

King's Sustainability Plan and its implementation



Welcome to the first edition of a new feature, Sustainable King.

As you may recall, King Township approved its Community Sustainability Plan last spring and has created the Sustainability Advisory Committee to assist with the Plan's implementation.

Sustainable King will be a regular feature to bring residents and business owners up to date with the progress King is making as it implements its Community Sustainability Plan. This will include decisions council makes, what staff is accomplishing as well as what various community groups are doing. Comments and suggestions are always welcome.

The purpose of the plan is to provide concrete actions that King can take to make our 'community of communities' a better place now and into the future.

The purpose of the Sustainability Advisory Committee is to advise council on implementing the plan and to facilitate the community's involvement. This includes providing grants to community groups that propose plans, projects, actions and initiatives that further the vision, goals, strategies and actions identified in the plan.

The Sustainability Advisory Committee is pleased to announce that the first Sustainable King grant has been awarded to the Schomberg Farmers' Market. The directional signs that will be purchased using the grant will also be used by the Farmers' Market in King City at All Saints Anglican Church on opposite summer weekends. Such partnerships are so important.

We in King are very fortunate that we already have quality socio-cultural, economic and environmental features that make up three of King's four main pillars of sustainability. These are the areas for which both the community and the township have responsibility for implementing. The fourth sustainability pillar concerns financial responsibility and council is achieving this with its award-winning and balanced Township budget.

You may well ask just what good implementing the Sustainability Plan will do for you and King. What difference can it possibly make?

Consider the following: Are we all making the most responsible decisions we can? We want thriving businesses in our communities, but do we always make the effort to shop locally and help them to succeed? How many commuters are changing their routine and riding the new bus service to the GO station? How much has your household reduced its waste? Do your children walk or bike to school or do you drive them everywhere? Do you conserve electricity and water? Do you volunteer for any of your children's sports teams or other community groups?

Think of all the dedicated volunteers who organize so many great community events. For example, will you support their efforts by participating in or volunteering in any of the workshops, tours, Family Nature Days or other events of Arts Society King's Summer Festival? Or the upcoming King City Festival and the Schomberg Village Street Gallery? We sincerely thank all those involved with the Nobleton Victoria Day and Schomberg Fair for all their hard work, well done! If no one participates in or volunteers for so many such events, then King will simply not be the King we all love!

Implementing the plan will ensure that we do use our resources responsibly, that we do reduce our emissions and waste and that we do conserve water and energy. It will ensure that 50 years from now King will still have thriving villages and hamlets, successful agricultural lands, verdant countryside and vibrant employment areas. Our seniors will be properly supported and our children will go to great schools and have many activities from which to choose. Our libraries and faith communities will be strong and our heritage properties respected as the treasures that they are. The festivals, arts and sports we all love will continue to enrich our lives. No one can predict the future. But by implementing the hundreds of ideas that King residents contributed to the plan, we can all

make the changes necessary to make King more sustainable now and keep it that way well into the future.

Stay tuned for the next edition when we will share some of the many Sustainable King initiatives that the Township, community and Sustainability Advisory Committee have undertaken.

Your Sustainability Challenge: Shop Locally!