

KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021



King Heritage & Cultural Centre

2021 Annual Report

2021 started much the same as 2020, the KHCC remained closed to the public and staff were working hard to provide alternative programming to keep history and culture alive in King Township. In April we were on the front lines of history-in-the-making with staff being redeployed to the Vaccination Clinic at the Trisan Centre. In August we were thrilled to be able to welcome back our visitors and volunteers who returned with smiles behind their masks to dig back into answering research requests and assisting in the collection. We topped off the year with a record-breaking *Trees of Giving* display, raising over \$2,800 in support of the Southlake Foundation.

Heritage & Cultural Master Plan Update:

In September 2021 Council approved the adoption of the King Heritage & Cultural Master Plan. This plan will be the guiding document for the KHCC for the next 10 years, with a 5 year review. The plan includes 42 action items that will be accomplished over the next 5 years.

Complete:

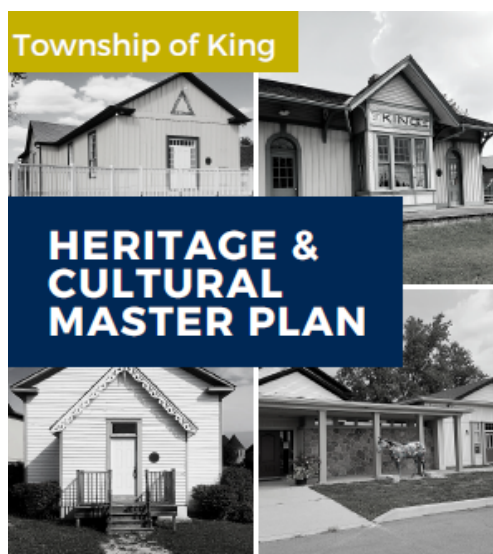
- 1.2** Establish an Exhibitions Committee
- 1.8** Online exhibits and walking tours
- 4.2** Front desk administrative staff
- 4.3** Install exterior interpretive panels on-site
- 4.7** Exterior site plan

Up Next:

- 1.3** Create a schedule of "pop-up" exhibits
- 1.9** Develop a public art program
- 2.4** Install a new collections database
- 3.1** Expand heritage programming
- 3.5** Increase community outreach
- 6.5** Promote tourism

In-Progress:

- 1.4** Wedgewood travelling exhibition
- 1.5** Install Wedgewood display case
- 2.1** Update collections policy
- 3.1** Establish a programmer position
- 3.3** Offer new school programs
- 4.4** Re-interpret historic buildings
- 5.9** Host the Mayor's Cultural Gala



PREPARED BY
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Heritage & Cultural Supervisor
September 2021

Celebrating Culture Together

King Heritage & Cultural Centre

2021 Highlights

A Busy Year...

- **Stories of King**, an online exhibit hosted on Treasured.ca
- **Exploring Schomberg's Main Street: Where the Past is Present** virtual walking tour of Main Street Schomberg
- Unique donations including the **Prisoner Box**, **Lady Eaton's Governess Cart** and the original **King Township Clerk Desk**
- Approval of the **Heritage & Cultural Master Plan**
- Sold-out event, **Haunting on King Road**
- Record-breaking **Trees of Giving** display in support of the Southlake Foundation
- Brand-new website, **kingheritageandculture.ca**

Community Connections:

- 28% increase in social media followers
- 2,525 people reached through in person and alternative programming
- Resumed the Cultural Committee which includes representatives from nine King community groups
- 471 Volunteer Hours, 63% increase over 2020

Grants and Fundraising:

- 6 federal and provincial grants were applied for in 2021. While some are still pending, all that we have heard back from were successful.
- Over \$120,000 in grant funding including:
 - \$17,800 in Provincial Funding
 - \$104,000 in Federal Funding

Collections:

- Over 20 new artifact, archival and artwork accessions with more than 300 individual pieces
- Highlights include the 1837 Rebellion Box, Lady Eaton's Governess Cart and the original King Township Clerk's desk.
- Over 300 individual artifacts were catalogued
- Over 200 records digitized
- Entire collection of Township of King Assessment and Collector's Rolls were catalogued and rehoused in archival boxes
- Inventory created for Township of King art collection



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Challenges

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

- Site closed from January to August
- Staff redeployment;
- Volunteers were unable to come in;
- Developing online exhibits and programs;
- Balancing both online and in-person activities;
- Supporting other areas of the department.

Opportunities

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

- *Memories of King* Oral History Project
- Two online exhibits, *Stories of King* and *Portraits of the Land*
- Virtual walking tour on *On This Spot* with Economic Development
- Outdoor scavenger hunt with KTPL
- *Timeless Tales* writing contest with ASK
- *History at Home* video series
- Virtual Girl Guides women's history program

Summary of 2021

Online Exhibits:

- *Stories of King*
- *Portraits of the Land*

In Person Exhibits:

- *Together Again*
- *Celebrations of Light*
- *A Place to Call Home*

Events and Programs:

- Valentine's Card Kits
- Scavenger Hunt with KTPL
- Truth & Reconciliation Day
- Haunting on King Road
- One of a King
- Trees of Giving
- History at Home video programs

Looking Ahead: 2022

Despite re-opening in 2021, new Covid-19 measures put in place forced us to close our doors once again in January 2022. With this in mind we are prepared to pivot as necessary with both online and in-person activities planned including:

- New online exhibitions
- Continued promotion of kingheritageandculture.ca
- Virtual programming
- Celebrating the King Township Historical Society's 50th Anniversary
- Mayor's Cultural Gala

