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FREE Thursday, December 17, 2015 Volume 42, Issue 51

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Residents want high-risk offender out of town

By Jake Courtepatte

Area residents came out in droves Sunday afternoon to discuss the community's controversial new member.

Most were looking for answers as to how to drive Keith Theodore Constantin, 35, out of town. The high-risk offender was placed last week in a rural facility outside the town of Schomberg.

York Regional Police, the Ministry of Correctional Services, and King council members fielded dozens of questions in an attempt to put to ease the minds of the around 300 residents who packed the hall.

"I don't want to be here, and you don't want to be here," said Mayor Steve Pellegrini. "But this is something that needs to be discussed openly as a community."

Constantin was released following a four-year jail term for sexual assault with a weapon, and an 18-month term for violating his curfew conditions. His rap sheet includes sexually assaulting a seven-year old boy, sexually assaulting a 45-year-old blind woman, robbing two variety stores with a starter pistol, and raping and beating a woman at knife-point.

One resident claimed that her children have suffered anxiety due to the situation, a claim that was met with clapping from around the room.

"It is not fair to the children of this community to have to worry about this. People move to Schomberg because it is a safe, small community, a good place for their children to grow up in."



Linda Beaudoin holds a sign she brought to Sunday's public meeting to discuss the new location near Schomberg of convicted sex offender Keith Constantin. King Mayor Steve Pellegrini fields a question from an area resident (inset).
Photos by Jake Courtepatte

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Kingscross undergoing big change.
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COUNCIL MEETINGS

MUNICIPAL OFFICE, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Municipal Office, Council Chambers, 2075 King Road

Monday, January 11, 2016

6:00 pm – Council/Committee of the Whole

Monday, January 25, 2016

6:00 pm – Council/Committee of the Whole

• Consideration of 2016 Budgets & Business Plans for Adoption

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **Development Coordinator (contract)**
- **Taxation & Assessment Analyst (closes December 21, 2015)**

Please visit the Township website at www.king.ca for employment opportunities.

COMPETITIVE BIDS

Please visit the Township website at www.king.ca for competitive bidding opportunities.

PUBLIC NOTICES

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE

Township of King Municipal Offices will be closed for the holiday season as of 4:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, December 23rd**, and will re-open for regular business hours at 8:30 a.m. on **Monday, January 4th, 2016**.

FOR URGENT TOWNSHIP MATTERS Please call (905) 833-5321 and the Township answering service will contact the appropriate personnel.

NOTICE - UPCOMING MEETINGS

2016 BUDGETS & BUSINESS PLAN

Council Chambers at 2075 King Road, King City, ON

RE: Consideration of By-law for Adoption: 2016 Budgets & Business Plan

Monday, January 25, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

The Township of King adoption of the 2016 Budgets & Business Plan, will be considered at the January 25, 2016 Council Meeting. Interested parties are invited to attend. Budget information will be available for review at the Township of King Municipal Offices at 2075 King Road or on the Township web-site at www.king.ca as of Thursday, January 21, 2016.

For further information regarding the Budget process please visit the Township's website at www.king.ca or contact:

Allan Evelyn, Director of Finance and Treasurer, aevelyn@king.ca
Jeff Parks, Manager of Budgets and Accounting, jparks@king.ca

Telephone: 905-833-5321 or 1-800-688-5013, Fax: 905-833-2300

(Note: If necessary, Committee of the Whole may retire into Closed Session to discuss Personnel Matters)

Kathryn Smyth
Director of Clerks/By-law Enforcement
Township Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICES



Season's Greetings

On behalf of Mayor Steve Pellegrini and Members of Council, we wish all of our residents and their families warm wishes for this Holiday Season.

May it bring happiness, peace and prosperity for the year ahead.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Mayor Steve Pellegrini and Members of Council cordially invite all residents to

The Township of King's Annual

Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, January 16th 2016

9:00 am to 11:00am

Trisan Centre
25 Dillane Dr, Schomberg

Join us for a Free Skate with Mayor Pellegrini from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

REMINDERS

Winter Break Camp (December 21-24 & December 28-31)

Join us for fun and games this winter break. Spend a day doing crafts, playing games, daily ice skating and outdoor fun (weather permitting). Winter Break Camp will be located at Nobleton Arena between 9am-4pm at a cost of \$31.00 per day. Morning Extended Care (7:00am-9am) and Afternoon Extended Care (4:00pm-6:00pm) is available at a cost of \$3.50 per extended care. Please note Afternoon Extended Care will not be offered on December 24th & 31st. For more information or to register contact Kenzie Van Wagner at 905-833-5321 ext. 5237, or email kvanwagner@king.ca.



Christmas Tree Pickup and Holiday Waste Collection Schedule

Christmas trees will be picked up on Monday, January 11th, 2016 only. Please remove all decorations, nails, tree stands and plastic tree bags. Crews will not dig out a tree or climb a snow bank to retrieve one, and trees over 6 feet in height must be cut in pieces.

Please note that waste collection scheduled for Friday, December 25th (Christmas Day) will be picked up one day later on Saturday, December 26th, and Friday, January 1st (New Year's Day) will be picked up on Saturday, January 2nd.

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

Holiday Cooking:

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of household fires in Ontario. Remember to watch what you heat this holiday season.

Lights and Electronics:

Examine lights, electric decorations and extension cords for signs of wear and tear. Replace damaged electrical products with new ones. When purchasing electrical products, make sure they bear the mark of an accredited certification agency. Watch that children don't put electrical decorations and cords in their mouth. Keep an eye on pets to make sure they don't chew cords. Use lights in proper locations (i.e. only use indoor lights inside). Never remove the third-prong or grounding pin. Before going to bed or leaving the house, turn off/unplug all holiday lights and electrical decorations.

Candles:

Never leave a burning candle unattended. Make sure candles are in a solid base and placed a safe distance from combustible materials such as curtains and holiday decorations. Flameless candles are a safer choice.



Waste Collection Calendar 2016

Look for your 2016 Waste Collection Calendar in the mail the week of December 14th!

Watch for your 2016 Directory to arrive at your door in the King Weekly Sentinel, just in time to shop local for the holidays.

Printed copies available at:

- Township office @ 2075 King Rd.
- King Heritage and Culture Centre @ 2920 King Rd.
- King's Library Branches
- Trisan Centre, King City Arena, Dr. William Lacey, Nobleton Arena

Please recycle this holiday season!



High-risk offender is being monitored 24/7

From Front Page

According to Det. Arnold of the YRP, the facility is "highly-secured" to keep Constantin contained.

"The house is alarmed. He can't go out of the house, he can't even open a window without an alarm going off.

"We will be conducting ongoing visits to the premise, talking with the case-workers, making sure they know they can be in touch with us at any time. If they have any concerns, or there's any changes in behavior, they know to contact us."

The government-funded facility will be monitored at all times by three caseworkers, though some residents expressed concerns that they will remain unarmed.

David Mitchell, regional director of the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, said the staff are "very well-trained to handle the situation."

"Nobody wants anything to happen.

This is what they specialize in, managing these offenders. They have protocols in place, somebody is within five to 10 feet of him at all times. There are no staff sleeping when he's sleeping. When he's sleeping the staff is awake. They will have him monitored 24/7. This isn't their first time."

There are currently 320 registered offenders living within York Region.

Others were concerned that Constantin will not be fitted with an ankle bracelet.

"At the time, there are no provisions from the York Regional Police to put an ankle bracelet on him," said Arnold. "That is something that may come up through probation and parole, if they deem it necessary, but at this point there is no chance he's even leaving the residence.

"Any exposure he would have to the community has to be approved through us and the probation office, prior to him actually leaving the residence. It would be a 24-hour notification to us and the

probation office before he would even been allowed to go and we have to approve that in advance."

He is currently bound by three court orders including one under section 810.2 of the Criminal Code. He must abide by strict conditions including: not to be alone with anyone under the age of 16 unless the minor is accompanied by a responsible adult over 18; not to be present in any day care, swimming area and/or public swimming area, school ground or playground where one might reasonably expect children to be present or any community centre where children are present; abstain absolutely from the possession, purchase or consumption of drugs, narcotics, controlled substances or marijuana, except in accordance with a medical prescription; abstain absolutely from possession, purchase or consumption of alcohol or alcohol-based products.

Exposure to the community, however, is unpreventable when Constantin's probation period ends in 2018, with one attendee yelling "garbage!" when this was announced to the room.

"If somebody is successful through their probation, that the courts have determined they have finished their sentence and there are no other issues, then that is not up to us," said Arnold.

Many were left wondering, why was King Township chosen? Since his release, Constantin has moved between group homes in Hamilton, Stoney Creek, and now Schomberg.

"The entire council of King Township is here," Pellegrini told the crowd. "We will continue to engage with the community and work on this. We'll bring it up at council.

"We had no choice. We found out (last Wednesday), I was with the chief Thursday morning and asking 'how can this happen? There's a community in uproar about this, what can we do?'"

He told the attendees they can write to their MP and MPP on the matter, as it is beyond a municipal issue.

"As a community, we send in a lot of these, our voice is heard. I recommend strongly that you write your MPP and MP."

Firefighters' turkey shoot raises \$2,500 for charities

The King City Firefighters recently held their annual turkey shoot to raise funds for the charities that they support. It was a success, raising roughly \$2,500.

The firefighters would like to extend their thanks to all residents who supported this fundraiser.

"It is a real treat for our firefighters to meet residents especially when there is not an emergency at their residence or place of business," said Gerry Binsfeld.

They also thanked their sponsors, especially Precision Arms, who support them with shotgun shells for this event.

King 7-Day Weather Outlook

From Thursday, December 17 to December 23

THURS 17TH	FRI 18TH	SAT 19TH	SUN 20TH	MON 21ST	TUES 22ND	WED 23RD
Chance of Shower High 8°C Low -1°C Rain <1mm Wind W 25k	Sun/Clouds High 1°C Low -5°C Snow <1cm Wind W 25k	A Few Flurries High -2°C Low -3°C Snow <1cm Wind W 30k	Sun/Clouds High 1°C Low 0°C Snow <1cm Wind W 25k	Mixed Precip. High 5°C Low 4°C Rain 5-10mm Wind SW 25k	Mainly Cloudy High 7°C Low 3°C Rain ~1mm Wind SW 20k	Light Rain High 11°C Low 7°C

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<p>KLEINBURG, CUSTOM BUILT HOME, 7.5 ACRES, POOL, \$2,195,900</p> <p>Custom built estate on 7.5 acres just mins. to Kleinburg & over 5000 sf of finished luxury! Spectacular setting with long winding drive, beautiful pond & distant views! Stunning home has hdwd flring, beautiful kit w/centre island, granite tops & s/s appls, huge great rm w/25' cathedral ceiling, 3 gas FPs, lrg windows, main floor office, open concept layout, prof finished lower level with multiple w/o's & rfr for kitchenbar.</p>	<p>RURAL KLEINBURG!! 158 X 171 FT LOT!! ONLY \$799,900</p> <p>Wonderful Rural Property On Lrg Lot Only Mins From Kleinburg, Nobleton, Or The Heart Of Woodbridge!! Country Setting Amongst Estate Farms, With Spectacular Views In Every Direction - A Must See! Solid Older Home Can Be Remodeled Or Build A Dream Home In This Superb Location. Older Barn At Rear, 2 Car Grg, Swimming Pool, Fully Fenced, Priced To Sell, Great Value Here!</p>	<p>KING 10 ACRES, ESTATE HOME, EQUESTRIAN PROPERTY! NOW \$1,500,000</p> <p>Custom Built Estate Home On Approx 3750 Sq.Ft. (As Per Mpac) On Almost 10 Acres!! 4 Bedrooms With Fully Finished Walk-Out Lower Level, Large Windows, Hardwood Floors, Eat-In Kitchen With Granite Tops & Stainless Steel Appliances, Huge Sunken Family Room, Main Floor Laundry + Den, Beautiful Rock Waterfall & Patio Area, Stunning Pool, Equestrian Ready With 10 Paddocks & Run-In Shelters. Superb Area Of King!!!</p>	<p>TORONTO, NEW 1+1 BEDROOM CONDO \$319,900!!</p> <p>Attention All First Time Buyers Or Investors!! Brand New Treviso Condo In The Heart Of The City!! Tremendous Value For This Unit Of Approx 567 Sq Ft, Featuring 9 Ft Ceilings, Designer Finishes/Upgrades, Granite Tops, Stainless Steel Appliances, Walk-Out To Balcony With Views Of The City & More!!</p>
<p>WOW! VAUGHAN CONDO ONLY \$278,500</p> <p>Wow!!! Best Value in Vaughan! Attention All Investors / Users!! Beautiful Unit of Approx. 900 sq. ft. that has been Totally Renovated! New Flooring, New Kitchen, New Baths, 9 Ft. Ceilings, Open Concept Layout, New Appliances, Breakfast Bar, Living Room Has Walk-Out to Balcony, Master Has His/Her's Closet & 4 pc. Ensuite, 1 Parking Spot, Walking Distance to All Amenities. Will Not Last!</p>	<p>SCHOMBERG BUNGALOW ON 100' X 120' LOT! \$529,900!</p> <p>Beautiful 3 Bedroom Bungalow Close To Schomberg & Renovated! Stunning Kitchen With Granite Tops, Centre Island, Top Of The Line Stainless Appliances & Hardwood Flooring! Open Concept Living & Dining, Cozy Sunroom/Breezeway With Gas Stove & Walk-Out To Deck & Pool! New Driveway, Updated Shingles, Windows & Mechanicals, Oversized 2-Car Garage, Professionally Finished Basement & More!!</p>	<p>NOBLETON COMMERCIAL FOR LEASE!! \$2,500/MTH</p> <p>Outstanding Retail/Office Space In New Complex With Exposure To Hwy 27 In The Heart Of Nobleton!!! This Unit Is Right In The Core Of Town & Features High Ceilings, Floor To Ceiling Windows, Corner Exposure & Suits Many Commercial Uses. Prof Offices, Retail, Art Studio, Fitness Service Shop, Spa, Hair & More!! Great Value For This Super Package!!!</p>	<p>SCHOMBERG APPROX. 24 ACRES!! VIEWS FOR MILES! \$999,000</p> <p>** 24.29 Acres In Growing Schomberg! ** Prime Property To Build A Home, Barn Or Farm And Wait For Future Potential Development! ** Great Location And Easy Access To Highways 27, 9 & 400 ** Irregular Lot With 259.85 Ft Frontage By Approx 3265 Ft Deep ** Great Buy And Hold!!! **</p>

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~ Frank B. Kellogg

We can make it feel a lot like Christmas

The lack of snow in these parts has somewhat put a damper on the holidays.

There are several reasons that it's not beginning to look a lot like Christmas. From Syrian refugees, a battle over a severance, and word of a dangerous offender in the area, many may not be spreading joy just yet.

I'll admit it, until very recently, I was not in the holiday spirit one iota. The females in my life – my wife and two daughters – got a head start on their shopping and twisted my arm to get the tree, decorations and lights up early. The tree and outdoor lights have certainly added some colour to the season, but the dreary, spring-like dampness has not helped.

The weather will change and maybe we will see some of the white stuff by Christmas. Many people you talk to would love snow for a week or so around the holidays, and then Mother Nature can get back to spring-like conditions, bypassing the harsh Canadian winter.

I remember a winter a few years back where that happened. Neighbours were in shorts, manning the BBQ the second week of January.

While I am one of the few males who enjoys malls and shopping, I just hav-



Mark Pavilons

en't been in the buying mood this year. My wife and I have been married 20 years and there are few surprises, albeit Kim always manages to pull a rabbit out of her hat every year. I simply paid for her purchases at a Coach outlet store. I admit it's not very thoughtful, but there

won't be any returns on Boxing Day this year!

People put themselves under a lot of pressure to please their spouses, partners, friends and family members. My daughter was disappointed that her gift for her boyfriend didn't hit the mark. In steps dad offering to buy it from her. What's a dad to do?

I have found the past few months to be unusually busy this year. This community is a hive of activity and there's been no shortage of news and feature stories to cover in King.

With two of my kids in high school, it's been a crazy fall semester, highlighted by opening my wallet on a weekly basis for this trip, that excursion, a football banquet, tickets to a play ...

My teenage boy is in a bit of a pickle. At 14, he's at that age where the world is staring him in the face, yet still confounds him. He's trying to make sense of it all. Join the club, my son. You are not a Jedi yet, but with the proper training, you may be equipped to take on the dark forces in this world.

For me, Christmas in our house rests in the sparkling eyes of the aforementioned females in my life.

My oldest has a plate filled with activities, volunteering, upcoming mission trips, homework, school assignments and a part-time job. Funny, I don't remember my life being that hectic at 17. But again, our biggest worries were borrowing dad's car so we could go to the movies.

But she has this glow, a determined and positive outlook that permeates her very being. This aura of hers gets even brighter during the holidays. It likely has to do with her giving nature and firm belief that we can all help change the world. She gives me hope.

My youngest is ball of energy. At 10, she thinks she has it all figured out and

has gotten the misguided impression that she's in charge. Kids today! But she is a kid and this time of year brings out the kid in all of us.

Her enthusiasm and joy awaiting the big day is almost contagious. When she tears through the wrapping paper on Christmas, her eyes will be as big as saucers and her squeals will fill the air. Those are the moments parents embrace.

My wife Kim has one of the biggest hearts of anyone I have known. She works her butt off to make sure the decor, atmosphere and kitchen are bursting with holiday cheer. She spoils her children. She says that's how it should be.

She's right, you know.

She has also hinted that she bought me some really impressive, two-part gift that took a lot of effort. I will endeavour to appear thrilled to pieces on the big day!

I am looking forward to some needed time off (I didn't take any summer holidays this year). I vow to plow my way through the feasts that present themselves. I will be one with the sofa and whatever TV series marathons pop up.

I will take a few moments to look deep into the eyes of all who gather, and pause, reflect and take comfort in the fact we're all together and relatively healthy. I will offer up a few extra hugs.

The spirit of the holidays is not neatly wrapped under the tree. It's a feeling in our hearts and deep within our souls.

It's perhaps the only time of year when we can put aside the frustrations, financial woes and stresses of the world and just hide away for a few days.

As I prepare to pause, I would like to extend my personal best wishes to all who know me and have touched my life. That includes you, dear readers.

All the best!

Letter to the Editor

Thanks extended by MS car show organizers

As we reflect back on the events of the past year, it is the opportune time to give thanks for all that we have, and all who have touched our lives.

As chair of the "Let's Rock and Roll MS Away" committee, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude for your all those involved with the 2nd annual Rock n' Roll Classic Car Show and Family Fun Day on Father's Day 2015. The event far exceeded expectations, with over 1,700 participants partaking in the fun-filled '50s themed afternoon.

Guests feasted on a delicious BBQ; pizza cooked in a wood burning oven; homemade Italian cannoli; treats from the ice cream truck, and freshly squeezed lemonade. Guests also enjoyed the Birds of Prey show, as well as being mesmerized by "Silver Elvis." They admired and took photos of their favourite classic and muscle cars – there were over 150. The main stage featured the showcasing of some local home-grown talent, and headliner Bruno Nesci entertained us with his spectacular "Elvis" show.

Much of the success of the day is credited to our over 150 remarkable volunteers who assisted in ensuring everything ran smoothly. I thank each and every one of them for taking time out their busy lives to make a difference in the lives of others. Thank you.

The goal of holding the annual Rock n' Roll Classic Car Show and Family Fun Day is to promote awareness and to raise much needed funds to help those living with MS in York Region. This year we achieved both! All who attended the event are now a little more knowledgeable about MS and its effect on those inflicted with the disease. Not only were we successful in creating awareness, but we raised \$20,795 throughout the event, even with the threat of rain! From the monies raised, donations were made to the York South MS Chapter – Client support services, assisting those who suffer from MS directly, and MS Research, to help to find a cure.

A big thank you to Schomberg Foodland and to all our generous sponsors for their support and generosity. We could not have done it with them!

My sincerest best wishes for the holidays. May the new year bring prosperity and good health to all.

Please mark Father's Day, June 19, 2016 in your calendar for the 3rd annual Rock n' Roll Classic Car Show and Family Fun Day.

Merry Christmas!

Monia Isgro
Chair

Let's Rock n' Roll MS Away Committee



Brainteaser



What bet can never be won?

Last week's answer: A horse never takes off its shoes!

King Township Trivia

In 1962 a new Presbyterian manse was built on Elizabeth Grove in King City.

KingWeeklySentinel **WEBPOLL**
www.kingweekly.com

Results from last week's poll:
Do you believe in stricter gun control laws?

a) Yes **85%**

b) No **15%**

The results of this poll are in no way considered to be valid or infallible.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Are you concerned that a dangerous offender is living in the area?

a) Yes

b) No

So go to the website and cast a vote!

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Resident forms 'Coyote Watch King Township'

By Shelagh Usher

I write this letter in hopes that other pets won't suffer the same outcome as did our much-loved dog. I write so readers might learn and take heed from the devastating loss our family has experienced.

Recently, a pair of Eastern Coyotes (aka Coywolves) jumped into our fenced yard and killed Monty, our two-year-old Terrier/Whippet mix. Our fence is 5' high. This happened mid-week at 2:30 in the afternoon. Monty was alone and unmonitored for less than 10 minutes. Despite mourning Monty's horri-

fic death, I began to wonder how many other dogs and cats have been killed by this hybrid species (called "canids") in recent years? Have domestic animals become part of the Coywolf's diet? Can the Coywolf survive in this region without pets and livestock kills?

Coyote Watch King Township is the name of a Facebook Group I've started in order to share and gather information from others who, like us, live amongst this growing and increasingly brazen hybrid coyote/wolf/dog.

This is some of what I've learned so far:

- The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) takes no reports of incidents involving domestic animals. They consider coyotes and the counterparts "pests." They suggested I call my local animal control. I was given a link to their article: "Preventing and managing conflicts with coyotes, wolves and foxes." They also gave me the name of 3 trappers.

- Trapping in a sub division? Not a good idea, according to the trappers. Besides, is trapping the humane way to deal with this?

- Animal Control said much the same. They also don't deal with these predators and suggested I call the Township of King and get a permit to hunt them.

- Due to the size of my property, King Township could not issue me a permit. They do not keep track of domestic animal killings in their jurisdiction. They suggested I call the York Region Police (YRP) to make an incident report.

YRP told me this was an MNR problem.

From my point of view, this is beginning to look like a problem that won't go away. In fact, despite the lack of

recorded information by regional or provincial agencies, there are enough media reports to suggest the number of domestic kills by canids is increasing, as are the numbers of coywolves living among us.

Times are definitely changing where I live, in King. I see this, however, as a case of balancing our cohabitation with wildlife throughout York Region and throughout Ontario!

In order to find out if there is a growing problem of domestic animal kills by area wildlife, we need to have statistical information. I believe that it is time that more attention is given to this issue. Studies should be done and municipalities, townships and/or the Ministry of Natural Resources should be accountable for doing them.

What can you do?

- Read the article from the MNR linked above. Educate yourself and be vigilant in following the suggestions they offer.

- Contact and ask your elected officials municipal and/or provincial levels why no agency among them is taking incident reports or tracking the number of domestic kills by wildlife where you live.

- Join Coyote Watch King Township. Add your voice, ideas, sightings.

I believe responsible pet owners ought to be able to feel their dogs are safe when exercised in our neighbourhoods or on the trail systems that attracted us to live here. I certainly believed my dog was protected in my 5' high fenced back yard.

I can't express how devastating his loss, and the way he died, is for my family and me. "Forewarned is forearmed."

King for Refugees

A sign of hope in King Township

By George Elliot

As the first 11 government sponsored refugees arrived at Pearson airport destined for a new home in Milton, the King for Refugees group held its second public meeting at the King City Library on Dec. 9. Sixty-two community members and leaders filled the room to capacity. The King for Refugees Planning Committee were there to welcome everyone and outline the evening's agenda.

The primary purpose was to put together six working teams who will facilitate the welcome and integration of Syrian refugee families in King Township. In addition, we heard from two speakers, Debbie McGrath, from HR.com, and Dr. Aslam Daud, the volunteer Director of Humanity First. Ms. McGrath explained that the website securely shares info, takes donations and issues tax receipts. Dr. Daud outlined the process for sponsoring refugee families and provided important insights from his work.

"Humanity First" in Vaughan is a Sponsorship Agreement Holder with years of experience in guiding sponsorship groups like ours.

Five of the six working teams are now hard at work: Welcome and Support; Donations and Fund Raising; Administration; Special and Communications. We are off to a tremendous start and it is very encouraging to see the number of people who are volunteering. The only exception is the Accommodations Team, for which we still have no volunteers. In fact accommodation is our limiting factor at this point, as we need to find reasonable accommodation in the King City area. Without accommodation, nothing can move forward. If you have any leads, please be in touch with us.

A lively Q & A session filled the latter part of the meeting. What is our time frame? Once accommodation is secured it could be a matter of two or three months. Will there be single individuals coming? Yes, there is a long list of potential individuals that can be sponsored privately.

How will the five Welcome Centres in York Region, which are sponsored by our federal government, assist us in the process? They have assisted over 68,000 refugees in the Region with paperwork, ESL training, counseling and support. How much does it cost to sponsor a family? For a family of four the government requires that the sponsoring group has \$28,000. The sponsor is responsible for the family's needs for a maximum of one year.

What can you do to help? Do you know of a space for rent that has at least a separate entrance, kitchen, bathroom, and living space? We will soon be requesting donations of clothing, furniture and household items. We have temporary space in the old Holy Name School, thanks to King Township. You will soon be able to make a financial donation, too (tax receipts will be provided). Information will be in the local papers. There will also be a link for online donations. Contact us at king4refugees@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer on one of our teams. Come out to our next meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 6 at the King City Seniors' Centre on Fisher Street at 7 p.m.

We can together make a positive difference in the lives of those who we hope to sponsor. Thanks to everyone who joined us on the 9th. You give us hope.

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The word around King

Do you believe we need tougher gun control laws?

Marie Hartwell-Simons

“Not us, but the United States.”

Julie Tompkins

“No.”

Elise Hardwick

“Not really.”

Madlyn Coombs

“Yes.”

King City students earn gold from the Royal Conservatory

Two King City musicians have a lot to be proud of.

The Royal Conservatory congratulated Aimee Li, 11, and Martin Ratchis, 16, who won gold medals for scoring the top mark in Ontario and on the Level 5 Violin and Level 2 Percussion exams, respectively. They received the award Nov. 22 at a public ceremony in Toronto at The Royal Conservatory's Koerner Hall.

Aimee is taught by Wendy Seravalle-Smith, who is based out of Thornhill, and Martin studies at Tisho's Music Academy in Bolton.

Regional gold medals are awarded each academic year to Conservatory examination candidates in Preparatory A and B and Grades 1 to 10 who achieve the highest mark in their respective province or designated region. Eligible candidates must score at least 80% on their practical examination and must have completed the co-requisite theory examinations for their respective grade and discipline. Gold Medal ceremonies

are held annually in cities across Canada, often in conjunction with convocation ceremonies, to recognize students achievements and acknowledge the contributions of their teachers.

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King Mayor Steve Pellegrini (left) and Councillor Bill Cober congratulated Mary Duggan on her 90th birthday celebration recently.

Long-time Main Street resident Duggan celebrates 90th birthday

By Jake Courtepatte

Friends, family, and well-wishers gathered at Schomberg Community Hall to honour one of Schomberg's longest mainstays for her 90th birthday.

Mary Duggan, long a resident of historic Main Street, was the guest of honour.

"Well Mary, you sure know how to fill a room," said Councillor Bill Cober.

"It's quite something when we're celebrating such a milestone, not only in an individual, but somebody who creates community," said King Mayor Steve Pellegrini.

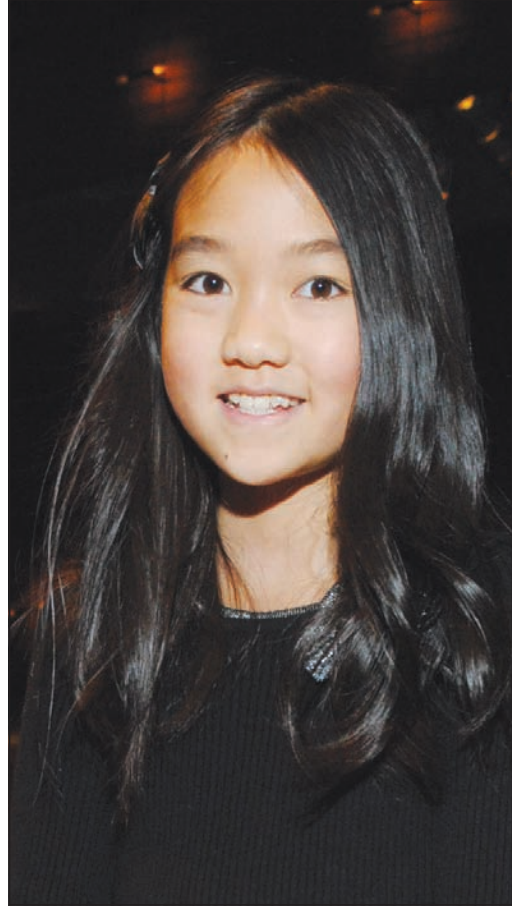
He recalled that the last time he spoke to Mary was at the town's agricultural fair, shortly after she had completed the SkyWalk at Toronto's CN Tower.

"She was 87. I don't think I would be doing it at my age."

Mary was very happy to be surrounded by family and friends.

"Everybody here has been so great to me. I'm so happy that I got to this age, and you all mean so much to me."

She was presented with a number of certificates to mark her significant anniversary, including acknowledgements from King-Vaughan MP Deb Schulte, Oak Ridges-Markham MPP Helena Jaczek, Governor General David Johnston, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario Elizabeth Dowdeswell, and Premier Kathleen Wynne.



Aimee Li and Martin Ratchis both achieved top marks and received gold medals from The Royal Conservatory recently.

Submitted Photos



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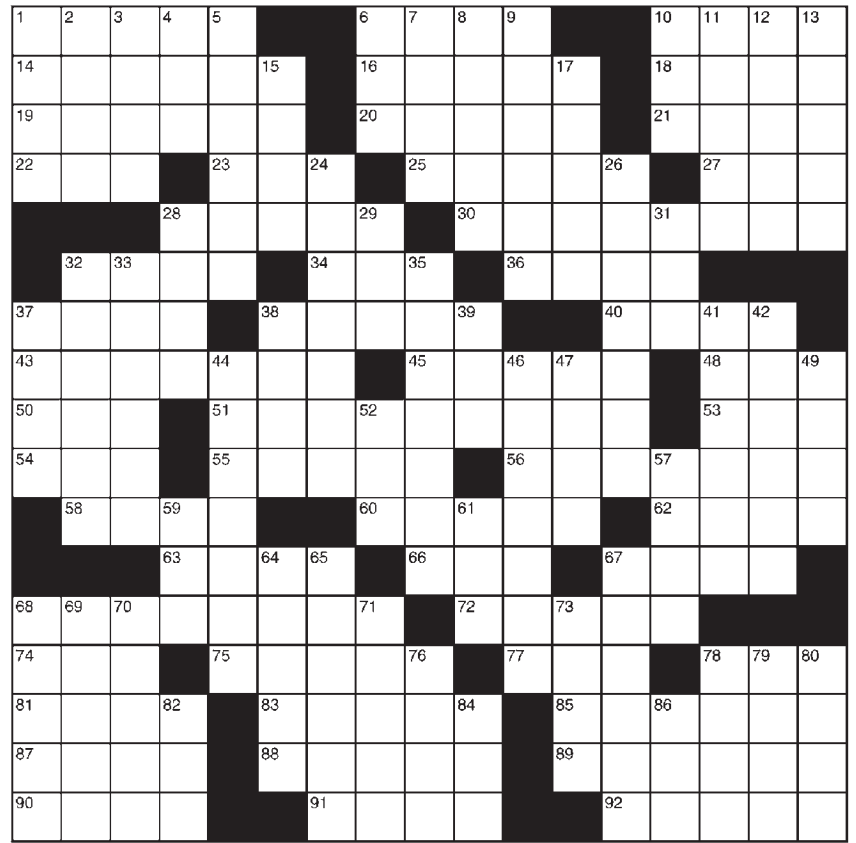
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ACROSS

- Group of students
- Relinquish
- Dangle
- Pleasure boats
- Met offering
- Steel component
- Toughen
- Copier necessity
- Bubbly beverage
- Maiden-named
- Slicker
- Tendon
- Tarnish
- Leave the army
- Wool protector
- Look through
- Playful bite
- Small river dam
- Dispute
- Summer ermine
- Japanese rice wine
- Bullfight assistant
- Drink to
- Night before
- Mil. unit
- Passionate
- Piece of advice
- "___ Light Up My Life"

- Jellied food
- Buttercup's kin
- Romanov title
- Foot-leg joint
- Fairy-tale start
- Fill the hull
- Whirligig, e.g.
- Jerky joint
- Juvenile
- Author Walton
- Hurried
- Computer command
- Type of silkworm
- Pick
- Calla lily, e.g.
- Certain fisherman
- Chemical compound
- Shriveled
- Transmit
- Plan
- Merganser's kin
- Second helping
- Wretched

DOWN

- Greenish blue
- Rural road
- Dermal disorder
- Pronoun
- Pollen-bearing organ

- Barracks item
- Heroic verse
- Jeans fabric
- Before, before
- That man's
- Scent
- Having a central point
- Distort
- Shutthard
- Alpine ridge
- Enemy of K.A.O.S.
- Train sound
- Information
- Life story, for short
- Undies item
- Water cooler part
- Spiny ucculent
- Dentist's customer
- Peppy
- Unspecified amount
- In addition
- Organic compound
- Make clear
- Abase
- Examine carefully
- Reasonable
- Saber's kin
- Chinese beverage
- Friar

- Full amount
- Colorful carp
- Beanery
- Value
- Austrian emperor
- Vulgar
- Muslim palace area
- Familiarize
- Howdy!
- Hot and dry
- Aft
- Eliminate
- Annoying thing
- It beats a deuce
- Common gull
- Pumpnickel ingredient
- Future chicks

Solution on page 19

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Severance bid in Kingscross causes community 'rift'

By Mark Pavilons

Seldom has the creation of a new lot in King Township caused such controversy.

A severance application in the exclusive community of Kingscross has done just that. A packed council chambers saw dozens of residents speak both in favour and against a plan to create a new lot on Snowberry Lane. The somewhat quiet cul-de-sac seems to be anything but, as residents offered their passionate opinions into this plan, and the character of one of the province's unique estate subdivisions.

After the lengthy public meeting, one thing remained clear – residents in this area love their community.

The bid to establish a fourth lot on Snowberry has caused a division among residents – a first for this neighbourhood.

Mayor Steve Pellegrini made it clear at the outset of the meeting it was merely to gather information and public input, so staff can create their report and recommendations, which will be presented to council at a later date. Given the heated nature of the application, he did ask for a cordial discussion.

Stephen Kitchen, King's planning director, noted the proposal is to adjust the boundaries between adjacent 22 and 32 Snowberry Lane and create a new lot of 1.7 acres with a frontage of 147.2 feet. The plan is to demolish the existing house on 32 Snowberry and build new

houses on the retained lands and the new lot.

These are designated Estate Residential 1 in the zoning bylaw and King City Community Plan. The applicants, Ellen and Tara McCarthy, are seeking approval to create the lot and reduce the lot area requirement. The ER1 designation notes lots have to be a minimum of two acres.

Kingscross Estates consists of some 175 large estate lots created by seven registered plans, from 1956 through 1977.

Snowberry Lane is a cul-de-sac situated at the west end of the community, 280 metres east of Jane. The properties at 22 and 32 are currently 2.5 and 2.59 acres respectively.

Staff and some agencies have provided preliminary comments and Kitchen said there have been no major objections. Staff is still reviewing the application, as well as the justification report.

The Township has received numerous submissions and written comments. He noted the main concerns centre around adequacy of local wells, impact to wetlands and lot size.

Tara McCarthy, who lives at 32 Snowberry, said they're working with the Township and they firmly believe the new lot is in character with the community. If they're granted the severance, they still have to go through the rigorous site plan stage.

She doesn't believe this change will set a precedent and is, in fact, in line with previously approved lots. Some 45 lots in Kingscross are less than two acres in size.

They're working to meet all the requirements of various agencies, including York Region, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and have provided natural heritage and hydrogeological reports. They've done a careful, extensive study and gathered 60 letters of support from neighbours.

Homeowners show support

Manitou Drive resident Wilson Markle said he did his homework, noting that Snowberry is a bit "lopsided" with irregular lots, making it unique compared to others in Kingscross. This new proposal would make the lots more "symmetrical" and more in keeping with other cul-de-sacs. He describes it as an "improvement" and "excellent upgrade."

A Watch Hill Road resident said he too has reviewed the documents and said the plan "makes sense." A lot of residents are renovating and he sees this is a natural progression.

A Kingscross homeowner said there are some misconceptions with the plan and said such things should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

A three-year Kingsworth Road resident said she loves the area and most of the lots can accommodate very large homes, under existing rules.

Brian Prichard, who lives on Lock-

hart Lane, addressed the issue of "change." He admitted the residents are divided and all make passionate points. He agreed that Kingscross, one of the premier places to live in Ontario, needs to be preserved and protected. He showed councillors and the public several maps of Kingscross from 1995, 2005 and today, showing the dramatic changes to the landscape. The issue is to control and manage future change to suit the neighbourhood. He believes this proposal is in keeping with the trend.

A Kingscross Drive resident pointed out there's a lot of new home construction going on in Kingscross and property values have skyrocketed. He believes it's all for the betterment of the community, so much so that he's recommended Kingscross to friends and family members. He likes the direction the subdivision is headed, and supports this severance.

Lisa Iafrate, a Kingscross Dr. homeowner, is proud of the community she's been part of for 20 years. A lot of the homes, she observed, are old and it's time for a renewal. She's excited about the increase in property value, which has a lot to do with the McCarthy family themselves.

A 14-year Kingscross resident, who's a member of Kingscross Ratepayers' Association (KRA), said not all residents are opposed and it's not a clear mandate of the citizen's group to oppose this plan.

"We're evolving," said a Kingsworth resident who welcomes this addition to the neighbourhood. The quality of new home builds is quite impressive. There's a "lot of quality here," he said.

Work needs to be carried out on many properties, according to a six-year Kingscross Dr. homeowner. Change is inevitable and he's happy to see these aesthetic improvements. He's confident even more people will fall in love with Kingscross and want to move there.

Steve Dengler has come home to Kingscross. He noted he was a youngster when he lived there in the 1980s and vowed to return one day. There's an incredible investment going on there and he's incredibly proud to be moving in. He so thrilled he encouraged his in-laws to move in next door.

A decade-long Watch Hill Road resident has seen profound changes for the better.

A Manitou Drive man said he's invested heavily in the community and is pleased to see the revitalization. He believes the severance appropriately balances out Snowberry.

Opposition holds firm

The bottom line among opponents is they don't want this to set a precedent, and result in even more severances in Kingscross or throughout the municipality. It comes down to policy and very specific lot size guidelines.

See 'Opposition' on Page 9

Council okays site alteration for Mary Lake Estates plan

By Mark Pavilons

Developers of the Mary Lake Estates subdivision are working closely with residents to mitigate impacts of their plan.

King council approved giving Mattamy (Monarch) Ltd. a site alteration agreement, to proceed with preliminary earthworks on the site. But this caused some concern among the adjacent property owners in Kingscross.

The property is located west of Keele Street, south of the 15 Sideroad and the draft plan was approved by the OMB back in May 2013.

The developers hope to execute a subdivision agreement and plan registration by next summer.

The current work will include tree removal and earth moving, taking place over the next four to six months.

John Vandervelde, one of the six adjacent property owners, said this work is premature, especially since there has been no formal agreement between the developer and the residents.

Edward Van Giahel said the plan to begin construction caught them by surprise and was annoyed they were not properly informed. Objections by the residents are wide-ranging, he said and they're not limited to this transition period.

Andrzej Drzewiecki, Director of Engineering, Public Works and Building, said this will in no way impact the agreement with Mattamy. There are a number of conditions imposed before any work takes place, including securities, environmental soil management plan, erosion control, tree preservation plan, and more.

Councillor Cleve Mortelliti said he's confident this site alteration agreement will not undermine the process.

King CAO Susan Plamondon said staff will ensure that residents' concerns are being met during construction. The protected area far exceeds anything the Township is used to seeing in typical buffering requirements.

Drzewiecki noted in the staff report that the developer has met with residents in recent weeks, providing details of the proposed work, including plans to mitigate the buffer area. A restriction has been imposed to prevent any tree removal and a tree protection and siltation control fence will be installed on the site.

Andrew Sjogren, a representative from Mattamy, assured council and residents they fully intend to meet their obligations and are very committed to coming up with a mutually satisfactory agreement with neighbouring residents.

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Opposition warns about setting a bad precedent

From Page 8

Co-chair of KRA Leslie Whicher said the board recently expanded and directors who ran expressed their opposition to this severance. They have obtained signed petitions from roughly 50% of the households (196 signatures) to oppose the plan.

David Donnelly, a well known environmental lawyer and advocate with many successes under his belt, is backing KRA. He is known for representing Stewards of the Moraine in the Eliopoulos wedding facility OMB challenge in King.

He said there are several reasons why they oppose this severance, and one is that the large lots in Kingscross blend in with the environment and the Oak Ridges Moraine. This is simply not compatible with these characteristics. There is "no compelling reason" to permit it and Donnelly said it "doesn't jive" with the trend to increase, not decrease, the natural landscape.

A more thorough examination of an abutting woodland is needed, he said, to determine the impacts on the local forest cover and habitats. The MNR has indicated there is a species of risk in the area - the wood turtle. It has been considered endangered prior to 2008. This mid-sized turtle reaches roughly 20-24 centimeters long and is known for orange or brick-red colours on its legs. Wooded areas are essential habitat for this turtle and it's threatened by predators and habitat loss.

Mary Muter, KRA co-chair, said she researched the area fully before moving in roughly four years ago. The homes were well established and she was told by various officials that severances are not likely in Kingscross. With a background in public health, Muter is well versed in water, environmental and wildlife issues. She's astounded by the variety of wildlife in Kingscross, calling it a "wildlife reserve."

She's urging that wildlife habitat be taken into consideration, noting this plan could threaten natural features and wildlife.

"Bylaws are in place for a reason," she said.

Gord Whicher, a land use planning lawyer who lives on Kingsworth, said council's decision, and staff's recommendations will be key documents called into question, should the matter go to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). The OMB recognizes King's authority as a planning approval body, but Whicher suggested that a second opinion be sought on natural heritage issues. A reinvestment in Kingscross will happen anyway and he reiterated the concerns that if 1.5-acre lots are allowed, will one-acre parcels follow?

That sentiment was echoed by a Kingscross Dr. woman who said there's

no positive benefit from the severance. If this is passed, others will follow she said. "Let's preserve this neighbourhood," she said, pointing out she's not opposed to new houses, but prefers a minimum of two-acre parcels.

A 24-year Lockhart Lane resident said Kingscross is unique and in her quarter-century there, there has never been a "rift" in the community. "Now there is."

A King View Crescent resident in Snowball said he's concerned this may set a precedent outside of Kingscross. Good planning unites people, but bad planning divides, he observed. Council, he said, needs to provide a clear direction as to what an estate lot is. Past planning inconsistencies give false hope for those seeking severances.

Greg Locke, of Concerned Citizens of King Township (CCKT), admitted this is a bit of a complex issue, but he stressed CCKT is opposed to severances in subdivisions in general.

"Severances negatively change the character of neighbourhoods, and in doing so pit neighbour against neighbour," he said. "... if a precedent like this is permitted in an affluent neighbourhood like Kingscross, it will encourage similar outcomes in other neighbourhoods, harming the rural and village character of the township we so very much value."

Locke urged council to exercise "thoughtful consideration" and he praised the vigorous community engagement the issue has generated.

A relatively new homeowner on the 8th Concession chose King for its redeeming qualities and he's "enamoured with Kingscross." Severances change the character, he said.

A long-time Kingscross resident, an admitted outdoor enthusiast, noted many homes do need to be renovated and he said homeowners should take the lead in green standards. Most residents chose Kingscross for the size of the lots and the privacy. "Don't change what works," he said.

Ian Hilley, KRA secretary, said he's opposed to any "cookie-cutter" approach to lot creation.

Mike Notaro, who was involved in KRA's recent board election, said there is a group of residents who simply don't care either way. Other residents are definitely divided and he said this needs to be "solved." There is a process that's being followed and council will make a call, after reviewing all of the input.

One man said Kingscross remains a premier place to live. "If you want a 1.5-acre lot, go elsewhere," he said.

Councillors comment

Councillor Cleve Mortelliti, who has a civil engineering background, noted he's been an opponent to severances in existing subdivisions, and has, in fact, called for a prohibition. The Township is dealing with outdated documents and hopefully the new zoning bylaw will address any inconsistencies.

He noted people are buying into a stable, secure neighbourhood with certain expectations.

Councillor Bill Cober stressed public input is important for the staff review. He believes applications such as this should be looked at on a case-by-case basis, paying attention to the merits and drawbacks. He offered some sober thought on the heated discussion:

"One thing no one is disagreeing on is your love for your community," he observed.

Councillor Debbie Schaefer said it's disappointing to see how the community is so passionately divided. She said the real issue is not about homes, but how landforms will look in decades down the road. She favours a peer review of the natural heritage features and she hopes an adequate solution can be found.

Mayor Steve Pellegrini said under the process any applicant has the right to submit any proposal. Council and staff will go through this. The mayor stressed that King residents "have the best council in the GTA," but they may not always agree on matters.

A staff report, with recommendations, will be brought back to council.



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Pictures with Santa at King fire hall

Santa will be riding a historic fire truck into town Dec. 19.

In appreciation of first responders in York Region, Santa is moving his head office to the King City station for a day. Everyone is invited to come to the fire station on Dec. 19 for a picture with Santa on his new throne, the front bumper of a shiny red fire truck. Santa will be driven to the Fire Station in a 1929 historic Canadian fire truck.

Be sure to drop in, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to visit the fire hall, enjoy activities and have pictures taken with Santa for \$2 as a fundraiser for The Tema Center Memorial Trust (Heroes are Human). Grown-up kids also welcome to get pictures with uniformed personnel who made it onto Santa's list.

"This is a chance to thank first responders for their commitment and dedication to our community," said Vince Savoia, executive director of the Tema Center Memorial Trust (Heroes are Human).

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Kingscross becoming most sought after community

By Mark Pavilons

The word is out.

As much as King residents may want to keep this oasis in the GTA all to themselves, discerning home buyers are eyeing an exclusive area near King City for their dream homes.

And a niche builder is helping to make those dreams come true. He's creating one-of-a-kind masterpieces using Kingscross's palette. The mix of residents in this exclusive estate neighbourhood is as eclectic as the marvellous contrasts in diverse architecture.

You'll find the maestro of this symphony of wood, stucco and granite literally "hard at work" in his own backyard.

Peter McCarthy, of Hard at Work Inc., currently has some 12 projects on the go in this historic neighbourhood, transforming the landscape. McCarthy admits he's the harbinger of change, ushering in an evolution of this enclave that dates back to the 1950s.

When you meander through Kingscross, you are taken by the beautiful, rolling topography. It epitomizes all of the best qualities of King Township. Some of the older homes, while quaint and inviting, are dated and showing their age. New home buyers, to whom money is no object, are seeking out their little piece of paradise, tearing down the old homes and opting for custom-built mansions.

The interest, from a long list of affluent clients, is skyrocketing. Hard at Work can't buy the properties fast enough to meet the demand for these luxury homes. McCarthy and his team – Conrad Kijewski, Jane Lesperance and his son-in-law and partner Vince Oppedisano – have been going strong in the last six years. Oppedisano is the hands-on front-line worker, on site 12 hours a day, juggling trades suppliers and clients. He is McCarthy's right-hand man and without him, they wouldn't be where they are today.

McCarthy likely never intended to be-

come a niche home builder, but it all just fell into place. It grew with each new addition to the neighbourhood.

McCarthy pointed out that repurposing the properties is inevitable. Many of the homes were built with electric heat and are on well and septic systems. Some have no basements and others are at the mercy of the high water table in some areas.

The trend these days is to tear down and build new.

McCarthy and his wife Ellen purchased a home in Kingscross as a "retirement project." Typical house prices at that time were around \$720,000 and in today's market, Kingscross properties start at \$1.5 million. A home recently sold for \$4 million.

What has driven up the values so much in half a decade?

"We have," McCarthy admitted. Creating majestic, one-of-a-kind homes on beautiful properties has triggered a resurgence in interest from the rich and famous. "It's driven demand through

the roof."

And that benefits all homeowners in Kingscross.

King Township, considered the most affluent area in Canada, is no stranger to jaw-dropping opulence.

It shows in McCarthy's custom builds. Double-stacked four-car garages, accommodating eight vehicles, are common requests from clients.

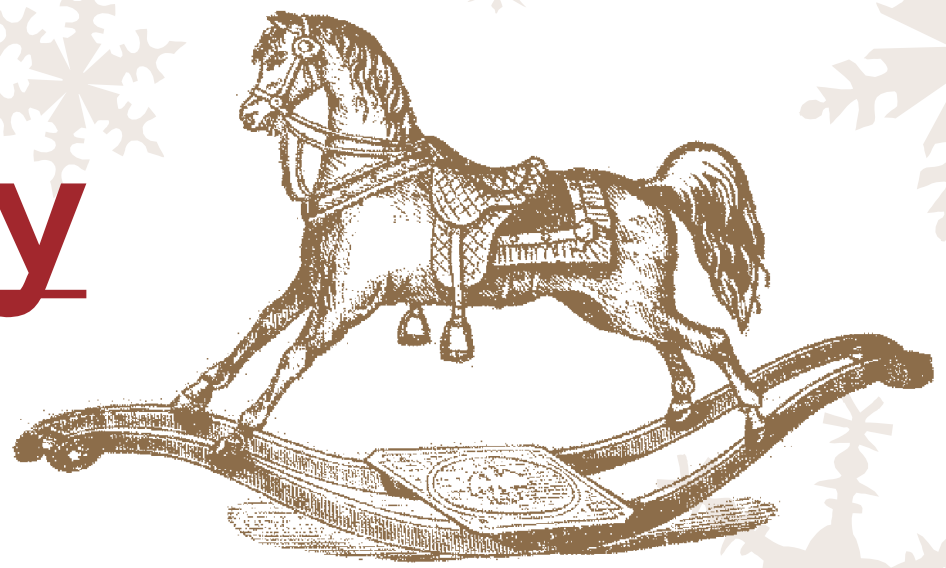
With urban centres to the south filling up fast, King is becoming the haven for many in the GTA.

"King has a lot of appeal," he said, noting Kingscross specifically is minutes away from major commuter routes and has such unmatched serenity. "This is where they want to be," McCarthy stressed.

People who are buying these homes may do so for investment purposes. Some own more than one Kingscross property.

See 'New' on Page 11

The Country Toy Tea



A warm thank you to all of our generous guests, sponsors and donors as we raised over \$18,000 and collected over 2,000 toys for children in need in York Region.

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Thanks also to Santa Paul and his merry elves.

New home builds in Kingscross are impressive

From Page 10

Hard at Work is prepared to purchase more homes in the neighbourhood. McCarthy pointed out some residents are elderly, live alone and have to contend with high property taxes and climbing maintenance on their homes. Given the current resale value, it gives them a perfect opportunity to move on.

McCarthy is not a “developer” in the true sense of the word. He’s more of a conduit, a boots-on-the-ground go-to guy with a vision. He’s built a rapport with his friends and neighbours. He’s knocked on more than just a few doors, asking residents if they’re willing to sell. Others have come to him because they heard about Hard at Work. Several existing residents have chosen to stay, and expand or rebuild their homes.

Other clients come to him and he gives them what they want, and more.

TV host, contractor and real estate investor Scott McGillivray fell in love with Kingscross and asked McCarthy to handle a very special project for him. Stay tuned for a TV series featuring McGillivray and his family in 2016.

McCarthy pointed out Scott is an amazing, accommodating customer, who trusts Hard at Work to bring Scott’s wealth of design acumen to the forefront.

Most of McCarthy’s clients give him carte blanche to create just what they want. And why not? McCarthy is a stickler for detail, right down to the tile pattern in the mud room, bullnose edging or wrought iron railings on the staircase. Ellen weaves her magic with the interior details, selecting everything from kitchen cupboards and faucets, to paintings and window coverings.

Hard at Work also has an excellent rapport with King Township staff, as well as various agencies such as Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA).

Not everyone is sold on his flurry of activity, but the consensus seems to be that new builds are improving the

neighbourhood.

Wilson Markle, a 13-year Kingscross resident, said it’s a well planned community where no two residences are the same. The 1970 original concept was to have unique design and style type houses created for the new development.

Today, some houses have fallen into disrepair and at least one is abandoned. Many other houses have either been replaced or require extensive renovations to bring them up to standard.

New residents seem to want change and requested sidewalks, curbs, and covered ditches. “This has also divided the community that does not want change,” he said.

“Thankfully most do appreciate the improvement when completed,” he said, referring to McCarthy’s projects.

“Kingscross is gradually becoming a classic country style neighborhood of large houses on appropriately sized lots.”

McCarthy builds turn-key homes and takes care of everything, right down to the gardens, curbing and gazebos (where permitted of course). He may even throw in a celebratory bottle of champagne for the new owners.

McCarthy’s personal demand for quality is evident in his builds. The retired Royal Plastics executive and inventor (he marketed the first plastic extrusion garden sheds) has a creative eye. He tends to use the same skilled trades to ensure consistency and provide a certain standard that’s conducive to the neighbourhood. Every home he builds comes with an elevator. Twenty-foot-high ceilings are common. McCarthy has begun importing hand-crafted wooden doors from Ecuador, whose artisans work wonders with native teak and seike. Heated garages with lifts are pretty much standard, as are meandering open staircases, sitting areas, offices, studies, in-law or nanny suites and multiple bathrooms.

His customers demand a high quality in terms of both aesthetics and functionality. Large kitchens are a must.



Peter McCarthy and Hard at Work Inc. (top) are transforming the look of Kingscross Estates, making it a highly sought-after subdivision. Shown are some examples of new home builds in the community.

Photos by Wilson Markle



In one home he’s turned a built-in full length cupboard into a doorway to the pantry. Another home comes with a 20-foot sliding door to the back patio.

McCarthy noted they have to be up on the current trends and innovations, ensuring their builds have that “wow” factor.

McCarthy takes a great deal of pride in his work. After all, he lives there and cares about how his community is taking shape.

It’s not all business for McCarthy. He has been involved in more than a dozen Habitat for Humanity builds in Canada and around the world. He has been known to cut people’s lawns and remove the snow for the elderly. He even provided generators during that historic ice storm a couple of years ago. Since he’s always wandering around the subdivision tending to his properties, he also keeps an eye on things for his neighbours, watching for strangers and any odd behaviour.

Hard at Work is truly a family affair. Ellen has been known to not only lead the charge on interior styling, she’s

planted several gardens herself.

Tara McCarthy, an agent for Lacey Real Estate, helps sell Kingscross homes. Not only does she live there, but she’s become adept at handling all permit applications with the Township and various agencies like TRCA. She can provide clients with all of the services they need to move into their new King dream homes.

Living in Kingscross, she has an excellent relationship with neighbours and she understands these upscale homes.

“I have an excellent understanding of what it takes to buy and sell on a luxury level,” she said.

Like it or not, our secret is out. King’s citizenry is a wonderful, unique blend of individuals who value country living.

While borrowing a cup of sugar in Kingscross takes on a different slant, neighbours in this unique community have a lot to be proud of.

For more on McCarthy’s work, visit www.hardatworkinc.com.

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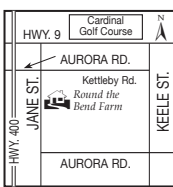
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Mayor's task force on keeping public informed on offenders

By Mark Pavilons

King council has asked staff to help create a mayor's task force charged with keeping the public informed on dangerous offenders living in the community.

The move came following a massive public turnout Sunday, at a community meeting organized by York Regional Police to inform residents about a high-risk offender living near Schomberg.

Councillor Bill Cober told council Monday night it has been a difficult few days in his ward. Fear and anxiety consumed many residents. He offered his praise for Mayor Steve Pellegrini who took the lead on the issue and responded to citizen concerns at the public meeting, which drew upwards of 600 residents. Cober pointed out it's easy to lead when times are good, but when people are angry, it becomes a challenge. The mayor worked hard on this. He also praised staff who helped pull it all together, as well as King's volunteer firefighters who kept an eye on things at the Trisan Centre.

This was a time, and issue, never before seen in King, Cober observed, adding they're all on a learning curve. A number of questions arose from the meeting, questions that need to be answered.

And that's where this new task force comes in. Mayor Pellegrini wants it to be "agile and quick" in responding to citizen concerns. He hopes to have representation from council, senior staff and members of the public.

Issues that may be addressed include a safety audit on the facilities in King that house offenders, and this specific one near Schomberg. Cober suggested that planning staff provide information on zoning rules governing group homes and halfway houses. Cober also wanted types of offenders clearly defined, including those who are deemed "high risk" and "dangerous." He also wants this task force to maintain ties with York Regional Police. Cober praised YRP for "being there for the community in a time of need."



'Tea time' fundraiser

Organizers and even Santa himself came together for the Country Day School's annual Country Toy Tea. In all, this year's installment of the annual event raised over \$18,000 in cash and gift cards and collected over 2,000 toys, all of which go to a number of local charities. Shown are parent hosts Molly Fitzpatrick, Andrea Webb, Judy Totten, Leslie Ewing, Annette Ghezzi, Kim Nichols, Linda Brown, Maureen Ofield, Stacie Stanton and Amanda Flavell. Student "elves" included (front) Kendall Langston, Berkley Brown, Sarah Croxon, Isabella Bousada, Erica Ghezzi, (back) Maddy MacDonald, Alexandra Nichols, Yasmin Kirby, Jane Stanton, Neyla Kirby, Anna Croxon, Holly Nichols).

Photos by Diane Buchanan



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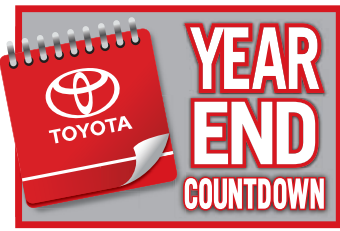
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Red Cross Babysitting

The next Red Cross Babysitting Course will be offered at the King City Branch on Saturday, Dec. 19 from 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

This oh-so popular course is for ages 11-14. It will get you certified and for you parents-this course now qualifies as a "Children's Activity Tax Credit" - you just have to keep your receipt. The cost is \$50 per participant. We just ask that you pre-register and pre-pay at any of our four libraries.

Free Community Library

As our community grows and houses seem to be popping up everywhere-have

you noticed this new little home offering refuge to those who "have the need to read!" You'll find this welcoming tiny little library in front of Helen Wicki-Nadler's Veterinary Clinic on Highway 27, right in the middle of Nobleton! Help yourself to any reading material you find in the home and feel free to replace with any of your gently used reading materials. Thanks Helen et al!

Curling Club holiday bonspiel

There is one more Bonspiel being planned in Santa's workshop! Come out and curl with fellow club members, non-member friends, and family at this fun club level Holiday Spiel on Sunday, Dec. 27.

Enter as a team or as an individual and any individuals will be placed on teams by the spiel organizers. This spiel is open for all, whether you are an experienced curler or a new curler. Any equipment will be available, if needed.

There will be door prizes, team prizes, individual prizes and even themed costume prizes!

York Pines Church

For many years there have been carollers singing joyfully in Pottageville and Kettleby just ahead of Christmas.

Again this year you can join choristers from the York Pines United Church. Sometimes the icy cold weather has been too daunting; this year the mild weather may make for easier singing. In Pottageville, please meet on Saturday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. at the corner of Cook Drive and Archibald Road. In Kettleby, please meet on Sunday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m. in front of Dorio's Bakery. Dress warmly, bring a flashlight, and return to the church afterwards for a hot drink.

Earlier on Friday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. those who find Christmas difficult are especially invited to attend an ecumenical service of prayer, readings and reflections at the All Saints' Anglican Church in King City. This "Blue Christmas" service is sponsored by the King City and Area Ministerial Association.

During the service you will be invited to light a candle in memory of a loved one. If you wish you may choose to be anointed with oil. The service points to

the God who is with us in both our joys and our sorrows.

On Christmas Eve the congregation's worship includes a short play entitled, "Once Upon a Silent Night;" the distribution of the Christ light in a safe manner to all, and the sacrament of Holy Communion. The service begins at 7 p.m. You are most welcome to join us.

For more information you may call the church at 905-727-8118. The York Pines United Church is located at 3150 the Lloydtown/Aurora Road.

Dufferin Marsh Nature Connection

The Dufferin Marsh Association is pleased to announce the launch of their new website. Visit www.DufferinMarsh.ca. There is information on events, programs, meetings and more. In addition, they have launched their own bird feeder trail program with information on birds, feeders, bird feed and local birding events; as well as an opportunity for you to be involved in mapping and sharing your observations on back yard birds. Have a look and get involved.

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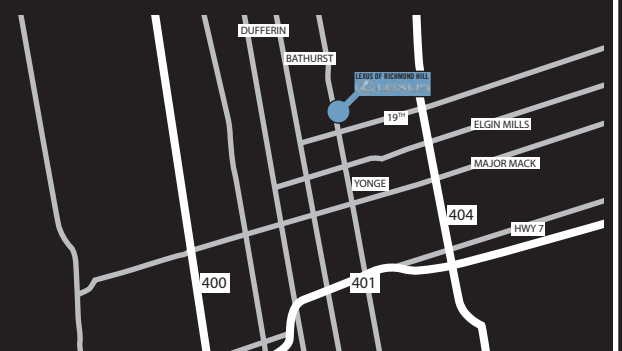
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Offence stifled as Cougars fall to Hornets, Flyers

By JAKE COURTEPATTE

Two of the Georgian Mid-Ontario Hockey League powerhouses proved to be too much for the Schomberg Cougars, who didn't earn a point in two games this weekend.

They became just the latest in a long line of victims of the Alliston Hornets on Thursday, whose last loss came almost two months ago.

Alliston came out hot, beating goaltender Martin Lauzon late in the first period after their shot total hit the double digits. He allowed a power play goal midway through the second, and after two even-strength markers in the third, he was pulled from the Schomberg net.

Vince Michelizzi allowed one more in relief, as Alliston cruised to a 5-1 win. Kiefer McIntosh cemented his position as the Cougars' top goal scorer with his 12th of the season.

One of the few positives that can be taken away from this one is ex-Cougar John Gage was kept off the scoresheet for the first time since early November.

Gage, who spent two full seasons with the Cougars before a one-for-one trade for defenseman Brendan Spencer

in the off-season, is currently sixth in league scoring.

Flyers double Cougars

Things didn't get much easier in Midland the following night, with Michelizzi between the pipes at the opening face off.

The Flyers peppered Michelizzi with shots in the first, taking a 2-0 lead just eight minutes into the game. McIntosh cut the lead in half before the end of the period, assisted by JP Crescenzi and Ryley Egerton, a line combo that has carried the brunt of the offensive load for the Cougars this year.

But it was all Midland in the second period, scoring twice with Spencer in the box on separate occasions to put the game out of reach heading to the final frame.

Crescenzi added one more for the Cougars in the dying seconds with their net empty, for a final score of 4-2.

The loss is just the latest error in the Cougars' road performance this year, having picked up just five points in 13 contests away from the Trisan Centre. Their road woes have left them near the basement of the GMOHL, holding on to a record of 10-15-2 for seventh place.

The Hornets, who have outscored the Cougars 13-5 in sweeping their three-game season series so far, are far and away the top team in the Junior C league. Their 24-2-1 record has all but guaranteed a number-one seed heading into the post-season, which begins in early February.

Their next closest opponent is the Huntsville Otters, currently 18 points behind the Hornets.

Schomberg has to contend with Allis-

ton two more times this year: a home-and-home series at the end of January to close out the regular season.

Looking closer down the line, the Cougars contend with the Erin Shamrocks (9-16-2) at home this Thursday before visiting the Caledon Golden Hawks (14-13-1) on Sunday.

Puck drop Thursday is at 8:30 p.m. For stats, schedules, and more information, visit ww.schombergcougars.com.



Schomberg's Vince Michelizzi stopped seven of eight shots in relief against the Alliston Hornets on Thursday, with the Hornets stinging the Cougars 5-1.



The CDS Cyclones senior girls' volleyball team shut out Villanova College 3-0 at home last Monday, while their junior counterparts did the same.

Cyclones volleyball shuts out Knights at senior and junior levels

By Jake Courtepatte

The Country Day School Cyclones proved to be King City's volleyball powerhouses after defeating cross-town rivals the Villanova Knights in back-to-back games last Monday.

In senior action, the Cyclones took to the floor for the second time this year after losing in straight sets to De La Salle to open the season. Villanova, on the other hand, was coming off a hard-fought win against Trinity College School where after dropping the first set they took the next two 25-16 and 25-15.

In front of a home crowd, it was clear CDS had the advantage. They swept Villanova in three straight sets, a blowout 25-9 set sandwiched between two close 25-20 and 25-23 victories to improve to a 1-1 record.

Both teams can now regroup until after the winter break, with the Cyclones visiting Appleby College on Jan. 6 and Villanova doing the same on Jan. 11.

On the junior side, CDS was once again the victor winning in straight sets 25-19 and 25-11. They are the team to beat so far in DI CISAA play, staying undefeated at 3-0 after handling Bishop Strachan School 25-7 and 25-7 two days later.

The junior Cyclones and Knights head back to the court on Jan. 11 as well, playing Havergal College and Appleby College respectively.

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Wed Jan 27 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Nobleton - Business Forum Raffaele's Cantina, 5975 King Rd, Nobleton	Free
Thu Jan 28 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Networking Breakfast - Neuro Linguistic Programming Kingbridge Conference Centre & Institute, 12750 Jane St, King City	\$25.
Thu Feb 18 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM	AGM and Membership Appreciation Cocktail Night Holland Marsh Wineries, 18270 Keele St, Newmarket	Free
Tue Feb 23 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM	SEMINAR - The What, Who and When of Email Marketing Township of King - Council Chamber 2075 King Road, King City	Free
March TBD 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM	King City - Business Forum Location: TBD	Free
April TBD 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Schomberg - Business Forum Location: TBD	Free

Contact information
905-717-7199, info@kingchamber.ca

Peewee A Knights cruise to eighth-straight win

By JAKE COURTEPATTE & LUCIA MACEDO

A combination of a relentless offence and strong play between the pipes has the peewee A NobleKing Knights at the top of the York-Simcoe league heading into the Christmas break.

With no losses on the table over a two-week period, the Knights were the favourites against the Orillia Terriers in their home rink of Nobleton Arena on Saturday.

The Terriers put up a fight in the first period, forcing Steven Selvaggi to make a tough save on a rebound just 10 seconds into the contest. A few minutes later, Orillia opened the scoring on a two-on-one opportunity that just clipped of Selvaggi's shoulder and in.

Forced to play out of their own end for most of the opening frame, the of-

fence finally started to pick up when Christopher Petrunaro rang it off the post in the final minutes. Shortly after, Ryan Dimitroff tied the game on a nice cut to the middle and lifting it over the goaltender.

They took the lead for good early in the second, with Cameron Robinson hiding on the back door and taking a cross-crease feed before burying it.

Both Dimitroff and Robinson added one more each before the end of the second period, putting the game out of reach 4-1.

Owen Clark scored on a nice back-hander in the third to make it 5-1. At the other end, Selvaggi held his own while killing off a 5-on-3 in the final five minutes.

The Knights are now 15-5-6 in league play, five points up on the second-place Innisfil Winterhawks.

Earlier in the month, the Knights



Cameron Robinson (#92) looks out front for Vincenzo Marra in a 5 - 1 win over the Orillia Terriers at Nobleton Arena on Saturday.

Photo By Jake Courtepatte



Atoms tourney finalists

The NobleKing atom LL1 team were finalists in the Plattsville Pride Tournament. It was a hard-fought battle against the Beverly Bandits who were the winners in the end. Congratulations to all the kids for playing hard, giving it their all and having fun while doing so. Coaches and players included (back row, l to r) Chris Karanicolas, Paul Voorn, Jeff Cairns, Marc Gidaro, (2nd row) Cypriana Karanicolas, Aron Marazzi, Tyler Oletic, Daniel Rizzo, Ryder Irwin, Francesco Greco, Andy Voorn, (front) Noah Gidaro, Gianmichael Niro, Matteo Stellino, Ethan Cairns, Phillip Renzetti, Carson Bolton, Jack Ages and "superstar goalie" Daniel Niro. Missing from the photo was Mark Cammalleri.

captured their second consecutive championship tournament banner by winning the Bob Merkley Silver Stick Regional Tournament held in Midland Dec. 4-6.

The Knights went undefeated in round robin play as they shut out all three of their opponents, the South Muskoka Bears (3-0), the Napanee Stars (7-0), and the New Hamburg Huskies (3-0), giving them a 1st place berth in the semi-finals against the determined Port Perry Predators.

Despite giving up their first goal of the tournament, NobleKing advanced to the finals with a solid 3-1 win. In an all-York Simcoe final, the Knights faced their toughest challenge of the tournament as they met their regular season opponents, the Barrie Colts. Despite relentless pressure from the Colts, the Knights remained strong to hold on for a 2-1 win and capture the title of Midland Silver Stick champions.

With the win the team is looking forward to travelling to Port Huron, Michigan the weekend of Jan. 21-24 compete for the International Silver Stick title.

Selvaggi was named tournament MVP.

Curling Club bonspiel

Come out and curl with fellow club members, non-member friends, and family at this fun club level Holiday Spiel on Sunday, Dec. 27.

Enter as a team or as an individual and any individuals will be placed on teams by the spiel organizers. This spiel is open for all, whether you are an experienced curler or a new curler. Any equipment will be available, if needed.

There will be door prizes, team prizes, individual prizes and even themed costume prizes!

January skating lessons

The Nobleton Skating Club has another session of Canskate beginning in January. Canskate is Canada's learn to skate program. Canskate spaces are limited, so please be sure to register to reserve your spot. Canskate groups are a maximum of 10 skaters, and skaters are with a coach at all times. We also have Program Assistants helping the skaters. The January session of Canskate runs until the end of March. For more information, please visit nobletonskating-club.com or call our club office at 905-859-4943.

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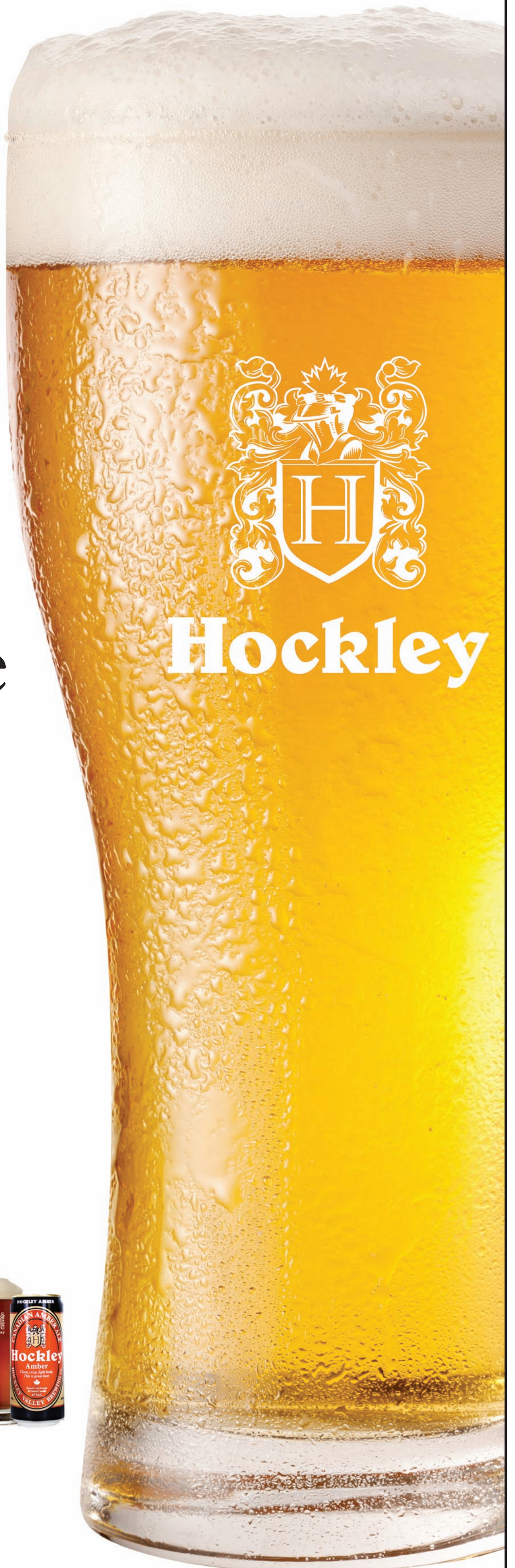
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King City United presents Christmas pageant

King's Corners

King City United
By Eleanor Fry

Our Advent Season has been a series called "RE Imagine Christmas." Advent 1 - RE-Discover HOPE, II - RE-Create Peace, and RE-Build Joy.

The book of Ezra is not a familiar one. It is full of history and excitement. The people who have been in exile are now invited to return home to rebuild the Temple of Jerusalem King Cyrus sent them building materials, money and other supplies. He sent them with all the treasures that had been taken from their temple. It's a new hope.

In this time of Advent this lesson is ours to own as well. The words we use in this season are not to take us back to past glories, but rather words of promise for our future. We think of the refugees that arrived this week. They hope to build a new life in a new land, to establish new relationships. They are building Joy.

For the last 2 weeks we have placed

something in the manger on the dais. This time we were invited to take something. Rev. Evelyn had placed small stones around the manger. These represented God RE-Building our lives to spread the joy of God's love and presence right here, right now. Each of us took a stone, to take home, put in a place where we would see it many times during the day.

We thank all who helped to make a very busy Saturday come to such a happy end.

Lunch with Santa was such a happy time with the kids. Santa stayed around to entertain them and they loved it, even to stealing Myha's pretty black boots and trying to put them on. The evening spent with the Harmony Chorale really brought out the spirit of Christmas. Do we ever get tired of listening to Sandra's beautiful voice, especially when she sings "Mary, Did You Know?" Rosemary and our choir did their usual beautiful harmony.

Thursday, Dec. 17 at 11:30 a.m. is the Christmas gathering of the UCW at Betty Beaton's home, which is al-

ways so beautifully decorated. Pot luck lunch, so bring your favourite "something to share with all." Please let Betty know if you are able to attend.

The monthly worship at King Lodge has been changed to Friday, Dec. 18 at 2 p.m. Please join Marylee, Sandra and Rev. Evelyn to bring some Christmas cheer to those who live there.

Friday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. All Saints Anglican Church is hosting a "Blue Christmas" for those who find all the joy of Christmas just too overwhelming. This could be because loss of a job, a dear friend, a relationship, or just need some "alone time." There will be some quiet music, readings, scripture, reflection, anointing and refreshments. The ministerial will all be taking part. The church is right on Keele St. just south of the lights.

Don't forget the Sharing Tree for Fred Victor Mission. Coffee mugs, hats, mitts, scarves, sweaters, coats. Spread a little warmth! Also gently used warm winter clothing and blankets (please pre-wash) are needed for the Food Bank. Leave any items in the boxes at

the back of our sanctuary.

Sunday, Dec. 20 at 10 a.m. is our Christmas pageant with the youth and children, then stay for our pot luck lunch. This is our time for fellowship and food.

At 1:30 p.m., follow it all up by joining with Marylee, Sandra and Rev. Evelyn to spread some Christmas cheer at Richmond Hill Retirement Home.

Our sympathies go out to the family of Betty Waite, who passed away this week. Betty was a long time member of our community.

Thursday, Dec. 24, is our Christmas Eve Candlelight worship at 7 p.m. in our sanctuary. Our circle of candles and singing "Silent Night, Holy Night" really warms your heart as you envision that special evening in the stable oh so many years ago.

For any information, contact the office, 905-833-5181; email kcuc@bellnet.ca; visit www.kcuc.ca or contact Reverend Evelyn McLachlan at kcucmin@bellnet.ca.

See 'Find' on Page 21

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708 DEATHS

FARLEY, Ronald Melford
January 6, 1930 - December 4, 2015

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of our loved one, Ron. Loving husband of Andrea (Sinclair) for 57 years. Beloved father of Sharon (Frank), Beth (Pam) and Paul (Franca). Cherished grandfather of Emily, Jordan, Max, Zack, Luke, Justine and Miranda. Fondly remembered by stepbrother Alan (Barb) Boomer of Kelowna, stepsister Bev Boomer of Peterborough, and brother-in-law Bud Sinclair and his family of Ottawa. Ron will be dearly missed by extended family and friends, many of whom he met while at The University of Western Ontario, Knights of The Round Table, Kodak Canada, Don Coffey Ford and Spry Masonic Lodge, Beeton. Ron loved being with people and enjoyed nothing more than to spend time with those he loved. He was devoted to his family and a loyal friend to many. Special thanks to Dr. Alan Ward for his many years of great care and to several caregivers, especially Dr. Allison Ransom, nurse Kelly and PSW Clara who gave in house care, allowing Ron to pass peacefully at home. Thanks also to Rod Abrams Funeral Home for their care and assistance. As per Ron's wishes, cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held on Saturday December 19, 2015 at 12:45pm at Rod Abrams Funeral Home, 1666 Tottenham Road, Tottenham, Ontario with visitation starting at 12 noon. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ron's memory to South Lake Hospital, Cardiac department Newmarket or a charity of your choice.

Close to our hearts you will always stay,
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www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com

EBERSCHLAG: Roger Whitney
Peacefully, surrounded by his family, at his home, on Monday, December 14, 2015, Roger Eberschlag, Nobleton, in his 77th year, beloved husband of the late Doreen Eberschlag. Loving father and father-in-law of Kim and Tony Manzo, Stacey Eberschlag. Cherished grandfather of Sara and Oriana Manzo, Hayden Eberschlag. Dear brother of Warren, Norm, Wendy, Carl and predeceased by Heather. The family will receive their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen Street S. (Hwy. 50), Bolton (905-857-2213) Friday evening 7- 9 o'clock. A private family service will be held in the chapel. Interment Nobleton Community Cemetery. If desired, memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society. Condolences for the family may be offered at www.Egan-FuneralHome.com

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708 DEATHS

CROSS: Danny Murney (Arrowhead Plumbing)

It is with great sadness that the family of Danny Cross announces his passing after a brief illness in his 68th year on Thursday December 10, 2015. Danny will be lovingly remembered by his wife Helen (Sinclair), stepson Greg (Matusick), grandchildren Calvin and Cheryl and great-granddaughter Jenna. Beloved uncle to Danielle (Kwok) and Ryan (Tara). Great uncle to Emily, Matthew, Joseph and Olivia. Cherished cousin of Marlene. Remembered with love by his brothers E. J. and Joe and sister Jackie, brothers-in-law Hugh (Nancy), and Paul (Mary) and sister-in-law Marion (Sister Michaela). Predeceased by his parents Olive and Elwood and stepson Michael (Sharon), sister-in-law Peggy and brother-in-law Michael. Heartfelt thanks to his dear friends Brad Powell and Dennis Ransome for their constant love and support. Danny was fortunate to have an amazing circle of friends who loved him and his unique personality as well as his compassion for helping others. He will be sorely missed. Our sincere gratitude is also extended to all Danny's care givers. Cremation has taken place. Respecting Danny's wishes there will be no visitation. A Celebration of Life will take place on Sunday December 20, 2015 from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM at Bear Creek Golf Club 8545 County Rd 56, Utopia, ON L0M 1T0, 705-424-0241. Those who so desire may make donations in memory of Danny to Southlake Regional Health Care Foundation, Palliative Care Unit, 581 Davis Dr. #102, Newmarket, ON L3Y 2P6 or The Humane Society of Alliston, 60 Victoria St. W. Alliston, ON L9R 1T9. Arrangements entrusted to Rod Abrams Funeral Home Tottenham 905-936-3477. www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com

NOAKES: Harry R. 1930-2015
Owner of HR Noakes Plumbing and Heating Ltd. Passed away on December 11, 2015 at Richmond Hill Retirement Residence. Beloved husband of the late Theresa (nee Tremblay). Loving father of Stephen (Zana) and Sherry. Grandfather of Jeremy and Michelle (Jeff). Cremation has taken place. Arrangements entrusted to Thompson Funeral Home, Aurora, 905-727-5421.

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Children learn, have fun at Messy Church

Nobleton Notes

By Angie Maccarone
905-859-5174

St. Paul's Church

Join us Sunday, Dec. 20 at 10 a.m. as Jeff continues his Advent series entitled "Like A Child." Jeff's message this week - My God Can Do Anything.

FirstLink child care (for children 3 years of age and younger) is provided during the gathering and our Regular KidzKonnection and NextStep Programs (for children ages 4 to 11) take place at the same time.

The Youth Group (for Grades 7-12) and A2J (for Grades 3-6) will both be taking a break for the Christmas season and will resume in January 2016.

Come join us on Christmas Eve for either one of our two gatherings at 6:30 p.m. - geared for children who may wish to come in their PJs and 8 p.m. for anybody else. On Christmas Day, we will celebrate the birth of our Lord with carol singing and Communion at 10 a.m.

Jeff has a blog and he records his weekly messages there after worship each Sunday. Anyone interested in listening to his messages can go to www.passionatelyhis.com.

For more information about any of our activities or events, please contact the church office at 905-859-0843 or visit our website at www.stpaulsnobleton.ca.

Nobleton United By Nancy Hopkinson

Our fourth and final Advent service is on Sunday, Dec. 20 at 11:15 am with the theme "Love."

There will be carol singing and communion. Everyone is welcome. At this service, you are invited to bring some non-perishable food or a cheque for the King Township Food Bank and/or socks. Street people do a lot of walking every day so their socks wear out quickly. Our minister Brian Nicholson will

distribute them to people in Toronto, and also give some to Toronto's Council Fire Native Cultural Centre.

Our Christmas Eve service is at 8:30 p.m. This is always a very special evening of readings and carols. If you prefer to attend an earlier service on Christmas Eve, our sister church, Schomberg United, is having its service at 7 p.m.

On Christmas Sunday (Dec. 27), Epiphany (Sun. Jan. 3) and the Baptism of Jesus (Sunday, Jan. 10), we will again welcome Ed Elliotson, LLWL (Licensed Lay Worship Leader), while Brian is away in Australia.

On Tuesday, Jan. 12, from 5 to 7 p.m. Messy Church's theme will be on Creation and appreciating the diversity and beauty of God's world. Crafts and activities from 5 to 6 p.m., story time from 6 to 6:15 p.m., then eating dinner at 6:15, followed by socializing or doing more crafts.

Messy Church started in England with concern that children were not learning the Bible stories. The ideas for various themes and activities are provided in Messy Church books and there are a number of denominations who are using these ideas. Families are very busy these days and they welcome a chance to have someone else provide activities and food for them to enjoy. There is no charge as Nobleton United sponsors this program.

On Sunday, Jan. 17, we will welcome Alexandra Kotyk, from "Lifeline Syria" to talk about the Syrian crisis and what we can do to sponsor and welcome Syrian refugees.

Looking back. At our December Messy Church, the theme was Messy Christmas. At one station, the children made ice cream cone snow angels using fondant. The fondant is a bit like play dough, but it is sweet and edible. The ice cream cones were covered in the white fondant and a little fondant head was shaped on the point of the cone. Gold doilies were pre-cut into shapes for wings and halos which were added to complete the angels.

Another station had fondant with co-

coa powder added. The children formed this brown fondant into donkey dung, which would have been present in the stable where Jesus was born. There were other stations making a Christmas card with stickers and felt tipped pens; making a Christmas tree decoration using gold sparkly card; icing angel cookies; and there were hay, straw, twigs, and oats to add to the simple outline of the nativity scene to make a 3D picture.

We talked about the meaning of the words of the familiar "Away in a Manger" carol and then we sang it. Before our meal, we sang the "Superman Grace." - "Thank you for giving us food" was sung to Superman's theme.

For more info, visit nobletonunited-church.com, our Facebook page, or call our church at 905-859-3976. The church office is normally open on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Messages are picked up regularly. We are located at 6076 King Rd., north side, about 6 buildings west of Hwy 27. We have a big parking lot at the rear of the building, an accessible ramp at the rear of the building, chair lifts for the 7 steps to get up or down and accessible washrooms.

Anglican Parish By John Arnott

"Gaudete, Gaudete Christus venit. Deus homo fit Gaudeamus igitur!

Rejoice, Rejoice Christ comes. God is man. So let us rejoice.

For centuries words such as these have rung out on Gaudete Sunday marking mid Advent. This past Dec. 13 and the 3rd Sunday of today's Advent season was Gaudete Sunday.

The St. Alban's Anglican community in Nobleton notes that the word advent is based on the Latin adventus meaning the coming and Christians rejoice as they look forward to the nativity of Jesus.

In the early Christian Church the solemn Advent season to prepare for Christmas lasted some 40 days from Nov. 12, St. Martin's Day until Christmas Eve. By the 5th century it had the nickname St. Martin's Lent. However, by the 9th century Advent had been shortened to 4 weeks, but it still was regarded as a time of penitence and fasting.

While purple, the season's liturgical colour, suggested Jesus's Heavenly and Earthly royal heritage, it also symbolizes penitence and sorrow.

The observance Gaudete (Latin for rejoice) Sunday acted as a break mid-way through sombre Advent. And rose was chosen as the colour to best reflect the feeling of the day.

Thus in many churches of different denominations the hangings

and the priest's/minister's robes feature this colour.

Of course this was the Sunday for lighting the rose or pink candle of the Advent Wreath that symbolizes rejoicing and joy.

A few years ago following the lead of the Lutheran Church much of the Anglican Communion adopted blue the colour of hope and trust as the colour for Advent and while still keeping in mind the season's ancient association with penitence, Advent has evolved into a time of hope and trust as Christians rejoice looking forward to celebrating once again the Coming of Christ.

Horticulture By John Arnott

Over millions of years a tropical grass, native to India, New Guinea and Australia developed thick stems in which leaf made food the plant didn't use was stored. These stems were a food for prehistoric hunter gathers of the region. For millenia Southeast Asians kept this sweetest secret to themselves only because it didn't seem that important as it had no practical value other than tasting good when a piece of stem was broken off and chewed.

According to 8th century BC Chinese manuscripts, this grass was first taken from the wild and cultivated in India. In early times sakkara, as it was known in south India's ancient Tamil language, was grown as a minor field crop from which to make a liquid sweetener but this sweetener scarce and expensive had a very limited shelf life so honey was by far the most common sweetener used in Southeast Asia (as well as most other places in the world).

Then in the 5th century AD, Indian growers learned how to turn the liquid into granulated crystals. These crystals they called khandra (becoming our word candy), were easy to store and transport. Sugar as we know it had come into being and the cultivation of sugar cane began to spread. With the creation of plantations in China 200 hundred years later, sugar was soon a staple in Southeast Asian and Chinese cooking especially desserts. Sugar growers and traders became very wealthy.

In spite of the fact that Greek botanists in Alexander the Great's army returning from India brought "honey bearing reeds" as they called sugar cane, back home and Crusaders brought sugar crystals home, sugar and sugar cane for centuries would remain almost unknown in much of Europe.

The little that came through Venice bought by Venetians merchants from Arab traders who controlled the supply sold at an exorbitant price. However, once the Portuguese Spanish Dutch and English discovered sea routes to India and brought cane cuttings to the colonies they would establish in the Americas, huge plantations there run mainly by the labour African slaves and indentured workers so reduced the price of "sweet salt" that by the late 1700s, it was within the reach of common folk.

Today the average Canadian consumes about 53lbs./24 kg. each year (260 calories per person per day). Rum and molasses as well as ethanol and a paper called bagasse are sugar cane byproducts.

709 IN MEMORIAM

ESTHER DARLENE LUCAS
February 10, 1965 - December 17, 2012
They say there is a reason,
They say that time will heal,
But neither time nor reason,
Will change the way we feel.
For no one knows the heartache,
That lies behind our smile,
No one knows how many times,
We have broken down and cried.
We want to tell you something,
For there will be no doubt,
You're so wonderful to think of,
But so hard to live without.
Always loved and never forgotten.
Mom, Sonya, Thomas, Shari, Keith and Garrie

709 IN MEMORIAM

WILSON, Jean Priscilla
In loving memory of my Mom, and our Mother-in-law, Nanny, Great Nanny and friend who passed away one year ago on December 22, 2014
A silent thought,
A secret tear,
We keep her memory ever near.
Lovingly remembered by Linda and Helmut Horas, Sue Wilson, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

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Find solace at 'Blue Christmas' service

From Page 18

King Bible Church

Join us on Sunday, Dec. 20 as Pastor Mark Nowell will be starting our three-part Christmas series "The Promise." This week will be part one.

We have Celebration Zone available downstairs for kids aged 4-Grade 6. We also have a Youth Bible Study for students in Grade 7-12. They meet 2-3 Sundays each month. Please see our website each week for the schedule.

Please join us for our Christmas Eve service Thursday, Dec. 24. We will begin with refreshments at 6:30 p.m. and the service will begin at 7 p.m. There will not be child care for this service so that families will be able to celebrate. Our children will perform part two of their Christmas presentation.

King Seniors' Centre

New Year's Eve Gala - Come out and welcome in 2016 in fine fashion with your friends and neighbours. The festivities will include a fully catered hot meal with all the trimmings, wine and non-alcoholic drinks on every table. There will be music and entertainment from 9 p.m. until midnight hosted by our special guest celebrity Jack Garson, as well as door prizes and champagne at midnight. The Centre will open at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40 per person and are available from Vince Cancelli 905-833-6305, Vic Warner 905-833-3510 or Marlene Deacon 905-833-9841. Tickets are limited so book your table early!

Annual General Meeting - The King City Seniors Centre's Annual General Meeting will take place at the Centre on Friday, Jan. 8, 2016 at 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome and Members are encouraged to come out and participate in the proceedings, which will include the installation of the centre's 2016 board of management. The meeting will include a talk on astronomy by guest speaker

Paul Delaney. For further information, call Carol Field at 905-833-3324.

St. Andrew's By Kathy Patterson

St. Andrew's warmly invites you to join us. During Advent we're meeting different Biblical characters as they tell their story of how Jesus's eminent birth touched their lives forever.

We've met Elizabeth, Mary's cousin and last week, Dirk deRoos portrayed John the Baptist, Elizabeth's son. He was born to "prepare the way of the Lord." John 3:22:30 was the text. What are we doing to prepare our hearts for Him? Our worship service is at 10:30 a.m. with Sunday school running concurrently.

The Candle of Joy was lit by Gillian Moyle and we read together, "Trust in God gives us hope, peace, resilience and joy. In the changing circumstances of life, Jesus, who makes our joy complete, blesses us again and again."

All the various donations for Evangel Hall were delivered last Monday by Bonnie Mooney and company. The mounds of mugs, Tim Hortons and McDonald's gift cards, warm clothing, coffee, cookies and toiletries were gladly received! A huge thank you to all who donated!

The Ladies' Prayer Group meets every Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. You are welcome to join us to pray with us or quietly reflect. It is such a blessing to be together and as God has promised, He is with us, hearing and answering our prayers.

The Christmas pot luck was last Saturday, Dec. 12. It was fabulous! If you missed it, plan on being with us next year! The food, the fun with Santa, the carol singing, the special music, and the beautiful liturgical dance by Cassandra Khani depicting young Mary made for a wonderful evening. Thanks to all who participated in many ways to make it possible.

The Ministerial is hosting a "Blue

Christmas" service at All Saints Anglican Church, on Friday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

We hope you can join us Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. for our Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Bring your family for a beautiful, traditional service on the eve of Christmas.

For pastoral care needs please contact Lynn Vissers at the church office, 905-833-2325. Our church is located at 13190 Keele St., 2 blocks north of the King Rd. There is a ramp available for accessibility. Visit www.standrews-kingcity.ca.

All Saints Anglican Church By Diana Armitage

A Blue Christmas Service will be held

on Friday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. at All Saints. A Blue Christmas Service is for those who have a difficult time at this season. It will be an ecumenical service with five King City churches participating.

On Thursday, Dec. 24. there will be two Christmas Eve Services. Please note that the times may be different from other years. The 5 p.m. service includes the children's pageant, and the 9 p.m. service will have full choir with guest singers.

On Friday, Dec. 25, the Christmas Day Service will be at 10 a.m.

Thank you to our amazing organist, Quirino Di Giulio, our choir and our guest singers for a wonderful lessons and carols Service last Friday evening.



Santa stops in for breakfast

St. Nick was at Holy Name Catholic School in King City for the school's annual Breakfast with Santa.

Photo by Jake Courtepatte

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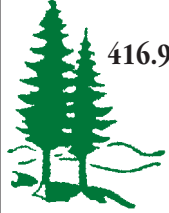
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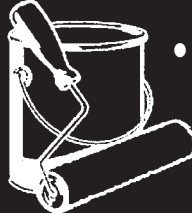
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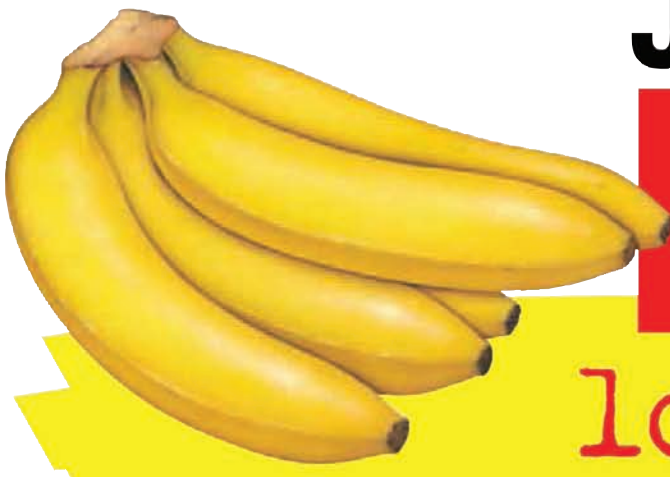
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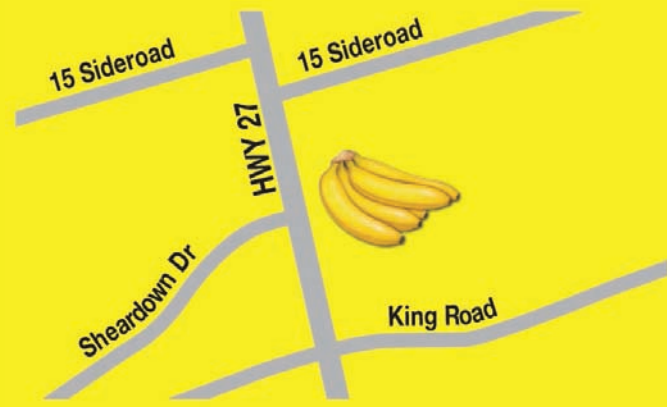
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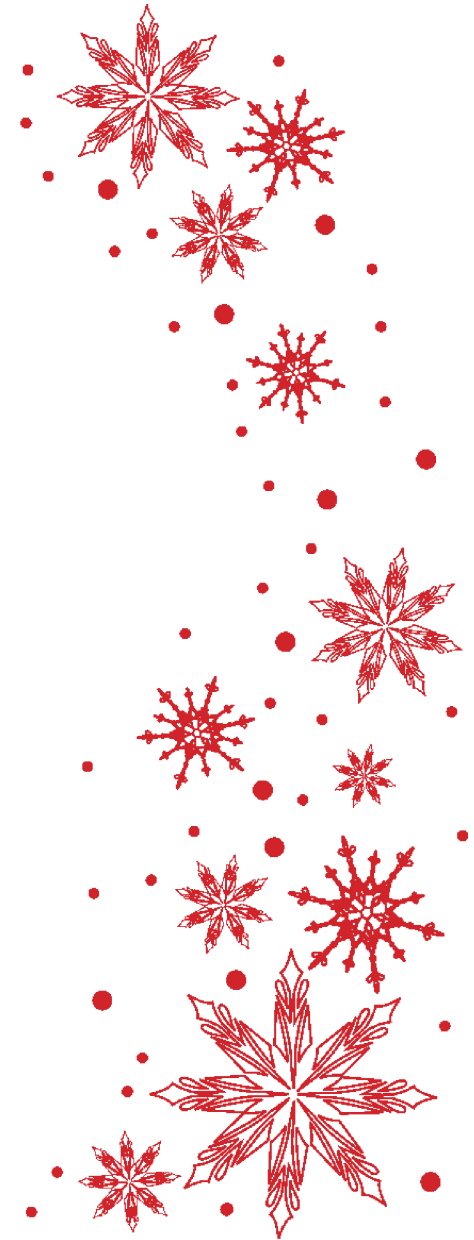
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Saturday 8 am to 8 pm
Sunday 8 am to 7 pm

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Thank you

to our valued customers, and on behalf of all of us at John's No Frills, we wish you a

Happy Holiday Season



HOLIDAY HOURS

Sunday, December 20	8am - 7pm	Sunday, December 27	8am - 7pm
Monday, December 21	8am - 9pm	Monday, December 28	8am - 9pm
Tuesday, December 22	8am - 10pm	Tuesday, December 29	8am - 9pm
Wednesday, December 23	8am - 10pm	Wednesday, December 30	8am - 9pm
Thursday, December 24	8am - 6pm	Thursday, December 31	8am - 6pm
Friday, December 25	CLOSED	Friday, January 1	CLOSED
Saturday, December 26	9am - 5pm	Saturday, January 2	8am - 8pm

13255 Highway 27, Nobleton

nofrills.ca