

NEWS FROM KING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Lest We Forget



We regret to inform you that our 70th Anniversary of Hurricane Hazel event rescheduled for Nov. 17, has once again been cancelled due to illness. We hope to reschedule it for sometime next year.





Join us for the KTHS Christmas Concert Friday, November 29 at 7:30pm featuring York Regions's 22-piece Borealis Big Band on the stage of Laskay Hall! Admission is \$10 for KTHS members and \$25 for non-members.

To purchase tickets, please email us at kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

History of King Book Update

Our co-authors **Ann Love and Sharon Bentley** recently submitted their final manuscript for *The History of King Township – A Community Shaped by the Land* for review and we hope to have it ready for sale by spring 2025 coinciding with King's 175th Anniversary! Five years in the making, publication of this much anticipated history of King is now in sight.

KTHS will continue to include several stories by local guest writers in each newsletter until then. In this issue we feature three stories: *The Oak Ridges Trail* by Ed Millar; *King Township Food Bank* by Geoff Simpson; and *King Township Olympians* by Murdene Pozdrowski.

The Oak Ridges Trail By Ed Millar

To hike the Oak Ridges Trail across King Township one will trespass on land where artifacts dating back 10,000 years belonging to the Wendat First Nations have been found near one of the many kettle lakes formed by the receding glaciers. You will also cross the path of the Toronto Carrying Place Trail used for decades by the Indigenous people and early explorers to travel from Lake Ontario to Lake Simcoe. The trail will

take you across land once owned by the Eatons or Sir Henry Pellatt, and past the red brick barn designed by architect Edward Lennox, also responsible for designing Casa Loma in Toronto. You will pass through Pellatt's game preserve where he kept a herd of elk. Later, deer sent by King George V from Windsor Castle were hunted by his guests. You will cross the rail bed of the Aurora Schomberg railway (1902 – 1927) which once carried the people of King Township to Yonge Street where they boarded the North South railway to go to school in Aurora or to shop in Toronto.



Origin

No one individual has been identified as the person who came up with the idea of a hiking trail along the Oak Ridges Moraine, the crest of land which separates the watersheds flowing North into Lake Simcoe and Georgian Bay and South to Lake Ontario. The Moraine provides King Township with many of its unique geographical features.

When the first meeting of the minds took place in 1991 at Seneca College's King Campus to determine if it was worthwhile to work toward a hiking trail across the Moraine, the Bruce Trail, the original Ontario recreational hiking trail which follows the Niagara Escarpment from Niagara to Tobermory, was already more than 30 years old.



In 1970 the Ontario Trail Riders Association (OTRA) was formed and by 1973 equestrians were riding from Northumberland to the Niagara Escarpment closely following the crest of the Oak Ridges Moraine. Save the Oak Ridges Moraine (STORM) created in 1989 saw a way to bring attention to the Moraine by creating a footpath that would allow citizens to become more involved in protecting the Moraine. In May 1992 the Trail Association was inaugurated at a public meeting in the Albion Hills. The original name Citizens for an

Oak Ridges Trail (CORT) was changed to the Oak Ridges Trail Association (ORTA) and incorporated in 1994 with charitable status granted in 1995. Copying the Bruce Trail model and aligning with local municipalities 10 separate chapters were created. The King Chapter was created on January 13, 1993 with **Fiona Cowles** as its first Chair, responsible for development of the section from Bathurst Street to the King/Caledon town line. Originally envisaged as stretching from Caledon in the West to the Northumberland Forest in the East, the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail was eventually extended to the Eastern end of the Moraine at Trent Hills

A Helping Hand

On a cold October morning in 1996 a group of 14 ORTA members led by King Chapter Chair **Tom Atkins** were hiking along the trail near the corner of 16th Sideroad and Dufferin Street when they heard what sounded like a cry for help. After investigating, the hikers found a local farmer who had been lying beside his tractor in considerable pain for approximately an hour after having fallen and dislocated his artificial hip. Some of the hikers went to the farmhouse for help while the others covered him with jackets to prevent his hyperthermia from becoming more serious. Despite having their outing interrupted, the members ended their day with a warm feeling having assisted a fellow resident in a time of need.

Doing an End-to-End

Generally, serious hikers will be challenged to complete the whole trail either when the individual clubs organize annual end-to-end hikes or, a leader will schedule a series of hikes to cover an entire trail. For ORTA the most unusual end-to-end effort was by **Kelly Mathews**, of Seneca College who hiked the whole trail from the Bruce Trail in Caledon to Warkworth, south and East of Peterborough in 2016 by completing 280km or seven marathons in seven days.

Trail Development

The King section, with two major landowners on side, Seneca College and the Marylake Augustinian Monastery, found a property owner on the 16th Sideroad between Keele Street and Jane Street (Rolph) who offered a route northward through their property

which provided a side trail from the Marylake property to the 16th Sideroad opposite Pine Farms Orchard/Cafe. This provided a very popular pause for hikers who could warm up with a coffee in the winter and a cold cider in the summer.

A number of presentations to King Council were made to seek approval to use the unopened road allowances basically following the 16th Sideroad. After receiving council assurances, the portion of the unopened 16th Sideroad between Bathurst and Dufferin was blazed. Similarly, the section between Weston Road (6th Concession) and the 7th Concession was completed again using the unopened 16th Sideroad.



The trail then proceeded North on the unopened 7th Concession. Two landowners, one on the 7th (Salmon) and the adjacent one on the 8th (Watt) provided an off road

trail as far as the 8th Concession. The trail continued along the 18th Sideroad to Highway 27 (9th Concession) where approval was granted by the Groombridge family for the trail to cross their property to the 10th Concession. The trail proceeded along the 18th Sideroad to the 12th Concession, beyond which the 18th became an unopened road allowance. At this point the unopened 18th crossed a wetland which necessitated a boardwalk be constructed. The International Branch of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) offered young volunteers who provided their own airfare and travel expenses to do conservation work while exploring the world. The recipient organization (ORTA) provided accommodation.

Unfortunately, after about 200 feet of boardwalk had been constructed, two local landowners, one of which was using the road allowance as his own property, started raising objections to the trail route. Many letters, back and forth to the local paper as well as presentations to a newly elected Council ensued. Liability concerns were raised when a conspiracy theory was created that a cow had been lost to quicksand in the area and children could be lost if a handrail was not installed on the boardwalk. Despite assurances by ORTA that any safety requirements would be installed and, after two years of controversy involving ORTA, the local population and Township Council, the boardwalk was removed.

ORTA then turned to rerouting the trail further North and was successful negotiating with a local farmer (O'Hara) who rented the property between the 10th and 11th Concession. On the 11th Concession Puck's Farm offered a route through their property and following consultations with the adjacent long-term property owner on the 12th **Margery Coons** was more than happy to provide access along a fence row to the 12th Concession.

Having completed the trail across King Township, members of the public could enjoy a walk in the woods, see farming up close (Marylake was a busy dairy farm) and enjoy some of the history of the Township. Hikes were arranged for members and work crews were established to clear fallen trees or long grass keeping the trail safe for all.

KTHS November 2024 4

The King Township Food Bank By Geoff Simpson

The food bank in King Township began in 2004 when **Carol Ann Trabert** got a call from the parish priest of Christ Church Kettleby who said that they and the Presbyterian Church on King Road were being asked to help with people who are hungry beyond their financial capacity to do it. Can there be a food bank in King Township? To which Carol Anne replied "yes, of course".



She made two phone calls: the first to **Cheryl Fisher** saying we need to have a food bank in King Township, and a food bank needs some sort of warehouse and someone to organize it — are you interested? To which Cheryl replied "yes, of course". The second was to setup a meeting with the priest of Mary Magdalen Church and the then warden of Christ Church, and it was determined that Christ Church would be happy to give free space for the Depot in the basement. Free was important. They had to build this from scratch with no budget.

At some meeting it was determined that this would be a warehouse model – not a storefront model. Due to the geographical spread, they needed to distribute from King City, Nobleton, and Schomberg, as those were the areas where most people who need a food bank would be located. By September of 2004, Cheryl and Carol Ann were busy getting the warehouse ready. They scrounged for shelving and they scrounged for food. As Carol Ann still owned a Canadian Tire store, they purloined the used racking for spring bulbs, took them to the basement of Christ Church, and set that up as the initial shelving.

First, they needed to paint the floor, as it was just concrete. The arrangement was that they would get half the basement, so they painted the floor and drew a line halfway, and brought in shelving. (The food bank has since encroached to use most of the basement, with the Kettleby Village association using the balance.)

They started canvassing for food donations, and the food went onto the shelves. Much sturdier used shelves were donated from one of the libraries. Renovations at Humber College resulted in a donation of fluorescent light fixtures, which greatly improved the lighting in the basement.

The first distribution for the King Township Food Bank was in January of 2005. Initially, there were just a handful of families. There were three distribution centres – each with a volunteer distributor.

Around 2010 when grants became available from York Region, **Gary Vogan** applied for and got a grant for \$40,000. This helped to replace windows, add insulation, redo the electrical rewiring (updating it from the old knob-and-tube) and install new electrical panel. The back door was replaced, and a sidewalk was put in along to the back to facilitate loading. Along the way, heavy-duty warehouse shelving was donated through a connection with one of the volunteers.

Greater efficiency came when they reorganized the depot into the assembly line model in use today. They had to decide which boxes to use. The windshield wiper boxes from Canadian Tire were about the right size, there was no big design on the front so were pretty nondescript, they were free, they were endlessly available, and they were of a size that easily fit in the trunk of a

KTHS November 2024 5



car. It made it easier to ensure that everyone was getting the same amount.

They received support from the community. And the number needing help continued to grow.

A sponsorship program was started in 2009 and in 2014, they started the annual Sip & Savour fundraiser. They receive no funding from any level of government, so the generosity of the community is really the only thing that makes it work. The generosity of the community validates and supports the dedicated volunteers who do this month in month out, and they provide the funds to make it happen.

We continue to exist because the need has continued to increase. And when the community is asked "Can you help", they respond "Yes, of course!"

King Township Olympians By Murdene Pozdrowski

King Township has been the home of an incredible number of Olympians, both past and present. Since 1952 many have trained and lived in the area. It is understandable that, with its beautiful rural landscape and rolling hills, equestrians would train and excel in King making a huge showing at the Olympics. Athletes in many other disciplines have hailed from King as well, successfully competing on the trampoline, the track, rowing, the ice – both figure skating and hockey, and the soccer pitch.



* Equestrian

Jim Elder, represented Canada at 6 Olympic games from 1956-1984, was inducted into the Order of Canada (1983) and Canadian Walk of Fame (2003)

1952 Helsinki – Larry McGuiness, Walter Pady, John Rumble: Equestrian, considered to be the first King Township athletes to compete in the Olympics

1956 Melbourne (equestrian events held in Stockholm)— **Jim Elder**, (Colleen); **Brian Herbinson**, (Tara); **John Rumble**, (Cilroy): Equestrian Eventing Team, Bronze medal.

1960 Rome – **Norman Elder**: Equestrian Eventing

1968 Mexico City – **Norman Elder**: Equestrian Eventing Team; **Jim Day**, (Canadian Club); **Jim Elder**, (The Immigrant); **Tom Gayford**, (Big Dee): Equestrian Jumping Team, Gold medal. **Allan Ehrlick**, (The Nomad); **Barry Sonshine**, (Durlas Eile): Equestrian Eventing, **Torchy Millar**: Equestrian Jumping

KTHS November 2024 6

1972 Munich - Torchy Millar: Equestrian Jumping

1984 Los Angeles - Hugh Graham, (Elrond): Equestrian Jumping, Individual and Team

1988 Seoul – Cindy Ishoy, (Dynasty): Equestrian Dressage Team, Bronze medal

1992 Barcelona – **Christilot Boylen**, (Biraldo): Equestrian Dressage, competed in 5 Olympic Games, **Beth Underhill** (Monopoly): Equestrian Jumping Team, **Jay Hayes**, (Zucarlos): Equestrian Jumping Team, **Martina Pracht**, (Emirage): Equestrian Dressage Individual and Team

1996 Atlanta - Mac Cone: Equestrian Jumping Team

2008 Beijing – **Mac Cone** (Ole), **Eric Lamaze**, (Hickstead), **Torchy Millar**, Chef d'Equipe: Equestrian Jumping Team, Silver medal. **Eric Lamaze**, (Hickstead): Equestrian Jumping Individual, Gold medal and Equestrian Jumping Team, Silver medal.

2012 London – **Tiffany Foster** (Victor): Equestrian Jumping Team, **Eric Lamaze** (Derly Chin De Muze): Equestrian Team Jumping.

2016 Rio – **Eric Lamaze** (Fine Lady 5): Equestrian Jumping Individual, Bronze medal. **Tiffany Foster** (TripleXIII): Equestrian Jumping Team

We would be remiss not to include the late **Moffat Dunlap** in this list of accomplished Equestrians for his important role with the Canadian Equestrian Team. Moffat was a highly respected 20-year member of the Canadian Show Jumping Team and Past President and long-time supporter of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

L Figure Skating

Elvis Stojko grew up in Richmond Hill attended The Country Day School in King Township and competed in Singles Men at four Olympics:

1992 Albertville; 1994 Lillehammer – Silver Medal; 1998 Nagano – Silver Medal; 2002 Salt Lake City

√ Gymnastics – Trampoline

2008 Beijing – **Jason Burnett**: Trampoline Men, Silver Medal. **Rosie MacLennan**: Trampoline Women

2012 London – **Jason Burnett**: Trampoline Men. **Rosie MacLennan**: Trampoline Women, Gold Medal

2016 Rio – **Jason Burnett**: Trampoline Men. **Rosie MacLennan**: Trampoline Women, Gold Medal

2020 Tokyo - Rosie MacLennan: Trampoline Women

√ Ice Hockey

Curtis Joseph grew up in East Gwillimbury, played hockey for the King City Dukes and lived in King Township when playing for Toronto Maple Leafs.

1998 Nagano - Curtis Joseph, Goalie, Team Canada

2002 Salt Lake City - Curtis Joseph, Goalie, Team Canada, Gold Medal

2014 Sochi - Alex Pietrangelo, Team Canada, Gold Medal

Rowing

2008 Beijing - Andrew Byrnes: Coxed Eight Men, Gold Medal

2012 London - Andrew Byrnes: Coxed Eight Men, Silver Medal

Track and Field

1964 Tokyo – William Gairdner: Decathlon Men and Hurdles 400m Men



2020 Tokyo & 2024 Paris – Adriana Leon

The Hamlet of Glenville By Bill Salter

In 1807, **William Lloyd**, a Quaker from Pennsylvania, who later founded the village of Lloydtown to the west of Schomberg, was searching for a site on which to build a sawmill. In a heavily wooded gully about 1.5 miles to the northwest of Newmarket on what is now Highway 9 at Dufferin Street, he discovered two ponds and sufficient running water to power a mill. This was exactly what he was looking for and on the south pond he built his mill.



The first inhabitants of the area were those employed in the running of the mill and those employed in clearing the surrounding forest to supply the mill with saw logs to be sawn into lumber. As was the usual case around other mills, and with good soil in the surrounding area as the forest was cleared leaving good farm land, settlers began to arrive to farm it and a village developed around Lloyd's mill. The village became known as Glenville because of the lovely glen in which it was located.

Soon the growing settlement began to attract the interest of entrepreneurs and other business men. Two prominent entrepreneurs, **John Cawthra** and **William Roe**, became interested and started thriving businesses in the area.



In 1836, William Cawthra, who already owned a distillery and a store in nearby Newmarket, built a large gristmill on the North Pond. The Millstones for the mill were made at the homestead of Patrick Gibbons at lot 31 concession 3 which was known as Millstone Creek. The millstones took seven months to make during which time the mill was being built.

William Roe, who was the postmaster at Newmarket, also a merchant, a fur dealer, and in 1844 was a candidate for Parliament, lived on a farm near the village. He built a distillery next to the gristmill, and reportedly sold whiskey for 25 cents a gallon. Roe chose this location because the distillery required grain to make whiskey which the gristmill provided.

In addition to the sawmill and the distillery, Glenville soon had three blacksmiths, and two hotels or Inns, The Central Hotel run by **Charles Brodie** and The Sand Bank Hotel run by **John Hare**. There were two blacksmiths, two general stores, a blanket and carpet making shop and a shop making felt hats. There were also two coopers making barrels for whiskey and flour. There was also a school built of logs in 1839, a Methodist Church and a Temperance Hall. As more students arrived the log schoolhouse was no longer adequate, and in 1855 it was moved to a nearby farm to serve as a storage shed. The school was rebuilt as a frame structure which exists today as a private residence

As these other businesses developed in Glenville, the population grew until by 1850 it counted 100 people and later 150 at its peak.

William Lloyd's sawmill burned to the ground in 1898 and because most of the timber had been felled by then, it was never rebuilt. The gristmill continued to operate until it also burned in 1916. **Fred Webster** built a smaller mill to take its place, but it too burned in 1934 and was not rebuilt.

When the mills were no longer operating and no longer employing the residents, the other businesses gradually closed as well and the village fell silent. The last to close was the schoolhouse having graduated its last class in 1955. The schoolhouse building also still exists as a private residence

In 1925, the Methodist Church joined the United Church of Canada, but with a dwindling congregation, services were discontinued in 1952. The church building was later to become a residence and as such still stands today, it and the schoolhouse being the only two buildings to remain.

There are no industries in Glenville any longer, and with the straightening of Highway 9 to bypass the little Hamlet and with most of the buildings having been replaced by modern homes, little remains of the pioneer village of Glenville. It remains however as a quiet, tranquil residential valley, hidden from the rest of the world, and loved by those fortunate to have stumbled upon it just as William Lloyd did those many years ago.

Glenville today is a quiet unpaved country lane winding through a forested residential area to the north of Highway 9. The shops and mills of bygone days have long been replaced by modern homes. The Methodist Church and the school building are still there but converted to residences. Driving down the country lane, which is accessible from Highway 9 just east of Dufferin street, or off Dufferin just north of Highway 9, and thinking of the way things used to be, is a lovely experience on a quiet afternoon.

McMichael Gallery to feature DEREK SULLIVAN: FIELD NOTES on Serra's Shift 1970

As we celebrate art in King, we can't forget that we have a culturally significant sculpture by internationally renowned and recently deceased sculptor, Richard Serra (1938-2024) in our own backyard. The sculpture Shift sits in a now fenced-off piece of land that is privately owned by developer Great Gulf Homes. It has come to our attention that the McMichael Gallery has an upcoming exhibition that will showcase Toronto based artist, Derek Sullivan's response to this important site of international modernism in rural Ontario.

We're attaching here an information package provided by the McMichael outlining the upcoming exhibition scheduled to open in February 2025. If this is of interest to you, the McMichael would be so grateful to have your support with this exhibition. Roz Heintzman Associate Director of Development, would love to hear from you at rheintzman@mcmichael.com or 905-893-1121 x 2523.

In February, 2025 the McMichael will present Derek Sullivan: Field Notes, a solo exhibition highlighting a recent body of work by the leading Toronto-based conceptual artist. The works to be displayed were inspired by Sullivan's twelve-month site-study of Shift, a landart work by the American sculptor Richard Serra long-hidden in a field in King, Ontario.

The exhibition features a series of Sullivan's signature large-scale drawings responding to this important site of international modernism in rural Ontario, not far from where the artist grew up. For Sullivan, walking around the site was central to his research, as was note-taking, taking pictures, collecting stones, and researching in archival collections. His



thoughtful drawings consider the history of Serra's work, and the present context in which it exists. Given the McMichael's proximity to Shift – and our setting within a comparable suburban zone in nearby Vaughan – we feel we are uniquely positioned to showcase Sullivan's important work in a setting similar to the place that inspired the work.



In 1970, Richard Serra conceived and constructed Shift, a massive concrete sculpture in six segments embedded in a once agricultural landscape in King, Ontario. The work, installed in a vacant field near Bathurst and King Vaughan Road once owned by the art collector and property developer Roger Davidson, is now owned by another property developer who acquired the land. Now hidden behind a new sub-division, this monumental but subtle work is largely inaccessible to

the public, its significance obscured from view.

Sullivan revisits this important work in his series Field Work, which considers the unique site of the sculpture in a suburban field -- a place of leisure, contemplation, and a unique context for experiencing Modern art. His drawings highlight the many plant species that have made their home adjacent to Serra's sculpture, and the rocks that have surfaced from years of farmers tilling the soil, evidence of the area's deepest geological past. In addition to highlighting Serra's connections to international modernist artists, Sullivan's series includes references to Greg Curnoe's Deeds and Abstracts, a critical text in Canadian art history that poses important questions of land ownership and colonial occupation in Canada.

This exhibition includes #167, Field Publications and #169, Field Publications (2022-23), two works from the series that the McMichael is acquiring. Also on display in a Canadian museum for the first time is Sullivan's six-panel work Out Standing in a Field (2021-2022), recently acquired by the Art Gallery of Ontario.

"I used Serra's Shift 1970 as an orienting device for me to consider networks of interconnection encountered in this location (colonial expropriation of land, agricultural impacts, property development, tactics of preservation, trespassing, community use, imported artistry), but it also drew forth my own tangled histories in this region. The project aimed to put Serra in his place, so to speak, whilst better understanding my own." -DEREK SULLIVAN



Derek Sullivan is a contemporary visual artist from Toronto, Ontario. His multidisciplinary practice employs drawing, sculpture, book works, and installation to engage with the legacy of modernist art and design. The artist questions familiar forms and genres, often examining the links between one artistic discipline and another. Books and the act of reading have also consistently been central to Sullivan's practice.

Sullivan received his BFA from York University in Toronto and his MFA from the University of Guelph. Solo exhibitions include The Booklover at the Dunlop Art Gallery (Regina), Albatross Omnibus at The Power Plant (Toronto), The Missing Novella at the Oakville Galleries (Oakville), Bulletin Board at Whitecolumns (New York) and More Young Americans at Kiosk (Ghent, Belgium). Sullivan has been featured in numerous group exhibitions, including BNL MTL 2012 (Montreal), Where do I end and you begin at City Art Centre (Edinburgh) and Blue times at Kunsthalle Wien (Vienna). His books and editions have been published by Paul & Wendy Projects (Toronto), Art Metropole (Toronto), Boabooks (Geneva), Printed Matter Inc. (New York). Sullivan has been nominated five times for the prestigious Sobey Art Award and was shortlisted in 2012. His works are in the collections of the National Gallery of Canada, Art Gallery of Ontario, Oakville Galleries, Art Gallery of Guelph, Agnes Etherington Art Centre, Art Gallery of York University, and others. Derek Sullivan lives and works in Toronto.

Help 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.

Already a KTHS member? Now is a great time to renew your membership for 2025 - online or by mail. We look forward to hearing from you!



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TISTORICAL SOCIETY	King Township Historical Society, 2920 King Road, King City ON L7B 1L6 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION AND MAIL CHEQUE TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS)	
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What's New in and Around King?







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.