

?Diva? headlines song-filled fundraiser for church

By Mark Pavilons

Residents can help maintain a local landmark and enjoy a spring concert this Saturday in Kettleby.

A unique piece of King Township's history stands tall in Kettleby. Built in 1891 under the leadership of Reverend E.W. Sibbald, Christ Church is celebrating its 125th anniversary.

As part of the celebration, the church is hosting a special fundraising event, ?A Springtime Soiree in Kettleby,? on May 28 beginning at 6 p.m. with cocktails, canapes, and cake. The evening features the beautiful voice of Diva in the Rough, Catherine Hughes and includes a live auction at 7 p.m.

Hughes is excited about this latest performance. She's not only a great talent, but a great community booster, often lending her services for various causes in King.

For this soiree, Hughes plans on adding a little bit of French to her song choices, with an underlying ?Moulin Rouge? theme.

For the auction, her father will assume the air of an English auctioneer.

Some of the items up for bid are The Diva For Dinner: a private parlour concert preceded by a four-course dinner for eight; two tickets to the Toronto Blue Jays vs. the New York Yankees, Monday, May 30; watercolour prints of the Village of Kettleby by artist Nancy Brookes; two tickets to Stratford Festival ?A Chorus Line;? Round the Bend Farm & Market ?? a ?Personal Bin,? seasonal fruits and vegetables once weekly for 22 weeks; cut flowers monthly for a year from ?The Floral Studio;? and a framed print ?Companions? by internationally acclaimed artist Helen Lucas.

Built using local field stones in the typical Norman English design with a square bell tower and fine stained glass windows, the church continues to be a vibrant part of the community. Here, the King Township Food Bank finds its home. A summer camp, affordable to all, runs for a week with volunteers organizing activities. And it is here that weddings, funerals and baptisms take place for families in the community.

As well, the church assists with outreach projects; namely Christmas in King and a clean water initiative to the northern community of Pikangikum.

Funds are being raised for the restoration of the beautiful bell tower which has begun to crumble. Work on the tower is being done by J.D. Strachan Construction Limited, specializing in church restoration. While not designated as a Heritage Building, it is on King Township's list of important structures.

Money raised through ?A Springtime Soiree in Kettleby? will assist in the completion of the tower. The bell is the voice in the community and when it rings, it rings for all.

Christ Church is located at 292 Kettleby Road. Tickets are \$35 and may be purchased at the door or by calling 905-836-4618 or 905-939-8801. Come join us!