

Kingscross Ratepayers Association

Winter Newsletter



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Kingscross Elects New Board of Directors

By Elizabeth Whicher



On Tuesday, October 13, 2015, Kingscross residents chose from a list of candidates to elect eight of nine directors for its newly expanded board (pictured left). Top left to right: Ian Hilley (new), Mike Notaro (previously elected), Ric Bedard (new) and Wilson Markle (returning). Bottom left to right: Leslie Whicher (new), Mary Muter (returning) and Julie Nevin (returning). John Hollick and Rosalind Elson were both absent for the photo but are pictured to the left.

Leslie Whicher and Mary Muter were appointed as co-chairs; Ian Hilley, secretary; and Julie Nevin, treasurer. The first meeting was held on October 17, 2015 and priorities and plans for the upcoming term were discussed. Expanded and improved communication with the Kingscross Ratepayers Association (KRA) membership, and reaching out to involve more residents were top priorities, in addition to



KRA's constitutional purposes of protecting and promoting the interests of Kingscross Ratepayers.

Note: It is with regret that we inform you of the resignation of Mike Notaro's resignation on January 11. We are thankful for his many contributions.

History of KRA: Nina Graham

By Elizabeth Whicher



On September 26, 2015, Kingscross residents lost a powerful advocate for our community. Nina Graham served Kingscross as one of the first five Kingscross Ratepayers Association board members when the Association was founded in 2012, and shortly thereafter became Chairperson. Having lived in the subdivision for many years, Nina had become a repository of neighbourhood history. She was very devoted to the wildlife which we all cherish in our neighbourhood. Nina had vast connections in the broader community, which have been a huge asset for the association in pursuing its goals. She lived at 11, Champlain Crescent, where she took great joy in the wildlife that visited her yard and birdfeeder collection, and compared notes with her neighbours on sightings of fawns, birds, and other animals. Nina is survived by her husband, Bruce Graham.

Christmas in Kingscross



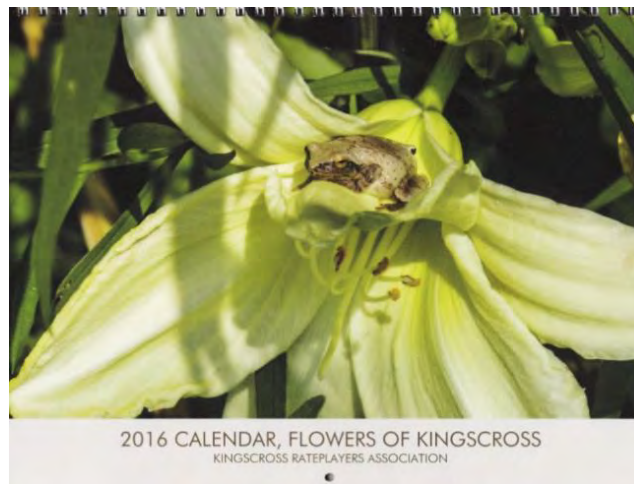
Shout-out to 270 Kingscross Drive for the beautiful Christmas lights and decorating! Also worth seeing was the constantly changing Christmas light display at 4 Kingsworth Road.

The 2016 KRA Calendar is here!

The 2016 KRA Calendar's theme was "Flowers of Kingscross". Just as in other years, a contest was held and this year's entries were judged by Garry Conway, a photographer from Laskay. The 12 photos show a range of flowers, all taken in Kingscross. The calendar nicely sums up the beauty of our subdivision's estate homes. Congratulations to Robert and Vibeke Ball, Roz Elson, Sue Theil and Kathryn and Wilson Markle on their lovely pictures. Next year's theme is **Kingscross Wildlife**, so keep your eyes open and your camera/phone handy from now until now until next October! Then, enter the contest for the 2017 Calendar.

The funds raised from sales of this calendar will assist the Kingscross Ratepayers Association to pay for such projects as the Keele Gates. The total amount raised was \$596.

To **submit your photos** for the 2017 calendar, please call Roz Elson at (905) 833-3206 or e-mail rosalindelson@hotmail.com.



2016 CALENDAR, FLOWERS OF KINGSCROSS
KINGSCROSS RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION



There are some wonderful
Arts Society King events ahead. Join Us!



Tuesday, February 9: The NEW Arts Society King Experience Series presents 'Meet the Artist' featuring sculptor Brett Davis at the BMO branch in King City from 7:00 - 9:00 pm, free admission.

February 4-29: Gallery Exhibition all month featuring the senior art Students of Villanova College at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre. Artist reception on **Thursday, February 4** from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Please come and celebrate youth in fine art, free admission.



Wednesday, February 24: The King Travel Diary Series in partnership with the Library. Join Valerie and Christopher Rowley for a presentation on their Viking Cruise to Russia, King City Library, 7:00 pm, free admission.

Thursday, March 17: The NEW Arts Society King Experience Series presents 'Five Line Rhyme Time'. Gather and celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Irish stew, green beer and the original form of poetry at the Kettleby Community Hall, \$25 tickets.

Wednesday, April 13: The King Travel Diary Series, in partnership with the Library. Join Wendy and Tony Rolph for a presentation on their trip to Dalmatia and the Adriatic Coast, King City Library, 7:00 pm, free admission.



April 23 and 24: Studio Tour King throughout King Township, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Tour the idyllic King countryside in pursuit of great art, maps and brochure provided, Free admission. Special preview exhibition at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre April 6-22.



Wednesday, May 18: The NEW Arts Society King Experience Series presents 'The Invisible Women' featuring a presentation about the thousands of forgotten or suppressed women artists at the BMO branch in King City from 7:00 - 9:00 pm, free admission.

Sunday, September 11: The Schomberg Street Gallery featuring an outdoor juried fine arts and craft show, main street Schomberg from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, free admission.

Sunday, October 2: The NEW Arts Society King Experience Series presents 'Photography of Horses' and enjoy the beautiful Fall colours and tour through the grounds, hills and fields to capture photographs of several beautiful horses at Cantercall Farms in King City. This event is ideal for amateurs, families and avid photographers, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm with a light and casual lunch, \$25 per family of four.



Some details may be subject to change. Please contact ASK to register.

www.ArtsSocietyKing.ca

905-939-9357

Info@ArtsSocietyKing.ca

Arts Society King: Enriching King Township through arts and culture for all.

Potential for Lot Severances in Kingscross

Should an amendment to the Official **Plan (“OP”)** be allowed to permit lots smaller than two acres (in this case, as small as 1.53 acres) in Kingscross? That is the question that King Council will have to decide although it is not clear when Council will be able to complete its review. Over 100 people attended a standing room only special Council meeting on December 7th to voice their concerns or support over an Application to alter the lot boundaries of two lots on Snowberry Lane to allow for the creation of another lot. The resulting lots would not conform to existing bylaws requiring minimum 2 acres and 60 metre frontage. The Applicant is asking for an exemption to the Official Plan to turn the two lots into three smaller lots.

Township planner, Stephen Kitchen, spoke first, outlining the application and process. Planning will consider all land use planning-related arguments for and against the severance then formulate their recommendations to Council. Council will consider these recommendations and public input at a subsequent meeting and make a decision. Thereafter, a party **may appeal it to the Ontario Municipal Board (“OMB”)**.

A number of written letters both in support of, and opposing, the Application had already been received.

The Applicants’ representative spoke to the Application first, stating that precedent was already set in 1976 when a number of lots smaller than 2 acres were created. The Applicant presented a map showing where there were existing lots under the two acre minimum.

Residents in support of the Application were then invited speak. They described the changes taking place with new larger homes being built on many of the existing properties. Various residents felt that change was good and some mentioned that they had invested in Kingscross by purchasing several properties either alone or with family members. An argument was made that by having two lots on either side of the cul de sac, symmetry would be achieved. Another resident suggested that deciding applications of this type on a case by case basis would be desirable.

Those in opposition the OP amendment were then invited to speak. KRA’s Co-Chair explained that KRA has received a mandate from the residents by electing a majority slate of Directors to oppose the severance and from 60% of the homeowners (102 homes out of 170 homes) who have signed a statement opposing lot severances. If allowed, this Application could set a precedent for similar



applications in the future.

Planning law lawyer David Donnelly, who was retained by KRA to represent the residents, provided three reasons for opposing the severance and explained a fourth item that is relevant to the proceedings. A summary of those reasons is as follows:

1. The Application is not compatible with the existing neighbourhood.
2. KRA is requesting that staff conduct a more detailed examination of the Significant Woodland adjacent to the subject lands as it appears to be connected to the forested area at the rear of the subject lands.
3. **The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (“MNRF”) has identified the need to conduct**

a site investigation in the area of the Subject Lands following a sighting of Wood Turtles in the area. Wood Turtles are **listed as an “endangered species” and wooded** areas are essential habitat for them. It is premature for these Applications to proceed in advance of a complete assessment and report from MNRF.

4. A KRA Director was served with a lawsuit from one of the Applicants the morning of the public meeting which may be subject to the new anti-SLAPP legislation that deals with such lawsuits being issued against individuals opposing matters before the public hearings. If the lawsuit meets certain tests categorizing it as a **“slapp suit,” the OP Amendment** may be stayed in accordance

with the provisions of the new law.

Many residents then spoke and provided compelling reasons for not allowing severances. Most residents bought into Kingscross because of the larger lots and they do not want to see smaller lots created. Recommendations were made to King Council to have the Natural Heritage report peer reviewed by an independent party. King Council has received the reports on file and has referred them and the comments back to staff for further review and recommendations to be presented to Committee of the Whole upon receipt and review of all agency/department and public comments.

Keele Gates

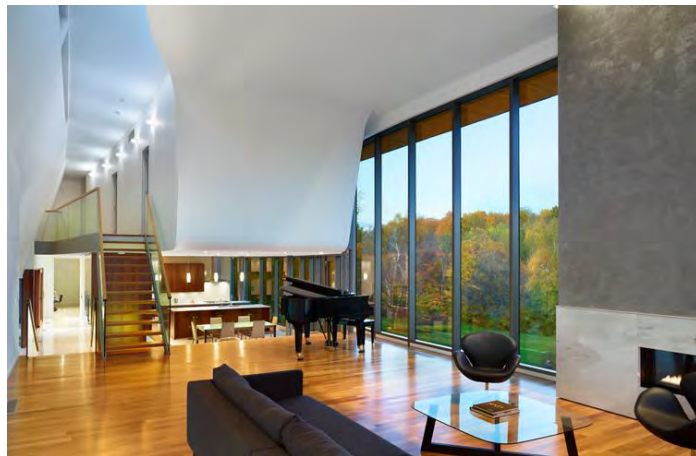
KRA continues to pursue completion of the Keele Gates. After a delay by the contractor in ordering pre-cast components, we are informed that completion should be around the end of January. We continue to monitor this project closely and will keep members apprised.

Dream Homes of Kingscross

35 Watch Hill Road



Over the years, many unique and special homes have been built in our beautiful neighbourhood. 35 Watch Hill Road, home of Rebecca and George Wong, is one such home, designed by architecture firm Bordlotto. This home won **2015 Canadian Interiors Magazine “Best of Canada” award, and** 2014 ARIDO Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario “Award of Merit”, and been featured in three publications. This home was designed with the intention that it blend with its natural setting, and the interior reinforces that connection to the outside world, with an emphasis on light and space.



Residents Have Opportunity to Support Syrian Refugees

By Gisele Bedard

Back in November, Ric Bedard was approached by one of the team members from his company, Cetaris. Rita, an immigrant who left Syria 13 years ago, asked if he would consider sponsoring a brother and sister whose lives were in danger. She herself was in the process of sponsoring her twin brother, John and his family of four. However, his niece and nephew, Yara (26) and Somar (22) remained in Syria because they lacked the resources to flee. Yara was **working on her Master’s in Pharmaceuticals, and Somar, in his last year of a Communications Engineering degree. Yara and Somar’s brother had already left the country** because he was facing conscription into the Syrian army in the fight against ISIS. They are a Christian family, therefore facing great persecution in the Syrian army, by ISIS, and in the country at large. In the army, Christians are sent to the front lines, and rarely make it out alive. While escaping, Yara **and Somar’s brother barely survived the boat ride to Europe. Today, he awaits mercy at a camp.** Yara and Somar left behind their parents as well, and hope that once they are settled they will be able to sponsor the rest of their family to come to Canada.

We—Gisele and Ric—have approached our church to help privately sponsor Yara and Somar in a sponsorship known as a Group of 5, where individuals are the financial guarantors for a group of refugees’ first year in Canada.

Yara and Somar have left Syria for Lebanon where they have an apartment with their uncle, and have completed all their paperwork on their side. Our paperwork is complete and the process has been quick. We anticipate their arrival a little over a month. Ric and I are open to receiving them in our home when they first arrive, and then we hope to find them their own place.

This could be a wonderful opportunity for our community to get involved. Yara and Somar will require support in terms of lodging, transportation and integration into our culture. KRA is reaching out to you, our community in an effort to raise funds to help Yara and Somar complete their university degrees. If your heart is calling you to get involved, please call (905) 833-2301 or email rgosss@hotmail.com.

Brrreaking News!

A snowman and snow sculpture building contest will be held on Westgate Circle on January 31 between 1 and 3 pm. Truly amazing prizes are offered for two categories: kids under 10, and teenagers 11+. Adults are encouraged to help with the logistics but not design! Hot chocolate for all. Event is dependent on snow. Stay tuned for our neighbourhood spring clean -up and BBQ in early April!

