

ASK kicks it up a notch, thanks to Trillium

Taking time to thank the Trillium Foundation for its grant were Mayor Steve Pellegrini, MPP Helena Jaczek, Geoff Simpson and Lisa Gibbs from



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By Mark Pavilons

Just as Arts Society King prepares to present its Studio Tour King 2013, the group is poised to kick it up a notch, thanks to some government funding.

ASK members and politicians gathered Friday at the Postmaster's House in Nobleton to stir some excitement for a season of exceptional artistic endeavors throughout King.

The group was awarded a three-year, \$223,500 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Dr. Helena Jaczek, MPP for Oak Ridges-Markham, was on hand, noting she's attended many ASK events over the years. This grant will allow the organization to do more and she looks forward to visiting the variety of events presented by the society.

Any one of ASK's initiatives provides an occasion to celebrate King Township's heritage and creative traditions and helps support the area's artistic community. This grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation will help expand ASK's youth and music programs and reinforce their significant role within our community, she said.

Lisa Gibbs, a volunteer with the Trillium grant review committee, said this is an ideal time to acknowledge volunteers (during National Volunteer Week), who make communities a better place to live. The ASK application was a special one, and this funding will allow ASK to be the community resource that it needs to be, to benefit the community.

She pointed out Trillium has a \$120 million annual budget to offer to community groups and organizations to give back. And giving back to groups like ASK is what Trillium is all about.

Geoff Simpson, ASK president, acknowledged the board members and he praised each one for their countless hours devoted to the society. This funding will allow ASK to extend its reach and he also praised the relationship and in-kind support from the Township of King and other donors.

ASK is about partnerships to help make things happen, he said, pointing to local partners such as the Museum, library, Cold Creek, Dufferin Marsh, etc. Grateful for the grant, he noted ASK will build upon its successes over the next three years and we'll see where it takes us!

Mayor Steve Pellegrini noted King is rich in its culture, adding it's amazing the talent we have here in King.

He introduced special guest author Heather Robertson, who recently won the inaugural Speaker's Award for her book, *Walking into Wilderness: The Toronto Carrying Place and Nine Mile Portage*.

Robertson, who's president of the King Township Historical Society, noted her book would not have been the success it is without the support of the historical society. She was on hand to sign copies of her book for those in attendance.

This weekend's Studio Tour runs 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 27 and 28 and involves more than two dozen artists at 16 venues across King. Admission is free. Simply pick up the map by calling 905-939-9357 or visiting www.ArtsSocietyKing.ca.