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# King Weekly Sentinel

King's Community Newspaper

Weekly Circulation: 10,200

905-857-6626 | 1-888-557-6626 | [www.KingSentinel.com](http://www.KingSentinel.com)

FREE Thursday, April 16, 2020 Volume 47, Issue 16

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## St. Paul's brings Easter joy to seniors

As this time of physical distancing continues, the elders of St. Paul's Church in Nobleton have been prayerfully discerning ways to reach out to the community. The services are being live-streamed at [facebook.com/stpaulsnobleton](https://facebook.com/stpaulsnobleton) each Sunday at 10 a.m., and available for later viewing at [stpaulsnobleton.ca/sermons](https://stpaulsnobleton.ca/sermons).

Pastor Jeff Loach communicates with the congregation on a daily basis by email. Congregants are being encouraged to check in with their neighbours and friends to ensure everyone is safe and well. But there was a sense they could be doing more.

On Good Friday, Easter lilies were brought to the apartment building on Wilsen Road for distribution to each resident, with the hope that all would know that they are remembered by the church and by God. Each lily was accompanied by a blessing from the congregation. They were warmly received by representatives of the building, who took them to each apartment door.

The church building remains closed for the time being, but will re-open for public worship gatherings and community events when the state of emergency is lifted. Check [stpaulsnobleton.ca](https://stpaulsnobleton.ca) for updates.



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**INSIDE**

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King trying to document virus crisis.

See Page 10



Local horse is inducted.

See Page 14

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www.king.ca



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Phone: 905.833.5321 Email: serviceking@king.ca



**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Municipal Office, Council Chambers, 2585 King Road

**ALL COUNCIL, COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEETINGS ARE POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

To view full Council and Committee of the Whole agendas, visit [king.civicweb.net/filepro/documents](http://king.civicweb.net/filepro/documents)

**BID NOTICES**

For all bid opportunities, please visit the Township of King's website [www.king.ca](http://www.king.ca), click **Popular Topics** and click **BID OPPORTUNITIES**.

Or visit on the following link

<https://king.bidsandtenders.ca/Module/Tenders/en>

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Half-load restrictions**

The annual half-load period to limit vehicle weights to 5,000 kg per starts on designated Township roads effective March 1, 2020 to May 31, 2020 per our By-law 2010-141. For further information, call 905-833-5321.

**TOWNSHIP OF KING VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR 2020 GRANTS**

Non-profit community organizations which provide or develop recreation, cultural or social opportunities within the Township of King are advised that applications for Grants from the Township of King for 2020 must be completed and submitted to the Township by **Friday, May 15th, 2020**.

The Community Grants Policy Information and Application are available on the Township website at [www.king.ca](http://www.king.ca).

**2020 Animal Licensing**



It's time to renew your dog's life time tag or obtain a new tag for your dog/cat. Cats are required to be licensed. Complete the online animal licence application at [www.king.ca](http://www.king.ca) and submit by email. Apply before April 15 to save \$5.

**NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

**Re: Site Alteration and Related Fees and Charges Draft By-laws for Consideration**  
Council Chambers located at 2585 King Road, King City, ON

**CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 – Please visit [www.king.ca](http://www.king.ca) for the most up-to-date information on meeting cancellations and rescheduling**

**Engineering, Public Works & Building / Clerks & By-law Enforcement Departments**

**RE: Committee of the Working Session: Monday, April 20, 2020 at 5:00 P.M.**

Consideration of: Draft Site Alteration and Related Fees and Charges By-laws

**CANCELLED**

**RE: Council Meeting: Monday, April 20, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.**  
Consideration of: Draft Report, Site Alteration and Related Fees and Charges Draft By-laws

**CANCELLED**



**Please do your part & recycle!**

**Please see more King Township notices on page 3**

**PUBLIC NOTICES**



**Due to the constantly changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects, this information may not be current. Please visit [covid19.king.ca](http://covid19.king.ca) for the most up-to-date information.**

With guidance from York Region Public Health and in an abundance of caution for both residents and staff around the COVID-19 pandemic, King Township is responding with the following changes in operations:

- King Township has closed all recreation, library, and cultural facilities until further notice.
- The Municipal Centre at 2585 King Rd. is closed to the public.
- All essential services will continue, including Fire and Emergency Services, water, wastewater, waste collection and roads and sidewalk maintenance.
- Some non-essential services may be impacted. For a list of all services please visit [www.king.ca](http://www.king.ca).
- During the closure, council chambers has been set up for King's Emergency Operations Centre.

Citizens can still do business with King on our website at [www.king.ca](http://www.king.ca), by phone at 905-833-5321 or by email at [serviceking@king.ca](mailto:serviceking@king.ca).

**LATEST UPDATES**

**ServiceKing**  
[www.king.ca](http://www.king.ca)  
905-833-5321  
[ServiceKing@king.ca](mailto:ServiceKing@king.ca)

**Roles and Responsibilities in COVID-19 Emergency**

<p><b>Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal services</li> <li>• Building permit applications</li> <li>• By-law Enforcement</li> <li>• Development applications</li> <li>• Fire and Emergency Services</li> <li>• Organic, garbage and recycling collection</li> <li>• Park and amenity closures</li> <li>• Property standards enforcement</li> <li>• Property tax</li> <li>• Maintenance of local roads and sidewalks</li> <li>• Operation of Nobleton Community Cemetery</li> <li>• Water and wastewater</li> </ul> <p><b>Business support and information</b> <a href="http://www.economicking.ca">www.economicking.ca</a></p> <p><b>Information</b> 905-833-5321   <a href="http://www.king.ca">www.king.ca</a></p> <p><a href="http://covid19.king.ca">covid19.king.ca</a></p>	<p><b>Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ambulance</li> <li>• Policing</li> <li>• Public health</li> <li>• Maintenance of Regional roads</li> <li>• Seniors housing</li> <li>• Shelter support</li> <li>• Transit (YRT, VIVAnext)</li> </ul> <p><b>Business information:</b> <a href="http://York.ca/business">York.ca/business</a></p> <p><b>York Regional Police</b> 1-866-876-5423 <a href="mailto:info@yrp.ca">info@yrp.ca</a>   <a href="http://yrp.ca">yrp.ca</a></p> <p><b>York Regional Public Health Connection Line</b> 1-800-361-5653</p> <p><b>Information</b> 1-877-464-9675 <a href="mailto:accessyork@york.ca">accessyork@york.ca</a></p> <p><a href="http://York.ca/covid19">York.ca/covid19</a></p>	<p><b>Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business support and closures</li> <li>• Colleges and universities</li> <li>• COVID-19 testing</li> <li>• Health care</li> <li>• Hospitals</li> <li>• LCBO</li> <li>• List of non-essential businesses</li> <li>• Public Education</li> </ul> <p><b>Telehealth Ontario</b> 1-866-797-0000</p> <p><b>Business information</b> 1-888-444-3659 <a href="http://Ontario.ca/business">Ontario.ca/business</a></p> <p><b>Local representative</b> <a href="http://Ola.org">Ola.org</a></p> <p><b>Medical supply donations</b> 1-888-777-0554 <a href="http://Ontario.ca/OntarioTogether">Ontario.ca/OntarioTogether</a></p> <p><a href="http://Ontario.ca/covid19">Ontario.ca/covid19</a></p>	<p><b>Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to credit</li> <li>• Business support</li> <li>• Canada Child Benefit</li> <li>• Canada Emergency Response Benefit</li> <li>• Canada Student Loans</li> <li>• Employee support</li> <li>• Employment Insurance (EI)</li> <li>• Foreign travel and support for Canadians abroad</li> <li>• Income tax</li> </ul> <p><b>Support for individuals</b> <a href="http://Canada.ca/en/departement-finance/economic-response-plan.html">Canada.ca/en/departement-finance/economic-response-plan.html</a></p> <p><b>Business and employee support</b> <a href="http://Canada.ca/business">Canada.ca/business</a></p> <p><b>Support for Canadians abroad</b> 1-800-387-3124 <a href="http://Travel.gc.ca">Travel.gc.ca</a>   <a href="mailto:sos@international.gc.ca">sos@international.gc.ca</a></p> <p><b>Local representative</b> <a href="http://Parl.gc.ca">Parl.gc.ca</a></p> <p><a href="http://canada.ca/COVID19">canada.ca/COVID19</a></p>
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**Online COVID-19 resources for seniors**

In order to protect some of our most vulnerable citizens, King has created an online information resource for seniors. It includes info on how to get essentials like groceries and prescriptions, financial assistance, and entertainment options. <http://king.ca/Government/Departments/Administration/Pages/Resources-for-Seniors.aspx>



**No dumping of waste**

We're reminding residents and businesses that **NO DUMPING** of any kind in any park or municipal receptacle is allowed. King Township has increased the limit of curbside garbage containers from two to three during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Household garbage and medical waste dumped in municipal receptacles may put our staff and others in danger, attract animals and create an unsightly mess. Please do your part to dispose of all waste responsibly through curbside collection or at a public waste depot.

**Tax and finances**

In order to help citizens through the COVID-19 pandemic, King is waiving monthly penalties on taxes through June 29, 2020. More information on due dates and payment methods can be found at <https://bit.ly/33AtzOW>

**Garbage container increase**

King has increased the number of accepted garbage containers from two to three. We know many residents are spending more time at home which means more garbage being produced. Additional bag tags can still be purchased through Online Services at <http://king.ca>.



**Playground equipment**

King's playground equipment is not being sanitized and can easily spread the COVID-19 virus in our community. Signage has been placed in all parks instructing people to not use the playground equipment, shade structures or skateboard areas.



**SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS!**  
Visit [KING.ca](http://KING.ca) for ways to shop local while physically distancing.

**FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND RESOURCES FOR KING BUSINESSES**

**COVID-19**

**VISIT KING.CA**



# King councillors carrying on despite the challenges

By Mark Pavilons

King's councillors are making the best out of a bad situation.

Local representatives are carrying on the best they can, despite the closures and restrictions in place.

Ward 3 councillor and farmer Jake Schneider said he's been meeting with constituents via phone calls and emails.

It's "business as usual at the farm" for his family. The only difference is when delivering product (hay/live-stock) he doesn't have much human interaction.

Schneider said he's concerned about food shortages in the coming months.

"The stores can't seem to keep up and our local farmers have seen a huge increase in sales the last few weeks and the demand for product is increasing daily," he said.

Ward 6 councillor Avia Eek, a Holland Marsh farmer, said she's comfort-

able being a "home body."

"I was raised to plan my grocery needs for the following week, and our family is in the habit of stocking up on sale items for those items we use regularly, so shopping weekly, or bi-weekly, again, isn't a hardship for us."

Councillors tend to work from home and her farm office doubles as her municipal office.

She keeps fit by working out three times a week, since her health and fitness are important to her.

"It is not hard for me to find ways to be busy."

As a councillor she admits she does feel a bit helpless these days. However, she is in contact with residents either through her Community Updates, or sharing important King Township information on various social media platforms.

"I am always just a mouse click away if a resident needs to reach me.

A couple of the committees/boards I sit on have held conference meetings through Zoom. Our CAO and communications officer provide daily updates, which our mayor posts, and council shares.

"If a resident has an issue, I contact our staff, and relay the issue along to them. We maintain contact.

"As well, our local paper, the King Weekly Sentinel, does a wonderful job of keeping our community of communities informed and up-to-date of what's happening in King Township."

There are concerns on the farm operation, however. While it has been "business as usual," they're about to start the 2020 growing season, and while they've been approved by Service Canada for three workers (due to arrive at the end of April) there are strict protocols in place.

"If, for some reason, they are not able to join us this growing season, we have a contingency plan in place, but the uncertainty is worrisome. We are commercial growers. Helping to feed people locally, provincially, nationally and yes, even internationally is what we do. Food is a basic necessity, and we will do our part, as one of the cogs in the wheel of the food industry, to ensure Canadians have carrots and onions."

Councillor Bill Cober, who works as a principal in York, is working from home.

"Our biggest concerns remain the health and well being of our community members. As Public Health officials guide our actions through this pandemic we are grateful our community members are supporting each other through this challenging time and following safety guidelines," he said.

David Boyd, councillor in Nobleton, says they've been taking the dogs for walks. "We've also been splitting firewood and doing yard work to burn some energy and stay active. We all enjoy the opportunity for a bit of exercise, it helps to break up the day.

"Our kids have started home schooling and are also utilizing King Township Library's extensive online reading and streaming services.

"My work as a councillor is being done remotely. It is a blessing to be able hold virtual meetings and teleconferences. As per usual, I am available to assist residents or business owners. I continue to serve in my full-time position as a firefighter. I can personally attest to how challenging and stressful this pandemic is on all of us working on the front lines and our families

who so bravely support us. Please stay home. Practice physical distancing. We all have to do our part. The critical time to act is now."

Councillor Debbie Schaefer said she did plenty of research on COVID-19 trying to find the best ways to help others.

"Regularly I remind myself that like everyone else, my first responsibility is to not spread the virus, to follow the guidelines.

"I am using my blog to provide factual updates. When aware of an opportunity I am making connections for people. As it's my nature to find the silver lining, I am thrilled to have the time to spend time working in my garden - there will always be weeds but less this summer for sure. I have book and CD collections which can be thinned. I am also taking advantage of the time to increase my familiarity with various apps, particularly those which enhance connections.

"My appreciation for living here has increased as the beauty of the landscape, of nature is so enhanced without the noise and pollutants of all the traffic.

"I am also heartened by the resilience of the community, of the efforts to help those in need in different ways."

## York Region launches enhanced web reporting for COVID-19 pandemic

The Regional Municipality of York continues to enhance information on the COVID-19 pandemic in York Region through its dedicated web page at [york.ca/covid19](http://york.ca/covid19). Media, residents and business can access an interactive dashboard that provides an in-depth summary of data from York Region Public Health.

This information will now be updated once daily at 5 p.m. seven days a week.

This interactive dashboard replaces the cases status list previously published to the web page twice daily. Enhanced capabilities within the dashboard allow users to easily view total case numbers in York Region, the age and sex of cases, source of acquisition of illness, status of cases and detailed information relative to local cities and towns in York Region.

Additionally, daily briefs will be posted to the web page from Dr. Karim Kurji, York Region's Medical Officer of Health. These daily briefs will be provided in lieu of media statements announcing significant changes in case status, such as resolved cases and deaths related to COVID-19.

Information included within the dashboard is populated from the integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS), the Ministry of Health's provincial disease reporting system used by all public health units across the province. iPHIS is the same data source the province uses when providing its daily updates. In the event of a discrepancy between cases reported by the province and York Region Public Health, data reported through York Region's dashboard should be considered the most up-to-date.

Dr. Kurji will continue to speak with media by teleconference, as required, to provide important updates on the Region's response to COVID-19.

York Region reminds all residents, especially those age 70 and above and individuals with an underlying health condition, to continue to stay home, practice physical distancing and to only go out for essential needs such as urgent medical visits, picking up medications and groceries.

Anyone experiencing mild flu-like symptoms should self-isolate for 14 days. Close contacts and family members should also do the same, including those in the 48 hours prior to symptoms starting. Together, we can slow the spread of this virus. For information and resources, including how to protect yourself and others, visit [york.ca/covid19](http://york.ca/covid19)



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[www.king.ca](http://www.king.ca)



King Township  
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Phone: 905.833.5321 Email: [serviceking@king.ca](mailto:serviceking@king.ca)

### PUBLIC NOTICES

## Spring Cleaning

905-833-5321  
[serviceking@king.ca](mailto:serviceking@king.ca)  
[www.king.ca](http://www.king.ca)



King Township is about to kick off its annual Spring Cleaning program. Here's what to expect during the COVID-19 pandemic and how to help.



#### Street Sweeping

The 2020 Street Sweeping program will start on April 6, weather permitting. The contractor will progress through the villages of Schomberg, King City and Nobleton (not necessarily in that order). Due to COVID-19, the contractor has scaled back staffing levels. Because of this, it may take longer to complete the street sweeping compared to previous years. We ask that citizens be patient. Please avoid parking vehicles on our streets to ensure they can be cleaned properly.



#### Municipal Water Flushing

In the spring and fall the Township flushes all water mains and hydrants in King City, Nobleton, Schomberg and Ansonsveld. As a result, residents over the course of the next few weeks may experience low pressure and/or discoloration. This process contributes to the safe, effective delivery of municipal water and **does not** affect the quality of your water in any way.



#### Yard Waste Pickup

Yard waste collection starts the week of March 30th, 2020 and will be picked up bi-weekly through to the end of November. No changes to the start date, frequency, or duration have been made to this program. There is no limit on the number of containers that can be put out. Residents are able to use rigid open-top containers (i.e. blue boxes) to help alleviate the need for trips to the store for yard waste collection bags. Please have yard waste out to the curb by 7:00 AM on your regularly scheduled collection day.



#### Cleaning Out Your Clutter

We know that a lot of people who are off work or working from home may be looking to de-clutter their homes during the pandemic. We'd like to remind you of a few things: King has increased the number of garbage containers you can put out to the curb from two (2) to three (3) until further notice. Extra bag tags can be purchased at [www.king.ca](http://www.king.ca). Please **do not** dump garbage of any kind in any park or municipal receptacle. Household garbage and medical waste dumped in municipal receptacles may put our staff and others in danger, attract animals and create an unsightly mess. Please do your part to dispose of all waste responsibly through curbside collection or at a public waste depot. For information on York Region waste depots, visit [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca).



#### Donation Bins

Please do not leave donations at any of the Diabetes Canada bins or any other charitable donation bins throughout the Township. The organizations are not picking donations up during the pandemic. Please keep your donations at home until the pick-ups start again.

We can all do our part to keep King Township clean. Please do so in a safe manner while adhering to the 2-metre (six-foot) physical distancing guidelines. Wear gloves when handling waste and wash your hands thoroughly after. Some services may be impacted by the rapidly changing situation. We thank our citizens for their patience.

## Township of King TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN

Notice of Study Completion | Issued: March 13, 2020



### ABOUT THE STUDY

King Township has completed the 2020 Transportation Master Plan (TMP) that incorporates updated population and employment forecasts to guide the enhancement of a multi-modal transportation network to the year 2031. With a heightened focus on transportation's role in climate change and updated transportation data, the intent of the 2020 TMP is to review the planned and previously proposed improvements to identify opportunities to encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transportation such as walking, cycling and transit.

This TMP followed Phases 1 and 2 of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) process for master plans. The recommended preferred alternatives were determined and refined on a data-driven process and incorporate extensive public and agency input. These alternatives identify the next steps that the Township can take to improve how people travel within and through the Township.

The TMP document is available for your information at:

**King Township's Municipal Centre is currently closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

The TMP is also available online at the Township's website: [tmp.king.ca](http://tmp.king.ca)

Please send your written comments to the Township of King contacts below by April 26, 2020

**David Van Veen**  
Senior Project Manager  
Engineering, Public Works & Building  
Email: [dvanveen@king.ca](mailto:dvanveen@king.ca) Phone: 905-833-4056

**Brett Sears**  
Senior Project Manager  
WSP  
Email: [Brett.Sears@wsp.com](mailto:Brett.Sears@wsp.com) Phone: 289-982-4752

If concerns cannot be resolved through discussion with Township staff, a person or party may request that the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks make an order for a project to comply with Part II of the Environmental Assessment Act (referred to as a Part II Order). Requests must be made in writing to the Minister and the Township Clerk by April 12, 2020 at:

Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 2J3  
[minister.mecp@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mecp@ontario.ca)

Township Clerk  
2585 King Road  
King City ON L7B 1A1  
[clerks@king.ca](mailto:clerks@king.ca)

Comments submitted to the Township of King for the purpose of providing feedback regarding the Transportation Master Plan are collected under the authority of the Environmental Assessment Act. Information will be collected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record. Questions relating to the collection, use and disclosure of this information may be addressed to Peter Angelo, Director of Engineering, Public Works and Building at [pangelo@king.ca](mailto:pangelo@king.ca) or 905-833-4076





# Editorial, Letters & Opinion

*"A newspaper is the center of a community, it's one of the tent poles of the community, and that's not going to be replaced by websites and blogs."*

~ Michael Connelly

## Crises often lead to the 'mother of invention'

Human beings are not only resilient, they are a crafty bunch.

It's been proven throughout our history that we can be quite innovative and progressive during times of crisis and tragedy. As Danish economist Ester Boserup coined, "necessity is the mother of invention."

As a society, currently secluded from our friends and family, we can get caught up in the doom and gloom and grim statistics. Or we can find those silver linings in the current storm clouds. They exist and that list continues to grow.

Technology will likely grow in leaps and bounds following this current COVID-19 pandemic.

We've already seen a giant rise in use of social media channels, including Zoom. This company offers simplified video conferencing and messaging across any device.

Zoom, and those that follow suit, will make leaps and bounds and have a tremendous impact on society in the future.

Ottawa's Spartan Bioscience will be producing a mobile, hand-held testing kit that can tell people quickly if they have COVID-19. The biotechnology company's Spartan Cube is a portable DNA testing technology designed for in-field diagnostic testing, with results in as little as 30 minutes.

That's a huge step up from current testing methods and this little machine will perform wonders in the weeks to come. Hopefully, this technology can be adapted to test for a myriad of infectious diseases or viruses and be a vital tool, especially in the field.

There are undoubtedly companies out there working at improving the effectiveness and design of protective equipment such as masks, goggles and face shields. There's no doubt we will be seeing more of these in the near future. Masks are commonplace in some countries, and they may find their way into mainstream North American society



Mark Pavilons

long after this crisis is over.

The plexi shields at grocery stores may become permanent fixtures. Some are better than others, but ultimately, some nice designs will find their way into every check-out line in the world.

Several pizza chains have introduced or ramped up the use of "contactless" methods of ordering and delivery. Some have machines, not unlike large vending machines, that dispense your finished pie.

Pizza Pizza revealed its "Tamper Proof Pizza Box," which features a safety locking mechanism that is only broken by the customer.

Roche Canada has launched the Roche Data Science Coalition, a group of organizations committed to working with the global community to develop solutions to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Roche Canada Data Science Coalition has developed a centralized location for curated publicly available population data sets, which will be gathered from sources

across the globe and used to enhance COVID-19 research. This will provide the scientific and research community with a robust foundation for current and future COVID-19 patient-level data work.

These are just a few of the measures and advancements have been born in just a few weeks.

All of these not only attest to our ingenuity, but show we can rise out of turmoil and economic crisis and emerge with some powerful new tools and methods.

An injection of government funding in medical research will only benefit humankind in the long run.

While I'm confident we will emerge from the fog brighter and more efficient, there are some social drawbacks.

One worry I have is that we may become even more distanced from our fellow humans in the years to come. Yes, this has been a wake-up call to practice better hygiene and cleanliness. But will the "social distancing" continue and will self-preservation always be at the back of our minds? Will "contactlessness" become our new MO?

I had two overnights planned at resorts in April that were cancelled. I had seats for a musical and plans for weekend getaways.

Now all I have are daily conferences with Justin, Doug and Dr. Tam. I connect with friends and strangers on Facebook, getting a few chuckles here and there.

Just think of all the human interactions we used to make on a daily basis – complaints at the gas pumps, jokes with cashiers, and shooting the breeze with total strangers. There were pleasantries and handshakes and waiting room banter. There were cheers from the stands, drinks at the bar and family dinners marking special occasions.

I really hope that when we all bounce back from this, these things will continue. I hope they will all come back with a vengeance and we'll flock to restaurants and coffee shops and salons.

For those who can afford it, I'd suggest going on a short spending spree – ordering pizza, getting those lawn and garden supplies, holding backyard barbecues and taking a vacation.

When we emerge on the other side of all this, we may not be able to prevent the next pandemic, but we'll be better prepared.

We may just appreciate life's little things that much more. And we may become better neighbours, co-workers, friends and shoppers.

I can hardly wait!

### Coping with COVID-19

## Board holds electronic meetings

Board, Advisory and Committee meetings at York Region District School Board resumed electronically last week on a modified schedule to consider urgent matters.

Board and committee meetings were cancelled March 17 to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

A list of committee meeting dates is posted on the board website. Agendas will be posted the Friday prior to the meeting on the News and Events section of the Board website and will include connection instructions.

"We are all working and learning differently, and we are pleased to be able to resume the important work and decision making of the board and our committees through electronic means," said Juanita Nathan, chair. "This will enable us to continue the work of the board while remaining transparent and helping to do our part to reduce the spread of COVID-19."

This action is a result of changes to Ontario Regulation 463/97, Electronic Meetings on March 18, 2020 and will remain in place for up to 60 calendar days after school closure orders have expired.



### Thought of the Week



#### Fix yourself first!

There are many broken things in this world. In order to set things straight, we have to look inside and replace a few bulbs or tape up some inner lose wires.

### Trivia Tidbits

The term "pipe down" originated at sea. It's the boatswain's call for all hands to turn in, and it became a colloquialism for "stop talking!" or "shut up!"

<p><b>KingWeeklySentinel</b> <b>WEBPOLL</b> www.kingsentinel.com</p> <p>Results from last week's poll:</p> <p><b>Has it been easy or difficult to adjust to being stuck at home?</b></p> <p>a) Difficult <span style="display: inline-block; width: 100px; height: 10px; background-color: black; margin-right: 10px;"></span> <b>62%</b></p> <p>b) Easy <span style="display: inline-block; width: 100px; height: 10px; background-color: black; margin-right: 10px;"></span> <b>38%</b></p> <p><small>The results of this poll are in no way considered to be valid or infallible.</small></p>	<p><b>THIS WEEK'S QUESTION</b></p> <p>Have you applied for government assistance due to COVID-19?</p> <p>a) Yes b) No</p> <p>Go to our website and cast a vote!</p>
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# Healthy forests translates to healthy people

By David Suzuki

## Commentary

If you look at a forest top from above or below, you might see a pattern of nicely spaced pathways twisting between the trees. This phenomenon is known as “crown shyness.”

Attempts have been made to explain it, with most experts concluding it's due to many factors. Initially, it was thought to be wind making the upper branches rub against each other, damaging them to the point where they stop growing. But one study found no difference between windy and sheltered forests.

One hypothesis is that light levels allow the growing tree tips to detect when another is too close, causing them to stop growing in that direction. Others think it could be natural adaptation to help trees maximize access to resources like light and minimize competition.

Despite their crown “social distancing,” many trees communicate with each other through underground fungal networks, or “mycorrhizae.” As Pe-

ter Wohlleben explored in *The Hidden Life of Trees* and Wayne Grady and I in *Tree: A Life Story*, these “wood-wide webs” allow fungi to derive sugars from the trees, while providing trees with water, nutrients and better conditions for root expansion. They also facilitate transmission of warnings between trees about threats from insects, drought and more.

Both books illuminate how much we have to learn about trees and forests. Once you start exploring – the ways in which they interconnect to be stronger as a whole than their constituent parts – you'll never see them in the same way.

We can't live without trees and forests. They provide oxygen, food, wood and other resources, and sequester carbon. Forests – and all natural spaces – are also beneficial for our physical and mental health. Numerous studies illustrate how much forest walks can do for

heart and respiratory health, immune system function and lowering stress levels.

Studies based on Japan's long tradition of *shinrin-yoku* or “forest bathing” found people who spend time in nature inhale “beneficial bacteria, plant-derived essential oils and negatively-charged ions” that interact with gut bacteria to strengthen the body's immune system and improve both mental and physical health.

One Japanese study of 585 participants found walking through forested areas decreased depression, anxiety, anger, fatigue and confusion, and increased vigour and other positive feelings compared with walking through city areas.

A UC Berkeley's Greater Good Magazine article describes scientific findings that “walking in trees lowered people's blood pressure, cortisol levels, pulse rates, and sympathetic nervous system activity (related to stress), while increasing their parasympathet-

ic nervous system activity (related to relaxation)” – all good for heart health. Studies have also found proximity to forested areas improves respiratory health.

Some research even found just looking at images of forests can improve your state of mind!

Reducing stress and anxiety and boosting immune systems and respiratory health are all important in these troubling times – keeping in mind the current rules and recommendations about social distancing and hygiene.

Forests are also a critical defence against disease outbreaks. A Nation article notes 60 per cent of microbial pathogens that have emerged or re-emerged into new areas since 1940 (including HIV, Ebola, Zika and a number of coronaviruses) originated from animals – two-thirds from wildlife and the rest from pets and livestock.

Wild animals become more susceptible to pathogens if their habitat is damaged or destroyed, and this also puts infected animals in closer contact with people. The illicit wildlife trade is another area that needs to be brought under control to keep pathogens from spreading from one species to another.

Industrial agriculture, where many animals are kept together in close quarters can also increase disease spread, as we saw in 2014 when millions of poultry had to be slaughtered to contain a virulent form of avian influenza. Another argument for shifting to a plant-based diet!

Now and always, we need to protect, conserve, plant and restore forests, wetlands and other natural areas – to help in the fight against climate disruption and disease spread, and to ensure more people have access to areas that keep us mentally and physically well.

Regardless of whether or not you can get out into nature, it's important now that we take care of each other and ourselves. Let's take a lesson from the trees and recognize that we are stronger together.

*David Suzuki is a scientist, broadcaster, author and co-founder of the David Suzuki Foundation. Written with contributions from David Suzuki Foundation Senior Editor and Writer Ian Hanington.*

King Chamber of Commerce

Learn more at [davidsuzuki.org](http://davidsuzuki.org).

## Chamber wants businesses protected

A couple of weeks back we wrote pleading with all levels of government to implement an Emergency Standstill Agreement to protect and preserve businesses impacted by COVID-19 and mandatory business closures. Since then, the federal government has taken extraordinary steps to protect laid off workers (CERB) and to allow those businesses who can continue to operate at some level to keep employees on the payroll (CEWS).

What has not been addressed though is the economic survival of the many businesses who have payrolls of less than \$50,000 or more than \$1,000,000 who don't qualify for emergency business loans and who are required to continue to pay rent on commercial space that they are unable to use as result of the mandatory closure of all “non-essential” services. This includes many retail outlets like the barber who can't open to cut hair, the trainer who can't train clients at the gym that is closed, and all of the bars and restaurants who are trying to survive on takeout and delivery.

The knock-on effect of these businesses failing or being unable to pay their rent is that commercial landlords, many of whom are also small businesses or investors themselves, won't be able to pay their mortgages or their property taxes. This conjures up images of abandoned restaurants, strip plazas and commercial buildings lying derelict with long term unemployment for those workers formerly employed at these sites.

Perhaps it is time for the federal government to create a third stream of subsidy, the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Subsidy (CECRS). Another alternative at the provincial level might be a mandated pause on rent for shuttered non-essential commercial businesses with a corresponding pause on mortgage payments and property taxes for their landlords. Without such support from one or the other levels of government we are going to lose many small independent businesses in our community due to COVID-19 and the dire picture painted above may well play out in our cities and towns.

Let's continue to stand together and get through this together!

### Government reaches tentative agreement with ETFO

Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, is pleased with the tentative agreement with the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) and the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA), and ETFO Education Workers and the Council of Trustees' Associations (CTA).

“Our government is pleased to announce a tentative agreement has been reached between the Crown, ETFO teachers and education workers, and the school boards trustees' associations.

“This tentative ETFO agreement builds further momentum for deals and progress that students deserve, following the tentative agreement signed with the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA).

“We remain focused on landing further deals, to provide stability and certainty to students, parents, and educators.”



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# King eyes Markham's move to ban train whistles

By Mark Pavilons

A move by Markham to ban mandatory train whistling at 13 crossings has piqued the interest of at least one King Township councillor.

However, track twinning work in King may derail a bid for cessation at this time.

Markham announced the ban at 13 rail crossings, from Steeles Avenue to Major Mackenzie Drive East.

"The Whistle Cessation Program has been a top priority for the City of Markham for years," said Mayor Frank Scarpitti. "My personal commitment to this project goes back to 2008, before it received widespread attention, when Markham council commissioned a Whistle Cessation Feasibility Study. I advocated for significant funding for the Whistle Cessation Program which was approved by Markham council and we have been working extensively with Metrolinx to improve our rail-crossing infrastructure in the name of safety for all commuters and residents. This is a complex, multi-jurisdictional project where we had to adhere to changes in federal regulations and we are now proud to be one of the first municipalities in the GTA to silence train horns under the new federal regulations."

"Metrolinx is enhancing service along the Stouffville corridor providing all-day GO service to meet the needs of growing communities," said Phil Verster, president and CEO of Metrolinx. "We understand that more train service means more whistles, which is why we have worked closely with the City of Markham and the Regional Municipality of York to reduce noise impacts to

the community from train whistling, while maintaining the highest level of safety, especially for pedestrians and cyclists. Metrolinx is committed to providing exceptional and reliable service to Markham and we will now be able to deliver our services with reduced noise disruptions."

Trains have to whistle when approaching any public road crossing under the Canadian Rail Operating Rules (CROR). To eliminate train whistling, the City of Markham followed Metrolinx's procedure for Train Whistling at Public Grade Crossings to meet the requirements of the Federal Railway Safety Act and Regulation. This required the railway companies and road authorities – in this case, the City of Markham, the Regional Municipality of York and Metrolinx – to collaborate in finding the best option for making the crossings safe.

The City of Markham has implemented all mandatory upgrades as well as additional safety measures to 13 existing rail-crossings in Markham. Each crossing is now equipped with either maze barriers or pedestrian warning gates, and further supported by tactile walking plates, visual signage and bells in order to meet Metrolinx's safety requirements. These fully accessible pedestrian warning systems advise pedestrians, motorists and cyclists of approaching trains and assist in keeping them safe.

The Whistle Cessation Project cost a total of \$6 million and was jointly funded by the City of Markham and the Regional Municipality of York.

King's Ward 5 councillor Debbie Schaefer has been lobbying for mitigation measures in King City for years.



"I am well aware of how annoying this is to the residents living close to the track," she said.

In advance of the track twinning works, Metrolinx will be undertaking Enabling Works along the rail corridor which has been split into two phases – Phase 1 (Dufferin Street to Bathurst Street) and Phase 2 (King Vaughan Road to Dufferin Street and King City GO Station Improvements). The scope of the enabling works includes grading/ditching, utility relocations, fence/noise walls, and culvert extensions/relocations.

Schaefer explained that phase 1 is expected to go out to tender this spring and the works are anticipated to be completed by the spring of 2022. Phase 2 is expected to go out to tender Fall 2020 with anticipated completion of these

early works in fall of 2024.

Unfortunately, the project schedule at this time is very high-level as Metrolinx has indicated that a detailed schedule for these works would only be provided when the contract has been awarded. King, she said, has requested for this information as it becomes readily available.

"King council has been talking to both Metrolinx and Province, specifically our MPP, for several years now in identifying the need to address the noise problem, and to get a schedule.

"It would be fiscally irresponsible for King to go ahead and put in new gates for safety and apply for whistle cessation because such work would be rendered obsolete when tracks are twinned. And for sure, we would have to bear that cost totally."

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## Crews respond to chimney fire

Personnel from King City and Nobleton fire stations responded to a reported chimney fire recently.

Crews arrived on scene with seven rigs to find a confirmed fire with heavy black smoke and flames visible at the chimney cap. A coordinated effort by both exterior and interior crews managed the fire in a relatively short time frame. However, the overhaul and clean up work took a bit of time.

Fire Chief Jim Wall noted crews cleaned out two steel garbage cans full of creosote! The insert was placed outside while crews extinguished the remainder of fire behind it.

Wall said failure to provide on-going maintenance was a contributing factor here. Fires of this nature can be avoided. If you have a wood stove and/or fireplace, please consider having it inspected and cleaned by a professional. The amount of use will dictate how often it needs cleaning. Only burn clean well-seasoned hardwood. Softwoods have a tendency to have a lot of pitch in them which can cause the creosote issues.

"Remember, fire is a good servant, but a poor master," he said. A wood stove that isn't maintained equals a chimney fire sooner than later.

# X CROSSWORD

PUZZLE NO. 463

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15				16					17				
18				19					20				
21			22					23			24		
25			26					27			28		
		29			30		31			32	33	34	
	35	36			37	38			39			40	
41					42				43				
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54					55						56		
	57				58				59	60			
			61		62				63		64	65	66
67	68	69		70				71	72	73			74
75			76					77			78		
79								80			81		
82								83			84		

**ACROSS**

- Liquid measure
- Sudden flood
- Itinerant
- Speed competition
- Singing voice
- Corrupt
- Prepare copy
- Very very
- Cut molars
- Paramedic's purpose
- Group of eight
- Section of grass
- Bandleader Weems
- Inlay
- Dress size
- Alliance
- Place for a workout
- "Sidewalks of New York" start
- Buyer's attraction
- Moving
- Shankar's instrument
- Rathskeller order
- "\_\_\_ Offerings"
- Weighing instrument
- Night before
- Narrow inlet

**DOWN**

- Reverie
- Wireless
- Sulfuric and nitric
- Matched
- House covering
- Pummel
- Pay (up)
- Wrongful act
- Notable period
- Uncalled for
- "\_\_\_ to Billy Joe"
- Mongrel dog
- Hurt
- Ownership paper
- Greek portico
- Tank ship
- Learned
- Adept
- Popeye's greens
- Secular
- City vehicle
- Furrow
- Sculpture
- Special ability
- Rescuer
- Meeting plan
- Presume
- Tear

**ACROSS**

- For fear that
- Newborn cow
- Cosmetic item
- Drink noisily
- Florida island
- Swagger
- Oak or linden
- Be against
- Prayer closer
- Quick
- Baby insect
- Assault
- Soothing medicine
- Provided at no cost
- Scram
- Big book
- Zing
- Senorita
- Summer beverage
- Fashion
- Tropical cuckoo

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**Solution on page 15**

# King

## 7-Day Weather Outlook

From Thursday, April 16 to Wednesday, April 22

THURS 16TH	FRI 17TH	SAT 18TH	SUN 19TH	MON 20TH	TUES 21ST	WED 22ND
Wet Flurries High 4C° Low -4C° <1cm Wind W 25k	Sun/Clouds High 6C° Low -3C° - Wind W 17k	Sunny High 10C° Low 3C° - Wind SW 19k	Chance of Shower High 12C° Low 0C° 1-3mm/<1cm Wind S 21k	Few Showers High 6C° Low -1C° 1-3mm/<1cm Wind N 20k	Sun/Clouds High 8C° Low 1C° - Wind S 14k	Chance of Shower High 10C° Low 3C° 10-15mm Wind S 16k

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Stay home.  
Save lives.**







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## York school boards employ high-paid civil servants

By Mark Pavilons

The school boards serving York Region have their fair share of civil servants making well over the \$100,000 mark.

The salaries and taxable benefits of employees in the Ontario Public Service and the broader public sector, who were paid \$100,000 or more in 2019, were released last week. The Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act requires public sector organizations to disclose the name, position, salary and taxable benefits of their employees paid \$100,000 or more in the previous calendar year.

These civil servants, numbering more than 166,000, are on what's become known as the "sunshine list." Total salaries in 2019 rose above \$21 billion.

### York Catholic District School Board

The top wage-earner at the York Catholic board was director of education Albert Falconi, who earned \$235,199.90, while associate director Nancy DiNardo pulled in \$193,432.

Several superintendents of school leadership earned over \$150,000.

They included Tina D'Acunto (\$168,852), Opiyo Oloya (\$168,852), Eugene Pivato (\$159,112), Jennifer Sarna (\$162,295), Laura Sawicky (\$159,112) and Anthony Arcadi (\$161,436).

Thomas Pechkovsky, manager of planning and operations, earned \$168,632.

Darlene Clapham, chief information officer, earned \$162,295.

Earning \$154,693 was Normand Vezi-na, senior manager environmental services.

Lucie Giambattista, senior manager

budget, payroll and benefit services, earned \$154,588.

Soula Homatidis, chief psychologist, earned \$153,183.

Numerous elementary principals earn more than \$130,000, and countless teachers are over the \$100,000 mark.

Among the top wage-earners last year were elementary teacher Elizabeth Stuart (\$165,379) and secondary teacher and department head Fortuna-ta Racco (\$152,168).

### York Region District School Board

The salary grid at the York Region District School Board was equally as bright.

The highest-paid official in this board was Mary Sirisko, director of education. She earned a very respectable \$295,803.

Karen Friedman, associated director of education schools and program, earned \$227,153.

The board's CFO Wanda Muirhead earned \$188,429.

Superintendent Daniel Wu earned \$165,873 while superintendent student services Katherine Diakiw earned \$163,723.

Jeff Fair, senior manager of legal, legislative and administrative services, earned \$163,823.

Most superintendents earn in the \$160K range. They included Rebecca Green (\$161,193), Michael Cohen (\$161,193), Rita Russo (\$161,848), Tod Dungey (\$158,603), Paul Valle (\$157,600), Shawn Bredin (\$152,839) and Elizabeth Davis (\$147,511).

Paulla Bennett, chief technology strategist, earned \$158,823.

Licinio Miguelo, senior manager cor-

porate communications, made \$153,823.

Dawn Adams-Levine, senior manager planning and property development, earned \$152,395.

Commissioner of the Human Rights Office Wayne Anirud, earned \$148,962.

Elementary teacher Debra Besner is likely the highest paid teacher in York region. She earned \$174,234 last year.

Ntchowa Ng'Ong'Ola, secondary teacher, earned \$151,070, while Andrea Chung, elementary teacher, earned \$145,565.

To put things in perspective, Ontario Premier Doug Ford earned \$208,974 last year. Stephen Lecce, King-Vaughan MPP and Minister of Education, earned

\$150,531.

"We have taken positive steps and seen real results, but we must continue working hard to ensure each dollar spent gets the best results for Ontarians," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, president of the Treasury Board. "Our government has a prudent and responsible plan to manage the province's finances and make sure we have the fiscal flexibility to deal with any challenge."

The 2019 data is available in a downloadable, machine-readable, sortable, searchable table format on Ontario.ca/salarydisclosure, making it transparent and accessible to the people of Ontario.

## Dial-a-Doc improves access to physicians

By Kinjal Dagli Shah

As it gets harder for patients in Ontario to see doctors amid the COVID-19 pandemic, a Toronto doctor is hoping to help. Dr. Mark Auspitz, MD, CCFP, has launched Dial-a-Doc, a free website that connects patients in Ontario with doctors for phone appointments.

"When a patient registers, we match them to a clinic that will call them back and provide an assessment by phone. The purpose is to try to keep as many people as possible away from emergency rooms/busy walk-in clinics. We can offer guidance for most acute conditions and if we cannot manage it over the phone, we can direct them to the most appropriate care," said Dr Auspitz.

So far, the website has helped match over 4,000 patients with doctors since its launch recently, and Dr. Auspitz estimates that at least 500 patients have come from King Township and surrounding areas.

"Patients will usually get their appointment by phone within 24 hours. This service is completely free and covered by OHIP. We can refill prescriptions/order investigations as needed," he pointed out.

Dr Auspitz, who trained at the University of Toronto, has his own practice and also offers a walk-in service. He was motivated to help when he began to see the fallout of the COVID-19 spread.

"A few weeks ago, during the start of the COVID-19 surge, I saw a walk-in clinic patient whom I had never met before. All she needed was a refill on her diabetes medication but her family doctor recently retired and she had no way to fill her medications. I noticed that she seemed a bit frightened during our interaction and when I asked her why, she replied that being elderly and diabetic, she was at a higher risk for COVID-19 complications."

The interaction triggered Dr Auspitz to start Dial-a-Doc.

"One of Dial-a-Doc's roles in the current pandemic is to facilitate people filling their chronic disease medications. The current pandemic will likely last months. People missing their statins could have heart attacks. Those without insulin could go into diabetic coma. Asthmatics missing their puffers can have respiratory attacks. But it is impossible to balance these more abstract risks with the immediate risk that COVID-19 poses," he explained, adding that a doctor on Dial-a-Doc can fax a prescription to any pharmacy a patient chooses (many also deliver) so that someone with a medical comorbidity can stay safe at home.

Dr Auspitz's wife helped him set up the Dial-a-Doc website. He maintains that they only work with established clinics who already have their own computer system.

"Our website simply gathers some non-medical contact information for the patients and then distributes it among our existing partners who can call the patient for the appointment and document the interaction on their secure system," he said.

Since the launch of the website, they have been able to divert close to a 1,000 people with viral cold symptoms away from emergency rooms and walk-in clinics, where they could have spread infection in the community.

"A lot of people were confused about COVID-19 and were going to the emergency room for very mild flu symptoms. This puts themselves and others at risk so we wanted a way to keep people out of the hospital. We can provide guidance on what to do with these sorts of symptoms over the phone and save on hospital visits."

Those who do not have access to the internet can have a loved one fill out the contact form on the website using their information and a doctor would call them back by phone. For more information or to use the service, visit dialadoc.ca.

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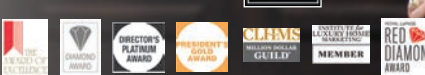
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# St. Andrew's College resumes school year entirely online

By Brock Weir

The physical campus might be shut down, but it is full steam ahead for St. Andrew's College students who are now studying online from all over the world. The Aurora-based independent school, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, has now gone fully virtual in a commitment to keep their semester – and their school – on track for the rest of the school year.

Last week was the first in which the venerable institution was able to go fully online. It was a process they began just before March Break (which, for them, began a week earlier than most schools across Ontario) when the pan-

demie was expected to be around for just a few weeks.

"These are not ideal conditions, we understand that, but we're making the most of it, I sincerely believe that," says Head of School Kevin McHenry. "Before March Break, we had an assembly (where) we mentioned to our students to take everything academically they need to work from home online. This was in the first week of March and it really didn't look like we were going to be online. Thankfully, we made the statement and communicated it to our parents, so, for the most part, the boys have been ready to go."

Laying the groundwork for 650 students to connect to St. Andrew's from

all parts of the world was a logistical challenge for their IT department, but most of the bugs were worked out by March 25.

"You need a lot of support for this and our first goal was to solidify and get the academic program going in the best way possible," said McHenry. "We have, quite frankly, been blown away by the feedback we have received from our students, our parents, our alumni."

Integral to the planning process and making sure the curriculum could be fully adapted to online learning is Dr. Michael Paluch, leader of SAC's academic program. One of the first steps was making sure students had all the tools they needed to make this possible and identify any possible gaps in that regard.

Once those challenges were solved, focus was squarely on making sure students had the tools they needed to reach the next step of their academic journey. For Grade 12 students on the cusp of graduating, it was a matter of making sure they would have the credits they needed to follow their chosen post-secondary path. For younger students, it was a matter of making sure they had a strong base for the next grade.

"We know there are some things we just can't do online, but our teachers have been really innovative," said Dr. Paluch, noting they have also developed online programs where phys-ed can continue in the virtual universe. "One shift is we're using something called an Exit Ticket approach, which means that at the end of each class, because we're following our schedule, kids who are all over the world might not be able to attend that class face-to-face so, at the end of the day, the student engaging with the material that has been posted to that class is required to produce some kind of exit ticket, some kind of activity that allows us to respond to them. There is an eternal feedback loop that is going on. In this context, it is happening both through dialogue and Zoom, but there is a feedback loop happening where teachers are responding

after each class to something that a student did. It's a way to make sure you're always engaged with the kids."

In developing the program, SAC was cognizant that students, teachers, staff and parents might be overwhelmed tackling a new way of learning in the middle of a global situation that can leave many feeling overloaded, said McHenry, noting they also took the mental health side of things into the equation.

Wellness – mental and physical – has been integral in the development of the program, leaving space for mindfulness exercises, including yoga.

So far, the feedback has been nothing but positive.

"Online learning has been emerging but it has never really taken hold," said Dr. Paluch. "This is the first time in the world where online learning is becoming quite common. I think a lot of our teachers are operating in the spirit of, 'Imagine what the opportunities will be once this crisis is over,' how we can maybe leverage some of the learning that we're experiencing here and just kind of improve our practice in general. As much as this is a challenge, it is also a really big opportunity. We're learning a lot in a short time and I think it is going to make us stronger and education in general is going to be stronger, and we will have a better sense of what the future looks like in terms of online learning."

Adds McHenry: "Worldwide, there are going to be a lot of positives that come from this. The world is maybe going to be a slower place, a more grateful place, and I think on the education landscape, you're going to find that people are going to understand the benefits of online learning."

"There is nothing like face to face, and that is the core of what we should be all about, but the advantages of having this experience, both students, teachers, staff, parents, alum, we're figuring out a number of things that need to be figured out and I think that is a positive."

## Ontario's \$25-million emergency investment in higher education promotes student success

The Ontario government's announcement today of \$25 million in emergency funding for post-secondary education is a major investment in student success as the province continues to tackle the COVID-19 outbreak.

"This is a tremendous investment in the measures to help students complete their college education," said Linda Franklin, the president and CEO of Colleges Ontario. "It reinforces our efforts to continue delivering quality programs during this global epidemic."

Colleges and Universities Minister Ross Romano announced the province has provided \$25 million to colleges, universities and Indigenous institutes to mitigate some of the early costs of addressing the COVID-19 outbreak.

The funding addresses a range of fiscal pressures including support for students stranded in a community, the purchase of cleaning and medical supplies, the costs for physical and mental health resources and the added expense of transitioning to remote learning.

Ontario's colleges announced March 13 that in-person classes were being cancelled to protect the health and safety of students and staff.

The colleges have implemented alternate measures to deliver programs such as online learning and testing. The alternate delivery measures continue to be in effect.

"While the situation we face is challenging, we're fortunate to have very dedicated staff and students," Franklin said. "They are incredibly committed to the successful completion of these programs."

The government is easing the financial burden on students and making sure they can complete their studies during the COVID-19 outbreak by temporarily deferring payments for Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) loans and making online learning supports, including year-end exams, available to postsecondary institutions.

To support borrowers during this difficult period, loan repayments will be subject to a six-month interest-free moratorium until Sept. 30. This means that during this time, borrowers will not be required to make any loan payments and interest will not accrue on their OSAP loans. Borrowers can still make one-time payments via their online account or online banking if they want to repay their loans faster. Payments during this period will go entirely towards their loan principal.

"Students and their families make great sacrifices to attend postsecondary

education and it is incumbent on us to do everything we can to ensure this academic year is not put in jeopardy," said Minister Romano. "I want to thank our postsecondary institutions for their leadership in adopting alternative ways for students to study and take exams, while ensuring they practice physical distancing and stay safe."

To ensure students can successfully complete the academic year, Ontario has finalized an agreement with eCampusOntario to make digital learning supports available to postsecondary institutions. These interim digital learning supports, available in both French and English, will provide publicly-assisted colleges and universities with the technology they need to conduct year-end assessments, while preserving student privacy and the integrity of academic assessment.

Ontario will work with other partners who may be interested in offering digital learning, such as Indigenous Institutes and private career colleges. Supports will be accessible on an as-needed basis and limited to those courses and programs where formal exams are required.



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**King Weekly Sentinel**





KingWeeklySentinel

# Arts & Entertainment

## King aims to record history of the pandemic

By Kinjal Dagli Shah

Times of distress are perhaps as important to record, if not more, as times of joy. In keeping with that idea, the King Heritage and Cultural Centre (KHCC) has launched a project titled Collecting Covid-19: Recording history in the midst of a global pandemic.

“As the full force of COVID-19 hits North America, there has been a realization that we are amidst history in the making and as historians it is our duty to record it,” said Liza Mallyon, Collections and Exhibit Coordinator for KHCC. Mallyon points out that it is the personal stories that make history most interesting. “When the crisis comes to an end, there will be a multitude of statistics available on how it has affected the global population. But the KHCC is interested in capturing the personal experience or how COVID-19 is affecting the citizens that live in the Township of King.”

Little is known about what people went through and thought during the 1918 Spanish flu. KHCC supervisor Erika Baird cites this difficulty in finding personal stories of the Spanish Flu Epidemic as the spark for Collecting

COVID-19. “It led me to the idea of capturing the local reaction to the current health crisis for the collection at the KHCC,” she said, adding, “Ironically, as the COVID-19 crisis was unfolding we were already in the midst of studying the 1918 Spanish Flu as part of a partnership with the Aurora Museum & Archives for an upcoming exhibit. Recognizing the similarities to a century-old event, we realized that future historians would appreciate personal stories to glean a more local understanding of the pandemic.”

Although the crisis is still ongoing, there has already been some interest in the project. “It gives people a way to express their emotions and have their personal story go down in history. We hope to receive contributions from all age groups and all areas of King Township,” said Mallyon.

The information collected will be used in the future for research and/or exhibit purposes. Participants will have the option to have their stories opened immediately or closed in the archives for up to one hundred years. If you have any questions, please email [kingmuseum@king.ca](mailto:kingmuseum@king.ca).



This is a photo of men wearing masks during the Spanish Flu epidemic circa 1918, somewhere in Canada.

Library & Archives Canada

### York Regional Forest closed to the public

As part of The Regional Municipality of York’s continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic and reducing the risk of infection, the York Regional Forest and its 21 forest tracts covering 2,300 hectares of land are closed to the public until further notice, effective immediately.

The York Regional Forest is made up of 2,300 hectares of protected land, located in different parts of the Region. For a list of York Regional Forest tracts, please visit [york.ca/yrf](http://york.ca/yrf)

### Conservation areas closed to the public

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) decided to temporarily close all 19 conservation areas effective immediately. For your safety, please do not visit these areas as they will not be maintained until further notice.

“If anyone understands and appreciates the importance of nature and getting outside, it’s the staff at conservation authorities. We have not made this decision lightly, but we are doing what is in the best interest of our watershed community,” Brian Kemp, general manager of Conservation Lands. “With the trails not being monitored for hazards like falling or fallen trees, we cannot ensure visitor safety. We have no choice. It’s a matter of public safety.”

The LSRCA asks that the public respect these closures and stay out of all conservation areas, including Scanlon Creek in Bradford, Thornton Bales in King, Rogers Reservoir in East Gwillimbury, Whitchurch in Stouffville, Sheppard’s Bush in Aurora, Beaver River Wetlands between Uxbridge and Cannington, as well as Durham Regional Forest which is south and west of Uxbridge. A full list of which properties are included in the closure can be found online here: [www.lsrca.on.ca/enjoytheoutdoors/conservationareas](http://www.lsrca.on.ca/enjoytheoutdoors/conservationareas)

You can still go for walks in your neighbourhood, ensuring you keep the minimum distance of 6 feet from others.

Visit [www.LSRCA.on.CA](http://www.LSRCA.on.CA) or social media channels for updates to this notice and for information about other activities you can participate in.

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**Online Resources**

Our website provides you with the opportunity to learn something new including: languages, sign language, or a new skill. Just click on “Apps and Databases” found on the Library’s main page.

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# Changes to summer jobs program to help businesses and youth

The federal government is taking unprecedented action to support workers, businesses, and all Canadians impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Right now, young people are facing serious challenges finding work. To build the foundations of strong communities, we need a strong workforce that includes good job opportunities for youth. That is why the government is working to help employers adapt to the realities of COVID-19, and supporting young Canadians as they begin to look for summer employment.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced temporary changes to the Canada Summer Jobs program that will help employers hire summer staff and provide young Canadians access to the jobs they need during this unprecedented time. This program will help create up to 70,000 jobs for youth between 15 and 30 years of age.

Canada's small businesses increasingly depend on the employment of young Canadians. The changes to the Canada Summer Jobs program will help small businesses hire and keep the workers they need so they can continue to deliver essential services.

The temporary changes to the program for this year include:

- An increase to the wage subsidy, so that private and public sector employers can also receive up to 100 per cent of the provincial or territorial minimum hourly wage for each employee.
- An extension to the end date for employment to Feb. 28, 2021.
- Allowing employers to adapt their projects and job activities to support essential services.
- Allowing employers to hire staff on a part-time basis.

These changes will help youth stay connected to the labour market, save money for their future, and find quality jobs in safe, inclusive, and healthy work environments.

The Canada Summer Jobs program provides opportunities for youth to develop and improve their skills within the not-for-profit, small business, and public sectors, and supports the delivery of key community services. By adapting the program this year, the Government of Canada is making sure that we have the resources needed to support Canadian workers, businesses, and communities dealing with the social and economic impacts of COVID-19.

"Small businesses and community organizations are the backbone of our economy, and a critical lifeline for communities across this country. They are facing economic hardship and unprecedented service demands during the COVID-19 pandemic, and that is why we are taking action now to get them the financial help they need to keep their doors open and support their communities," Trudeau said.

"In these extraordinary times, we realize the impacts small businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and public sector employers have on our economy and our communities. Our role is to support them. This is why the Government of Canada has made changes to the Canada Summer Jobs program, so that we can help employers help their communities through good quality, safe job placements for youth," added Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion.

The changes to the Canada Summer Jobs program complement the Government of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, which committed \$107 billion in support to Canadians and businesses facing hardship as a result

of COVID-19.

The Canada Summer Jobs call for applications for the 2020 season closed on Feb. 28, 2020. In response to the economic impacts created by the COVID-19 situation, we will work with MPs to identify organizations that provide essential services in the community and could provide youth jobs but did not apply for the Canada Summer Jobs program in 2020.

The Government of Canada has earmarked \$263 million in funding for the Canada Summer Jobs program in 2020. This funding will help create up to 70,000 jobs for youth between 15 and 30 years of age, and we will be working with employers to explore work options that reflect the latest public health advice.

Job placements could begin as early as May 11, 2020, and end as late as Feb-

ruary 28, 2021.

Youth will be able to search for jobs available in their communities through the Job Bank website and app.

In previous years, private and public sector employers were only eligible to receive a wage subsidy of up to 50 per cent of the provincial or territorial minimum wage. The increase to the wage subsidy for private and public sector employers will be for this year only.

## Collecting COVID-19:

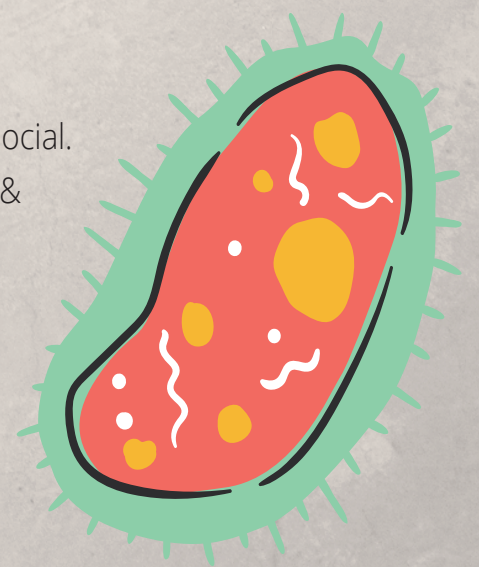
### Recording history in the midst of a global pandemic

The global coronavirus pandemic of 2020 is history in the making. The impact of the virus will be felt for years to come and related events will mark a significant place in history.

As countries struggle to gain control and stop the spread of this virus, Canadians are self-isolating and coping in different ways. The King Heritage & Cultural Centre would like to record the *local* impact, that is how King Township citizens are feeling amidst the crisis.

If you live or work in the Township of King, you can participate:

1. Describe your personal experience in any form (journal, poem, letter, drawing, photo, video clip, social media post, etc.).
2. Email [kingmuseum@king.ca](mailto:kingmuseum@king.ca) and request a donation form.
3. Complete the form and return with your contribution via email or on social.
4. If you prefer to submit the original, please wait until the King Heritage & Cultural Centre reopens (date not yet determined).
5. Questions? Please email us at [kingmuseum@king.ca](mailto:kingmuseum@king.ca).



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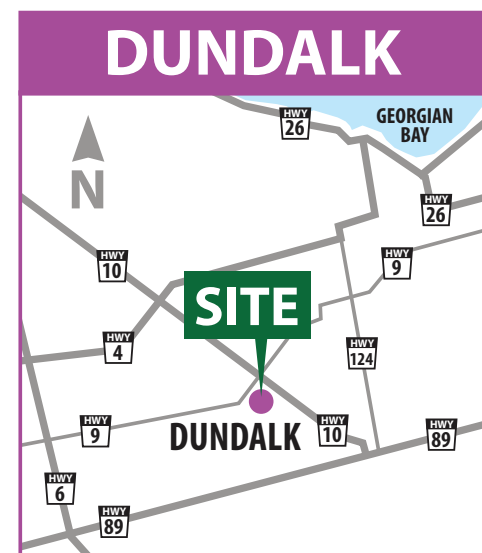
# Now you can!

## Impaired, stunt driving charges

A 22-year-old driver from the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury has been charged with impaired-related criminal driving offences, as well as stunt driving, after being caught speeding 90 kilometres per hour over the speed limit.

On April 6, at 9:40 p.m., an officer with the York Regional Police Road Safety Bureau was on patrol on Bloomington Road, in the area of McCowan Road, when he saw a vehicle travelling on Bloomington Road at a high rate of speed. The vehicle's speed was confirmed to be 170 kilometres per hour in a posted 80 kilometre per hour zone. The vehicle was stopped and the driver was showing signs of being impaired by alcohol. He was placed under arrest and taken to #1 District for a breath test, which he failed.

In March, officers laid 104 charges for stunt driving for vehicles travelling in excess of 50 kilometres per hour over the speed limit, versus 54 charges in March of 2019. Speed kills and police are asking drivers to slow down and obey posted speed limits.



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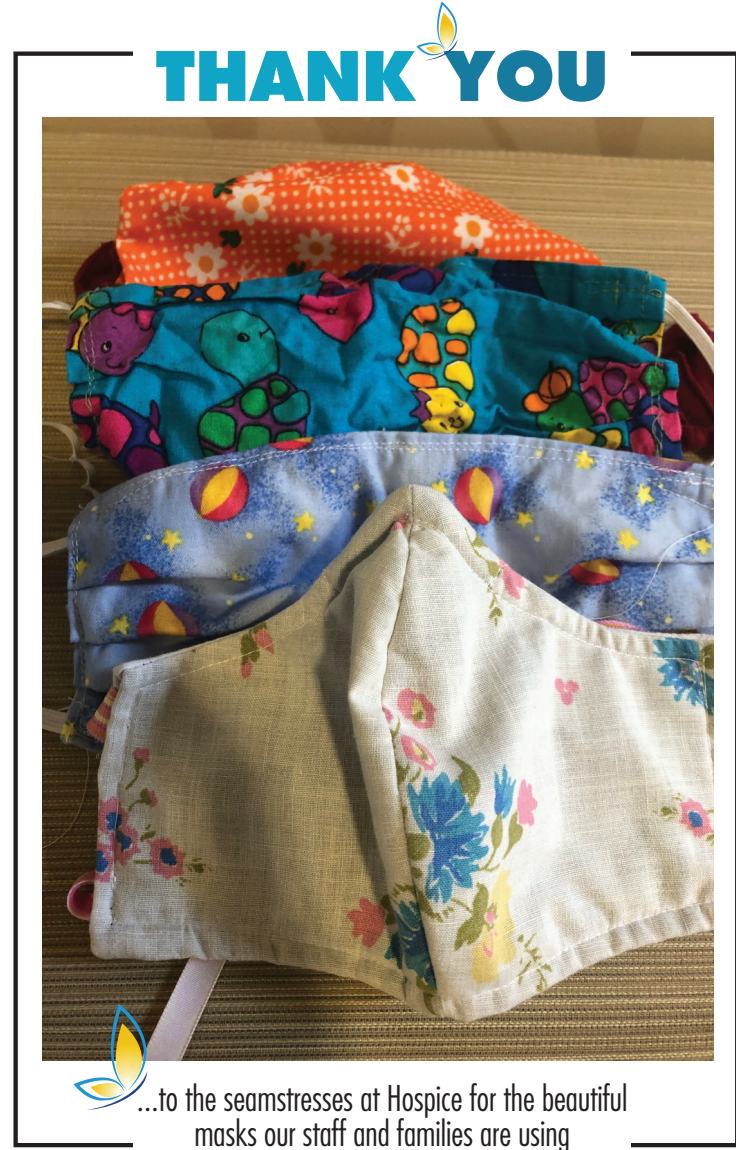


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## April 19-25, 2020 is National Volunteer Appreciation Week

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Covid – 19 hasn't changed that, but we are having to depend more and more on our community. Thank you to those who continue to support our cause.

Hospice is supported by volunteers and it's fitting for us to acknowledge that **April 19-25, 2020 is National Volunteer Appreciation Week.**

Please join us in thanking all volunteers, for your relentless commitment to improving the quality of lives of the people across our Region.

Thank you to our seamstresses for the beautiful masks our staff and families are using, Thank you for the signs of appreciation around the hospice.

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*Together, we will get through this!*



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# Canadian film festival moves online April 22

By Mark Pavilons

The Canadian film industry is also hard hit by the current COVID-19 crisis, bringing all production to a halt.

But the show must go on, and organizers of the world's largest film festival moves to an all-online edition next week.

The seventh annual National Canadian Film Day (NCFD) on April 22 will unite Canadians in a celebration of cinematic culture by moving screenings and events online.

The centrepiece of this year's programming will be "CanFilmDay Live," an interactive livestream broadcast from 6 to 10 p.m. (EST) on YouTube. It will feature engaging, interactive ac-

tivities, conversations with filmmakers and other industry professionals, short videos submitted by Canadians, "Happy NCFD" messages from around the world, and more.

Confirmed guests who will take part in our livestream programming include Atom Egoyan, Colm Feore, Mina Shum, Philippe Falardeau, Vinay Virmani, Patricia Rozema, Emily Hampshire, Peter Keleghan, Mary Young Leckie and Don McKellar. Many others are being confirmed daily.

There will be great Canadian films on CBC, CBC Gem, Encore+, Netflix, Hollywood Suite, Crave, the NFB and the many others. Audiences of all ages will be connecting with their friends, neighbours, classmates, colleagues, communities and fellow citizens through online "Watch Parties" and on the livestream.

"While there is a huge selection of pop-up home entertainment happening, we believe that Canadians are hungry for an opportunity to be part of something larger, and especially something Canadian. It's a chance to come together and give each other a big virtual hug," said Jack Blum, executive director of REEL CANADA. "And we've been thrilled by the warm response our plans have received from filmmakers and community partners alike."

Special programming will be made available to more than 150 retirement residences and long term care facilities, including video introductions from the filmmakers.

"We hope these offerings will bring some comfort and much-needed cheer to our most vulnerable citizens, who are in isolation and away from their families and loved ones.

"There will also be a wealth of family-friendly programming during the day, to help Canadian parents looking for activities to do with their kids. We'll have games, printable colouring pages, online scavenger hunts and other fun (and educational!) content, as well as a list of kid-appropriate films that Canadians can access for free.

Go to [canfilmday.ca](http://canfilmday.ca), where you'll find a curated list of 20+20 films to give you a boost and ground you in reality. A detailed schedule is available to help plan your film watch party.

Join the conversation on social me-

dia and use the hashtag #canfilmday

Visit [canfilmday.ca](http://canfilmday.ca) for more information in the lead-up to April 22. You

can also find them on Twitter, Face-

book, and Instagram: @CanFilmDay, and #CanFilmDay.

## MPs donate raises to local charities

By Mark Pavilons

The battle against COVID-19 is everyone's fight.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented challenge and has put a strain on vulnerable people, healthcare workers and hospitals in our communities.

York Region Liberal Members of Parliament (MPs) have been working closely with local community organizations to explore further ways they could give support to their residents, at a personal level. To give back to their communities and people in need, York Region's Federal Liberal caucus members have decided they will donate their MP pay raises for this upcoming year to local charities.

These donations will go directly to various organizations in York Region including the Southlake Regional Health Centre, Markham-Stouffville Hospital, Mackenzie Health Vaughan Hospital and the Vaughan Food Bank, and will help pay for things like medical and food supplies for healthcare workers and our most vulnerable.

"Everyone in York Region is feeling the direct impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the extraordinary time that our country is facing. As Members of Parliament, we are here to serve the people in our communities and we need to be there for them now more than ever in this difficult time. We thank all our residents for continuing to heed the advice of our public health officials to stay home, practice physical distancing and wash your hands often."

The group of MPs include Deb Schulte, Vaughan-King; Tony Van Bynen, Newmarket-Aurora; Helena Jaczek, Markham-Stouffville; Majid Jowhari, Richmond Hill; Hon. Mary Ng, Markham-Thornhill; Francesco Sorbara, Vaughan-Woodbridge.

## Schomberg Should Know

By Wendy-Sue Bishop  
905-590-0054  
[wsue52@hotmail.com](mailto:wsue52@hotmail.com)

Horticultural Society

To the surprise of no one, but the disappointment of many, The Schomberg Horticultural Society regrets that we will cancel our April and May meetings featuring fabulous speakers.

We hope to re-schedule them for next year as their topics will still be timely and fascinating. We were very much looking forward to meeting with our fellow avid gardeners and their guests, but will instead only be able to have you in our thoughts as we plug away in our gardens during this beautiful spring weather.

We have made the decision to re-schedule our highly anticipated event with Frankie Ferragine, "Garden Crazy."

This will be postponed to a date in September that suits both Frankie Ferragine and also the Township's scheduling department.

While it is disappointing to reschedule, we encourage everyone to follow the guidance of the World Health Organization and also the local public health officials and look forward to seeing you at our rescheduled event. Please watch for that date in the future.

### Schomberg Community Farm

Spring is here and thoughts are turning to getting the Farm ready for another fruitful season. As soon as the snow disappears, the volunteer plot co-ordinator will be contacting renters regarding the official opening day and all volunteer opportunities.

Two activities are being planned as fundraisers for the Farm and the funds will go towards fencing, tool replacement, weed barrier fabric, plants and trees, bee maintenance and more!

Veseys Fundraising - you can buy flower bulbs, seeds, perennials, edibles for your farm plot or home garden, all at reasonable prices! The Farm takes your order, just in time for planting.

Request a catalogue through [schombergcommunityfarm@gmail.com](mailto:schombergcommunityfarm@gmail.com); Pick your plants and seeds. Contact the Farm with your order and then write a cheque to Schomberg Community Farm.

Please order no later than April 15.

The Trisan Centre Community Yard Sale takes place May 2.

Got stuff in your garage, basement or around the house that you want to get rid of?

Donate it to the Farm and they will sell it at the yard sale to raise money for the Farm.

Contact the Farm to arrange collection at [schombergcommunityfarm@gmail.com](mailto:schombergcommunityfarm@gmail.com) before April 24.

### Schomberg United Church By Nancy Hopkinson

Although we are in a period of isolation with the churches officially closed, we are still able to communicate with each other. Be sure to pick up the phone and contact someone to let them know that you care.

Rev. Carol-Ann Chapman has been busy doing videos this past week and they are all posted on Nobleton United Church's Facebook page.

Please read Nobleton United Church's message under Nobleton Notes for more details on the various videos and how to contact Rev. Carol-Ann.

### Schomberg Skating Club

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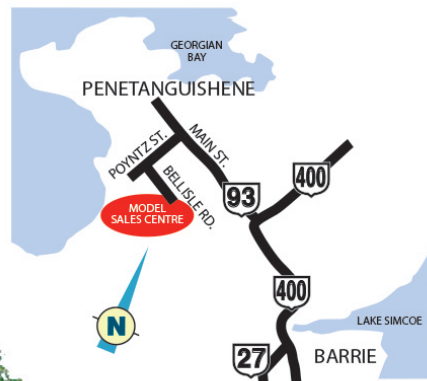
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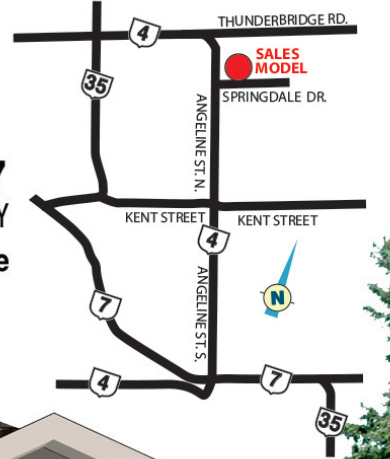
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## King horse among Canadian horse racing inductees

By Robert Belardi

King City, the Town of Aurora and Caledon share one thing in common this year – they all have a representative entering the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame.

Annually, the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame selects ten inductees to join a prestigious history.

King City native and thoroughbred horse “Play the King” from Kinghaven Farms; standardbred horse McWicked, owned by the owner of SSG Gloves in Aurora; Ed James and Caledon resident Michael Keogh have all been announced as the inductees, according to the press release last week.

Managing director of the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame, Linda Rainey said the induction process is quite extensive.

Rainey explains: “It’s based on significant contributions to horse racing in Canada. It’s voted on two committees for an individual to be inducted.”

The nominating committee oversees all of the public submissions. People within this committee have historical knowledge of the sport, current racing knowledge, breeding and background knowledge. These votes determine who proceeds to the ballot.

Rainey believes there were 80 nominations per breed presented to the Standardbred and Thoroughbred Nomination Committees this year.

Ballots are categorized and sent off to the final group of voters who inevitably decide which inductees are named for the year.

All of which of course, hold notable records to sway the judgment of the voters.

Trained by Roger Attfield, Play the King has had an exceptional four-year career. When the horse was only four years of age, victory at the Toboggan Handicap (G3) in Aqueduct, sparked a good run of form. Victories at Jacques Cartier, Vigil Handicap, Toronto Budweiser Breeders’ Cup at Woodbine, Suffolk Sprint in Boston (G3) and Ne-arctic Stakes (G3) earned the horse the 1987 Sovereign Award champion as Canada’s top, older male horse and champion sprinter.

In 1988, Play the King repeated as Sovereign Award champion with another championship at Woodbine, Ne-arctic Stakes (G3), the Breeder’s Cup Sprint (G1) and Churchill Downs.

The second horse nominated from the local areas is McWicked from Aurora, owned by Ed James’ SSG Stables of Aurora.

Recently retired from racing, McWicked earned \$5.1 million during a race career that began in 2013 and included 40 wins in 110 starts while setting his lifetime mark of 1:46.2 at age seven.

During his career McWicked won four O’Brien awards, as Canada’s top Older Pacing Horse of the Year in 2018 and 2019 and overall Horse of the Year in 2018.

His 2018 bankroll of \$1.662 million made him the oldest horse to top North American harness racing’s earnings

standings at the age of seven, and his \$5.1 million in career earnings makes him the richest pacing stallion in the history of the sport.

Last, but most certainly not least, Bolton resident Michael Keogh, former trainer for the Hall of Fame builder Gus Schickedanz, has been racing since 1993.

In 2,689 starts, Keogh has amassed 330 wins and earnings over \$21.5 million.

He is most famously known for winning the Queen’s Plate twice – in 1999 with Woodcarver, and again in 2003, with Wando who went on to win the Canadian Triple Crown.

Other Keogh-trained horses include Sovereign Award winners Mobil and Langfuhr. Early in his career Keogh was an assistant to Hall of Fame trainer Roger Attfield from 1986-1993. During that time Keogh worked with one of his favourite horses, Play the King who coincidentally is also being inducted to the CHRHF in 2020.

Since its existence in 1976, the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame holds 500 inductees. It is open to the public at Woodbine Racetrack in Etobicoke.

Other 2020 Hall of Fame inductees representing thoroughbreds include, builder Sue Leslie, jockey Gary Boulanger and horse Tepin.

Standardbred Inductees include driver Paul MacDonell, trainer Ben Wallace, female horse Amour Angus and veteran horse Rambling Willie.



King City native and thoroughbred horse from Kinghaven Farms, “Play the King” is inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame.

(Submitted Photo)

## Niagara IceDogs draft King’s Steven Li

By Robert Belardi

The Niagara IceDogs selected King City native and Aurora Tigers forward Steven Li 162nd overall (9th round) in the 2020 Ontario Hockey League Priority Selection draft on April 4.

Nonplussed by the selection, Li was unaware he was even able to be drafted. The draft class year was for 2004 players.

“I was just watching it to see a couple of my friends who were on there,” Li described.

“The first person I told was my mom; she was right beside me. She kinda had the same reaction I had, like, ‘are you sure there’s not another person named Stevie Li?’”

Moments later, his cell phone rang and the call was from Niagara. Following shock and confusion, his family is humbled and proud, their son is on his way to OHL camp.

Li says it’s an amazing feeling to be drafted. His coaches at Aurora, said to him he should have been drafted last year.

“Being able to be drafted, it’s a lot and it’s an honour.” Head coach of the Aurora Tigers, Jim Wells Jr. sent his regards to the young forward, who of course, has had quite the hockey journey, moving from China to Canada to pursue a hockey career.

The IceDogs have informed Li, camp is expected to begin late-August, early-September. It’s tradition new draft choices are brought out to playoff games to see the team, the atmosphere and tour the facility, however, due to the current global pandemic that will have to wait.

For Li, it’s imminent the young forward must adapt to another level of hockey for the second time in the past two years and mentally, he is ready for the challenge.

“Right now, I just feel like I need to work harder to catch up with the guys who are in the OHL,” said Li.

“So, last year it was kind of hard for me to adjust from minor hockey to junior, so I have to work extra hard to adjust to the pace from junior to OHL.”

The IceDogs coaches are excited to see Li in camp this upcoming year.

For Li, his future is still undecided. If Li can make the roster through camp this summer there’s a good chance he sees the OHL through.

If not, it has always been his goal to enter the NCAA and he will stick with it, depending on how everything pans out.

The Country Day School student finished this season with the Aurora Tigers with five goals and two assists in 41 games played.



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# Vaughan child to get life-altering treatment

By Mark Pavilons

Dealing with a sick child during these times is quite a challenge.

But the parents of a Vaughan child received some great news recently.

Rebecca Grace Silva, suffers from Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) Type 1.

Fundraising efforts have been ongoing to raise enough money to get a very expensive drug in the United States. Zolgensma, not available in Canada, costs \$2.124 million U.S. It's heralded as the most expensive treatment in the world. The one-time treatment will extend Rebecca's life.

This disease affects Rebecca's motor nerve cells in her spinal cord, taking away her ability to walk, eat, and breathe. SMA does not affect Rebecca's mental or cognitive abilities. Sadly, 95% of babies with SMA type 1 do not reach their 2nd birthday and it is the number one genetic cause of death in infants.

Local fundraising came to an end with the announcement that Rebecca was chosen, by Novartis lottery, to receive the \$2.8 million drug Zolgensma

for free.

After weeks of negotiations and training between Novartis and Sick Kids Hospital, Rebecca received Zolgensma.

She is not out of the woods, particularly as her immune system is severely compromised at a time when this is far more dangerous than normal. Despite this, parents Mark and Laura are relieved and very hopeful that with extensive therapy she will one day lead an independent life and may even walk with assistance.

The Silvas have been incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported them throughout this ordeal and are particularly thankful to the firefighting community that stepped up to demonstrate their kindness through donations, prayers and well wishes.

The King City Firefighters Association and Rockford's Bar & Grill held a fundraiser in February, raising more than \$20,000 for the family.

The funds raised for Rebecca will help not only the Silva family but others as well.

A portion of that money will be held



in trust for her future needs – therapy, medical equipment that are not covered through OHIP or insurance. The rest of the money will be donated to both the Sick Kids Foundation as well as SMA

Canada, two charitable organizations that supported and assisted the Silvas immensely. Laura will send more information through the GoFundMe page as well as through Instagram.

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**Stephen Jerome Matthew Cartan**  
MD FRCS(C)  
May 2, 1944 – April 11, 2020

At Sherwood Court Long Term Care home in Maple, Ontario on April 11, 2020, in his 76th year, after a long and courageous battle with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy.

Stephen lived a giving and selfless life. He is survived by his two children, James (Kelly Jo) and Elizabeth (Warren Smith). Proud grandfather of Cole and Rhys Cartan, and Brooke Smith. Stephen was born in the east end of Toronto on May 2, 1944, the second son of his adoring parents, Joseph (d 1996) and Mary Cartan (d 1994). Stephen had the utmost admiration for his older brother William "Bill" Cartan (d 2002).

Stephen grew up on Bingham Avenue in Toronto where he attended Adam Beck Public School, and then Malvern Collegiate Institute. Stephen excelled in track and field (100 meter and 4 x 100), football (running back) and academics.

Stephen knew from a young age that he wanted to be a doctor. He graduated from the University of Toronto Medical School in 1969, and completed his residency in the U of T Orthopaedic Surgery Program, receiving his FRCS(C) in 1975. In 1976, he was appointed to the staff of the newly opened Etobicoke General Hospital, where he spent his entire career, retiring in 2015. Stephen loved his work as an Orthopaedic Surgeon. His compassion and devotion to helping his patients was at the forefront of all aspects of his life.

Stephen will be remembered as a loving father, proud grandfather, respected colleague, caring friend, and dedicated doctor. He was someone everyone enjoyed being in the company of and had a wonderful sense of humor. He was truly loved by his patients, and always took time for each and every one of them. Stephen loved to read, travel, and was a great historian. In his free time, he enjoyed touring the countryside on his motorcycle and spending time in Muskoka. The family would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation to all of his caregivers and doctors, especially the staff at Sherwood Court, who have been excellent at tending to his needs in recent years.

A celebration of life will take place at a later date.  
Online condolences may be left at [www.thompsonfh-aurora.com](http://www.thompsonfh-aurora.com)

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## Nobleton Notes

By **Angie Maccarone**  
416-917-0406

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For more information about ANY of our activities or events, please contact the church office (905-859-0843) or visit stpaulsnobleton.ca. Feel free to join in the live Q&A after the service!

All church events are cancelled until further notice.

Jeff's messages are posted at www.passionatelyhis.com each week. They are also available for viewing on Facebook Live, on the church's Facebook page (@stpaulsnobleton) and its YouTube page (search St. Paul's Church, Nobleton), and our website, stpaulsnobleton.ca. For more information about ANY of our activities or events, please contact the church office (905-859-0843) or visit stpaulsnobleton.ca.

**Nobleton United Church**  
By **Nancy Hopkinson**

Each week, Rev. Carol-Ann is making contact with people via phone and email. If you would like to have a copy of her reflections, or if you would like to talk to her for any reason, sharing a joy, a concern, or seeking information, please phone 905-859-3976 and leave a message or email her at mininternobletonschomberg@gmail.com.

On our Facebook page, Rev. Carol-Ann has created and posted two videos this past week. One was a Good Friday service and the other was a sunrise Easter message. Rev. Carol-Ann

has commented that she has a new appreciation for film-makers, because getting the lighting just right is tricky and getting a quiet area to film in is tricky when you are at home with your pets who of course want your attention.

For children, there is another very interesting video that was posted called "A Message for Canadian children about these tough times from Lego Justin Trudeau." If you are having trouble explaining what is going on to your children or grandchildren, this might be a useful little You-Tube clip to show them. It might even inspire them to create scenes with their own lego.

For a complete service, the Moderator of The United Church of Canada publishes one each week:

<https://www.united-church.ca/blogs/round-table/moderators-online-worship-april-19-2020>

**Horticulture**  
By **John Arnott**

"Come on, lighten up," called his friend to the sad young mortal still distraught over breaking up with his long-time girlfriend. "And practise with me. It'll help take your mind off your troubles," he continued as he bent down picked up the heavy bronze discus and straightening up turned to hurl the curved disc with graceful accuracy. A fleeting but sharp leg cramp caused him to pitch widely just as the distracted lad unthinkingly walked out to team up with him. The metal caught the young man in the chest driving him to the ground. As he lay dying he grasped the arm of his friend who now knelt beside him and whispered "Never forget me."

Grief stricken Hermes (Mercury) looked to the great mountain beyond

and begged those on high hear his strangled prayer. Turning back to where moments before his beloved companion, Krokos, had lain he found him no longer there but instead a patch of small goblet-shaped flowers in rich royal purple, nourished by blood and tears had pushed up into the crisp late February air. He bowed his head in thanks to his fellow gods.

Thus runs the old Greek myth of how those harbingers of spring, croci (crocuses) came to be!

While researching this article I learned that there are some 80 to 90 species of crocuses and all native to southern Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and across central Asia as far as western China. Turkey has the largest number of wild crocuses. And the name crocus most likely comes from a prehistoric Indo-European language through the Sanskrit word kunkumam into Hebrew as karkom all meaning saffron, made from the dried centre parts of a species of crocus and long the world's most expensive spice. It takes some 250,000 crocuses to get 1 lb./ .5 kg of saffron making top quality saffron around \$5,000 a lb.!

As well I learned crocuses belong to the iris family not the lily family as I'd always thought.

Flemish born Augier Ghiselin de Busbecq, Hapsburg (Austrian) ambassador to the Ottoman court in Turkey being much interested in botany brought a number of wild crocus corms back to Vienna and had most planted in the Imperial Gardens there but sent a few to an old friend, Charles de L'Escluse, a botanist in Leiden in the Netherlands and from the few plants he grew succeeding Dutch horticulturists developed a huge number of hybrids some of which came with colonists to

the U.S. and Canada.

de Busbecq must have thought he'd died and gone to crocus heaven when he was shown by Turkish friends the fields of wild crocuses growing across eastern Turkey - most blooming in spring but some in autumn and even winter in milder climes!

Crocuses are perennials and grow from corms, bulb like underground thickened stem bases covered in scale like leaves. Each corm produces just 1 bloom usually with 6 pointed or rounded petals framing yellow to orange to crimson centres. And these early spring flowers often blooming through the snow come in purple, mauve, lilac, yellow, white, orange and bicolours. The long grass like leaves, most having a prominent whitish central stripe, appear once the flower dies and must be left uncut (to feed the corm for next year's blooms), until they yellow and begin to wither. Mark well where you plant these spring delights as by mid June there is little trace of them left.

Crocuses prefer a soil that drains well; a moderately sandy soil is best but they should do well in average garden soil to which some compost and/or composted cattle manure has been dug in. They won't survive in constantly bone dry soil or wet soil. They, like snowdrops, will tolerate clay if a goodly amount of sharp and compost has been well dug into it.

Plant them in sun 3 in./ 8 cm deep and about the same distance apart. For the best affect them in groups of 3,5 or 7 and have them seem to weave through the just sprouting smaller perennials in the border or rock garden.

If we ever want to rename spring in our region, "crocustime" would be a good choice!

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# King's Corners

**King City United  
By Sheryl Sinka**

We hope you had a wonderful Easter and if you missed our online service it is still available through our website, [kcuc.net](http://kcuc.net).

The sermon from Rev. Bruce entitled "The Uncomplicated Truth" is also available on the website. Even in these tough times we must find the positives to keep our spirits up. The healthcare workers, first responders and essential workers who every day keep us safe and cared for, remaining open so that we can continue to access needed food and necessities, are offered our appreciation for their commitment. Our prayers continue for all those in our country and around the world who are impacted by this pandemic. In the midst of all of this we remember that Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!

Our gathering for worship continues to be suspended through the month of April and is being offered online through the website. All small groups have also been suspended including the Prayer Circles at The Residences at Springhill, Friday Tea and Talk, The Lenten Discussions and Choir Practices.

The opportunity to worship with us online is possible through our website at [kcuc.net](http://kcuc.net) or through an e mail link provided to those who receive the emails. If you are not receiving emails and would like to, please contact the office so that we can add you to the contact list. Bulletins, news and sermons in hard copy will also be updated via the website.

If you are in need of assistance

please contact the office at 905-833-5181 and leave a message.

**King Bible Church**

All of our Sunday morning services and all our weekly ministries will be cancelled until further notice.

Please be in prayer for our world at this time. Vacation Bible School 2020 is back. We invite your kids to join us the week of August 10-14 for "Concrete & Cranes!" This summer we will learn how Jesus is Our Strong Foundation.

**St. Andrew's  
By Kathy Patterson**

St. Andrew's continues to share the love of Jesus in the community and beyond. How can we bless you during this very trying time? Please contact us at the numbers below. The church building is closed and all church and community groups using the facilities for services and meetings have been cancelled except for The King Township Food Bank which will follow their new directive.

Although the church building must be closed, we, the church can keep active by sharing and experiencing the love of Jesus.

Lynn Vissers has encouraged all of us to continue to worship in our homes Sunday mornings and suggested that we tune in to her son, the Rev. Grant Vissers's service from Knox Church, Waterdown on Sundays. He will be live-streaming each Sunday at 10 a.m. There is a link on our website: <http://standrews-kingcity.ca>

The Women's Prayer Circle is meeting in spirit! Concerned about COVID-19's impact on you, your family and others? Let's talk and pray. Contact Kathy

Patterson, 905-833-0391 or Lynn Vissers, 416-998-4652. May you know God's peace as we cast our burdens upon the Lord, for He does care for us. Philippians 4:6&7. When we're able, Prayer Walks will take place on Tuesday mornings.

Grab a coffee or a cup of tea and meet via Zoom with Lynn Vissers and others on Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. for "Tea and Conversation." Contact Lynn Vissers re topics and how to get set up.

To contact Pastor Niyazi and Irada Bilgen of the Greater Grace Fellowship call 416-878-8499.

**All Saints Anglican Church  
By Patrick Gossage**

A Prayer from the Worldwide Anglican Communion:

"Holy and gracious God, give us strength to meet the health crisis growing in our world. Enlighten researchers that they may discover the right vaccine against CORVID-19. Bring together agencies around the world that they may work together to eradicate this health crisis. Guide the doctors and nurses and all medical staff working with those who are infected that they may be protected as they care for their patients. We pray for those who are ill or isolated because of this virus, that they may know your love and care as it comes to them through human hands. We pray also for those who have died and for the bereaved that they will know the consolation of your love. Keep us mindful of our responsibilities during this time of anxiety and enable us to do all we can in our homes, churches and communities to alleviate the risk of spreading the virus. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Saviour."

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth's sermon on last Sunday's Gospel - The Resurrection of

Jesus from John 20.

We are at a threshold moment on Easter Sunday. The story of Easter morning is a great story of surprise. Two of the disciples and Mary Magdalene go very early to the tomb only to discover Jesus's body is missing. They are deep in grief, they are confused. Like all threshold moments of our lives, there is a powerful call here. Jesus appears to Mary but she does not see him at first. This encounter is Mary's moment of call as Jesus sends her to witness to the disciples. She is being ushered on a new pilgrimage. The image of pilgrimage is a metaphor for our human journeying. The journey to the interior places of the heart, the new spiritual landscapes we are called to explore.

Can we allow our trajectories to be oriented in a new direction? Often the call arrives unexpectedly - like now - during the COVID 19 pandemic. What new things might emerge after all of this? The situation we are now in, none of us could expect. And as hard as it is, the call - the invitation - is for us to shift our perspective and to open our eyes to new possibility. Perhaps we seek out a new adventure in our lives, or we find there is a new, unexplored path for us to follow. Either way, a threshold is a liminal space.

We Will Not Go Back to Normal, by Author and Poet, Sonya Renee Taylor:

"We will not go back to normal. Normal never was. Our pre-corona existence was not normal, other than we normalized greed, inequity, exhaustion, depletion, extraction, disconnection, confusion, rage, hoarding, hate and lack. We should not long to return to what was. Now, we are being given the opportunity for a new creation, to stitch a new garment, one that fits all of humanity and all of nature."

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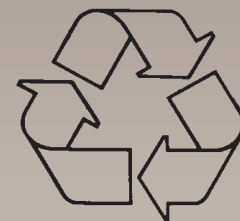
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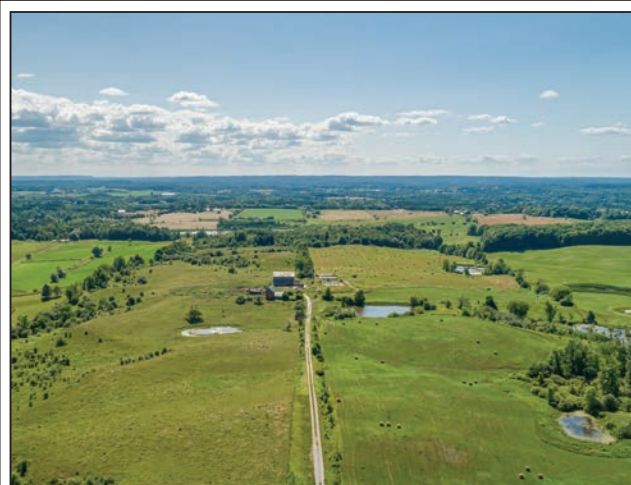
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