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# King Weekly Sentinel

King's Community Newspaper

Weekly Circulation: 10,200

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FREE Thursday, May 14, 2020 Volume 47, Issue 20

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## Local company comes through for seniors

Nobleview Pines residents in Nobleton are looking forward to a successful growing season thanks to the generous donation of an extra-large load of garden soil from locally owned Greenside Drive Landscaping. The company president, Dave DiCecco said he was glad to help, adding "growing fresh vegetables at home contributes to a balanced healthy diet while aiding the effort to stay home and stay safe." Resident Helene Sabourin was pleased with the delivery and thankful to Ward 2 Councillor David Boyd for his effort in coordinating the donation.

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## King's first online council meeting a success

By Mark Pavilons

King Township's first-ever online council meeting was well received May 4. All councillors and several staff members participated in the meeting, via YouTube. As well, 44 members of the public viewed the proceedings. Mayor Steve Pellegrini said we're facing a unique challenge in unprecedented times. He offered his condolences, and a moment of silence, for two King residents who died from COVID-19.

Despite the shutdown, King has taken many actions during the pandemic. The Township has deferred penalties on late taxes, expanded garbage limits and launched King At Home program. Capital projects given the green light in 2020 will start this month, including work on the new library and King Road streetscaping. The mayor praised staff for delivering essential and non-essential services during the shutdown. "It's incredible," he said. "I can't say enough about the professionalism in King."

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<b>INSIDE</b>	<b>REGULAR FEATURES</b>		
	Editorial Page 4 Business Page 8 Sports Page 14 Classifieds Page 15	Local firm makes custom masks. See Page 7	Beretta Farms is a success story. See Page 8

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**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Municipal Office, Council Chambers, 2585 King Road

Monday, May 25, 2020

5 pm - 6 pm - Special Committee of the Whole Working Session re: 2020 Draft Water/wastewater master plan presentation (virtual meeting, see notice below for more information)

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**

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

Special Committee of the Whole Working Session

(Electronic Meeting during an Emergency, pursuant to Section 238(3.3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*)

As the Municipal Centre is now closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this is an electronic meeting held remotely and live streamed via <http://meeting.king.ca>

"TOWNSHIP OF KING -

2020 DRAFT WATER/WASTE WATER MASTER PLAN PRESENTATION"

Council of the Corporation of the Township of King will hold a Special Committee of the Whole Working Session by the Engineering and Public Works Department on:

- The Township of King's 2020 Draft Water/Waste Water Master Plan - Presentation by the Engineering and Public Works Department

**Monday, May 25, 2020  
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

For further information regarding the 2020 Draft Water/Waste Water Master Plan, please visit the Township's website at [www.king.ca/WaterMasterPlans](http://www.king.ca/WaterMasterPlans) or contact: Wayne Pinkney, Project Manager, [wpinkney@king.ca](mailto:wpinkney@king.ca) or 905-833-4575.

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

**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.

**Notice to property owners to destroy weeds**

NOTICE is hereby given to all persons in possession of land, in accordance with the Weed Control Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter W.5, Sections 3, 16 and 23 THAT unless noxious weeds growing on their lands within the Municipality of the Township of King are destroyed by date of 1st June, 2020, and throughout the season, the Municipality may enter upon the said lands and have the weeds destroyed, charging costs against the land, as set out in the Weed Control Act.

All properties ten (10) acres or less may have noxious weeds destroyed without notice to the owner. The co-operation of all citizens is earnestly solicited.

Kathryn Moyle  
Director of Clerks & By-law Enforcement

**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).

Please see more King Township notices on page 5

**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).

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**COVID-19 information**

The risk to York Region residents of acquiring the virus in the community remains low.

Visit [york.ca/covid19](http://york.ca/covid19) for more information or call Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653. You may also contact Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 for medical advice. Telehealth Ontario is a free confidential service you can call to receive health advice or information. A registered nurse will take your call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



**2020 Water/Wastewater Master Plan CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC CONSULTATION CENTRE (PCC)**

The Township of King has initiated a review and analysis of water and wastewater infrastructure in King City, Nobleton and Schomberg which will result in a Water/Wastewater Master Plan to support projected growth scenarios outlined in the Township's Official Plan, ensuring that the required level-of-service can be provided throughout the communities. A Municipal Class Environmental Assessment has been undertaken to guide this process.

Public consultation is a key component of the Class EA process. The recommended Master Plan was previously presented to the Public in July 2015. Subsequent to this, the Township finalized an updated Official Plan and has since reviewed this in the context of the Water/Wastewater Master Plan. We would like to invite you, to participate in the Public Consultation Centre to re-familiarise yourself with the preferred servicing solutions.

**Due to COVID 19 Guidelines, we are conducting this Public Consultation as a Virtual Webinar format.** At the virtual PCC, you will have the opportunity to ask us questions, share your thoughts and opinions. Your input will help ensure there is adequate water and wastewater infrastructure in place for your community that can also support mandated growth in King Township. Your participation in PCCs is important to us.

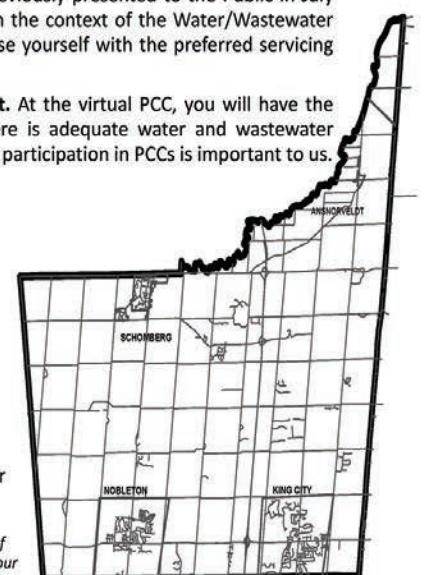
**VIRTUAL PCC DATE: MONDAY MAY 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 – 4:00PM**

Public wishing to participate in the session can do so in the following three ways:

1. **Participate Online:** A live webinar format will be established for this purpose. Details will be provided on the Project Website
2. **Participate by Telephone:** You will be able to download the presentation, and call-in to the Virtual PCC for Audio.
3. **Review Independently:** You can also request the presentation materials be mailed to you, and submit comments and/or questions via phone or e-mail

Further details will be available at <http://www.king.ca/WaterMasterPlans>. You may also send an e-mail to [KingWaterMasterPlans@tmig.ca](mailto:KingWaterMasterPlans@tmig.ca), or contact the Township's Project Manager directly: **Wayne Pinkney**, King Township Engineering and Public Works: (905) 833-4575

Please note that information related to these studies will be collected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments received will become part of the public record. Thank you for your interest in these studies.





# King supports move to add councillor for Vaughan

By Mark Pavilons

King Township is supporting a move to add another regional councillor representing Vaughan.

King councillors supported the move May 4, after receiving a request from York Region.

As part of the regional governance review, York opted to change regional council's composition. The move would give Vaughan 5 regional councillors, from its current level of 4.

This is the only change being recommended at this time and York wanted King's response and consent as soon as possible.

The matter isn't cast in stone, as it requires a triple majority process to pass. If approved by the majority of municipalities and regional councillors, the change would be in effect for the 2022 municipal election.

Mayor Steve Pellegrini noted this issue has come up several times during his years on regional council. In the past, he hasn't been an advocate of increasing the size of government. However, he believes it's time to supplement Vaughan's representation.

If you follow the representation by population model, this "seems fitting. It's time to support our friends to the south."

Councillor Debbie Schaefer said while the size of York regional council is "lean," she doesn't think representation should be based solely on population. There are other factors that come into play when considering political representation.

By granting Vaughan's request, it slants regional council in favour of the larger urban centres in York, which gives them greater influence at the council table. She's concerned about this influence by the "urban giants" Vaughan and Markham.

Mayor Pellegrini noted there have been three debates at regional council over the mandated review. Canadian politics, he observed, tends to be representation by population.

"I believe it's fair," he said, adding the move still requires the triple majority.

King has only one representative at York Region, and that's the mayor. There is a "designate" should King's

mayor not be able to attend and vote at the region.

Councillor Bill Cober is the current designate, and he said this ensures that King always has a vote at the region.

King Township is the largest municipality in York in terms of geography, but has the smallest population.

The mayor added that hopefully in the future, King will get another representative, too.

## King opposes regional fire services idea

By Mark Pavilons

King Township remains adamant in its opposition to a regional fire service.

Councillors voted not to support a move by Aurora Mayor Tom Mrakas for a study on the potential creation of a York Regional Fire Service.

Mrakas, in his motion back in February at Regional Council, said the consolidation of Aurora and Newmarket fire services, into the Central York Fire Service, has resulted in "efficiencies through enhanced levels of fire service and cost efficiencies."

Mayor Steve Pellegrini has long opposed the idea, noting King Fire and Emergency Services is "incredible" and unlike any municipal service out there.

"No one anywhere in York can run a fire service like we do," he said.

If the region proceeds, this would result in a huge tax increase on the regional portion. The mayor said he can't see any benefit at all for King residents.

If a regional service were to be implemented, the drawback locally is that King personnel would be responding to calls in nearby Vaughan, taking them away from their community. In this scenario, there's no benefit for King at all. In fact, it would hinder local service delivery and response times.

Local response, the mayor said, is huge and almost instant.

As well, King Fire and Emergency Services provides modern, comprehensive fire protection at a fraction of the cost of other municipalities. In many ways, King's serviced is the envy of many other services throughout the GTA.

In terms of cost, King's fire department operates on an annual budget of upwards of \$3 million (net). But the 130 dedicated firefighters

cost only \$1.1 million.

King's personnel are an "incredible brotherhood/sisterhood whose members love their community," the mayor observed.

By comparison, Aurora contributes \$11.8 million annually to the Central York Fire Services. Aurora has a population of roughly 56,000.

## Dirt biker eludes police

York Regional Police is seeking public assistance in identifying a dirt bike and the driver after it failed to stop for police in King Township.

On Friday, April 24 at approximately 6:15 p.m., an officer conducting general patrol observed a dirt bike traveling east on King Road, approaching a construction zone at Weston Road. The officer observed two occupants on the vehicle neither of whom were wearing helmets. The vehicle also had no licence plate. The officer activated his roof lights and attempted to stop the dirt bike, however, the driver accelerated and went through a red light. The officer lost sight of the vehicle.

Investigators are seeking the public's assistance in locating the driver or the vehicle involved. Officers are also asking for any dashcam footage that may show this bike. The investigation is ongoing and police are asking anyone with information to come forward.

The suspect driver is described as male, black 25 to 35 with a heavy build. He was wearing a grey t-shirt, white shorts, an orange toque and a white PPE mask and a square-shaped tattoo on his left arm.

The dirt bike has orange fenders and no lights or plate.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the York Regional Police #1 District Criminal Investigation Bureau at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7141, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-tips, or leave an anonymous tip online at [www.1800222tips.com](http://www.1800222tips.com).



## Temporary road closure on Jane

The Regional Municipality of York is implementing a temporary road closure to replace a culvert on Jane Street between King Road to King Vaughan Road in the Township of King.

To complete this work, Jane Street between King Road and King Vaughan Road is scheduled to be closed through Saturday, May 16 at 7 p.m. During the temporary closure, traffic will not be permitted across the culvert work location. Local access to Jane Street will be maintained from King Vaughan Road to properties south of the culvert work location and from King Road to properties north of the culvert work location.

As with all road construction projects, some work may be re-scheduled due to weather or delays related to COVID-19 Public Health guidelines.

For more information about current and upcoming road construction projects, please visit [york.ca/roadconstruction](http://york.ca/roadconstruction)



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# 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

## It's time to 'infect' others with a sense of hope

There's a quaint prayer that asks the Good Lord to give us enough strength to make changes and accept the things we can't change.

While there's no mention of "hope," it's pretty much inferred.

We should all strive, especially now and into our new, uncertain future, to take more out of life than it takes out of us.

JFK once told us we shouldn't let our fears hold us back from pursuing our hopes.

And Dale Carnegie espoused: "Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all."

Human beings are a funny breed. Not the Adam Sandler funny, but rather odd, strange and peculiar. We are quite brilliant at times, capable of much good. In fact, during an ad-hoc, dad-run mini family meeting last week I told my offspring they're quite intelligent critters. With their combined brain power, there's nothing they can't do or overcome.

Despite the ample helpings of gray matter, we are also susceptible to physical and emotional setbacks, which affect our ability to change the world. Boredom, and confinement, can wreak havoc on our souls.

My wife said she encountered a man at a store last week. Estimated to be in his 40s, he said he was so bored being stuck at home he decided to pick up smoking!

In the past month or so, we've all been suffering, inwardly and outwardly.

A recent Nanos poll revealed that people reported feeling stressed regularly or all the time has more than doubled since the onset of COVID-19. Fears over physical well-being and personal finances were cited as the primary rea-



Mark Pavilons

sons. They are also aware of a decline in their mental health, with nearly 40 per cent reporting that their mental health is worse or somewhat worse than before the outbreak.

I feel for those who've lost their jobs and those small business owners who aren't sure whether their doors will ever reopen. Making a living today is hard enough, without this tsunami of grief.

But hasn't God bestowed countless blessings and qualities upon us? Unfortunately super strength was not among His gifts.

In the absence of perfection, we mammals call upon some rather unscientific methods to deal with life. We rely on our instincts; follow our hearts; muster up faith, and always have hope.

For many across the globe, hope is all they have.

And that's another fact I try to bestow

upon my children. They are not struggling to survive and they rise and shine from comfy beds to meet the world head-on and experience new challenges each and every day.

Two of them have been to countries, and met people, who struggle to survive and make it to the end of the day.

For them, and us, hope can be as powerful as a hot meal, green tea, vitamins, antibiotics or vaccines.

Hope comes from many sources, especially from within. We can summon it up during times of emotional turmoil. If we look for it, we can usually find it but we may to give it a good shake, dust it off and plump it up a bit.

When I hear my kids laugh so loud the walls shake, I frown, then smile. Their joy and humour is so intense they just can't keep it bottled up. Powerful stuff that is. Just ask Mike and Sully.

And that gives me hope.

They are the future, after all. These three will make the world a better place in their own way. I believe we all do and it's our job to pass this duty on to others.

Our society, current dilemma aside, has been struggling with major issues for decades - climate change, world hunger, world peace, world food supply. The current pandemic has actually eased tensions a bit, but I doubt we'll see world peace when we're on the other side of COVID-19.

But I remain hopeful.

Hope, faith and prayer won't solve our problems. But those very human concepts will go a long way to altering

the fabric of our lives.

Armed with such intangibles, we peculiar humans often rise to the occasion. We emotional creatures have proven to be loving and compassionate to a fault. And we average working stiffs have shown great courage and compassion to our friends and neighbours in times of need.

We don't readily recognize hope or mention it to others. It's like a secret we keep under our vests. But it can be the fuel in our tanks, the immeasurable substance that boosts our immune systems and serotonin levels.

The beauty of hope is it's easily shared with others. We can actually give it to someone else, through our thoughts, prayers and of course, actions. We can also spread the word on social media, through clever quotes, passages or memes.

Once more of us begin to realize the power of this commodity, the more it will burn like a fuse and spread uncontrollably.

That's what we need right now, as we approach the light at the end of the tunnel. That's what we need to re-ignite the economy, society, our community, province and country.

Imagine, busting loose when this pandemic subsides. I picture throngs of citizens gathering in church, parks, beaches, at grocery stores, sharing a renewed optimism.

Reflecting on the hole we're climbing out of, wouldn't it be nice to "infect" society with a newfound sense of hope?

### Letter to the Editor

## Editorial cartoon was offensive

The editorial cartoon in the May 7 issue of the paper is incredibly offensive and insensitive. Sunday was Mother's Day, not Father's Day and you run a cartoon that is derogatory to women whether they are mothers or not.

This is like being hit with a 1950s stereotype. Right now when women, and in particular mothers, are experiencing huge amounts of stress due to being quarantined at home with their families this editorial cartoon is an incredible slap in the face.

I run a small business from King that has a global reach. I am on online meetings for 6-13 hours a day 5 days a week. Every single meeting, we hear kids in the background from one participant or another. They are shushing and cajoling them to stay quiet while mommy is on the phone.

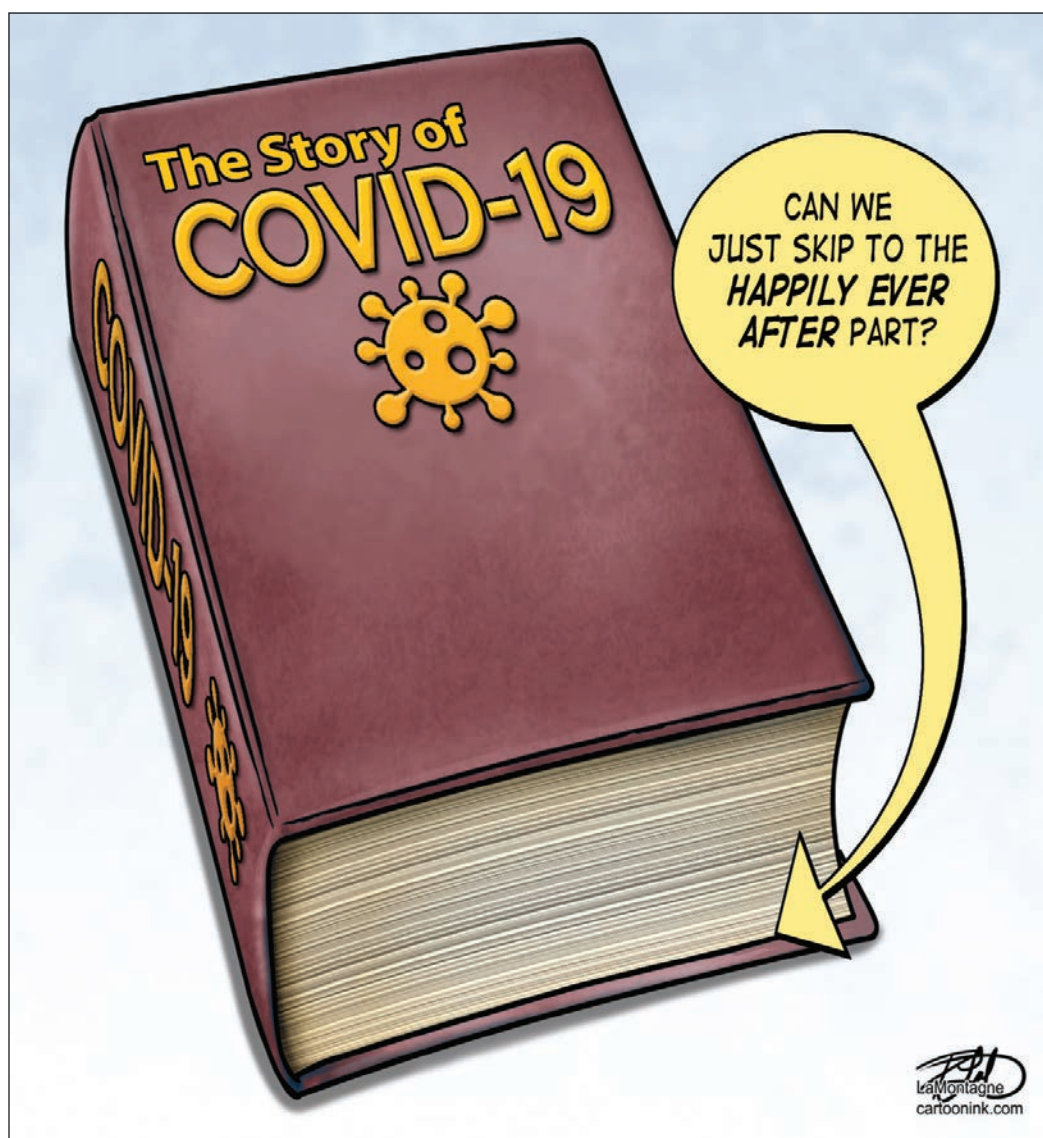
They are trying to do their day jobs, home school their kids, feed their families, and overall just stay sane. Yes their husbands are helping out, it is hard on everyone, but especially on women. There are women who have had to take a leave of absence because they cannot take care of a special needs child and still do their job.

We've had others who have gone to a 3 or 4 day work week in order to cope. Even if you are not trying to cope with job and family during this pandemic it is incredibly stressful. You have older children, try home schooling an elementary school child or young teen. No one will come out of this pandemic mentally untouched. Women are likely to be the most affected.

An apology is due all the women and mothers in King!

Ann Rockley

CEO of a 30 year-old business  
Mother of a successful Millennial  
Married for 35+ years



### Thought of the Week



*Share good fortune with others!*

Don't brag, but spread cheer. Remember the ripple effect!

### Trivia Tidbits

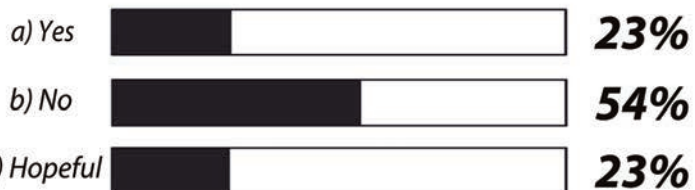
*The phrase "pot calling the kettle black" means pretending you are better than someone else, when in fact you are basically the same. In older times, pots and kettles were made of black iron - so this phrase came to be used to indicate someone was accusing another of the same characteristics as the accuser himself.*

### KingWeeklySentinel WEBPOLL

www.kingsentinel.com

Results from last week's poll:

**Are you hoping restrictions will be lifted for the May long weekend?**



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

### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Do you think students will be back in the classrooms in September?

- a) Yes
- b) No

Go to our website and cast a vote!

## KING Weekly Sentinel

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# Resident concerned with adding councillor to Vaughan

With respect to a change in York Regional Council composition “by increasing the number of Members representing the City of Vaughan from four (4) to five (5),” I have a concern. At the moment, King’s only representative at York Region is our fine Mayor or Steve.

York Region’s own Mandated Review of Regional Council Composition, dated Feb. 6, states under Section 5. Financial: “There are no financial implications associated with this report. Pending the direction received from Regional Council, potential financial implications will be brought forward as part of any future analysis.”

Cart before the horse? Costs matter!

Is bigger always better, or just more costly? When it comes to increasing the size of government, there may be some improvements in capacity, such as more specialized employees and advanced Information and Communication Technology systems, BUT the efficiency in terms of cost reduction does not increase, while the possibilities for citizen involvement and true “democratic legitimacy” seem to decrease.

If York Regional Council composition only expands in response to growth in human population, I fail to see how important agricultural lands or natural areas will ever be protected properly. After all, the physical land base of York Region is not ‘growing’, and this spatial limitation is never reflected in government plans for “growth.”

Yet, the addition of a councillor from any municipality that does not serve King directly may potentially

## Letter to the Editor

add greater pressure upon King to accept direction from York Region that may not be in King’s best interest, nor supported broadly by King residents.

It is very possible the addition of one or more councillors at York Region will translate into greater demands on the landscape because councillors are there to fulfill various election promises made to gain their seats, though such promises might not have wide public support since there is always the potential for a prospective councillor to accept campaign funding from those with specific private interests, allowing them to exert greater influence over public decision-making.

Allow me to quote from “Funding City Politics: Municipal Campaign Funding and Property Development in the Greater Toronto Area”, by Robert MacDermid, who wrote:

“Does it matter who funds candidates? It may not matter to voters who are unaware of how the campaigns of their local politicians are financed. However, the pattern of giving by large backers in the development industry suggests some very calculated decisions about which candidates to support. Developers want councils that are favourable to rapid development and to their own development proposals and they spend accordingly. Unsustainable urban sprawl, high transportation costs, environmental degradation, and a weak sense of community that undermines political organization and representation, are all traceable to pro-development

councils and the provincial regulatory framework for urban development. Organizing to reverse these patterns is very difficult when development supported candidates and councils get elected and re-elected by the few citizens who vote.”

Shrinking voter turn-out remains an unaddressed issue, and how is that democratic?

As governments grow larger within the public administrative constellation, they have a tendency to become monocentric and bureaucratic, which translates into top-down decision-making that implies “just trust us, we know what we’re doing.”

Can representatives within any government focus on longer term problems, such as climate change, or food insecurity, as has recently been experienced during the COVID-19 crisis, finally forcing us to confront the problems of long supply lines, now interrupted, that stretch around the globe? Such externalities on a temporal scale highlight specific governing problems because the future is surrounded by uncertainties while most

politicians are hide-bound to show results within their terms of office. Meanwhile, COVID-19 is presenting some urgent lessons for politicians and citizens. How do we prepare for this and the next pandemic?

I agree with Aurora Mayor Tom Mrakas who presented a notice of motion to York Regional Council in January 2020, suggesting staff investigate the possibility of reducing the number of members on regional council, and he suggested a reduction to 10 from 20+1 members. Right now, I’d settle for NOT adding another councillor from Vaughan.

Then, I think governments should use the wonders of technology to conduct regular (quarterly or bi-annual) public referenda to seek direction on how citizens view new or revised policies, development proposals, etc.

Switzerland has been doing this for well over a century, and its economy continues to work well. And, Switzerland’s public referenda are political-binding.

Vicki Hotte

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### PUBLIC NOTICES







**King’s guide to celebrating the Victoria Day long weekend during COVID-19**

905-833-5321 | serviceking@king.ca

#### Ideas

-  Hike the trails owned and operated by King, York Region and the Toronto Region Conservation Authority. Remember to leave a 2-metre distance between you and others!
-  Looking for fun ideas to do with the family or roommates? Check out the King at Home portal for activities for family fun, keeping active, learning at home, and more!
-  Planning to have a camp fire? Make sure that there are no burn bans in place, the fire is max. 0.75m by 0.75m in size, keep min. 3m clearance to anything combustible, burn clean wood only and have a means of extinguishment on hand (i.e. hose).
-  Check in with family and friends virtually! Staying connected can help keep your mental health strong when temporarily separated from loved ones.

#### Reminders

-  Playgrounds and Township facilities remain closed. You can still walk, run, or ride your bike through the parks. All dogs must be on a leash.
-  Fireworks can only be used on private property on Victoria Day and the two days before and after the holiday. Only purchase fireworks from an authorized retailer and read and follow the labelled instructions. Please also be considerate of your neighbours.
-  Stay safe this weekend by staying home, avoiding non-essential trips to stores, and crowds. If you need to go out, follow public health advice such as physical distancing or wearing a mask to help protect you and those around you.
-  Staying home is the best defense against COVID-19, but it also means there will be more people celebrating Victoria Day at home. Be courteous to your neighbours this weekend by keeping noise volumes low and avoiding construction activity.

**By-law Enforcement Services**  
Staff are patrolling the Township including public property and responding to complaints where necessary. Have questions or concerns? Contact us:  
905-833-4002 | by-law@king.ca

**King Fire & Emergency Services**  
There are no changes to King Fire’s emergency response. If you have questions that are not urgent, contact us:  
905-833-2800 | fire@king.ca

**York Regional Police (YRP)**  
YRP continues to respond to urgent health and safety concerns. Report concerns by calling the non-emergency line (i.e. social gatherings of more than 5 people). In an emergency, dial 9-1-1.  
1-866-876-5423 | www.yrp.ca

### KING FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

**Want to have a fire?**

**King Fire & Emergency Services**      **905-833-2800**  
fire@king.ca



#### Having a recreational/camp fire


**No permit needed so long as:**

1. There is no Fire Ban in effect. (Check www.king.ca for the latest updates).
2. You are burning CLEAN wood ONLY.
3. The fire is contained to a chiminea or a pile that is a maximum of 0.75 metres (2 feet) in diameter by 0.75 metres (2 feet) in height.
4. The fire is a minimum of 3 metres (10 feet) away from anything combustible.
5. A means to extinguish the fire is immediately available (i.e. garden hose).

#### Cleaning up yard waste




1. Put yard waste out at the curb for bi-weekly pick up.
- OR
2. Contact King Fire Administration to find out if you are eligible for a fire permit by phone at 905-833-2800 or email at fire@king.ca.

## Fireworks Safety Information



Questions? 905-833-2800

#### Safety measures

-  Family fireworks permitted to be set-off at your home only on designated days
-  Always read and follow labelled directions. Refer to the fireworks label for minimum distances from spectators
-  Always have a water source such as a garden hose or bucket handy
-  Don't set off fireworks in a strong wind
-  Choose a wide, clear site away from all obstacles

#### Remember...

- Gatherings are limited as per Provincial Orders (5 people max)
- Fireworks cannot be set off on any public land without advance written approval from Council
- There will be zero tolerance for contravention of Provincial Orders and Municipal By-laws
- Staff are patrolling the Township including public property. Complaints or concerns? Contact By-Law directly: 905-833-4002 / by-law@king.ca

#### Be mindful...

- Be considerate of your neighbours
- Some children and animals are afraid of fireworks
- Please clean up any debris when finished

BY-LAW 2015-114

#### Victoria Day & Canada Day

Family fireworks can be set off on Canada Day or the day designated as the Victoria Day Holiday, as well as the two days immediately before and after these days

## King Township Public Library

has many things to keep you busy at home!



**Short Docs**  
Expand your brain with these interesting short documentaries!



**Ancestry.ca**  
Discover your family's history, now accessible from home!



**Tech Tuesdays**  
Learn how to use a new Library service!


[kinglibrary.ca](http://kinglibrary.ca)



**KING** urgently reminds residents to keep off-road vehicles on private property only. Please **DO NOT** operate these vehicles in public parks, or on public roads and trails.

If you have witnessed off-road vehicles driving on public property, By-law Enforcement Services wants to hear from you.



# Long-term care homes are hiring

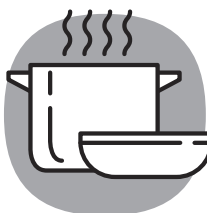
And they're looking for people like you. People with:



**personal support and nursing skills**



**cleaning skills**



**cooking skills**

This is an important chance to put your skills to work and provide care for our seniors.

Take this opportunity to make a difference. Together we can stop the spread of COVID-19.

Learn more on how to apply at [ontario.ca/ApplyLTCJobs](http://ontario.ca/ApplyLTCJobs)

Paid for by the Government of Ontario



King Township Food Bank offers a big shout out to the King City Lions for their ongoing support. Club president Jay Harding is shown with their most recent donation, \$1,000 to help address the increased need due to COVID-19.

## Lions clubs adjusting to COVID-19

By Julia Galt

With times uncertain and restrictions on gatherings still firmly in place, King Township's Nobleton, King City, and Schomberg Lions Clubs are quickly adjusting their operations to an ever-changing situation.

"The Lions are here to serve," said Jay Harding, president of the King City Lions. "That is always going to continue, no matter the situation."

Doing their part to help the citizens of King, the King City Lions have been providing meals to the staff of King City Lodge Nursing Home, and have made a \$1,000 donation to the King Township Food Bank. Difficulties selling tickets person to person has seen them cancel their 64th annual Cash Draw, a major source of income for the club. Winners of the Draw were due to be announced at the now-postponed King City Craft Beer and Food Truck Festival, originally scheduled for June 13.

"We had already sold 48 tickets when we decided to cancel," said Harding. "Everyone has said to keep the money, and put it towards something."

The Nobleton Lions, too, have seen several changes in their operations due to COVID-19. Their largest fundraiser, the golf tournament at Nobleton Lakes Golf Club, has been cancelled, though the club hopes to still go ahead with their annual Cash Draw in the fall. Member meetings have been switched from in-person to online to adhere to public gathering restrictions, and the club retains an active presence on social media. They are offering prescription and emergency supply delivery to best serve the vulnerable in the area.

"We're still doing our meetings, and our beneficiaries are still receiving the funding we budgeted for," said Rick Evans, president of the Nobleton Lions. "We're making sure no one is suffering there."

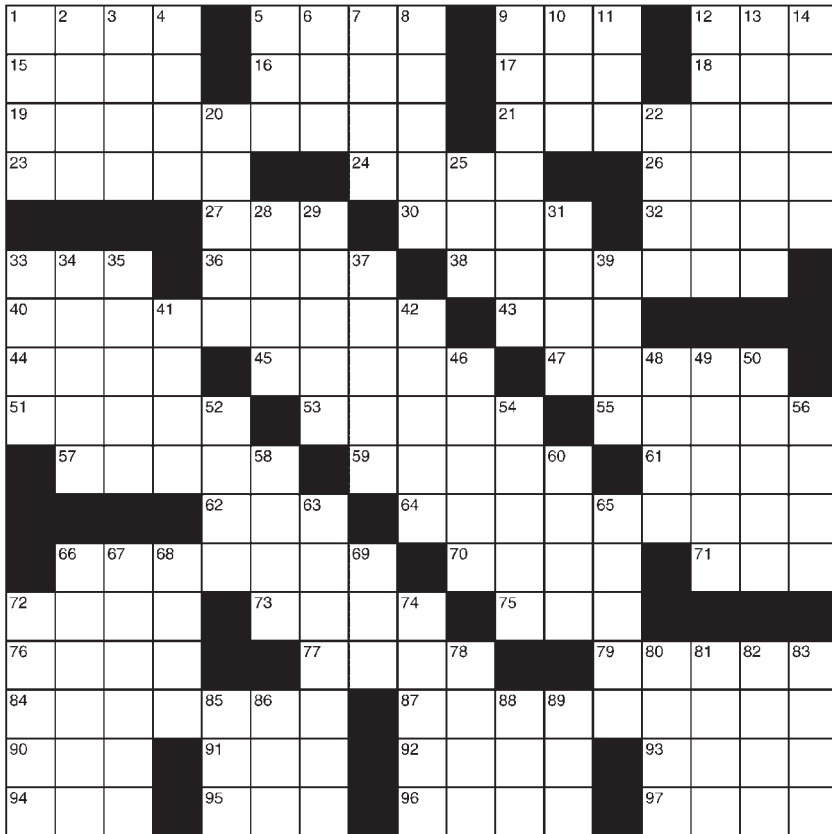
The Schomberg Lions have also seen cancellations, with their annual 50/50 Raffle and Fall Poker Night cancelled until further notice. Meetings, too, are on hold, though the club hopes to be up and running with virtual meetings as soon as possible. Members have also begun contact-free snack and coffee delivery for the staff at Bradford Valley Care Community, partnering with other Lions Clubs in their A-12 Central Ontario district.

"Volunteering, knowing you're doing something to help, makes a world of difference," said Angela Rose, president of the Schomberg Lions Club.

The Lions would like to remind readers that they are always looking for new members, and remain committed to serving the community in these unprecedented times.

# X CROSSWORD

PUZZLE NO. 467



**ACROSS**

1. Sensible
5. Metamorphic stage
9. Greek letter
12. Turkish title
15. Chinese gelatin
16. Related by blood
17. General Arnold's nickname
18. Bend downward
19. Protective lotion
21. Tool
23. Uncultivated region
24. Like Dora
26. Wheels
27. \_\_\_ tide
30. Fish story expert
32. Raised, as vegetables
33. \_\_\_ on (urge)
36. Blunt
38. Bedroom piece
40. Teamster's measure
43. "Takin' Care of Business" gp.
44. Barbecue item
45. Having two feet
47. Elaborate display
51. Great destruction
53. Eye makeup

55. Shish \_\_\_
57. Pertaining to birth
59. Kitchen gadget
61. Polynesian plant
62. Diving bird
64. Proclamation of goals
66. Lettering device
70. Prewinter season
71. Chicken
72. Look for bargains
73. Leg joint
75. Prairie
76. Husband's spouse
77. Foreman's weapon
79. Cindy Crawford, e.g.
84. "The Towering \_\_\_"
87. Dishes, e.g.
90. Social register word
91. Heating fuel
92. Potpourri
93. Brim
94. Shelley's before
95. Moose's cousin
96. Turn the soil
97. Knob or mat

**DOWN**

1. Scarf
2. Influenza
3. Grandmother
4. Formerly
5. Golf standard
6. Luau instrument
7. Hamelin piper
8. Cancel
9. Pie vegetable
10. Noodle topper
11. Unlatch, in poems
12. Guarantee
13. Shoe covering
14. Radiant
20. Cash alternative
22. Bugs
25. In-between
28. Onion, e.g.
29. Grill
31. Neural network
33. Carve
34. Creak
35. Tropical jelly
37. Hoglike mammal
39. Argyle, e.g.
41. Congeal
42. Jacket fabric
46. Kind of coffee

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48. Not prompt
49. Make embarrassed
50. Rich cake
52. Actor James \_\_\_
54. Of the kidneys
56. Favor
58. Good fortune
60. Bug
63. Jethro's relatives
65. Sweetheart
66. Black eye
67. Brittle candy
68. Pentathlon sword
69. Hawaiian keepsake
72. Pig
74. Legally bar
78. Statuesque
80. Due
81. Pedestal part
82. Consequently
83. Suggestive smile
85. Surgeon's output
86. Nada
88. Life story, for short
89. "High and \_\_\_"

**Solution on page 15**

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# King

## 7-Day Weather Outlook

From Thursday, May 14 to Wednesday, May 20

THURS 14TH	FRI 15TH	SAT 16TH	SUN 17TH	MON 18TH	TUES 19TH	WED 20TH
						
Light Rain High 10C° Low 7C° -5mm Wind SE 17k	Sun/Clouds High 18C° Low 3C° - Wind NW 20k	Mainly Sunny High 17C° Low 7C° <1mm Wind E 11k	Rain High 16C° Low 9C° ~10mm Wind E 14k	Sun/Clouds High 16C° Low 8C° - Wind NW 26k	Sunny High 19C° Low 11C° - Wind S 11k	Risk of T'storm High 24C° Low 12C° 25-30mm Wind W 26k



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# Local entrepreneur adapts to the COVID-19 changes

By Mark Pavilons

A local entrepreneur, whose business was impacted like so many by COVID-19, has found a way to meet the challenges.

Lisa Iafrate, of TaLii Towels, said the world changed forever March 5 and her online store stopped receiving orders for her unique absorbent towels. As well, all of the spring and summer trade shows and consumer fairs have been cancelled.

Iafrate said she worried for her staff and her future. Most of her funds are tied up in inventory and the show producers. These events kept six of her employees busy all summer long. Her company typically does roughly 140 events per year and driving the business to their online store.

"This all came crashing down," she said.

In mid-February she had the idea of making masks from her TaLii towels.

Her daughter Talia came back half hour later with a prototype all glued together. And that's how this started.

As the world shut down and things got worse, her staff was unable to come to work.

Iafrate was inspired by making a good quality mask, and the idea that people feel good wearing them. She also wanted her employees to get some needed work.



Iafrate was also sparked by kind words from Mayor Steve Pellegrini, who told her that her entrepreneurial spirit, energy and passion will see her through.

Iafrate desperately wanted each and every one of her staff, all King residents, back at work.

"Yup, we pivoted," she said.

Her new product was promoted by TV celebrity Kevin Frankish and TaLii picked up steam.

The custom masks are made to order and are made to suit everyone. The entire family can be outfitted with their own design, making them stand out from the rest of the pack.

This new idea is something that kids even love to wear.

TaLii can also place your corporate logo on the masks, expanding their impact.

TaLii towels became well known because they are super-absorbent, anti-bacterial, quick-drying, compact and eco-friendly. They are similar in feel to the micro-fibre shammy cloths that we're familiar with. TaLii towels are 75% thinner than regular towels; dry 70% faster and hold 500% more water.

She offers a vast array of colours, along with personalized embroidery. From corporate promotional items, to must-haves at the beach, pool or in your linen closet, TaLii towels are the new trendsetters.

Iafrate said they're working with the Chilly Moose in Schomberg and Sweet Liberty at Humber Valley Cleaners in their latest endeavor.

For more, visit [www.taliitowels.com](http://www.taliitowels.com)



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# Business, Finance & Real Estate



[www.KingChamber.ca](http://www.KingChamber.ca)  
Your Voice for Business in King



## King's Beretta Farms – A small business success story

By Julia Galt

For many Beretta Farms customers, visiting the brand's home base on 800 acres of rich, rolling hillside in the heart of rural King, is like stepping into another world.

Whether it's at one of the brand's educational "Farm Days," or during their bi-weekly farmers' market, visitors are able to see exactly the kind of free-range fields their food is raised on. It's this level of transparency that has led to the brand's considerable success throughout their near 30 years in business.

Today, Beretta Farms' products can be found in more than 150 restaurants, grocery stores, and delis across Canada and the Midwestern United States. In addition to their King City ranch, they've amassed a network of over 40 family farms that raise their animals throughout Canada.

But back in 1992, their inaugural year of farming, the idea of one day running a proteins powerhouse was far from the minds of founders Cynthia and Mike Beretta.

"We weren't trying to go into business, we weren't trying to start a brand," reminisced Cynthia Beretta. "It was more, let's farm, and see what happens."

Cynthia and Mike were 21 and 22 years old, newly married, when they first began their journey into farming. For Cynthia, then working at CIBC, and Mike, a professional soccer player, the radical change of career was a personal one. They knew they wanted to raise a family on a farm, and have the opportunity to work alongside their children as they grew. Purchasing a farm in Wingham, in the Huron County countryside,

it took several years of trial and error before the inexperienced family truly found their footing.

"We read a lot of books – there was no internet, no YouTube back then," said Beretta. "And we asked a lot of questions. We were very fortunate to be surrounded by an organic farming community, and to have great neighbours who helped us along the way."

The first animals to join the farm were two small pigs, raised ethically and organically before their meat was sold to friends and family. This success led the Berettas to expand their pig herd, adding cattle and chickens into the mix. Raising their animals ethically, without antibiotics, steroids, or added hormones, was a natural path for the Berettas, and one they continue today.

"Raising our animals this way was a conscious and unconscious decision for us," Beretta said. "I think it makes for a far healthier, cleaner, and sustainable product. But because we didn't come from a farming background, we also had no preconceived idea of what farming should be like. The thought of adding antibiotics or hormones to our animals was a foreign concept to us."

Mastering the rigors of early farmstead life was no easy feat for the family. There was weather and difficulties working the land to contend with, not to mention the added pressure of raising their three young children, Thomas, Marcus, and Lieschen. But living the rural lifestyle, a long-time goal of Mike and Cynthia's, was more than enough reward for their efforts.

"Having our children raised on a farm, and working alongside us from the moment they could walk, instilled in them a work ethic that we couldn't



Photo by Marcus Beretta

have taught otherwise," Beretta said, on the greatest benefit their switch to farming brought. "They learned along with us."

The family's move to King City came in 1999, having already expanded their business beyond their Wingham home-stead. The opening of Beretta Butcher Shop in Brussels in 1997 marked exponential growth for Beretta Farms as a business, and, for the first time, the family was selling meat to people other than friends and family. Realizing that having land close to a large urban area would only increase their success, the Berettas moved to their present-day 15th Sideroad farm.

Beretta Farms had already had their products featured on the menus of local restaurants when they lived in Wingham, and their move to King sparked a new phase of growth. By 2006, Beretta products were being sold in big-name retailers including Whole Foods and Loblaws, with their meat used in restaurants like Chipotle Mexican Grill. To adjust to growing demand, the family began working with other organic farmers across Canada, and diversified their products from raw beef, chicken, and pork to hot dogs, hamburgers, frozen meals, and baked goods. They currently operate a catering company, Beretta Kitchen, and Heritage Angus Beef, a sister brand that exports meat to EU, UAE, and Asian markets.

Despite their success, Mike and Cyn-

thia continue to set their eyes on the horizon. Along with growing the brand further, they're also looking forward to their children taking a more active role in the family business. Currently, daughter Lieschen works as the farm's ranch manager, while son Thomas works with their online e-commerce platform. Though Marcus isn't a full-time employee like his siblings, he's responsible for much of the website's photography and has been delivering online orders in the wake of COVID-19. The business, Cynthia asserts, retains the same family-centric values it's had since its conception.

Beretta Farms is just as transparent as ever. The family frequently opens up their King City ranch to the public, with the goal of educating visitors on where their food comes from. Visitors can feed pigs, collect eggs, and meet the Berettas during one of their family Farm Days, or get a culinary lesson in meat – and a delicious meal – during their Carnivore Club Dinner Series. With bi-weekly markets, and programs that include barn dances, cooking lessons, and summer camps, the farm is always buzzing with energy.

"It's all about community, education, and sharing," Beretta said. "By sharing everything that matters to us, we hope that these things then matter to our clients."

For more, visit <https://berettafarms.com>

## Stores open for curbside pickup, delivery

More people are returning to work across the province as the Ontario government allows retail stores with a street entrance to offer curbside pickup and delivery. Over the weekend, garden centres, nurseries, hardware stores and safety supply stores began offering in-store purchasing. All retailers should follow available safety guidelines in order to protect staff, consumers and the general public during the COVID-19 outbreak.

In addition, provincial parks and conservation reserves opened this week, with limited access. To start, recreational activities will be restricted to walking, hiking, biking and birdwatching. People will be able to access all parks and conservation reserves for free until the end of the month.

"The reopening of more businesses and provincial parks is a clear sign that we are making progress in our battle against COVID-19," said Premier Doug Ford. "We are getting more people back to work when safe to do so and laying the groundwork for a full economic recovery. At the same time, we are moving carefully and cautiously to ensure we don't put people at risk and remain ready to respond to any potential outbreaks or surges in cases."

"As we see more positive signs on the public health front, the fight for business-owners, for workers and for families continues," said Minister Phillips. "Our Ontario Jobs and Recovery Committee is actively working towards the next important step, which is reopening our province so we can get the people of Ontario back on the job safely. We are all going to have to work together to get our economy growing again. And now more than ever, the Ontario spirit will ensure we're successful in these next steps."

Easing restrictions on retail stores is aligned with the first phase of the government's framework, which allows for businesses that can operate safely to do so. The Framework also includes guiding principles for the safe, gradual reopening of businesses, services and public spaces, and sets out the criteria Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and health experts are using to advise the government on adjusting or loosening public health measures.

# BERETTA

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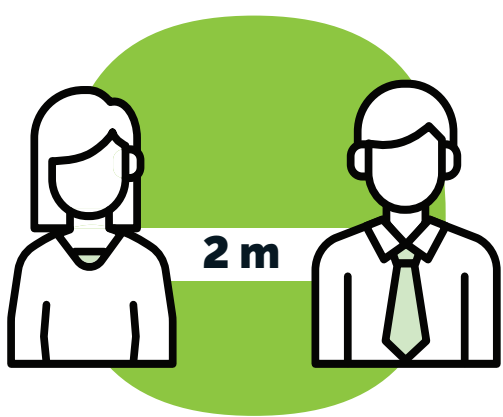
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# **We're Making a Difference to Keep Each Other Safe from COVID-19**

As businesses begin to reopen, we all need to continue our efforts to protect each other.



**Practice physical distancing.**

Stay two metres away from others



**Wear a face covering**

when physical distancing is a challenge



**Wash hands**

thoroughly and often

**Inside or out, stay safe. Save lives.**





King Weekly Sentinel

# Arts & Entertainment

## Book by local author Gavin Watt a must-read

By Vicki Hotte

"Social distancing" offers the perfect opportunity to savour the latest work of King Township's prolific historical author, Gavin Watt. His well-researched series can be viewed on his website: <http://gavinwatt.ca/books.php>

On Dec. 18, 2019, Kathleen Adamson, an archeologist and historian associated with the King Township Historical Society, expressed her regrets to the King Weekly Sentinel when she learned of "King's own Gavin Watt's possible retirement from the intensive process of writing his series on 18th century history of Canada/Upper United States ..." She looked forward to reading his new book, entitled *No Despicable Enemy - 1779: The Continental Army destroys Indian Territory*.

Gavin's latest installment was already book-marked on our kitchen table when Kathleen's letter was published.

Coincidentally, Gavin's book appeared just before native blockades of railroads and some highways became a flashpoint in late 2019, as various First Nations across Canada showed their support for Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs who disputed Coastal GasLink's right to build a pipeline across their territory in a deal with the federal government. The land belonged to the Wet'suwet'en nation, who had never signed a treaty with, nor ceded land to, the Crown. The chiefs rallied support far beyond indigenous communities, including a Canada-wide petition by 'Lawyers and Legal Academics Supporting Rights of Indigenous Land and Water Protectors,' which had garnered

a few hundred signatures at last count: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1I-UcPhCDr8Me6SULLEWjWQG5BZPZvri2FHcHN7G1DeE/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1I-UcPhCDr8Me6SULLEWjWQG5BZPZvri2FHcHN7G1DeE/viewform?edit_requested=true)

In his book, Gavin extends solid historical credence to such native land claims. He fixes his attention on facts recorded in hundreds of historical accounts written by governors and military officials dispatched by powers of the United States and the British Crown, as they wrested control over native-held territories.

The American government wanted to seize First Nations lands for new settlers, but internal conflicts amongst competing colonial interests resulted in uneasy shifting alliances with various indigenous groups. Instability and distrust ruled as competitive colonial interests first vied to acquire enough supplies and reinforcements to maintain their brigades or garrisons through trade with First Nations. General George Washington grew increasingly eager to acquire lands across the new American frontier and establish an American state, hopefully extending into fledgling Canada. To this end, Washington was charged by Continental Congress to seek an alliance with the French to launch a Franco-American invasion of Canada; in response, the French contributed ships and troops to harass the colonial holdings of their old adversary, Britain.

It was some task to summarize and encapsulate the numerous incursions. Let Gavin's book be your guide and be prepared to be challenged by all the details. I am being very selective when I

choose a key example of the determined onslaught faced by First Nations, as follows.

By the mid-1770s, General George Washington issued a blunt order to Major General James Sullivan, advising him to attack the Six Nations: "The immediate objects are the total destruction and devastation of their settlements and the capture of as many prisoners of every age and sex as possible. It will be essential to ruin their crops now in the ground and prevent them from planting more."

The order continued: "I have no power at present to authorize you to conclude a treaty of peace with them, but you may agree upon the terms of one ....", adding later, "But you will not by any means listen to any overture of peace before the total ruin of their settlements is effected."

Sullivan resolutely discharged his orders, and his exploits are briefly recounted on historical plaques set beside a few modern American roadways. Sullivan and his contingent aimed to destroy all native Cayuga villages, and they did; yet, the Cayugas had not opposed them. In one campaign, Gavin describes how the army destroyed "1,500 peach trees, as well as apple and mulberry trees, onions, peas, beans, squash, potatoes, turnips, cabbages, cucumbers, watermelon, carrots and parsnips."

In the midst of this destruction, Lieutenant Parker of the Artillery wrote that the army could imagine "opening prospects of future greatness" when they may "behold with a pleasing admiration these deserts that have so long been the habitation of beasts of prey and safe asylum for savage enemies, converted to fruitful fields, covered with all the richest productions of agriculture ..." While Gavin resisted making personal judgments in his presentation of historical accounts, he couldn't resist this time: "What could Parker have possibly been thinking? Had not the army destroyed field after field and orchard after orchard of the richest yields imaginable in these 'deserts'?"

A similar process was under way in Canada where flimsy self-serving one-sided "treaties" and "land purchases" were quickly drawn up to provide homesteads for new migrants and United Empire Loyalists fleeing to Canada as the USA gained independence. The land grab only intensified as Britain approved surveys on First Nations' lands, which were deemed "British North America" at the time, so more properties could be acquired for new settlers.

I found one prime example of such

a land grab, where the lands of King, Vaughan, and York (old Toronto) were included in "Toronto Land Purchase No. 13," established in 1788, rewritten later in 1805. Some Mississauga Chiefs disputed the so-called purchase, saying they were never consulted. The lands had not been sold. In 1792, when Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe investigated the "Toronto Purchase," he could only find a single incomplete deed with no real description or survey of the lands supposedly purchased by the British Crown. It seems this purchase served as a template for similar land swindles of the day, and First Nations had no legal recourse under British law.

In 1805, the new Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, Peter Hunter, revised the original Toronto Purchase of 1788 through the 1805 Indenture. The new document showed mapped boundaries for the Toronto Purchase.

In the 1980s, after collecting historical documents, the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation launched claims through Canada's Land Claims Commission, which finally resulted in a \$145-million settlement in 2010. This sounds like a lot of money until you realize the claim included 250,808 acres of prime lands, valued at \$578.13 per acre in 2010. Was this chunk of change really supposed to compensate the Mississaugas for loss of their ancestral lands and their cultures? Cynic that I am, I wonder how much the lawyers got out of that.

Gavin maintained an unblinking focus on the specific historical period that launched the dispossession of First Nations from their rightful territories. He demonstrated how American and British forces justified their war on First Nations by gradually vilifying them as "ignorant savages" in their accounts, deliberately undermining their recognized skills and advanced knowledge of agriculture.

Recent court decisions have stipulated that pre-existing indigenous land rights could not be easily extinguished by a subsequent assertion of sovereignty over those same lands. Aboriginal title differs from the modern concept of individual property ownership because indigenous lands are owned collectively by each indigenous nation, so the historical (and even pre-historical) relationship to the land is maintained in the interests of future generations. Canada has barely begun to scratch the surface of the implications of claims regarding indigenous lands that were never surrendered to the Crown. Stay tuned.

In the meantime, read Gavin's book!

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# It's time to start your vegetables from seeds

By Oleg Leontovych  
Events Planner  
Schomberg Community Farm

I've been collecting and growing vegetables from seeds as a hobby for years. There is a great deal of pleasure watching them sprout and grow and then eating the fabulously fresh vegetables.

Of course you could buy seedlings, but you may not get the variety of produce you want and you may not get the best quality plants. Growing your own vegetables from seeds guarantees the quality and variety you are looking for.

We are in climate zone 5b. You'd never know it with the cold we are experiencing, but in a few weeks' time we will be able to start our gardens (end of May).

It's time to start the seeds of the following crops indoors – squash, pumpkin, cantaloupes, cucumbers, watermelons, kale and Swiss chards (for late summer harvesting).

There are a number of reasons why you should start your seeds indoors.

By planting seeds indoors, we trick the weather because some crops such as celery, eggplant, parsley, cayenne peppers, and green peppers have quite long germination periods.

You will help your seedlings to survive better because germination rates are higher in controlled indoor conditions where they don't have to battle the weather, birds and bugs.

You will have the advantage of starting your crops earlier and getting them established in the garden before the onset of summer heat and drought.

It will give you a head start on crops such as tomatoes and peppers so you can harvest them earlier before the autumn comes.

It may be the only way to grow edibles whose times to maturity exceeds your growing season.

As a bonus, you can grow interesting species and varieties of herbs and vegetables that you find only in cata-



logues, not at garden centres.

Overall, starting seeds indoors is fun, and it gets you gardening months before the last frost!

So how do you actually start the seeds?

1. Use seed starter soil mix, not potting soil.
2. Select the most appropriate container (egg cartons, toilet paper rolls),

not large plastic pots.

3. Pre-germinate your seeds.

4. Only put a single sprouted seed if a larger size seed, or a small number of small seeds in your prepared "pot."

5. Keep them under the light and the soil moist but not overly wet.

6. Watch them grow!

For complete details see the video I've created on the topic <https://youtu.be/7x6l0d8PwRw>



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# McDonald's Canada launches 'Fries For Good' initiative

By Mark Pavilons

Who would have thought an iconic fast food item would help Canadians, from coast to coast?

McDonald's Canada is conducting its "Fries For Good" campaign, a nationwide initiative to support COVID-19 relief efforts and other recent Canadian tragedies.

Through May 21, McDonald's Canada will donate a portion of the proceeds from all fries sold in Canada to the Canadian Red Cross, supporting the Canadian Emergencies & COVID-19 Response Fund, the Nova Scotia Stronger Together Fund, and disaster response and preparedness work across Canada.

Money raised by Canadians as part of the Fries For Good initiative will go directly to the Canadian Red Cross, who will then divide the proceeds raised among these various funds, ensuring support for individuals and families across the country who need it most. Support will be directed to those affected by the pandemic, as well as those impacted by recent devastating events, including the Nova Scotia mass shooting, and other disaster preparedness and response efforts in communities across Canada.

"With several recent tragedies adding to the hardships already created by

the current global pandemic, we wanted to find a way to rally Canadians and support our communities that need it the most right now," said John Betts, president and CEO, McDonald's Canada. "The Fries For Good initiative provides a simple and easy way for all Canadians to contribute to relief efforts coast-to-coast."

Fries For Good is also a way for McDonald's Canada to continue its unwavering support for Canadian farmers.

"Our agriculture partners have been hit hard by COVID-19, and we are continually looking for ways to support them as we navigate the new and unforeseen challenges of this pandemic," continued Betts. "Canadian farmers are a driving force in our business and we hope Canadians' love for our fries will allow us to not only make a significant donation to the Canadian Red Cross, but also reinforce our support for Canadian potato farmers while making a positive impact on their business."

"This is a unique time for Canadians as local communities prepare for and respond to disasters, while also trying to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and other unforeseen events that may occur," said Conrad Sauvé, President and CEO for Canadian Red Cross. "The Canadian Red Cross is pleased that McDonald's Canada is providing Canadi-

ans with another way to help support people during this unprecedented time of need."

The Schomberg franchise is pleased to participate with this initiative.

Owner Rory Mackinnon said he's "proud that through our iconic Fries we are able to support not just our potato farmers but the Red Cross's efforts to support Canada's needs during this time of crisis. We all have an obligation to give where we can and this is a great way to help make this happen locally."

Together with franchisees like Mackinnon, McDonald's has been finding big and small ways to support the communities in which it operates, and has remained committed to serving guests

– through Mobile Order & Pay through the McDonald's app (in Drive-Thru and with Curbside Pickup only), Drive-Thru and McDelivery® at participating restaurants nationally – to provide convenient and affordable food options to Canadians. Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, McDonald's Canada has donated more than 250,000 pounds of food to local food banks and other charities, and supplied more than one million free coffees and teas to frontline healthcare and emergency service workers.

For more information on McDonald's Canada's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, or more information on the promotion, visit [McDonalds.ca](http://McDonalds.ca).

## Community-led initiative raises funds and thanks front-line workers at Southlake

A new community initiative is doing double duty, thanking front-line workers for keeping the communities safe, and raising urgent funds to support Southlake's COVID-19 Action Fund.

Lawn signs honouring front-line healthcare and essential workers have been produced by NewRoads Automotive Group in partnership with Neal Brothers Foods and are available for purchase.

Since the initiative launched April 25, more than 200 signs are already displayed on front lawns of homes and businesses across the communities Southlake serves. Proceeds of the \$50 signs are being donated to support urgent needs related to Southlake's response to COVID-19, with purchasers receiving a \$35 tax receipt. To maintain safe social distancing practices, signs are being delivered and installed on front lawns by the NewRoads Community Crew.

This incredible initiative is being led by NewRoads Automotive Group President & CEO, Michael Croxon, also a member of Southlake Foundation's Philanthropy Cabinet, as well as Chris and Peter Neal, co-owners of Neal Brothers Foods.

"We'd seen some signs around our neighbourhood early on in the pandemic and thought it was a great opportunity to fundraise for our hospital," said Chris Neal, a long-time Southlake supporter. "So we approached Michael with the idea, and he immediately offered the support of his team to make it happen."

"The idea seemed like a no-brainer," said Michael Croxon. "It's a way we can acknowledge the efforts and sacrifices of our front-line workers while also raising some much needed funds for Southlake's COVID-19 Action Fund. We knew that we had the resources to help at NewRoads, like willing volunteers among our staff and delivery vehicles that we could deploy. We're hoping to generate a lot of community support and see literally thousands of signs across the region."

"This initiative is a really special way for our front-line healthcare heroes to see the strong support of our communities and know that they are truly appreciated, especially in such a challenging time," said Susan Mullin, president & CEO of Southlake Foundation. "Our staff are certainly feeling the gratitude through the donations of personal protective equipment, food, and messages. Now they can see and feel that sense of community on their way to and from work as well, and they have an opportunity to participate and share their own gratitude for the other essential workers in the community that we, in turn, depend on."

Several of these signs will also be proudly displayed on the Southlake campus, ensuring that each and every one of Southlake's front-line healthcare workers will be able to see this special gesture of thanks for their tireless efforts in keeping our communities safe.

## Pick up a book during isolation

Tucked inside the historic and charming Olde Mill on Schomberg's Main Street, George Burt operates his antique bookstore. He offers some 2,500 books from his vast collection.

He offers many rare and out-of-print books for your enjoyment.

George has books on virtually every subject matter imaginable. Many are rare finds.

While the Olde Mill and book store remain closed at this time, he's happy to find that special book for you and deliver it to your door. Contact him at [cdnnoble@rogers.com](mailto:cdnnoble@rogers.com)

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## Southlake's field hospitals transformed into COVID-19 assessment centres

By Brock Weir

Southlake Regional Health Centre moved COVID-19 testing into on-site field hospitals on Thursday, April 30.

These field hospitals, made possible by two generous community donors through the Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation, can house up to 30 patients and are fully equipped with heating, air conditioning and power.

Shifting the assessment centres to the field tents has helped free up Southlake's paramedic and ambulance garage which has, since the opening of a local assessment centre, been a hub for testing. It will also help Southlake's Emergency Department get back up to speed for non-COVID patients.

"One of the things we looked at back in early February was the potential of needing additional space and having that additional surge capacity and, in particular with infectious disease, do we have enough negative pressure environments where we can control the air and the environment?" says Stephen Trafford, Manager of Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, for Southlake. "These shelters were purchased not only for the fact it comes with negative pressure air and a number of other features, but it is really multifunctional and multipurpose.

"For now, we're using one [of the two tents] as an assessment centre. We knew we needed to come up with something a little more long-term. Since we don't know how long this is going to go on for, we decided to move the assessment centre right to the shelters. Hav-

### Educational professionals ratify new agreements

The Ontario Council of Education Workers (OCEW), which includes OPSEU, voted unanimously to ratify a new collective agreement.

OPSEU President Warren (Smokey) Thomas is pleased that the deal has been accepted.

"Education bargaining has been very difficult across the board, and the COVID-19 emergency hasn't helped," said Thomas. "But exhaustive negotiations have paid off, and our members can focus on doing what they do best: creating welcoming learning environments that allow our students to grow and flourish in every aspect of their development."

The OCEW is a bargaining council representing approximately 7,000 educational professionals working as Teaching Assistants, Educational Assistants, Behavioural Teaching Assistants, Designated Early Childhood Educators, clerical staff, IT and many others at public and Catholic school boards. They are divided among seven unions, including OPSEU and its affiliate the Educational Resource Facilitators of Peel (ERFP).

The three-year agreement, retroactive to Sept. 1, 2019, includes wage increases of one per cent in each year, as well as significant improvements to benefits. While the yearly wage increases may be disappointing, OPSEU First Vice-President/Treasurer Eduardo (Eddy) Almeida points out that the union has launched a Charter challenge of Bill 124, which limits public sector wage increases to one per cent.

"This is bad legislation," he said. "It clearly violates Section 2(d) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms by undermining our right to bargain collectively and freely. Four years ago, the Supreme Court ruled against the Wynne government for imposing bargaining limits – and we're confident the court will do the same with this challenge.

"Considering our talented educational professionals earn some of the lowest salaries in the public sector – completely out of whack with their contributions to student success – it's only right they be able to negotiate wage increases that meet and exceed inflation."

OPSEU represents roughly 3,000 education workers with Peel District School Board, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, Peel District School Board, Simcoe County District School Board, Ottawa Catholic School Board, York Region District School Board, Rainbow District School Board, Moosonee District School Area Board, and Kenora Catholic District School Board. The Educational Resource Facilitators of Peel, OPSEU's affiliate, represents roughly 4,000 members.

ing said that, they are multifunctional. If we decide a week or a month from now that we need them for something else, whether it is to have patients out there on stretchers or whether we use it for some other capacity, we have that option now to be able to use it and based on the operational need."

The tents look simple from the outside, but, as they are designed for a healthcare environment, they are far more complex than they appear. They are designed to be able to allow procedures to be performed and come equipped with everything to make that happen.

"Regardless of what we're doing today, tomorrow we might be doing some other medical procedure," says Trafford. "Having all of the amenities or as close as possible out in that shelter is really kind of what makes this thing work. It is really no different than some other industries like the military. I am a reservist and we operate in these types of facilities in remote areas and even though it is not a remote environment, we are only 50m away from the building and traditionally there can be no infrastructure [in military situations] that can help support something like this.

"We're going to be looking to see if it changes our rate or speed of testing. Certainly, with the drive-thru there are only so many cars that can get in the queue outside the emergency department. We're hoping that with this set up, people will get out of their vehicles and into the shelter. We have six pods set up right now. At any given point, we can have six people being tested and we believe that that will actually probably speed up the process for us a little bit.

"We want to reassure the community that Southlake continues to be a safe environment. We want people if they need our services to come and be confident that they will be safe in our environments and their medical conditions will be addressed. That goes for both the shelters and the actual hospital itself. You should feel comfortable and confident that if you need testing, you can come in, our staff will treat you, keep you safe, and whatever services are required you will get."

## 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.

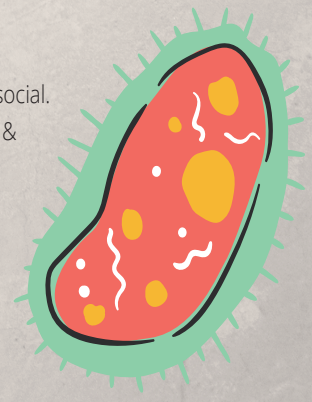
As countries struggle to gain control and stop the spread of this virus, Canadians are self-isolating and coping in different ways. The King Heritage & Cultural Centre would like to record the local impact, that is how King Township citizens are feeling amidst the crisis.

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.).
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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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## King City's Formula 4 star is itching to return

By Robert Belardi

King City native and 15-year-old Formula 4 driver Nicholas Christodoulou continues to train as the NACAM Championship's restart is in limbo.

The Scuderia Martiga driver says he spends his time at home on his racing simulator, exercising and watching movies.

"Keeping busy is mostly, spending time on racing. So, that means being on the simulator for many hours a day and then, working out and watching movies. Just pass the time so this can be over," Christodoulou said, over the phone with the King Weekly Sentinel.

In a period that has simply, stifled the excitement for the world of sports it is difficult to continue to motivate oneself. But, not for "Nico." This teenager has his set sights on the Formula 1 and will stop at nothing to achieve that goal.

He remembers his first podium finish in October; a race, right before the Mexican Grand Prix. In front of a sell-out crowd in Mexico City, Christodoulou stood, atop of the podium with smiling faces staring at him. It is a feeling he will never forget and one, that continues to motivate him on a daily basis.

"That is the biggest thing I think about and another one of the parts of winning that, that I think about, is seeing everyone's face with a giant smile coming off the track."

Now, at home, he works out using an exercising schedule from a trainer. He eats cleanly of course, with his diet consisting of carbs, meat and vegetables.

He uses iRacing, a program that elite racers of the same skill level and above use to train off the track.

He currently participates in the Road to Indy series online with other drivers. He is currently competing against drivers ranging all the way from F4 to as high up as Indy Car. He says it's really good experience.

The British F4 is currently using iRacing as a platform to host a competitive tournament where the winner of

the esports competition will have the lucky chance to race in real life.

Although there is nothing like that in Mexico, what Christodoulou is hearing, is the delay of his racing dates. Otherwise, there is not a whole lot of traction coming out of the F4 with a set plan.

Simulators don't have the same impact as practicing in the real car so coming back for most drivers, will be a whole new world once again.

"No one has been able to go to a track and step into a go-kart or a car."

"A couple months out of a go-kart or a car, you're going feel it after. You're going to get in and you're going to feel like you don't know how to drive a car anymore."

And that's not the only concern. Sponsors who invest money into these drivers are suffering financially and that can have negative repercussions; especially in a sport, that relies on sponsor money as one of its leading, financial securities.

A domino effect surely remains in the balance. The Formula 1 is currently struggling with money and there is no insurance for the Formula 4 either.

Nico's mother, Sherry says she has paid in advance for races and is unsure what will occur with that money. She also says, that other schedules in racing can overlap with other competitions.

"What could happen to, a lot of race series is because everyone is scrambling put their races into months that still have good weather, that could end up impacting another race series," Sherry explains.

With nine races left in Nico's season, he is unsure when those will be scheduled. He also, has his sights set on the F4 championship in the United States once Mexico's is finished. The vision to qualify for the European competition is right after America. The hope is, race weekends do not overlap, or that will be problematic.

This isn't the first time the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile



(FIA), has shut down because of a pandemic or an outbreak, Nico says.

Inevitably, this will be resolved and the Christodoulou family hopes it is sooner rather than later.

For now, Nico enjoys racing on his simulator and keeping in touch with other drivers he has grown close with on his racing journey.

One of them being Eduardo Barrichello, son of the former professional

Formula 1 driver, Rubens Barrichello.

"Every couple of weeks, we'll jump on the simulator and we'll race for a couple of hours in the night. Then, chat a little bit after in a chat room and talk about what's new," Nico shared.

Christodoulou is in second place in the drivers' championship with wins in Mexico City and in Amozoc, Puebla.

He is 33 points behind the leader, Noel Leon.

## Cougars want to get back to the rink

By Robert Belardi

Following a first-round exit at the hands of the Orillia Terriers in the Provincial Junior Hockey League (PJHL) playoffs in February, the Schomberg Cougars have been quiet in the market and in team preparation since the pandemic.

Cougars General Manager James Ewart says the team is going to begin pre-season preparations before it's too late.

"As we got to May first, I reached out to our executive and said this has to be done delicately, but it is time we start moving forward with our plans because if we don't, we'll miss the boat," Ewart explained.

The Cougars were forced to cancel their year-end banquet and have not had the opportunity to host year-end interviews. For virtual calls, the club is trying to plan those out.

The club currently has players interested in trying out for the team. That's a start.

But now, is a very different time. Talks of businesses slowly opening up could mean the PJHL begins to implement their actions to plan and schedule the league for next year.

Ewart has participated in a few conference meetings on Zoom with the league and he says the PJHL is not releasing schedules but as far as rule changes and procedures are concerned, implications on improving those qualities within the league are currently being discussed.

For his team, one of the biggest challenges of this off-season is the uncertainty of players staying or leaving. He is unsure if former players with previous university and college commitments, will attend starting in September, or, defer their offer and return to high school.

It is, however, a conjecture on speculating if this will happen or not.

"Because our foot is off the gas pedal, it's hard not to walk through the doorstep making those calls, but, people don't know. You don't want to burn people with trying to make decisions when, things are open right now and not understanding what the next steps are. It's difficult, very difficult."

Now, Ewart is keen on getting back to action. Firstly, by calling his coaches and discussing the team and then, it's a matter of trying to keep the core of the team together.

The core group, consisting of Cameron Kokelj, Spencer Ripley, Connor Childerhose and Rees Cameron are a few amongst a wonderful selection of players that Ewart wants to see wear the Cougars' colours next season.

He believed the Cougars had the chance to go all the way to the finals last year. The boys played their best hockey in a rough best of seven bout with the Terriers.

As the beginning of next year approaches, the Cougars must wait for the green light from the PJHL to know when to begin try outs and eventually, practices.

Then the next step, Ewart says, is an efficacy on disinfection programs across the league. He says, it would be the responsible thing to do and staff in the arenas, will have to find a way to improve those programs for fans.

"The word fan, is short for fanatic. We all love the game and we're passionate about it so everybody is going to take their own personal precautions with what their comfortable with. They'll follow the regulations but at the end of the day, we all want to be back at the rink."





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# Schomberg Should Know

By Wendy-Sue Bishop  
905-590-0054  
wsue52@hotmail.com

## York Pines United

York Pines United Church continues to offer Sunday worship services. Services are pre-recorded and released via YouTube Sunday mornings by 10 a.m. Please go to <http://www.yruc.ca>

Welcome to our website ([www.yruc.ca](http://www.yruc.ca)) and look under calendars for the URL to the service. Rev. Andrew Lee and Rev. Bruce Roffey, along with Sunny Rakovac, New Hope United Church music director, and volunteers from York Pines, King City and New Hope United Churches prepare a wonderful service each week. Please join us in worship.

## Dufferin Marsh Nature Connection

In this time of uncertainty and physical distancing there is something you and I can do.

Mary Asselstine is participating in the Great Canadian Birdathon again this year to raise funds to help Canada's wild birds and habitats. This Birdathon entails identifying as many species of birds as she can find on a set day. Sometime towards the middle of May, she will be roaming around King Township (keeping a safe distance from everyone), recording each species. Then she will let you know about her adventure and about the kind of birds that are living around us.

"I have been doing this fundraiser off and on since it first began back in 1976. Last year I raised over \$1,200 and I hope to exceed that this year. Through Birds Canada, proceeds from the Great Canadian Birdathon will sustain conservation programs and initiatives that are making a real difference. The Great Canadian Birdathon also supports the Dufferin Marsh Nature Connection! Please consider making a donation to help me help birds!"

To donate online go to:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/me/6E5TqFb>

Alternately you can get in touch her directly at 905-939-7544 or [mfasselstine@aol.com](mailto:mfasselstine@aol.com).

## Schomberg Horticultural Society

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.

## Nobleton and Schomberg United Churches By Rev. Carol-Ann Chapman

We, like other churches have currently suspended in person services. Each week I do a condensed recorded service that is sent out to my e-mail contacts. If you would like me to send this directly to you please let me know. The service is also available on the Nobleton United Facebook page and the YouTube channel.

I am also sending out links to music

as well as a "Happenings" newsletter as other ways to connect with each other. If you don't have computer access and are interested in what is going on, I'm happy to drop off a text copy of the service or newsletter at your home.

You can contact me at [ministernobletonschomberg@gmail.com](mailto:ministernobletonschomberg@gmail.com) or leave a message at the church at 905-859-3976.

## YRP impound 9 vehicles for stunt driving

Nine drivers had their vehicles impounded overnight after they were caught driving in excess of 50 kilometres per hour over the speed limit in what continues to be a problem of high-speed driving during the COVID-19 pandemic.

High speeds on relatively empty York Region roads continue to be a problem. From March 1, through to May 11, officers laid 306 charges for stunt driving for vehicles travelling in excess of 50 kilometres per hour over the speed limit, versus 149 charges during the same time period in 2019. Speed kills. Police are urging drivers to slow down and obey posted speed limits.

# Classifieds

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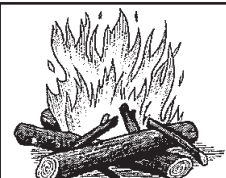
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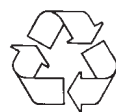
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### 708 OBITUARIES

#### Dale: Ruth Ida Jean

The family of Ruth Dale regrets to announce her passing at Southlake Regional Health Centre Newmarket, on Tuesday May 5, 2020. Ruth Dale (nee: Cairns) in her 81st year. Loving wife of the late Alsey Dale. Loving mother of Keith Dale (Jean), Jean James (Geoff), and the late James Dale. Remembered with love by her four grandchildren: Nicole (Alex), Jesse (Carleigh), Augusta (Brent), and Austin (Nicole). Lovingly remembered by her sister Evelyn Henderson (Trevor Henry), and her brother in law Dr. Bill Dale (Margaret). Forever in the hearts of her extended family and many friends. The family would like to thank the staff at Southlake Hospital and the staff of CHATS who cared for Ruth. In the wake of the COVID Pandemic a private Graveside Interment of cremated remains will be held. A Celebration of Ruth's life will be held when it is once again possible to gather in groups larger than 10. Family and friends are encouraged to watch the funeral home website as dates and times become available. For those who wish, donations to Southlake Regional Health Centre or the Kidney Foundation would be appreciated by the family. To show your support to Ruth's family please leave written tributes and condolences at [www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com](http://www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com)

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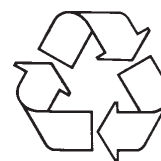
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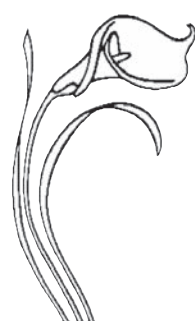
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# King's Corners

**King City United**  
By Sheryl Sinka

Regretfully our gathering for worship continues to be suspended indefinitely as well as all our small groups, however, it has opened up opportunities for us to connect in new and creative ways. There is a Virtual Coffee hour offered on Thursdays from 2-3:30. If you are interested in participating please send an email to Kristen at the office at [kcuc@bellnet.ca](mailto:kcuc@bellnet.ca).

Last Sunday's message by Rev Bruce Roffey entitled, "Stephen's Successors," is available for viewing online on our website [kcuc.net](http://kcuc.net).

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.

Ministers can also be reached by phone - Rev. Andrew Lee, 416-999-5615; Rev. Bruce Roffey, 647-500-9138. The website is [kcuc.net](http://kcuc.net)

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

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.

For pastoral care please call Lynn Vissers, Director of Congregational Ministries at 416-998-4652 or the Rev. Paul Johnston, our Interim Moderator at 705-341-7738. Our church office phone number is 905-833-2325.

**All Saints Anglican Church**  
By Patrick Gossage

Those who want to hold us together are winning over those who would separate us. This is the conclusion of David

Brooks, a New York Times columnist writing last week.

"The pandemic has been a humanizing force," he writes. "Allowing us to see one another on a deeper level than politics - see the fragility, the fear and the courage ... In normal times the rippers (those who would divide us) hog the media spotlight. But now you see regular people, hurt in their deepest places and being their best selves ... People have responded to this crisis with more generosity and solidarity than we had any right to expected." And as a footnote - Who would have thought grocery store checkout clerks would be such heroes these days. Let us hope our respect for all front-line folks lasts.

John 14:1-2 Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

Our priest, Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Green's message on Mother's Day:

"It is beautiful that Jesus anticipates that as his believers, we will face a lot that is troubling. Every one of us can name a lot of things that are weighing on our hearts these days - concerns for the elderly, especially those who live in nursing homes, a future that is unknown, grief - especially for our mothers who have passed on. Or maybe our hearts are filled with increasing little worries that feel overwhelming.

Often these troubling feelings challenge our faith. Our sadness can make it difficult for us to hear the Good News Jesus's resurrection brings us. Jesus invites us to have faith in God and in him. He knows. He understands what we are facing. He knows that we need what he has won for us. Our sadness

can become our home, our dwelling place; and, at times, it can become our identity. We can even diminish our ability to perceive the gift by saying, "He's offering me nothing in this world; only future happiness. I'm overwhelmed now!"

Jesus is offering us a peace nothing else can offer us. How does eternal life offer us a peace and strength now, when so many of us need it most? Today we are invited to take heart in the comfort and reassurance of Jesus. Our Gospel for today offers us a vision of the rest of the story - the whole story. When we believe that death - in all its forms - is just a scarecrow, then we grow in courage. We grow in courage, not only to face huge challenges and tremendous losses in this life, but we can embrace a courage that enables us to continually grow and be and become the authentic human being that we are each created to be.

Our problems don't go away. The pain of the pandemic is still there. Our worries have not ceased. Our grief for those who we love, but who we see no longer is still there. What changes is the meaning it all has. All the troubles that fill our hearts will be removed by the healing transformation that comes from Jesus's death and resurrection. We need to open our hearts and put our trust in Christ Jesus. We have hope. Death can be redeemed. All deaths. All losses. All disappointments. All fears. All sickness. All sin.

We can ask for the grace these days to let our hearts be open to the Good News, to be transformed by its joy, and to share this faith with the world. Then and only then, can we begin to feel and look like resurrection people, who know the meaning and the outcome of our life in Jesus. Alleluia!

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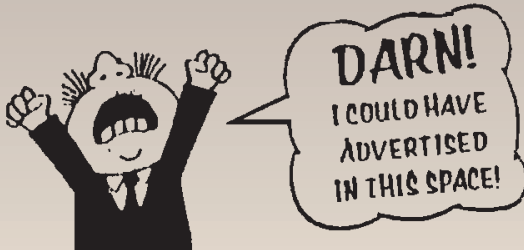
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# Nobleton Notes

By Angie Maccarone  
416-917-0406

St. Paul's is live online every Sunday! Visit our YouTube page (search St. Paul's Church, Nobleton), and our website, stpaulsnobleton.ca.

You can support the King Township Food Bank in these difficult days with cash donations – go to ktfb.ca for more details. And you can support the online ministry of St. Paul's by going to stpaulsnobleton.ca/giving to use PayPal, or send an electronic funds transfer (EFT) via your online banking to donate@stpaulsnobleton.ca. Your generosity in these days means a great deal. Thank you!

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!

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 and Schomberg United Churches**  
By Rev. Carol-Ann Chapman

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I am also sending out links to music as well as a "Happenings" newsletter as other ways to connect with each other. If you don't have computer access and are interested in what is going on, I'm happy to drop off a text copy of the service or newsletter at your home.

You can contact me at ministernobletonschomberg@gmail.com or leave a message at the church at 905-859-3976.

### Help keep Guide cookie sales from crumbling

Your local Nobleton Girl Guides unit is trying not to let their traditional cookie drive crumble amid the coronavirus pandemic. Because of COVID-19, your local girl guides are not able to sell their cookies door-to-door and at local events the way they always have.

Cookies sales count for over 60% of Girl Guides revenue, and the proceeds from every box sold by your local unit goes directly to 1st Nobleton Girl Guides. Cookie selling is a big part of Girl Guide fundraising every year and helps supports weekly meeting activities, weekend outings and traditional Girl Guide camps. Due to the pandemic, the weekly in-person meetings have been cancelled, but unit engagement continues with virtual meetings and online activities with our leaders and young ladies.

Thankfully not all is lost! The Nobleton Pharmasave and Nobleton Guardian Drug stores have generously offered some selling space in their store for the Girl Guide cookies to be sold.

Please pick up a box or two and

help local Guiding families with their Spring Cookie Campaign. And all proceeds from the sales go directly to Nobleton Girl Guides.

For questions, please contact 1stnobletonbrownies@gmail.com

### Nobleton Lions Club

Your Nobleton Lions Club is alive and well and practicing physical distancing, as mandated by health authorities. Like many other groups, we meet via Zoom at our regular meeting times, and continue to operate to the extent allowed. The Club has proactively reached out to those organizations which we usually support, to offer financial aid in line with what we typically provide.

Events that have had to be cancelled for this year include the Easter Egg hunt in Pottageville, the Golf Tournament (which is the club's main fundraising event, held normally at the start of June), a spring poker night, and Victoria Day Parade and events participation.

The annual Walk for Guide Dogs has been postponed, as we are hopeful of hosting the event later in the year.



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Better Together



# No colour is more powerful than the colour of Love

Gino discovered a *love* for painting. And it became a family activity most nights. ~ Franca Marroccoli



Dear Friend,

**Gino, Marissa and I were a very close family.**

We were strong, we were happy. And, like most families, we thought we were invincible. We believed we could weather whatever storms life presented. What we didn't know is that we'd be hit by a storm that would require us to lean on many shoulders.

I'm sharing my story with you because it's important to me that everyone in our community understands that while the pain of witnessing a loved one's illness is extremely hard, Margaret Bahen Hospice and Doane House Hospice provide critical support that will help you through one of the most difficult times in your life.

Generous community financial support of these two outstanding organizations has enabled them to provide programs and services that would not otherwise be available to families like mine. I hope you will consider joining their family of supporters by sending a gift today to help them continue their important work.

**This is our story.**

Gino and I met in 1994. We were blessed with love, friendship, laughter and our beautiful daughter, Marissa, who is now 14. We would never have guessed back in those happy, care-free days that we would face a 24-year journey with cancer.

It began in 1995 with a mole on Gino's leg that was determined to be skin cancer. It was removed and life carried on. Three years later, the cancer was back and had invaded his lymph nodes. He underwent surgery and immunotherapy – and life continued. All seemed relatively well until 2015.

**Then, life as we knew it began to unravel.**

Gino's annual scan in 2015 brought the news we had been dreading. The cancer had spread and there were tumours in the muscles behind his kidneys and spleen. The prognosis was 12 to 15 months if we did nothing. Participation in clinical trials at Princess Margaret could prolong his life. Gino jumped at the chance.

653 Queen Street, Newmarket ON L3Y 2J1 [www.myhospice.ca](http://www.myhospice.ca)



Gino Marroccoli

So began more than four years of various experimental treatments, some very invasive, some that temporarily gave us hope, and others that made Gino extremely ill. Then he was sent home with a hospital bed, daily PSW visits and a pain pump. He had a wound from the last procedure that wouldn't heal, and we were told there was nothing more to do.

**Doane House Hospice was there for me.**

In my role as caregiver, I did my best to stay strong for Gino and Marissa, but there were days I wondered how I could keep going. The Caregiver Support program at Doane House Hospice enabled me to share my experiences and understand that my thoughts and feelings were not unusual. The intimate bond I forged with the participants and facilitators was instrumental for the last 1.5 years of Gino's life.

**Margaret Bahen Hospice was there for all of us.**

On July 3, Margaret Bahen Hospice became our new home away from home. The staff and volunteers helped Gino live out the rest of his life with joy.

Gino was seldom alone. So many family and friends wished to visit that we needed to devise a schedule for guests so that we could ensure separate time just for the three of us. Gino learned about the Art Therapy program and discovered his love of painting. It became a family activity most nights.

The little touches provided by Margaret Bahen Hospice will always be happy memories for Marissa and me – the memory box outside Gino's room that contained his favourite things and the freshly baked chocolate chip cookies, always at the ready when Gino had a hankering.

Gino passed away peacefully on August 1st. I remember the calm as we accompanied Gino on his last journey, with the staff and volunteers standing by. I remember the beautiful quilt that covered him – the white crosses and blue doves. And, I remember the song that was playing, "Goodbye, My Friend."

In the months after Gino died, I attended grief counselling at Doane House Hospice. While Marissa and I struggle each day with the loss of Gino, the program facilitators helped us understand that the loneliness, sadness and waves of overwhelming grief are normal.

Thanks to the combined compassionate care Margaret Bahen Hospice and Doane House Hospice provided to our family through our difficult journey, we were able to share many joyous moments during Gino's final days.

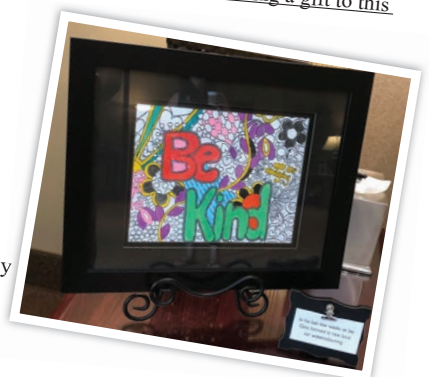
They supported us as a family, and I hope my story will inspire you to consider making a gift to this life-changing place.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Franca Marroccoli

P.S. The COVID-19 crisis has impacted hospice financially and they need your support more than ever. Please consider sending a gift today.



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# RESALE HOMES COLLECTIONS

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## Turn your new house into a home

Historically low mortgage interest rates are helping to drive a new wave of home sales. Statistics Canada's Canadian Housing Survey found about half of Canadian households have either moved within the past five years or intend to do so within the next five.

People relocate for various reasons. After moving into a new house, it can take some effort to turn that house into a true home and feel comfortable in your new environs. These steps can help that process along.

**Create at least one complete and serene space.** Focus on setting up the bedroom so you can retreat at the end of the day. Invest in new furniture or get new bedding to give the room this comforting feeling.

**Create an organizational plan.** It can be tempting to want to throw everything in closets and unpack quickly, but give yourself time to fully analyze where you want to store items, where you may need to paint or reconfigure spaces, as well as any home improvements you want to make before taking out all of your stuff. When you fully unpack, you can immediately enjoy your hard work.

**Hang artwork.** Hang a few select pieces of artwork or family photos shortly after moving in. Surround yourself with things that make you feel good.

**Bring mementos.** Your first home may bring about warm feelings. While you can't recreate it entirely, you can use a piece of furniture or a few family heirlooms to make your new space feel homey.

**Rely on familiar scents.** Break in the new space with familiar aromas, whether it's preferential air fresheners, scented candles or baking your favorite chocolate chip cookie recipe.

Moving into a new home can be exciting. Certain touches can help make the new space feel more like home.



# How home design trends are evolving for social distancing

COVID-19 has brought changes to everything, and home design is no exception. Experts are expecting to see lasting impacts on everything from the materials we use to the rooms we prioritize. Check out these and other noteworthy trends:

**HOUSES OVER APARTMENTS:** Many people who live in condos or apartments do so to be closer to the action — work, entertainment and shops — and never planned on spending much time at home. But the pandemic has changed that, and more people are going to want a home that offers plenty of room and outdoor space in case they need to self-isolate again.

**SELF-SUFFICIENCY:** A hard lesson we've learned is that things and services we thought we could

count on aren't necessarily a sure thing, so items that increase self-reliance will become very popular. Expect to see more homes with sources of energy like solar panels, sources of heat like fireplaces and stoves, and even urban and indoor gardens that allow you to grow your own produce.

**OUTDOOR LIVING:** Between playgrounds closing and parks becoming overcrowded, many of us are turning to our balconies, patios and backyards for fresh air and nature. This means we're going to be investing more in our outdoor spaces, with functional kitchens, soothing water features, cozy firepits, and high-quality outdoor furniture to create a much-needed escape.

**HEALTHIER SPACES:** Thanks to spending more time indoors and reprioritizing our health, we'll turn to design to help ensure our homes are safe and healthy for our families. We'll see a rise in products like water filtration systems as well as materials that improve indoor air quality. For new homes and additions, alternatives to wood-framing like insulated concrete forms from Nudura, which

offer improved ventilation for healthier indoor air quality and an environment that's less susceptible to mold, will be key.

**HOME OFFICE SPACE:** Business experts are suggesting many companies will see that working from home is not only possible but offers tangible benefits, like saving money on office space rent. With working from home on the rise, creating a home office space that inspires productivity will be a major project many of us tackle. Luxury home office furniture that feels chic and blends into your décor as well as ergonomic chairs and desks will see a major boost.

**CUSTOM AND QUALITY:** With the hit to the economy, people are going to be buying less, but what they do buy will be better quality, while at the same time making an effort to support American businesses. When it comes to design, trends will shift to locally made furniture, custom-built homes and pieces and materials that stand the test of time.

Find more information at nudura.com.

*Thank You*

to all the front line workers, doctors, nurses, health care workers and all the businesses that are running during this difficult time.

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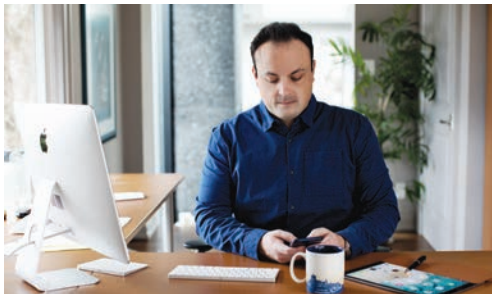
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# RESALE HOMES COLLECTIONS



By Julien Laurion  
The Big Tuna of Real Estate

## Flags For Aurora

**MY FELLOW AUROANS**, this month I wanted to use this space to share my empathy and support for our community as we navigate through this pandemic. We have embarked on a whole new journey. We have not seen a disruption like this in our history. It is truly amazing how quickly life can change in a matter of months. The impacts of this virus have been far-reaching; job loss, deaths of loved ones and the freedom to move about in our daily life without fear or worry.

The economy has been hit hard with almost two million Canadians losing their jobs this past month, which is both sad and shocking. As a business owner myself, this pandemic has changed everything and given me much to think about in the days since we entered into a state of emergency. In both the personal and professional, I feel that we, as a community, will have some real obstacles to overcome in the coming months to get back on our feet. I have admired so

many of my friends and colleagues who are looking for ways to help and continue to be inspired by their family and work life. With this in mind, the Flags for Aurora Campaign was born.

As I have experienced a major shift in my professional life, I began to explore my passion for woodworking to keep busy and I began to create wooden Canadian flags for family. It occurred to me that I can offer these to the community and mobilize our collective goodwill and Canadian spirit to raise money for a charity in need and brighten up our backyards this summer, while we spend a lot of time at home.

The Flags for Aurora campaign will last until Canada day with a goal to raise \$1000 minimum for the Aurora Food Pantry. A portion of the proceeds from each flag sold will be directed to the Food pantry. I hope to help our local businesses by buying all my supplies here in Aurora and will share on my social platforms; we all need a little light shone on us during this time.

If you are interested in purchasing a flag, please visit my website [www.bigtuna.ca](http://www.bigtuna.ca) and click the link 'flags for aurora'. From there, please fill out the order form and I will be in contact with you shortly. Each flag will sell for \$120.00 with \$40.00 from each flag going to charity.

I know we will get through this so let us stay Aurora Strong.

Julien Laurion AKA Big Tuna, is a local Real Estate Sale Representative with Royal LePage Your Community Realty in Aurora. I am a real estate agent who has expertise in both Real Estate and Renovations and have been involved in this community for over 20 years. If you have a question for my monthly article or if you are considering buying, selling or leasing a home please feel free to call or email me directly at (416) 402-5530 or [julien@bigtuna.ca](mailto:julien@bigtuna.ca) or by alternatively visiting my website [www.bigtuna.ca](http://www.bigtuna.ca) or Facebook page @bigtunarealty

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**RESALE  
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**Ask A Realtor®**



**We have waited to sell until the pandemic ends, is now a better time?**

While many wanting to sell their home this Spring paused taking this action due to the COVID-19 pandemic; others needing to sell have been successful within a month of the home being placed for sale. The more preparation in advance of placing the home on the market while staying safe at home will benefit how the home attracts buyers.

Book a video conference consultation with a REALTOR® to discuss your home selling needs. The upside to a thorough marketing consultation with a Seller's Representative Specialist (SRS) is they will be able to guide and provide the best plan of action checklist to prepare the home for sale.

It's essential to consider the risks of potential exposure to COVID-19 with the home placed for sale if it's currently occupied or even if it's vacant and have that discussion with your REALTOR®. COVID-19 protocols would be a necessary conversation around safely navigating through physical showings. Will Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) be provided and health checklists signed prior to showings? How much of the process can be handled safer with virtual means right up until the closing of the sale? Ideally the REALTOR® may be able to provide virtual staging, guided live interactive walk through videos for buyers since open houses have been stopped.

Ask if negotiations and offers can also be handled electronically. Pricing is crucial as always and a detailed comparative market assessment would need to be reviewed virtually as well. Marketing the home in the best clean, repaired, bright and spacious condition is essential for photography and video.

Buyer demand is strong yet the experience of shopping for a home has shifted online more than ever before and quality images matter. Does the REALTOR® use drone video and images? Do they use Matterport technology or iGuide for images, floor plans, video walkthroughs and what is the difference? Seller's in most cases want to be sure that Buyer's are indeed serious and well educated before they are permitted for safe physical showings. Buyer's agents need to ask more questions to uncover all of their clients needs, wants, pre-qualified budgets and lifestyle preferences to be a more suitable home finding matchmaker.

- Written by Connie Power

Connie Power is the Assistant Manager, Sales Representative CNE® SRS® ABR® SRES® for RE/MAX Hallmark York Group Realty Ltd., Brokerage serving York region and beyond in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Empowering you in Real Estate, Call Connie today to make an appointment to discuss your next move at (905) 726-0856.

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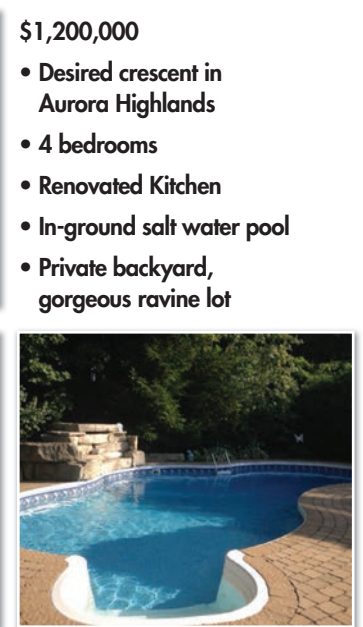
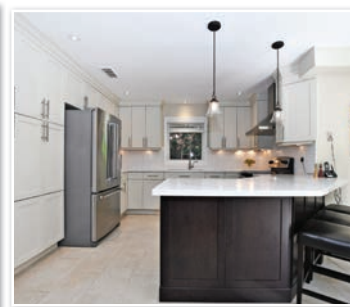
**Did you know?**

Outdoor living is wildly popular, as more and more homeowners are bringing elements once reserved for home interiors into their backyards.

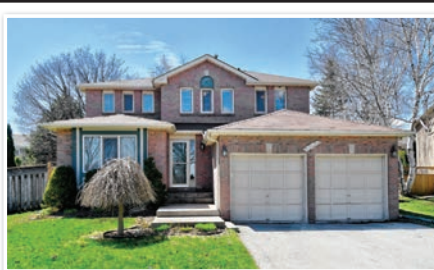
When designing outdoor living spaces, homeowners may learn about biophilic design, an architectural concept that aims to incorporate natural elements into outdoor living spaces. Proponents of biophilic design say it satisfies an innate human need to affiliate with nature, thereby helping to reduce stress that people may experience after being stuck indoors for much of their days. Biophilic design is often part of a home interior design, but many homeowners also embrace it when designing their outdoor living spaces. For example, surrounding outdoor living areas with noninvasive plants, flowers and trees and using natural materials like wood and stone when building such spaces are great ways to embrace biophilic design and create a tension-free ambiance in outdoor living spaces.



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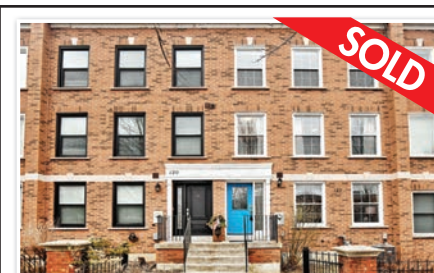
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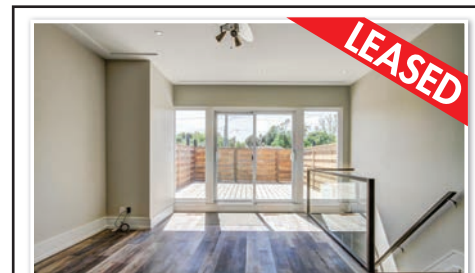
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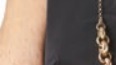
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**RESALE  
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# 3 perennial gardening pointers

Gardening is an engaging hobby that can provide a host of benefits, some of which may surprise even the most devoted gardeners.

For example, the Harvard Medical School notes that just 30 minutes of gardening activities burns 135 calories, making gardening a fun and simple way to incorporate more exercise into your daily routine. In addition, scientists have long proven that gardening releases the hormones serotonin and dopamine in the brain, each of which are associated with improved mood.

Perennial gardens can be especially attractive to seasoned gardeners and novices. Perennials are plants that come back year after year, and committing to a perennial garden can ensure people stick with gardening for the long haul, reaping all of the rewards that come with making such a commitment.

Before planting a perennial garden, those new to gardening may want to consider these three tips.

**1** Make a plan. A perennial garden comes back year after year, which means any mistakes you make when planting are likely to haunt you year after year as well. Factors like space and location must be considered before planting. Many gardeners utilize garden planning applications like GrowVeg to make the process of planning a garden simpler and more organized. Such applications can be especially useful for novices.

**2** Consider aesthetics. Gardens can be awe-inspiring, especially when gardeners consider aesthetics prior to planting. The DIY Network advises gardeners to consider scale before choosing which perennials to plant. Tall plants and wide beds tend to look best outside large homes, while short plants in small beds tend to look better outside small homes.

**3** Work with a professional. Local garden centres can be excellent resources when planning perennial gardens. Representatives at such businesses can offer tips on native plants, which will be more likely to thrive year after year than non-natives. Such representatives also can help you choose the right plants based on the amount of sunlight the plants will likely get after being planted. Each of these factors can be easily overlooked by people without much gardening experience.

Perennial gardens can provide years of joy and inspiration, especially when gardeners give ample attention to certain details prior to planting.



## 8 garden tools for beginners

The right tool for the job is essential to working safely and efficiently. This is as true in the workplace as it is in the garden.

Novice gardeners may not know where to begin in regards to which tools they need. The following are eight items that can serve as a solid foundation for beginning gardeners.

**GLOVES:** Your hands will be working hard, so it pays to protect them from calluses, blisters, splinters, insects, and dirt. Look for water-resistant gloves that are also breathable.

**HAND PRUNERS:** Hand pruners are essential for cutting branches, cleaning up shrubs, dead-heading flowers, and various other tasks. Choose ergonomic, no-slip handles that will make work easier. Rust-resistant, nonstick blades also are handy.

**WHEELBARROW:** A wheelbarrow can transport gear to garden beds or tote dirt, leaves, rocks, and other materials around the landscape. A good wheelbarrow is strong but light enough to maneuver when full.

**LOPPERS:** Long-handled loppers will fit the bill for thick branches. The long handles provide leverage to cut through branches an inch or more in diameter.

**HAND TROWEL:** A hand trowel is a handy tool that lets you dig holes or unearth weeds. While shopping for a trowel, consider getting a hand-held garden fork, which can aerate soil and cut through roots.

**HOSE/WATERING CAN:** Keeping gardens hydrated is part of ensuring their health. That makes a hose and a watering can two invaluable tools to have around. Invest in a lightweight, expandable hose if storage space is at a premium. An adjustable nozzle will enable you to customize the water flow as needed. A watering can is an easy way to tote water to hard-to-reach pots and containers.

**GARDEN KNEELER:** Gardeners often bend and kneel while working in the soil. That puts pressure on the back and knees. A comfortable garden kneeler with memory foam or one made from shock-absorbing material can reduce aches and pains.

**GARDEN HOE:** Garden hoes till soil, remove weeds and perform many other tasks. A garden hoe can be used along with a full-sized shovel, trowel and garden rake.

This list is just the tip of the garden tool iceberg. Visit a garden centre and speak with a professional about other tools that can be added to the mix.



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**RESALE  
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# How to maintain your gas grill

**GRILLING IS A WILDLY POPULAR** way to cook meals. According to a 2018 survey from The Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association, 70 percent of adults in the United States owned a grill in 2017, while 80 percent of Canadians could make that same claim. While grill ownership figures have remained relatively steady over the last 20 years, spending on grills has been on the rise and industry-wide revenue is expected to reach \$7.2 billion by 2022.

Such figures illustrate that grills have become increasingly significant investments. The HPBA survey found that gas grills are the most popular type of grill, and adults investing in a new gas grill would be wise to protect such investments by learning how to maintain them. Weber\*, one of the world's leading manufacturers of gas grills, offers the following maintenance tips to gas grill owners who want their grills to keep cooking great meals for years to come.

**Clean the outside of the grill lid.** A paper towel and some cleaner can help gas grill owners keep their grills looking good on the outside. If your grill has a porcelain-coated lid, use glass cleaner. Stainless steel cleaner can be applied to stainless steel lids. When cleaning a stainless steel grill, use a microfiber towel and buff with the grain instead of against it for the best results.

**Don't overlook the side tables.** Many people love gas grills because the side tables provide a great place to place cooking utensils or spices and other special ingredients. Keeping these tables clean can prevent the formation of potentially harmful bacteria and also maintain the appearance of the grill. Use a microfiber towel and stainless steel cleaner, again making sure to buff with the grain, if cleaning a stainless steel side table. Tables made of thermoset plastic can be cleaned using a mild dish detergent and warm water.

**Don't shy away from cleaning the cook box.** The cook box can seem like an intimidating part to clean, but Weber notes that it's actually quite simple to maintain the cook box. Wait until the grill is completely cool before you carefully remove the cooking grates and Flavorizer bars. Then use a stainless steel brush to brush all excess grease and debris into the bottom tray. Once all of that is in the tray, it's easily discarded.

**Burn off leftover residue.** Let heat help you when trying to remove stubborn food debris from your grill. Turn all burners on high for 15 minutes before grilling. As the temperatures rise, any remaining debris will turn to ash, making it easy to remove using a stainless steel brush.

Maintaining a gas grill can help it ensure it's around to cook delicious meals for years to come.



**Real Estate Market Update – Aurora**

## Carefully Selling Homes

The COVID-19 Pandemic has caused a global pause and shift to staying at home and minimizing all outings to stay safe and healthy. The strong start to the 2020 housing market has shifted to caution and necessity as the drivers until the Ontario and Canadian governments declare safer times. Interacting face to face happens with social distancing now and the recommendation of wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for outings which should be limited. Real Estate has remained an essential service throughout the pandemic and many who need to sell are still achieving success across the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board.

There were 2,975 sales across Toronto and the Greater Toronto area in the month of April with very low inventory of homes for sale to select from which lead to multiple offer scenarios in many cases. In Aurora, 40 homes sold at an average price of \$943,712 and there were 81 homes placed for sale with 158 homes in total for sale as of May 1st. With the current demand from buyers to meet the supply of homes it would take just under 3 months to deplete that current homes for sale inventory of all home types.

Typically, Seller's received 97 per cent of the asking price within a month of placing the home for sale in April.

The average price for a detached home was \$1,182,150; even in times of pandemic, homes are still maintaining their values while interest rates remain low. Buyer's in need to make a purchase continue to shop virtually and can attend live streamed open houses. Showings may be more limited as Seller's agents follow COVID-19 protocols and encourage most of the shopping to occur online prior to home visits.

Call your real estate professional for a video conference to discuss your real estate needs and examine the area statistics in depth as you plan your next move.

– Written by Connie Power

Connie Power is a Real Estate Sales Representative CNE® SRS® ABR® SRES®, Assistant Manager, Mentors and Develops New Real Estate Sales Representatives for RE/MAX Hallmark York Group Realty Ltd., Brokerage serving York region and beyond in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Empowering you in Real Estate, Call Connie today to make an appointment to discuss your next move at (905) 726-0856.

\*The statistics provided herein were obtained from the Toronto Real Estate Board; Regional Housing Market Tables; York Region, Aurora for April 2020 and the Summary of Existing Home Transactions of all home types, April 2020 for all TRREB Areas.

\*\*\*Not intended to solicit those currently under a real estate contract.



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