growth of the hamlets and villages as Elizabeth Gillham did so beautifully. They are not focusing on Eaton Hall or Mary Lake as Kelly Mathews so ably did. Ann and Sharon are looking for new stories where possible and fresh new angles for the pivotal events that are a must to include – Simcoe’s legacy, first settlements, the Lloydtown Rebellion, and so on.

Sharon has been digging through on-line and at-site archives. So many archives are digitized now – newspapers, community museums, major university and government collections across Ontario and North America. Sharon has also found online old books – many with keyword search capabilities – as well as the proceedings of societies, university theses, academic journals, and more. Sharon has organized a few research field trips such as visiting the Ontario

Archives and several long time King residents. The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Room is upcoming.

Ann has been reading and building structural ideas. Utilizing the research and always keeping in focus the relationship to King, Ann has written rough drafts for 3 sections of 9 in the book. The running narrative of the work will start at the end of the Ice Age and will end after a look into the near future.

Ann and Sharon have invited guest authors to add cameo pieces to each section. The guest authors are currently writing their first drafts for submission.

At this point, no final date has been set for submission of the manuscript to the publisher, but discussions in that vein are underway.

Stay tuned to this newsletter for future updates!

KTHS 50th Anniversary Events - Mark Your Calendar!



King Township Historical Society
50th Anniversary Events



Celebrating 50 Years
KING TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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October 23 - 1 pm
Speaker Adam Shoalts, Author, Historian & Modern Day Explorer, Laskay Hall, KHCC



Although it's already been six months since KTHS kicked off its 50th anniversary, there is still more fun to be had!



November 19 to December 17
Annual display of decorated trees with a special entry for the KTHS 50th anniversary

December 2 - 8:00 pm
KTHS Christmas Concert featuring the Marion Singers, Laskay Hall, KHCC



Please check our website for updates so that you can help us celebrate our 50th anniversary throughout the year!

kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com
www.kingtowshiphistoricalsociety.com



SPEAKER SERIES

Join us on Sunday, Oct. 23 at 1:00 pm at Laskay Hall for our KTHS Speaker Series event featuring Adam Shoalts, a national best-selling author, explorer and archaeologist, who will discuss his book, *The Whisper On the Night Wind: The True History of a Wilderness Legend*.



Summary: Professional explorer and #1 national best-selling author Adam Shoalts joins us to discuss his famous solo expeditions to some of the most remote places on Earth, including his latest adventure and his new bestselling book, *The Whisper on the Night Wind: The True History of a Wilderness Legend*. It's the fascinating story of a century-old historical mystery from the Labrador wild and Shoalts's attempt to unravel it.

Bio: Adam Shoalts is a professional adventurer, best-selling author, and Westaway Explorer-in-Residence at the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. His expeditions range from mapping rivers to archaeological projects, but Shoalts is best known for his long solo wilderness journeys, including crossing alone in a canoe nearly 4,000 km of Canada's Arctic. Named one of the "greatest living explorers" by CBC and even declared "Canada's Indiana Jones" by the *Toronto Star*, Shoalts is a regular guest on TV and radio. His books include *Alone Against the North*, *A History of Canada in 10 Maps*, and *Beyond the Trees: A Journey Alone Across Canada's Arctic*, all of them national bestsellers. He has a PhD from McMaster University in history.

This event is **free of charge** but we ask that you **RSVP to kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com** as space is limited

In our Memories ...

We will keep the family of Doris Willoughby in our thoughts and prayers. Doris passed away on May 26, 2022, at the age of 98. She and her husband were long time KTHS members and looked after the Eversley Church for many years. It has been said that "she had a huge knowledge of the Township and shared it with many." She is deeply missed by those in the Township lucky enough to have known her.



Searching for Answers: The Story of James McCallum and the Mystery of the Historic Posts in King *By Bill Salter*

At the southwest corner of the 15th Side Road and Weston Road, just north of the hamlet of Strange, stands a very unusual post about four feet high, and shaped somewhat like a candle.



There are three more similar posts along the south side of the 15th and to the west. Two of these are at the entrance to the property on either side of the driveway, one of which has been badly damaged over time. The other stands some distance along the road at the western corner of the property.



Even more interesting, is that there are two somewhat similar posts positioned as grave markers in the Presbyterian Cemetery in Strange just to the south. One of these marks the grave of James McCallum and his wife Christina, the other marks the graves of several of his nine children and other members of his family.

James McCallum was born in 1807 in Skipness, Argyleshire, Scotland, married Christina McVannel in 1839, and emigrated to Canada to settle in the Hamlet of Strange, where he purchased property in 1841 and constructed a wooden framed house in 1857. In January of 1867, he purchased from Andrew Morton, a 100-acre property at the southwest corner of Weston Road and the 15th Side Road, the property on which these posts were erected.



There is now a stone dwelling on that property, but it is not known whether it was built by James McCallum. Nor is it known for certain if it was James McCallum who erected these posts, or whether or not there is any significance to the candle like shape. The interesting thing that connects them to him is the two quite similar grave markers in the St. Andrews Presbyterian Cemetery.

We were able to communicate with Dan McCallum, a direct descendant of James McCallum now living in British Columbia. Together with other members of his family, he has researched his family lineage, and when contacted recently, was very familiar with the grave markers but not aware of the existence of the property posts, and therefore unable to offer any insight as to the significance of the candle shape.

Perhaps one of our KTHS members may have information to share or insights to offer into the significance of the unusual shape of the posts or of the grave markers. If so, we would be very pleased to hear from you!

Please send us an email at kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com with any details you may know. We would love to solve this mystery and look forward to hearing from you. Thank you!



What's Happening at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre 2920 King Road, King City

Beyond Blue and White: Wedgwood Designed for Canada

This exhibit presents an exclusive look into the McLeod Collection of Canadian Wedgwood, now owned by the **King Heritage & Cultural Centre**; what was made for the Canadian market and why it was so popular. This new exhibit displays over 60 unique artifacts from a collection of more than 400 pieces of Canadian-themed Wedgwood. It runs through November 5, 2022.



Admission by donation. Please note that the KHCC is currently undergoing renovations and portions of the site are closed to visitors. Please check the website for the most up-to-date information.

Interpretive panels are located outside all buildings. Laskay Hall, King Christian Church and the King Station can be viewed from the exterior only except for special events and programs. Kids 12 and under also get free participation in Museum-to-Go, a self guided program that will educate and entertain onsite and after you've gone home. Children 2 and under are free and do not require registration. For groups over 10 people please contact us at (905) 833-2331 or kingmuseum@king.ca to arrange your visit.

Arts Society King presents the first annual Deck the Walls Art Show & Sale on November 12, 10am-4pm



ASK is pleased to present this new fall event for its members at the **King Heritage & Cultural Centre**, 2920 King Road, King City.

Sixteen juried artists/artisans have been selected for this event. Feel free to peruse their work and bios here: <https://artsocietyking.ca/deck-the-walls-art-show-and-sale/>

Questions? Please email artshow@artsocietyking.ca.

Trees of Giving Display at KHCC

This annual tradition will start on **November 19 and run through December 17**. Community groups and local businesses are invited to participate by entering a tree decorated around the theme of CHILDHOOD. Vote for your favourite trees at the **King Heritage & Cultural Centre** and help raise funds for the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) toward programs that support children and youth. Admission is free.



One of a King Handmade Holiday Market at KHCC



Why not start your holiday shopping early on **Saturday, November 19th between 10am-2pm** at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre and shop locally for some beautiful and unique gifts!

Help KTHS Grow Our Membership!

Are you interested in joining the King Township Historical Society? Would you like to help support and preserve the history of King? Join today for only **\$25/individual, \$30/family annual membership**. Submit your membership online through our website at www.kingtowshiphistoricalsociety.com or by mail. Questions? Email kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com.



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 \$ _____	

History of KTHS in Brief:

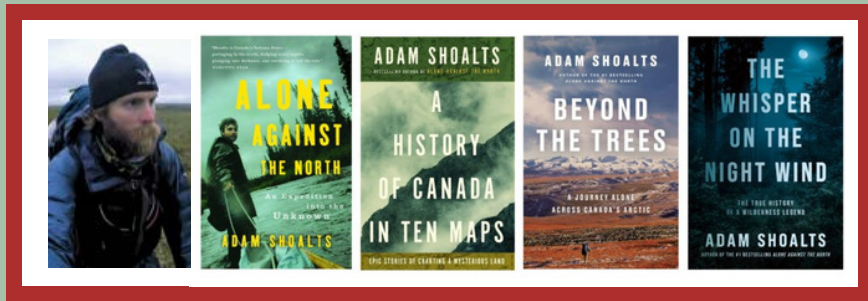
The KTHS dates back to 1972 when a group of dedicated residents, with interests in preserving the history of their Township, gathered to form the King Township Historical Society. In 1981 ~1982, the KTHS was incorporated by the Ontario Historical Society under a Provincial Letters

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.

The King Township Historical Society Speaker Series Presents:

ADAM SHOALTS

Author and Adventurer



Professional explorer and #1 national best-selling author Adam Shoalts will join us to discuss his famous solo expeditions to some of the most remote places on Earth, including his latest adventure and his new bestselling book, *The Whisper on the Night Wind: The True History of a Wilderness Legend*. It's the fascinating story of a century-old historical mystery from the Labrador wild and Shoalts's attempt to unravel it.

Sunday, October 23, 2022 - 1 pm - Laskay Hall

King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Rd, King City

This event is FREE to attend.

**Please RSVP at :
kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com**



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