

KERA

Spring - Summer 2014



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The Big Cleanup

The 2014 Spring clean up of Kingscross Estates that took place on Saturday May 10th was a great success. Our 17 volunteers came out to help clean up garbage scattered in ditches and along side the roads. We collected a total of 31 bags of garbage!

Big Thank you to:

*Dale Banton with son Justin and his girlfriend Rachel
Helen Scarth with son William
Peter McCarthy
Vince Oppedisano
Khushru Chothia
Lex Vriend
Winnie Cheung
Nina Graham
Vanessa Braganza
Omar Balodis with sons Kyle and Christopher and friend Lucas
Rosalind Elson*

KERA Board Directors John Hollick and Mary Muter assisted in the Clean-Up prior to May 10, 2014, as did Hans Martin.

Curbing the Speed

Update:

Township has decided to implement temporary speed humps along Kingscross drive in attempts to curb the excessive speeding along this street.

Their aim is to have them installed by end of June. Another assessment will be made in the Fall at which time it will be determined whether the speed humps become a permanent feature.

Speed humps, although meant to slow down vehicles, may also unfortunately, give pedestrians a false sense of safety as they walk the streets of Kingscross.

It is important that all Kingscross residents know that Township has firmly stated, off the record, that "the streets of Kingscross are meant for driving, not walking", and when asked if they would ever walk the streets of Kingscross, they were most adamant in saying "no".

Please always use caution at all times when walking, jogging or biking.

No Tree Preservation By-law At This Time

King Council decides on a "Made in King" solution for trees rather than a regulatory tree preservation bylaw. Based on King Township Staff's review of the relevant legislation, input from the community, and recent events with respect to tree damage caused by the ice storm of 2013 and associated cleanup, it is the opinion of Staff that a regulatory approach to tree preservation is not the most effective tool at this time for promoting environmental stewardship and maintaining a healthy urban forest. Instead a detailed work plan will phase in a comprehensive tree preservation and promotion program. The work plan includes several elements that members of the community identified as crucial in any regulatory framework for tree preservation, such as an educational campaign and developing a better understanding and working relationship with the Township's agency partners. A regulatory by-law may be considered again at a later stage of the work plan based on the results of the earlier phases.

To summarize, King is attempting other means of encouraging effective stewardship of trees before further pursuing a regulatory approach via a by-law. If the same effect and benefit can be achieved by less costly and impactful means, it is imperative that the Township pursue these means first.

The Four phases to the work plan are:

Phase 1: Agency Roundtable Discussions (June - Dec 2014)

Phase 2: Community Education (Ongoing)

Phase 3: Develop and Implement Tree Planting Incentives/Subsidies (Nov 2014 - Sept 2015)

Phase 4: Evaluation and Regulatory Review (Sept - Dec 2015)

The King Staff report can be found on-line under our 'What's New' tab at the following web address:

<http://www.king.ca/Government/Departments/By-Law%20Enforcement%20Services/By-Law%20Enforcement%20Issues/Trees/>

The above article is a reporting on what King voted on at the last meeting. It is not a report on our opinions. Council did not indicate that they would pass or need a bylaw but rather stated that they need a "Made in King Solution". The article is about this decision.

Did You Know?

By-law 2004-76 prohibits Open Air Burning within the Township of King without approval from the Fire Chief; if approval is given, a permit will be issued, along with the prerequisite fee to be paid. Any person contravening the By-law is guilty of an offence and subject to a penalty under the Provincials Offences Act, R.S.O. 1990.

By-law 81-142 restricts certain noise related activities in residential areas on Sundays, namely, operation of any equipment in connection with construction. Contravening this By-law will result in a penalty, if convicted, of up to \$1,000 for a first offence. For a second or subsequent offence, fines will be dealt with under the Provincial Offences Act.

Page Three

Official Plan Review and Developments abutting Kingscross

The McClure Keele Group reviewed the Kingscross Ratepayers' Association comments on the Official Plan Review and they support our position as it relates to the existing King City Official Plan. The key points are:

1. The current Official Plan contains *"Principle Two: Distinctive Community Identity. Any development activity which is to take place in King City must maintain the distinctive character of the community and set the community apart from the adjacent more urban municipalities."* This Principle is not being adhered. Corrective action is required in this review of the Official Plan to ensure that Principle Two is enforced.
2. The term *"gross density"* is not conducive to Principle Two and must be changed to *"density"* which for example, density of 2 lots per acre means each lot must be half an acre in size.
3. No development should be allowed that would have impacts on the sensitive undeveloped lands and developers must not be allowed to transfer allocation from sensitive lands to buildable lands.
4. Section 9.2.5.2 Design Policies under the current King City Community Plan was not adhered. It states *" i) Infill housing, and new housing which abuts existing neighbourhoods, should generally be of a scale, type and density to complement existing housing stock, streetscapes and neighbourhood patterns."*

Developments affecting Kingscross Estates

There are currently four separate properties that are planned for future development around Kingscross Estates. Two are already approved, the Culotta property and the McClure Keele Street infilling. The DiNardo development has been submitted for approval and has an important upcoming meeting on June 23. A fourth possible development is unfolding on the lands immediately south of Kingscross Drive and Jane Street.

Page Four

DiNardo and Sons Ltd, Application for Draft Plan of Subdivision at Keele Street, opposite Kingscross Drive.

The applicant is proposing to build 34 single detached homes on about 30 acres. The lands represent the third and final phase of the Dinardo subdivision which was originally draft plan approved by York Region in March 1986. The first two phases (Carmichael Crescent and Dinardo Court) were constructed over a number of years, with the last phase completed in 2001.

The proposed new road will connect with Kingscross Drive at Keele and will encourage more traffic onto Kingscross Drive.

Part of the land is not suitable for lots so the developer is attempting to cram the same number of lots onto the useable portion which will create much smaller lots than those in the existing two phases.

The current application does not comply with the official plan as it does not provide a transition to the abutting existing residential development with similar lot widths. The proposed lots will not be of the same character as the abutting properties and surrounding landscape.

Residents are urged to attend this meeting and voice their opposition to this proposed development.

Culotta (Mary Lake Estates) Subdivision:

A Public Information Meeting is being held Tuesday June 24, 2014 from 6 to 8 pm at King City Library, 1970 King Road, King City where a consultant will present options for connecting the water and sewer lines to the proposed subdivision.

One option is to run both the sewers and the watermain through Kingscross Drive and Lockhart Lane.

All affected residents are urged to attend the meeting, get familiar with the proposed options and contact KERA or Ed Van Ginkel if interested in taking a position on this subject.

Rural lands south of Kingscross

In May the residents on the south side of Kingscross (west on Manitou) and those on the west side of Manitou could hear the sounds of heavy equipment working to the south and west. Upon inquiry of the Township we learned that a developer has bought the farm south and west of us and that site alterations were underway. The land has some very significant natural features including two tributaries of the east Humber River, some heavily forested areas and a designated Provincially Significant Wetland. Both York Region and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority have jurisdiction as well as the Township. Your KERA board has been informed that discussions are now underway with the developer to determine how these important natural areas can be protected. We will try to keep you informed once we know more on this potential development.

McClure Street at Keele:

King Council accepted the plan of subdivision at the Council meeting of May 26 which will have 18 single family homes on about 9 acres of land. The McClure Keele Group Ratepayers Association is following this development very closely.



Consultant's recommended route for watermain

There is a lot of wetland that will be adversely affected if this watermain route is selected as a large marsh is fed by a stream crossing Lockhart. At this point the information available on these concerns is limited.

Page Five

'A Kingscross Estates' Birth Announcement!

My neighbour, Sue Theil, called this past Monday morning in an excited voice: "Nina, you won't believe what is lying on the interlocking sidewalk at the corner of our home". I couldn't guess...She said, "A fawn, Bambi"! I rushed over with my camera in tow; sure enough, there was the fawn, spots and all, in full view and not moving, eyes wide open and nose twitching. Bob, Sue and I watched from a distance. We knew the mother instructed her fawn not to move until she returned to feed it. We didn't interfere. But we all worried about the rainstorm forecast for that afternoon; what would the fawn do then?

I returned to work in our garden as the clouds rolled in. The rain poured down and when it became a drizzle, I couldn't resist the temptation to see whether the fawn had taken shelter. Very quietly I made my way back to the Theils' side yard and before I reached the area where the fawn had been lying, I stopped dead in my tracks. There before me stood two fawns on very wobbly legs, sniffing each other, one nosing under the other's belly, no doubt hungry and looking for milk. Twins! I could not believe my eyes. I stood there, transfixed, but without a camera. Behind tall shrubs stood the mother, very alert and agitated and edging away. I quickly retreated, but as I backed up, I heard wails: Maw,

know the
heard a
could you

I knocked on
the scene
said they
pair of legs
eyes when
sniffing each

Later that
they watched
following, very slowly and wobbly. They made a left turn into the tree line between the properties of the Balls and Theils. We will never see them again, but the memory will last forever.

Maw, Maw... and then a response from their mother. Now I origins of language....from our wildlife; just yesterday I teenager call out for his mother in a supermarket," Maw, please come here?" Too much of a coincidence, I think.

the Theils dining room window where they were watching unfold. They came to the side door, just as excited as I. Bob were having lunch on their balcony when Bob spotted a protruding from another shrub. He couldn't believe his the twin fawn emerged. That is when I witnessed the twins other.

afternoon I spoke by telephone with Sue again. She said the mother walk down their driveway with the little fawns

More Bees Dying

Our resident beekeeper, Dr. Hans Martin, has again experienced a loss with his bees. He now has only two colonies left, half of what he had last fall. For him, the bees are a hobby; what he worries about are the large Ontario producers who have been experiencing heavy losses for the past several years. There is good supporting evidence that pesticides, primarily neonicotinoids, used in coating corn and soya bean seeds are the cause. The cornfields in King City have been planted and with it the spreading of pesticides. Bees travel long distances and return to their colonies contaminated. Hans is frustrated with the lack of government initiative to ban these chemicals. He said that the EU made the decision for a trial ban on the pesticides for two years, beginning January 01, 2014, even though this may have a negative impact on their economy. Without pollination, we will starve, yet our governments are not responding to save the pollinators.

Helpful Tips to Enhance Kingscross Estates and Prevent West Nile Virus

- retrieve recycle bins and garbage cans on a timely basis
- inspect your property boundaries and driveways regularly to remove litter or soggy newspapers
- do 'Stoop and Scoop'
- maintain the community mailbox areas: refrain from discarding junk mail; just call the King City Post Office to stop junk mail delivery.
- for those resident living on roundabouts: feel free to remove litter or contact King Township Public Works at 905-833-5321 or KERA Board to report stagnant water, fallen or diseased trees, branches in the roundabouts
- to prevent West Nile Virus, eliminate standing water to discourage mosquitoes from breeding; keep road ditches free of tall grasses and dead leaves to encourage water flow through the culverts
- install water aerators in ponds again, to discourage mosquito breeding in stagnant water

King Weekly Sentinel Online

Kingscross Estates residents have complained about the King Sentinel driveway delivery. Between soggy newspapers, papers lost in the snow over the winter months (on Champlain Crescent one large garbage bag was filled with the newspapers during the Spring Clean-up), a 'red flag' to would-be burglars when residents are away and not receiving the paper on a timely basis, KERA has been working with their Circulation Department for a better solution. Initially steel containers for the newspapers placed by the community mailboxes seemed a good idea, however, this is Post Office property and not a viable solution. Mail delivery is too costly since mass delivery cannot be made to Kingscross Estates exclusively. The entire King Weekly Sentinel newspaper, ads and all, is now online. KERA suggested that our residents access the online newspaper as a solution.

(<http://www.newspapers-online.com/king/> click Current Issues). Major newspapers are beginning to focus attention to online circulation in general. KERA has promised to advise the King Sentinel Circulation Department by July 15, 2014, if this is agreeable to our Kingscross Estates residents. Please contact any of our Directors to voice your opinion. Our email addresses are listed below.

Important Dates

June 23, 2014: DiNardo and Sons Ltd, Application for Draft Plan of Subdivision at Keele Street, opposite Kingscross Drive. Township of King Council/Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Location: Council Chamber, 2075 King Road, King City, On

Time: 6 p.m.

June 24, 2014: Sanitary Sewer and Watermain Servicing for Mary Lake Estates Subdivision Public Information Centre.

Location: King City Public Library, 1970 King Road, King City, On

Time: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

KERA PHOTO CONTEST for the 2015 Kingscross Estates Calendar

'Kingscross Estates Pets and Wildlife'

The KERA Calendar Photo Contest is back! After the very successful inaugural 2014 calendar, KERA will again publish a calendar for 2015. Photos are needed and the theme this year is "Kingscross Estates Pets and Wildlife"

Following a similar format as last year, residents can submit photos and 12 winners will be selected for the 12 months of the year. Calendars will be available for sale from the KERA Fund Raising Committee in November, 2014.

Photo Contest Guidelines are:

- photos to be Kingscross Estates specific and accompanied by a relevant caption
- photos can be of any animal(s) or birds or pets in Kingscross area
- photos to be taken by Kingscross Estates residents; KERA especially welcomes photos from budding young photographers (16 and under)
- limit of four photos per resident, with a \$3 fee per photo to cover calendar printing costs
- photos chosen must be of adequate quality, size and sharpness suitable for printing
- photos to be submitted by **October 20, 2014** to: ngraham@kera.ca

There will be 12 winners, with the Best Photo displayed on the front of the 2015 Kingscross Estates Calendar.

The photos will be judged by an arm's length expert photographer whose name will be announced at the close of the Photo Contest. Each winning photo will have the appropriate photographer credits and caption displayed.

The KERA Fund Raising Committee welcomes and would greatly appreciate any printing service donations and/or stationary. These donations would be gratefully acknowledged on the calendar. Please contact Nina Graham at ngraham@kera.ca

Start submitting photos now!

Fund Raising Committee Neighbourhood Events

Attention Kingscross Neighbours: Clean your lenses! Once again KERA will be holding a Photo Contest for our 2015 Kingscross Calendar. The exciting theme this year will be '**Kingscross Estates Pets and Wildlife**'. *Contest Guidelines attached.*

Time Capsule:

A Time Capsule was buried during the installation of the Jane Street Entranceway Gates. A copy of the Time Capsule was on display at our 2013 Meet and Greet held at Hogan's Inn. Similar plans are scheduled for the Keele Street installation.

Meet and Greet, 2014:

KERA is planning to hold the Annual Meet and Greet Event in the fall. Stay tuned for details; meanwhile, begin saving auction items to donate to the event so that we can meet our Annual Operating Expenditures.

Perhaps a Fall BBQ?

An event of this sort requires a great amount of planning and many volunteers. This event is under Board consideration.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! BECOME INVOLVED!

The Fund Raising Committee needs volunteers. Contact ngraham@kera.ca

Membership is an important element for KERA's continued success. Ask a neighbour to join! Simply contact: vbraganza@kera.ca

To contact KERA Directors:

Vanessa Braganza: vbraganza@kera.ca
Nina Graham: ngraham@kera.ca
John Hollick: jhollick@kera.ca
Mary Muter: mmuter@kera.ca

Visit our Website at:

www.kera.ca

