



KINGSCROSS WINTER SCENE, BY VIBEKE BALL

KERA Newsletter Season Greetings

Dec 21, 2013

IN THIS ISSUE

Kingscross Estates Ratepayers' Association

The best of the Holiday Season to all - good health, happiness and prosperity in the New Year! Welcome to the 'Holiday Edition' of the KERA Newsletter, a brief overview of Kingscross Estates news during the past few months.

Meet and Greet

KERA held its 2nd Annual 'MEET and GREET' on Nov 15, 2013 at Hogan's Inn, beautifully decorated for the Holiday Season, accented by sparkling lights streaming in through floor to ceiling windows from surrounding homes and buildings. Over 50 Kingscross Estates residents attended, enjoying delicious hors d'oeuvres and various spirits, while participating in a unique Silent Auction, featuring local donations of rustic breads, honey, bees wax candles, brunches, dinners and bed and breakfast. As well, donations of fine wines, tasting flights, hockey memorabilia and hockey tickets created a hum throughout the room.

However, the main auction items were the two Kingscross Estates signs removed from the Jane Street Entranceway. Arlene Heaps, one of our longest residing residents, shrewdly outbid Todd English for the first sign, with a winning bid of \$700. John

Hollick, through his SolarWall Foundation, provided a donation to the King Township Museum for the Museum to purchase the second sign for an equal amount, plus additional funds to cover costs for its display at the museum later in 2014.

The 'Meet and Greet' also offered the residents an opportunity to express their ideas and concerns on the Interactive Board installed for that purpose. The following are their suggestions:

- Shelters for the Community Mailboxes
- Paved Shoulder for Cyclist and Pedestrians
- Landscape Roundabouts
- Improve Lighting on Corners
- Curtail Speeding

The KERA Board thank all those who attended our 2nd Annual 'MEET and GREET'. We applaud your efforts in helping raise funds that evening. It will help us proceed with and achieve our goals and plans for our Kingscross neighbourhood.



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Kingscross Sign Has New Owner

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Donors

The 'MEET and GREET' raised approximately \$3,500 after expenses. A sincere thank you to all our Donors, listed below.

Anatoly and Ludmila Paikin

Howard Ng and Angela Puzzolanti

Bill and Christine Fulton

John and Judy Hollick

Bruce and Nina Graham

Pat DiFiore and Vanessa Braganza

Hogan's Inn

The Paper Crane Sushi Bar and Bistro

Kingbridge Conference Centre

Vineland Estates, Dave Hulley

Jules Carcone, Rustic Breads Bakery

Hans Martin and Rosalind Elson, King Apiaries



AT THE MEET & GREET

From left to right KERA Board members: Mary Muter, Vanessa Braganza, Nina Graham, John Hollick, Rosalind Elson (silent auction organizer)



KERA Calendar

The 2014 'A Kingscross For All Seasons' Calendar raised over \$450. Congratulations to Rosalind Elson for the winning photo, 'A July Morning', chosen by Garry Conway, a local award-winning nature photographer. Vibeke Ball and Sue Theil had many of their beautiful photos chosen for the calendar too. KERA is hoping that the Kingscross Calendar will become a tradition. Suggestions for the 2015 calendar have begun to surface.

Time Capsule

A hard copy of the contents of the Time Capsule was on display at the 'MEET and GREET' containing photos of the homes and significant features of Kingscross, such as the ponds and wild apple trees. The Time Capsule was buried in the new Jane Street Entranceway Sign this fall.



Cover of Kingscross 2014 calendar

SIGN



Kingscross Sign

Arlene Heaps sent this message to the KERA Board:

Hi Everyone. Hogan's Inn 'MEET and GREET' was a great idea. It was so nice to meet new residents and to be able to say hi to neighbours we've known for many years but rarely get to see. As for the sign, I totally intimidated a new resident into letting me have the winning bid. Old age has its privileges. Thank you Todd English. I hope you get the next sign to be auctioned. I promise not to out bid you! We are fortunate that our KERA Board members are willing to spend so much of their time to inform us and to organize events. Let's show our appreciation by attending future events.

The sign I won was purchased and donated by John Jeppesen around 1980 and manufactured by Aluminum Star Products, no longer in business. The design/letter style was prepared by the art department at Neon Products, where John worked. The second set of signs at Keele Street were installed a few years later by Joe Gellany, who conceived the historic idea (in the 1950's) to create large two or more acre estate residential lots, known as Kingscross Estates.



What KERA is Doing for You

For over a year, KERA has been actively engaged in preserving and improving our neighbourhood, from the Culotta Development negotiations to rejuvenating the entranceway signs. The Jane Street signs are completed, and a resident has volunteered to backfill the signs at no cost to KERA, except for the expense of the earth and sod. The Keele Street signs will be completed next spring. The new KERA Board supports the concerns of its residents with regard to the Safety and Speeding petition. We will continue to work with the residents and Township to find a permanent solution. Trees, shrubs and tall weeds have been removed at both Jane and Keele Streets to improve visibility. The 2013 Spring Clean-Up was a success, with a significant reduction of litter at the community mail boxes. It will soon be time to plan the 2014 Spring Clean-Up, which will require many volunteers.

Going forward, KERA stands firm on its mandate: To protect and preserve our unique and historic

community, the first and oldest estate development in Canada.

We are a dedicated group who feel that involved residents are our best solution to issues that challenge our neighbourhood. We invite you to join KERA and help make a difference. Please contact Vanessa Braganza at vanessabraganza@sympatico.ca for membership.

SAFETY AND SPEEDING PETITION

It has been seven months since Pat DiFiore, Todd English and Vanessa Braganza started the petition for traffic calming and pedestrian safety. The progress has been moving cautiously but positively. For the first time in thirty years traffic calming is becoming a reality for Kingscross Drive. Township will report to Council and residents with a recommendation in the spring of 2014. In the interim, this group will continue to provide information to the residents as it becomes available. Also, while the Township prepares its recommendations, YRP is committed to monitoring our streets well into the New Year. One officer in particular has been quite diligent and has been thanked by many of our residents for his efforts. He is extremely humbled by our appreciation.

As a reminder, any infractions can be reported to the YRP website, which in turn is being relayed to this officer. Thank you for your diligence and commitment in making Traffic Calming on Kingscross Drive a reality.



Arlene Heaps (centre) receiving her Kingscross sign from KERA board members John Hollick & Nina Graham

Next Annual General Meeting

Plans are underway for KERA's Annual General Meeting to be held in April 2014. The meeting will afford residents the opportunity to be updated on all current issues, including discussion of the Official Plan Review. Your KERA Board has submitted general comments on the need to preserve and protect the integrity of Kingscross Estates. The Annual Meeting will also be an opportunity to meet and socialize with friends and neighbours. Please stay tuned for details as they become available.

Community Mail Boxes



Canada Post's announcement this month to eliminate door to door mail delivery and switch to community mail boxes represents an opportunity for KERA to improve the existing community mail boxes in Kingscross. As well as building shelters for the mail boxes, other considerations include the mail boxes themselves (wider boxes to eliminate folding of mail), location of boxes and safety issues accessing the boxes are some of the issues that should be addressed. KERA has initiated discussions with Canada Post to obtain details for constructing shelters. In the meantime, please send us any of your concerns or suggestions regarding mail delivery and how it can be improved.

News from King Council

by John Hollick

Official Plan Review

King has initiated a review of its Official Plan, a process expected to take at least a year, and is seeking input from Council and the public as to revisions that may be required as part of the Review. KERA has submitted an initial response which is summarized as follows:

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 to. 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. Provision must be in the Official Plan to maintain and not allow changes to the zoning of the lands immediately south of Kingscross Estates which is currently zoned as one unit per hectare.
5. For all proposed developments abutting onto Kingscross Estates and Di Nardo Court, provide a transition to the abutting existing

residential development of at least one row of homes with new lot widths the same as the abutting lot widths. Any new homes are to be of the same character as the abutting homes and are to blend in with the surrounding landscape.

6. To maintain the character of the community and the historical significance of Kingscross Estates, no severances are to be allowed in existing subdivisions to include Kingscross Estates.
7. Kingscross will remain on private wells and septic systems and no public services including pipes for same will be allowed within the area. Any developments abutting Kingscross Estates also must not compromise this independence and distinct identity associated with Kingscross Estates. Any potential development surrounding Kingscross must not affect the ground water table and private wells.
8. Enact a bylaw to enshrine these basic Principles and prevent possible future requests for severances or services in Kingscross Estates.

Proposed New Tree Bylaw

We have just learned that King wants to pass a tree bylaw which will control the cutting of trees on all of our properties. Kingscross residents ought to be concerned about this new bylaw as it amounts to more bureaucracy and new fees for homeowners. If passed, prior to cutting a tree, a homeowner will require a permit at a cost of hundreds of dollars. Homeowners will then have to show the tree inspector which tree is to be cut which means taking time during the work day. After it is cut, there could be another inspection. King can also refuse to

allow the trees to be cut if they wish. A draft bylaw was presented at King Council on Monday Dec 16 which is now out for review and comments. King's goal is to pass the bylaw at Feb 24 2014 Council meeting.

Kingscross homeowners, with their large two acre lots are used to dealing with trees as most lots have dozens if not hundreds of trees. As stewards of the land, we must deal with trees on an ongoing basis when they become damaged, diseased or dangerous for whatever reasons. Kingscross residents have done this for half a century without interference. It appears that King wants this bylaw. KERA believes that the large estate lots should be exempt from a bylaw that appears to be written for small city size lots that are now being built in King. KERA will be drafting a position paper on this proposed tree bylaw which will be circulated to KERA members in January. In the meantime, please send your concerns to King Council and copy KERA.

Hunting Bylaw

King has introduced a new bylaw to ban hunting within King City. The current hunting bylaw has too many exceptions and does not allow for right of entry onto private property should shots be heard. King was to have passed this bylaw last month but faced opposition from a number of hunters who oppose the ban and wish to continue hunting in King City. The property immediately south of Kingscross Estates has and continues to have shotgun sounds originating from it. Hunting cannot be allowed in a residential area and residents are urged to send in letters to King Council supporting the new bylaw banning hunting within King City. Council is expected to vote on the issue at a Council meeting on Jan 27, 2014 so all letters must reach King prior to this meeting. Please copy KERA on any submissions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

[You can read the draft by-law here in the Staff Report.](#)



New Website

KERA's current website has been hosted on our former president, Brian Pritchard's corporate website at no cost to KERA. It is now time for KERA to have its own site and that is our next project.

To save costs, the KERA Board elected to proceed with a self-managed Website, potentially saving \$1,000-\$2,000 in design fees. KERA's new website address will be www.kera.ca which hopefully will be online very soon.

Very special thanks to Brian Pritchard for his generosity, dedication, long hours and hard work as KERA's first president. His presence on the Board will be missed.

KERA is currently looking for a volunteer(s) to assist with the setup of the new website. If anyone has experience with creating a new website, please contact Nina Graham at ninag@kingscrossestates.ca as soon as possible. The goal is to have the new site operational by early January.

Please note that there will be new email addresses with the new website starting in early January. The current email contacts for the KERA Board (until Jan 1st) are:

Vanessa Braganza:
vanessabraganza@sympatico.ca

Nina Graham:
ninag@kingscrossestates.ca

John Hollick: jhollick@solarwall.com

Mary Muter: marym@sierraclub.ca

Other Items of Interest

Anyone venturing out into the cold Kingscross nights at nine o'clock in the evening this past week may have had the unforgettable experience of hearing the great horned owl duetting with a potential mate. Both the male and female could be heard on several evenings, preparing themselves for the mating season. The owls usually chose their mates in December.

A Kingscross resident has reported seeing a pair of golden eagles in the tall trees at the back of her property, while another resident

reported that a relative spotted a snowy owl on Jane Street. Numerous yellow bellied sapsucker woodpeckers are back, as well as the red bellied woodpecker along with the usual downy and hairy woodpeckers. Cardinals are in abundance as are finches and nuthatches....all in beautiful Kingscross Estates.

Future KERA Newsletters may feature articles on Homes of Interest in Kingscross, most notably, The Mushroom House, which Arlene Heaps recently brought to KERA's attention through a newspaper article and photo. KERA has contacted the original owner's daughter and her friend to glean some information on this futuristic and bold 1950's house design. Stay tuned!

Contributors to the KERA Newsletter:

Vanessa Braganza, Pat DiFiore, Nina Graham, John Hollick, Mary Muter.

JANE ENTRANCE



Visit our new website
after January 1st at
www.kera.ca