

ASK making 2015 a banner year

By Mark Pavilons

Teri Hastings and the board of King's venerable arts organization is aiming high, promising to make 2015 a banner year.

Hastings took over as executive director of Arts Society King (ASK), which marks its 10th anniversary this year.

Building on the past nine years of excellent work accomplished by a dedicated group of volunteers, Hastings plans to take the group over the top. She's pulling all the pieces together and providing some spit and polish.

To that end, Hastings is quickly becoming ASK's cheerleader, reaching out to local residents and businesses to solicit support.

There are some great plans in store for this anniversary year, and beyond.

ASK just recently added Amy McNeill as the new office coordinator. She's the front-line face to the organization and brings incredible enthusiasm, passion and a strong desire to serve our community of friends, members and volunteers. Amy is a graduate of the University of Toronto, Honours Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and she has worked successfully with the Ontario Science Centre and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in administrative and research capacities. She is a dedicated volunteer and gives much of her spare time to the Pan-Am Games, at-risk youth, her church and helping seniors in her community.

She is on hand at the Museum, Tuesdays to Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please drop by to say hello, email or call Amy at info@ArtsSocietyKing.ca or 905-939-9357.

ASK had humble beginnings in 2005 and is a not-for-profit organization that supports, promotes and celebrates the arts in King Township. Some of their important initiatives include local artist recognition, programming for children, teens and adults, cultural experiences, art exhibits, festivals and events.

ASK has come such a long way and grown into a vibrant, solid organization that is known and respected throughout York Region and beyond. Dedicated volunteers, a committed board of directors and slate of honorary members are credited for continuing ASK's mandate.

Hastings said she will continue to build on the partnerships with other highly respected organizations such as King Township, King Township Museum and King Township Public Library.

She hopes to leverage their voice with the York Region Arts Council and explore new networks and funding options.

The group offers several core events.

This February, ASK will once again host Winter Notes, an evening musical celebration. In April, be sure to attend the annual Studio Tour King, where visitors can shop at artist studios and see one-of-a-kind pieces. In July, celebrate with ASK Festival King, a month-long event that includes workshops and tours. The September Schomberg Street Gallery is a must-attend juried arts and crafts show on the village's main street.

For more, visit ArtsSocietyKing.ca.