

# King Heritage & Cultural Centre

## 2020 Annual Report



2020 brought a year of challenges and unprecedented change. The doors at the KHCC first closed on March 13, and staff thought the closure would only last two weeks (!). It seemed like a great opportunity to rehouse the textile collection. As it became clear that a re-opening date would not be set for some time, staff and the Board began to tackle more behind-the-scenes tasks; and look for new ways to reach the community in the "new normal." This annual report is a reflection of a year of adaptation and innovation, with the highest of hopes for a better 2021.



### Collections:

- 20 New Donations
- 40 Research Requests
- 50 Artifacts Accessioned
- 2,400 Records Digitized
- Local History Collection from KTPL
- Collecting Covid-19 project

### Alternative Programming:

- Township-Wide hunts
  - 3,000 entries
  - 333 participants
- Virtual tours
- History at Home video series
- Camp in a Box
- Remembrance Day Virtual Ceremony

### Grants and Fundraising:

- Over \$60,000 in funding
  - \$13,500 Provincial Funding
  - \$15,000 Fawcett Fund
  - \$35,000 Federal Funding
- Plus \$36,000 raised through the SOLD OUT Mayor's Cultural Gala in support of the KHCC, Arts Society King and King Township Historical Society

### Community Connections:

- 46% increase in social media followers
- Pre-Lockdown:
  - 241 visitors
  - 188 attendees at the Mayor's Cultural Gala
  - 75 students attended outreach programs
  - 182 volunteer hours

### Site Updates:

- New parking lot
- New Railway Station Platform
- New exterior interpretive signs
- Improved collections storage
- Repairs to Schoolhouse roof and bell



2920 King Road, King City

(905) 833-2331

kingmuseum@king.ca

### Challenges

Covid-19 shook the world and ushered in an era of unprecedented change. These changes did not miss the KHCC and included:

- Closing the site from March 13 onward;
- Staff redeployment;
- Volunteers were unable to come in;
- Unable to hire summer students
- Cancellation of all planned programs and exhibits;
- Supporting other areas of the department.

### Opportunities

Although Covid-19 brought challenges, every cloud has a silver lining, and here are some of ours:

- Reorganized the collection;
- Digitized 85% of all collections records;
- Creation of *History at Home*, online programming;
- Worked with other areas of the department to develop the popular *Ghost Hunt* and *Elfabet Hunt* programs, and *Camp in a Box*.
- ASK, KTHS and Museum Board meetings continued virtually;
- Work from home volunteer transcription project

### Summary of 2020

Exhibits:

- *In Her Own Words*,
  - Jan-Mar 2020 (in person)
  - March onward (online)

Programs and Special Events:

- SOLD-OUT *Mayor's Cultural Gala*
- *Camp in a Box* (first round sold-out!)
- *Ghost Hunt*
- *Elfabet Hunt*
- *History at Home* (online)

### Looking Ahead: 2021

While we have high hopes for a refreshed 2021, current plans focus on online content in order to connect with the residents of King Township, no matter where they are.

Connecting Online:

- *On This Spot*, virtual walking tours
- *Treasured*, online exhibition
- Physical Distancing Oral History Project
- Continuation of *History at Home*