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King Weekly Sentinel

King's Community Newspaper

Weekly Circulation: 10,200

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage. Canada
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SOLD!
Warmest holiday wishes to all my clients & colleagues, friends & neighbours! I am grateful for the wonderful relationships and wish you continued success in 2021.
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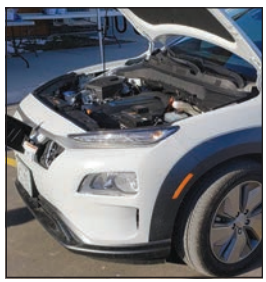
BTN, volunteers distribute Xmas arrangements

Roughly 450 outdoor arrangements, courtesy BTN, were delivered across the Township, including those struggling with difficult times, and seniors as well as others isolated because of COVID this year. The Nobleton Lions played a large part in coordinating the distribution. When word was received early in the week, the Mayor and Councillor David Boyd were the first who sprang into action, delivering last Wednesday, with a huge effort on the part of Nobleton Lions, Firefighters, Schomberg Lions and Food Bank volunteers. A huge credit goes to Jeff Olsen at BTN, who reached out with the offer of the arrangements. Happy holidays everyone!



INSIDE

REGULAR FEATURES	
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King shows off its first electric vehicles.
See Page 7



Diva offers online Christmas concert.
See Page 10

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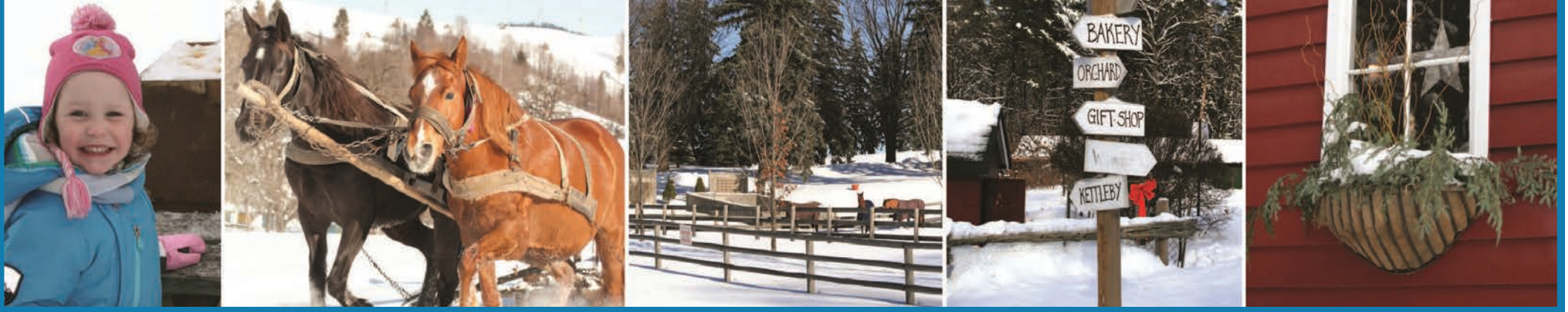
3374 SF magnificent custom-built stone & brick bungalow on picturesque, prof. landscaped lot with total privacy on quiet child-safe exclusive court amongst multi-million dollar homes in exclusive executive enclave! Soaring 10 ft. ceilings! Open concept plan! Gourmet centre island kitchen! Inviting master With enticing ensuite! Prof. finished open concept lower level! Enchanting backyard oasis!
\$2,999,888



www.king.ca



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Phone: 905.833.5321 Email: serviceking@king.ca



UPCOMING MEETINGS

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Monday, January 11
6:00 pm – Council and Committee of the Whole
Virtual meeting live streamed at <http://meeting.king.ca>

Monday, January 25
6:00 pm – Council and Committee of the Whole
Virtual meeting live streamed at <http://meeting.king.ca>

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Tuesday, January 26
6:00 pm – Committee of Adjustment
Virtual meeting at <http://cofameetings.king.ca>

To view full Council and Committee of the Whole agendas, visit king.civicweb.net/filepro/documents

BID NOTICES

For all bid opportunities, please visit the Township of King's website www.king.ca, click **Popular Topics** and click **BID OPPORTUNITIES**.
Or visit on the following link
<https://king.bidsandtenders.ca/Module/Tenders/en>

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

OFFICE CLOSURE

Although our Municipal Offices remain closed to the public, staff will be offline for the holiday season starting Mon., Dec. 21, returning on Mon., Jan. 4, 2021. For urgent matters during this time, contact our 24/7 after-hours service at 905-833-5321.

Christmas tree pickup

Christmas trees will be picked up on **Mon., Jan. 11** only. Please remove all decorations, nails, tree stands and plastic tree bags. Crews will not dig out a tree or climb a snowbank to retrieve one and trees over six feet tall in height must be cut into pieces.



TEMPORARY ON-STREET PARKING PERMITS

A reminder to all residents that temporary on-street Parking Permits for municipal roads are available to accommodate overnight guests, deliveries, or driveway repairs. Permits are valid for a period of 24 hours and are granted for a maximum of twelve (12) days per vehicle per year (limit of 4 permits during annual winter parking restrictions). Permit Fee: **Free**

Permits are not valid for York Regional roads. Requests to park on **Regional roads** must be made to **York Region**.

To apply for a temporary parking permit visit <https://parking.ca> or email parking@king.ca.

Winter Parking Restrictions

Please be advised there is no vehicle parking on any roadway between the **hours of 2 am and 6 am**, from **November 1st to April 15th** of each year, as well as no parking at any time to interfere with snow removal to allow for the expedient clearing of snow and the safe passage of Emergency Vehicles. To learn more about parking in King such as how to pay or dispute a parking ticket, you can visit our parking enforcement page at www.king.ca or by calling ServiceKing at 905-833-5321.



Nobleton sewer works

King Township has started the third contract of the second phase of providing infrastructure for residents to connect to the municipal sewer system in Nobleton.
Phase 2, Contract 3 sanitary sewer and concurrent works in Nobleton will take place in and around the following roadways: Sheardown Drive, Dobson Court, Cain Court, Hazelbury Drive, Chamberlain Court, Russell Snider Drive, Witherspoon Way, Mactaggart Drive, Holden Drive, Robb Drive and McCutcheon Avenue affecting approximately 200 homes.
Weather permitting, work is scheduled to take about 27 months to complete.
Residents who have any questions about the project can visit <http://majorprojects.king.ca> or contact ServiceKing at 905-833-5321 or serviceking@king.ca.

*****LATEST UPDATES*****

The contractor is continuing with sanitary sewer installation on Chamberlain Court and then will proceed along Sheardown Drive. Base asphalt is expected to be installed by the middle of December in the Sheardown and McCutcheon area.

King Township 2021 Waste Calendar

Look for the 2021 edition of King Township's waste collection calendar in your mailbox delivered by Canada Post by the end of December. It will also be available online at www.king.ca.



Please see more King Township notices on page 5



Season's Greetings

On behalf of Mayor Steve Pellegrini and Members of Council, we would like to extend our warm wishes to all of our residents and their families this Holiday Season. Please stay safe and remember to support our local businesses and ShopKING!



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 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 Public Library remains closed but is offering curbside pickup service. Visit www.kinglibrary.ca for more information.
- The Municipal Centre at 2585 King Rd. is closed to the public until the end of 2020.
- 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.

Citizens can still do business with King on our website at www.king.ca, by phone at 905-833-5321 or by email at serviceking@king.ca.

LATEST UPDATES

The Province of Ontario has moved York Region and King Township into the Grey- LOCKDOWN level.

All sport and recreational fitness facilities were closed as of Monday December 14th at 12:01 a.m. The Province has advised that the LOCKDOWN phase will last for a minimum of 28 days. In addition, the in-person by-appointment services offered at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre have also been cancelled for the duration of the Provincial LOCKDOWN.

For a complete list of all Grey-LOCKDOWN level restrictions visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-response-framework-keeping-ontario-safe-and-open#lockdown>.

The Township has, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March, been offering all administrative services to our businesses and residents virtually. King Township remains open for business. Many services—including things like building permits, planning applications, garbage bag tags and the payment of water bills—can all be accessed online. We have also introduced virtual recreation programming and will continue to offer as many outdoor recreation programs as possible in the coming weeks. Learn more at www.king.ca.

All essential services have continued, including Fire and Emergency Services, water, wastewater, waste collection, by-law enforcement and roads.

King is encouraging residents to support local businesses during the lockdown as much as possible.

You can visit our website at www.king.ca, call us at 905-833-5321 (Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) or email us at serviceking@king.ca.

For the latest King Township COVID-19 related information, please visit www.covid19.king.ca or <http://bit.ly/yorkregioncovid19>.

COVID-19 information

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

Visit 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.

Site Alteration By-law Review

We are seeking feedback on the Draft Site Alteration By-law! Join the conversation and have your say by visiting our Speaking page.

<https://speaking.king.ca/site-alteration-by-law>

KING TOWNSHIP RURAL ZONING BY-LAW REVIEW



Call for Participants: Hamlet and Agricultural Area Zoning By-law Review Workshops

The Township will be hosting two community workshops to discuss specific zoning issues and opportunities in the Hamlets and Agricultural/Rural areas of King Township. Members of the public are invited to register and attend!

Two community workshops are being planned for approximately late February 2021:

1. A workshop to discuss zoning within the **Hamlets** of the Township; and
2. A workshop to discuss zoning issues in the **Agricultural and Rural areas**.

How can I register to attend or find out more about the workshops?

Please visit speaking.king.ca and click on "Rural Zoning By-law Review" to register.

Alternatively, or if you require assistance, you may contact Kristen Harrison, Policy Planner, at kharrison@king.ca or 905-833-4065.

More details about the format and materials will be provided to registrants closer to the meeting date.

Council refuses endorsement, but wants to help Augustinians

By Mark Pavilons
Editor

Local Journalism Initiative

King councillors found themselves in a catch-22 with a recent request.

Council jostled with a disdain for a Ministerial Zoning Order, while siding with the idea for a local project.

With few options available to them, the owners of Marylake asked council to endorse an MZO, helping to further their plans for a large-scale seniors complex on their large property north of King City.

MZOs are not the preferred planning tool for local municipalities and King councillors were unanimous in their dislike for this route. However, they were sympathetic to Marylake owners, who have some ambitious plans for needed facilities. Not only will this project fill a huge void, it will save the brotherhood from extinction.

Council decided not to endorse the request for an MZO, but agreed to organize and host a round-table discussion with all stakeholders, in hopes some common ground can be found.

According to staff, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing may issue an MZO at their discretion, without consultation or appeal processes. MZOs may provide zoning approval for any type of development and may be issued (theoretically) without the need to conform to local OPs or policies of upper tier levels.

The request from the Augustinian Fathers (Ontario) Inc. centres around re-development and revitalization of their property at 14260 Keele, next to Villanova. AFOI is proposing an "Augustinian Village," a master plan that includes long-term care and seniors living facilities. It would also provide nursing care and even hospice care. The concept is a "Continuum of Care Village" that promotes the aging in place concept.

The whole idea arose out of necessity, to help fund the renovation and expansion of the current landmarks on the property. They include a retreat centre, monastery, renowned Shrine of Our Lady of Grace, convent and historic Henry Pellat barn.

Quinto Annibale, speaking on behalf of the AFOI, said they're at a crucial crossroads in their history and the success of this plan will dictate their future. Their 65-year history on the prop-

erty could come to an end if no help is in sight and they will literally wither away.

They have resources for perhaps two more years of operation, Annibale said, noting the King Township site is the last remaining Augustinian foothold left in Canada.

They formed a lay board to investigate solutions and sustainability and their current plans, and need for an MZO, are vital to their continued existence.

In total, they require some \$30 million to bring all of the buildings up to standard, including \$10 million to restore the Pellat barn, one of the largest historic barns left in Ontario.

He said they've "turned over every rock" for alternatives, but the restrictive zoning in the Oak Ridges Moraine prohibits any development. This is why the MZO is key to securing their future.

Annibale stressed their objectives are in the public interest and this application won't set any precedents in terms of zoning. Their seniors' village concept is much needed and supported by residents.

The natural beauty is the heart of the property, and their priority is protecting the environment, he said.

They plan to use existing building footprints and make the least invasive changes possible, to respect the ORM. He said the AFOI would welcome a heritage designation on the barn so it's preserved. He said they're not looking for a shortcut, but admitted this seems to be their only route.

Some councillors expressed support for the concept, but all were leary about the MZO and environmental impacts on the ORM.

Councillor Jakob Schneider said the seniors complex is "music to my ears." He cited a personal example of trying to find his grandfather accommodations. The aging in place idea is "fantastic" and this project is "a great step in the right direction."

Councillor Jordan Cescolini, who also shared a family story, agreed in with the idea, and securing much-needed seniors living accommodation.

It would a "dream" to host a village like this in King, he said.

One resident said if the Township endorsed the MZO, it would give the Province carte blanche in terms of planning.

A Nobleton man, who's involved in seniors housing, gave his unequivocal support to the project. The AFOI proposal would provide housing close to home and maintain family connections, providing a "glimmer of hope" to seniors.

Mary Muter, from the Kingscross Ratepayers' Association, said they're concerned this development will disturb nearby wetlands, impacting water quality, plants, wildlife and wells for residents of Kingscross.

Democracy is on the line and council cannot endorse the MZO, she said.

Another long-time resident said large-scale projects are an assault on the ORM.

And another man said the impacts on the watercourse will affect thousands of people downstream.

Resident and former councillor Susan Lloyd Swail said the AFOI master plan needs a lot more thought.

The ORM Plan, she said, is clear in its prohibition of development outside urban settlement areas. The scale of the expansion and buildings are "out of line" for what's allowed on the ORM. The property is nowhere near "shovel-ready" and she's concerned that once approvals are given, the AFOI can sell the land to big developers.

Susan Walmer, CEO at the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust, said the AFOI is, in fact, looking for a planning shortcut. The development proposed is massive and would definitely impact the "rain barrel of southern Ontario," as the ORM is known. She suggested the AFOI approach developers for the needed funds to help restore the buildings.

King Township, she said, has always been an environmental champion.

A representative of Concerned Citizens of King Township (CCKT) said the Township has had a history of processing applications in a thorough manner. The MZO, she contends, bypasses vital environmental and hydrogeological assessments.

Another resident said such an MZO is an affront to a proper planning process.

Councillor Bill Cober said every application, every project, is viewed differently. He's familiar with the property and said he's proud the Augustinians are part of the King community. He said he sees value in both positions and also supports seniors housing opportunities.

Councillor Avia Eek said while the arguments for seniors are compelling, King's newest Official Plan puts in place certain zoning restrictions. Projects must conform to the OP, and current provincial policies, like the ORMCP.

Councillor Debbie Schaefer, too, sees a need for seniors accommodation, but as an environmental champion herself, is bound by legislation like the ORMCP.

Mayor Steve Pellegrini said the Township sympathizes with the Augustinians. However, King has always been about full public consultation and input. He admitted the project has merit but they would do citizens a disservice until all aspects are fully investigated.

He suggested the roundtable, adding both MP Deb Schulte (Minister of Seniors) and MPP Stephen Lecce have offered their support.

At this point, not supporting the MZO comes down to upholding the local context of planning, which is of utmost importance, according to Councillor David Boyd.



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www.heretohelphomecare.ca



VIRTUAL NEIGHBOURHOOD OPEN HOUSE TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON A PRELIMINARY COMPREHENSIVE BLOCK PLAN

A Neighbourhood Open House has been scheduled to inform and seek input from the public regarding a recently submitted block plan application for an area in King City bound by King Road to the south, Dew Street to the north, King Boulevard to the east and William Street to the west.



The Township of King requires that a comprehensive block plan be developed for this area prior to individual planning applications being submitted for consideration. This exercise is for planning purposes only to determine how pending development proposals would fit into the block in a coordinated manner, should the lands be considered for re-development in the future.

The meeting will be held on **January 14th, 2021 at 6:30 PM**. In support of the efforts of York Region Public Health and the Province of Ontario to stop the spread of COVID-19, **the meeting will be held using electronic video conference technology.**

In order to attend the virtual meeting, please RSVP via email or phone to the contact below. Upon RSVP you will be provided meeting access details to join the virtual Open House via web browser or through regular phone dial-in.

If you do not have internet access, alternative arrangements to view the presentation materials can be made.

For information please contact:
Joanna Fast, MCIP, RPP
Evans Planning Inc.
Email: jfast@evansplanning.com
Phone: (905) 669-6992 ext. 105



Hon. Deb Schulte
MP King-Vaughan

9401 Jane Street, Suite 115,
Vaughan, Ontario L6A 4H7

Toll Free: 1.844.586.8999

Tel: 905.303.5000

Email: Deb.Schulte@parl.gc.ca



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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

God and the universe, are they one in the same?

"And God saw all that He made, and it was very good."

Genesis 1:31

After decades of looking out into the deep reaches of space, Hubble sees all that He made. And it is beautiful.

"The Hubble Space Telescope is more than remarkable. It has answered just so many of those fundamental questions that people have been asking about the cosmos since people were able to ask questions."

John M. Grunsfeld

If you get a chance, locate some Hubble images online, or through NASA's website. The gallery of photos are some of the most breath-taking images you will ever see.

Some of the latest images to be released of far-off galaxies, look like celestial Christmas light displays, on the scale that only God himself could muster.

It's so amazing and humbling, it really does make you sit back and think.

Tracy K. Smith wrote that you can't look at these images and "not feel like something else is going about its business out there."

Something else, indeed.

Even Billy Graham weighed in on the subject, noting even Hubble hasn't found the end of this universe, adding "we don't know that is has any end."



Mark Pavilons

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge." – Psalm 19:1-2

At this most-Christian time of year, we prepare to huddle together, in the midst of a pandemic, and be thankful. Our family units may shrink a bit, but it's by no means any less meaningful.

In-person church services are now gone in lockdown zones such as ours. Of course, we can likely find a handful online or perhaps take a road trip to churches who will welcome parishioners.

It will definitely be a very different Christmas this year.

But that doesn't mean we should ignore it or skip the beauty of it all. And by all, I mean all creation.

As an armchair astronomer, I've been fascinated with the heavens above since my high school years. I devoured books on space and became a died-in-the-wool Trekkie.

I still love sci-fi adventure tales, which explore the endless possibilities of what's out there.

I hope I live long enough to see concrete proof of life on other worlds.

The vastness of the expansive universe is mind-boggling.

We are relative newcomers in this universe of course. Our Earth is only perhaps 4 billion years old, and the rest of the universe is estimated to be roughly 14 billion years old.

Maybe, God became better at his craft in recent eons, perfecting his planet-building skills when it came to Earth.

After all, "... He is before all things, and by Him all things consist."

The source of all things is, according to the theorists, the Big Bang – the massive single explosion that created everything.

It gets better. Just how big is the universe?

Scientists speculate the visible universe is roughly 93 billion light-years in diameter, but others say the Bayesian model of averaging puts it at least 250 times that, or 7 trillion light-years in diameter.

As an interesting aside, it's estimated there are 10 billion trillion planets similar to ours that can support life.

Scientists have been trying to figure out the origins of the universe for thousands of years. We've made only baby steps in that regard.

Like the proverbial "missing link" in our species' evolution, there are many missing pieces in this massive cosmic puzzle.

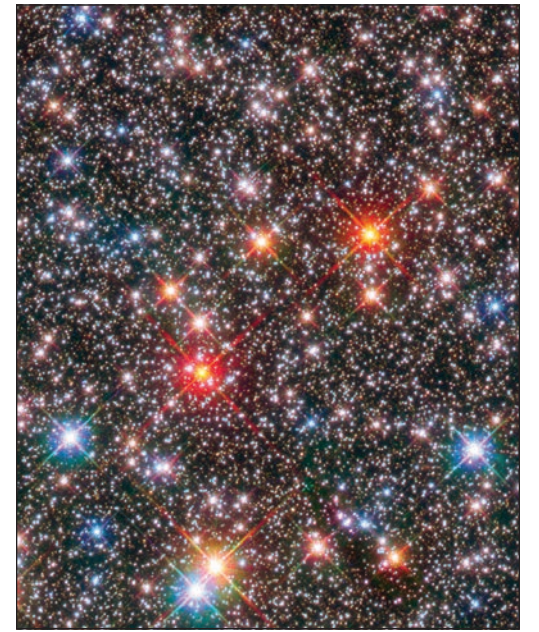
Just what conditions or elements came together at just that moment to set off such a cascade of wonder, and stardust and life?

What was going on before that momentous occasion?

How can something come from nothing?

Some argue that science and religion are at polar opposites, but that's not true. In fact, they can go hand in hand in some respects.

No one argues that the universe is a breath-taking wonder that cannot be fully explained. As such, it's open to



speculation and educated guesses.

Maybe, God awoke from a slumber, that day some 13.8 billion years ago, and hit the reset button. Maybe he felt it was time to begin anew.

My friends, look at the images from Hubble that accompany my column.

Just recently, in the skies above we saw a rare occurrence. Jupiter and Saturn were visible low in the southwestern sky. They appeared extremely close on the night of Dec. 21.

This could be similar to what our ancestors witnessed on the night of June 17, 2 B.C., called the "Star of the Magi." Venus and Jupiter were so close they seemed to touch and this was deemed a sign from Heaven.

Are planets and celestial objects just bopping around the void of space, in no particular pattern, orbit or purpose?

Or are these magnificent creations part of God's magical canvass?

Look up, and be humbled.

My friends, whatever your beliefs, embrace one another for we all are incredibly unique creations, on par with any star cluster or nebula!

All the best and let's hope and pray for better things in 2021.



Letter to the Editor

An uphill environmental battle

I am tired. For over 50 years I have been acting to protect the environment and to build strong and vibrant community.

Most of the time I have done it with tenacity and a hopeful heart knowing full well that there were ideas and powerful forces lobbying against me.

But I have also had allies, so I have soldered on believing this was my calling. Despite of, or maybe because of great losses, great strides to protect the environment and build strong community have been made.

But now we have a provincial government that is systematically undermining all the collaborative work that has been done over my lifetime, weakening protections for the most sensitive environments left in our region and taking away our democratic rights to be involved in decisions that directly affect you and your community.

Wake up people. Get involved. Get educated. Because people like me are getting tired.

Mary Asselstine



Quote of the Week



"Worry is a misuse of your imagination."

– Neil deGrasse Tyson

Trivia Tidbits

It is generally agreed that the use of an evergreen tree as part of Christian Christmas celebrations started 400 years ago in Germany and spread to most of northern Europe by the 19th century.

KingWeeklySentinel WEBPOLL
www.kingsentinel.com

Results from last week's poll:

Will you find it hard not celebrating with your extended famil this year?

a) Yes **75%**

b) No **25%**

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

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Are you glad to bid farewell to 2020?

a) Yes
b) No

Go to our website and cast a vote!

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<p>Simcoe-York Printing & Publishing Limited, publisher of the King Weekly Sentinel and the New Tecumseth Times.</p>			<p>Published every Thursday</p>



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ON Canada L7B 1A1
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PUBLIC NOTICES



HOLD THE DATE!
We will be holding a virtual Public Information Centre on Jan. 20 from 6 to 8 pm to provide information on the draft 2021/2022 budgets and gather feedback. More information on how to register will be provided in the new year in the Weekly Sentinel, www.king.ca and speaking.king.ca/2021-budget. You can preview the budget documents on the finance section of www.king.ca and at speaking.king.ca.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

DRAFT 2020 DEVELOPMENT CHARGES BACKGROUND STUDY AND DRAFT BY-LAW
(Electronic Meeting pursuant to section 238 (3.1) (3.3) of the Municipal Act, 2001)

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

In accordance with the Development Charges Act, 1997, Council of the Township of King is holding the following meetings:

RE: Council/Committee of the Whole Meeting: **Monday, January 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**
Final 2020 Development Charges Background Study and Draft By-law presented for Adoption

The Township of King Council/Committee of the Whole will consider the Final 2020 Development Charges Background Study and Draft By-law, at the January 11, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting. Council will consider adoption of the By-law at this meeting. Interested parties are invited to attend (virtually) to ask questions and/or submit comment. Information will be available for review on the Township website at www.king.ca as of Thursday, January 7th, 2021.

Public Comment

To comment in writing, please send written comments to the Clerk's Office at clerks@king.ca no later than **12:00 p.m. (noon) on the day of the meeting**. Written comments will be circulated to Members of Council prior to the start of the Meeting and will become part of the formal record of the meeting.

Anyone wishing to speak to Council virtually (Audio-telephone in) must register by contacting the Clerks Department at 905-833-4068 or email clerks@king.ca no later than **12:00 p.m. (noon) on the day of the meeting**. When your registration is received, a confirmation message and instructions for participating in the virtual meeting will be provided.

Please provide your full name, address, contact details when contacting the Clerks Department. Please note that all comments will become part of the public record.

For further information regarding the Draft 2020 Development Charges update process, please visit the Township of King website at: www.king.ca or contact: Dan Elliott, Interim Manager of Revenue, delliott@king.ca or by telephone at 905-833-4571.

*Note: Members of Council will be participating in the meeting remotely.

Kathryn Moyle
Director, Corporate Services & Township Clerk

NOTICE OF MEETINGS – REVISED – DECEMBER 16, 2020
2021 MISCELLANEOUS FEES & CHARGES and BY-LAW, 2021 WATER & WASTEWATER RATES and BY-LAW, DRAFT 2021-2022 BUDGETS & BUSINESS PLAN

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

RE: 2021 Miscellaneous Fees & Charges: **Monday, December 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**
(Consideration of By-law for Adoption, Monday, January 11, 2021)

The Township of King 2021 Miscellaneous Fees & Charges Report will be presented at the December 14, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting. The By-law will be considered by Council for adoption at the January 11, 2021 Council Meeting.

RE: **ADDED:** Presentation of 2021 Water & Wastewater Study: **Monday, January 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**
The Township of King 2021 Water and Wastewater Study will be presented at the January 11, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting. This presentation will be provided by the Township's consultant, Gary Scandlan, Watson and Associates Economists Ltd.

RE: **ADDED:** Virtual engagement Public Information Centre (PIC): **Wednesday, January 20, 2021 – 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.**

A virtual engagement Public Information Centre (PIC) has been arranged to provide information on the Draft 2021-2022 Budgets & Business Plan to allow all interested parties an opportunity to review the Township of King's preliminary budget and to provide feedback. Information on how to register will be provided in the new year.

RE: 2021 Water & Wastewater Rates: **Monday, February 8, 2021 MOVED to January 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**
(Consideration of By-law for Adoption, Monday, January 25, 2021)

The Township of King 2021 Water and Wastewater Rates Report will be presented at the January 25, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting. The By-law will be considered by Council for adoption at the Monday, January 25, 2021 Council Meeting.

RE: Council Working Session: **Monday, January 25, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**
Presentation of 2021-2022 Budgets & Business Plan

The Township of King's preliminary assumptions, feedback received to date, context and strategic directions relating to the Draft 2021-2022 Budgets & Business Plans will be discussed at a Working Session on Monday, January 25, 2021.

RE: Council Meeting: **Monday, February 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. MOVED to January 25, 2021**
Draft – 2021-2022 Budgets & Business Plan *(Consideration of By-law for Adoption, Monday, February 8, 2021)*

The Township of King's Draft 2021-2022 Budgets & Business Plan, will be tabled at the January 25, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting. Budget information will be available for review on the Township website at www.king.ca as of Thursday, January 21, 2021.

RE: Council Meeting: **Monday, February 22, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. MOVED to February 8, 2021**
Consideration of By-law for Adoption: 2021-2022 Budgets & Business Plan

The Township of King adoption of the 2021 Operating Budget & Business Plan and 2021-2022 Amended Capital Budgets, will be tabled at the February 8, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting. Budget information will be available for review on the Township website at www.king.ca as of Thursday, February 4, 2021.

For further information regarding the 2021-2022 Budget & Business Plan, please visit the Township's website at www.king.ca or contact: Peggy Tollett, Director of Finance and Treasurer, ptollett@king.ca
Telephone: 905-833-5321 Fax: 905-833-2300

Please note that as the Municipal Centre is now closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these will be electronic meetings held remotely and live streamed via <http://meeting.king.ca>

Kathryn Moyle
Director of Corporate Services
Township Clerk

KING FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES



ENJOY A FIRE SAFE HOLIDAY

WHAT'S THE RISK?

Smoking and cooking are the **top 2 causes of fatal fires** during the holidays (Nov, Dec, Jan).

Injuries caused by smoking account for **1 in 10 home fire injuries** during the holidays.

Smoking accounts for **30%** of all home fire deaths during the holidays.

Cooking fires account for **19%** of all home fires during the holidays.

27% of all home fire injuries occur in cooking fires during the holidays.

Alcohol is a factor in many fatal fires involving smoking and cooking. DRINK RESPONSIBLY!

King Fire & Emergency Services
905-833-2800

Office of the Fire Marshal & Emergency Management
www.ontario.ca/firemarshal

How do I protect my family during the holidays?

- Always stay in the kitchen while cooking. If you must leave, turn off the stove.
- Keep an eye on any drinkers in your household and make sure all cigarettes are properly extinguished and the stove is off before going to bed.
- Cigarettes can smoulder among upholstered items for hours before igniting. Check sofas and chairs for cigarettes that may have fallen between the cushions.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers.
- Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

ARE YOU PROTECTED BY SMOKE AND CO ALARMS?

- In **34%** of fatal home fires there is **no smoke alarm warning**.
- Install smoke alarms on every storey of your home and outside all sleeping areas.
- CO alarms are required outside all sleeping areas if your home has a fuel-burning appliance, fireplace or attached garage.



Statistics for Ontario between 2010-2014.

FAIRY TALE STEAM
Create your own STEAM solutions to fairy tale problems!
LIBRARY

HOLIDAYS around the WORLD
READING CHALLENGE
All Ages Reading Challenge until January 2, 2021
Win great prizes!! Visit kinglibrary.ca for details

Festival of Fire Safe Lights

- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use. Use the appropriate lights
- Make sure lights have the logo of a recognized safety standards agency such as CSA or ULC
- Read the manufacturer's instructions for the number and types of light strands that can be strung together safely
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections
- Always turn off indoor decorative lights before leaving home or going to bed

For more information contact your local fire department.

KING KING TOWNSHIP ELFABET HUNT
FRI. DECEMBER 18 - SUN. JANUARY 3
SANTA'S ELVES ARE HIDING ON THE TRAILS AND IN THE TREES. PLEASE HELP US FIND ALL 26. THEY'RE SNEAKY AS CAN BE!
EACH ELF WILL HAVE A CLUE TO HELP YOU FIND THE OTHERS!
SUBMIT YOUR "ELFIE SELFIES" TO @KINGMUSEUM ON INSTAGRAM OR EMAIL kingmuseum@king.ca FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A PRIZE!

KING COLD CREEK SNOWSHOE & X-COUNTRY SKI RENTALS
COMING SOON!
WEATHER PERMITTING AVAILABLE MON - SAT
*Pre-registration is required and spaces are limited NO DROP-INS PERMITTED
REGISTER UP TO 3 DAYS IN ADVANCE
STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS!
Visit coldcreek.ca or email coldcreek@king.ca for more information

LIGHT UP YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON AND HELP SOMEONE ELSE'S!
TO HELP FUND CHRISTMAS IN KING | A SISTER ORGANIZATION OF THE KING TOWNSHIP FOOD BANK

CK CHRISTMAS IN KING Holiday Light Tour

REGISTER YOUR DISPLAY NOVEMBER 16 - NOVEMBER 30 PURCHASE A MAP FOR \$10 TOUR THE TOWN & VOTE DECEMBER 12 - DECEMBER 31

OPEN TO BOTH RESIDENTS & LOCAL BUSINESSES STARTING DECEMBER 10 VOTING OPEN TO THOSE WHO PURCHASE A MAP DONATIONS WELCOME

THE WINNER OF EACH CATEGORY WILL RECEIVE AN EXTERIOR SERVICE VALUED UP TO \$300, DONATED BY SHACK SHINE
Sharing the spirit of the season with others for over 15 years

VISIT CHRISTMASINKING.CA FOR MORE DETAILS

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE TOWNSHIP OF KING, LPC MEDIA, KING WEEKLY SENTINEL, JEWEL 88.5 FM, VAUGHAN AND BEYOND MEDIA AND SHACK SHINE

Province committed to protecting the environment

By Stephen Lecce
MPP for King-Vaughan
Minister of Education

Comment

The Ontario government is working diligently to strengthen our environment.

The Government of Ontario has released a comprehensive Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan that takes deliberate steps to protect our air, land and water, reduce litter and waste and lower greenhouse gas emissions. A significant focus of the plan is to transition the costs away from taxpayers to big polluters.

Ontario has taken bold steps to reduce emissions. The government has created a made-in-Ontario emissions performance standard that has re-

ceived acceptance from the federal government. This program makes polluters accountable for their greenhouse gas emissions with a system that is tough but fair, cost-effective and flexible to the needs and circumstances of our province. Ontario's EPS covers the very same polluters as the federal system - there are no free passes, and no one is off the hook.

Another crucial initiative the Ontario government has recently implemented to reduce greenhouse gases is requiring renewable content in regular-grade gasoline to increase from 10 per cent to 15 per cent by 2030. This will result in the equivalent of taking 300,000 cars off

the road every year.

Our water resources are also being protected. Ontario is investing \$7.47 million to support projects to improve Great Lakes, with additional support to restore and protect Lake Simcoe. Moreover, new investments are being made to collect plastic waste from marinas using plastic-capture technology.

Additionally, in the province's last budget, \$3.7 billion in green bonds were issued to help finance public transit initiatives, extreme weather resiliency infrastructure, and energy efficiency and conservation projects. Ontario remains the largest issuer of green bonds in all of Canada.

And in this community, I am proud to champion expansions in public transit at all three GO Stations - King City, Maple and Rutherford GO - will receive parking expansion, doubling of the tracks, noise cessation barriers, and upgraded platforms for local commuters.

Importantly, to support natural and green spaces, the government is re-investing in the Ontario Community Environment Fund to support projects that improve the environment, including dedicated funding for tree planting. To build on this, we are also committed to expanding green space in our community by working diligently on the creation of the 500 acre East Humber Headwaters Park, sitting on the pristine Oak Ridges Moraine. A project I will continue to champion and advance with King council and local partners.

Additionally, the government continued funding for the Greenbelt Foundation through a \$12-million agreement over three years to protect and restore the Greenbelt's environment and integrity.

Our government has been clear that we are committed to preserving the Greenbelt and protecting our water-

sheds. That's why we have announced a new \$30 million program to restore and create wetlands across priority areas in Ontario. This new Wetlands Conservation Partner Program, will see our government partner with conservation organizations to achieve our shared goals of protecting and enhancing our watersheds.

In the first year of the five-year program, the province will partner with Ducks Unlimited Canada, an internationally recognized wetlands restoration organization, and provide \$6 million to support wetlands projects in the Lake Ontario and Lake Erie drainage basins. Ducks Unlimited has a suite of over 60 projects that are fully scoped and ready to be implemented immediately, that will work to increase habitats for endangered species and increase climate resiliency.

In years two through five, the Province will partner with additional conservation organizations and fund wetland creation and restoration projects in other Great Lakes watersheds and inland waterways. These projects would include using innovative approaches for wetland creation and restoration to support municipal stormwater management.

Through these partnerships, Ontario will continue to fulfill commitments in several agreements and plans, including the Environment Plan, Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health, and the Canada-Ontario Lake Erie Action Plan.

Protecting the natural environment, green space and our watershed is most important as we work to protect it for future generations.

There is more work ahead, and I will continue to advance this societal imperative, however, I know the foundation to protect our environment is being laid.

Letter to the Editor

Hospall is chosen for pilot

We are so excited to be chosen as an organization to be part of the Ministry of Health and Public Health Ontario and Ontario Health for this pilot project.

This pilot project is to support the evaluation of the Employer Rapid Antigen Screening. The centralized collection of this data will help assess the value of the Panbio antigen test as a COVID-19 screening tool to support employee safety and business continuity in a variety of workplaces. Results from this data being collected will support an increased understanding of how rapid antigen testing could deploy more broadly to support provincial COVID-19 response activities.

As per guidelines set by MOH, Hospall will be screening our team now once to twice weekly. This will offer our team another layering of safe practice and more vigilance in keeping our most vulnerable clients safe. This will also help with surveillance and safety within our communities that we serve.

Life is a gift!

Follow us on Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/Hospallprivatehomecare/>, and let us know how we're doing.

Michelle Frauley
CEO Hospall Private Homecare

Enjoy the journey
I'll take care of the rest.



Contact me for an auto insurance quote today.

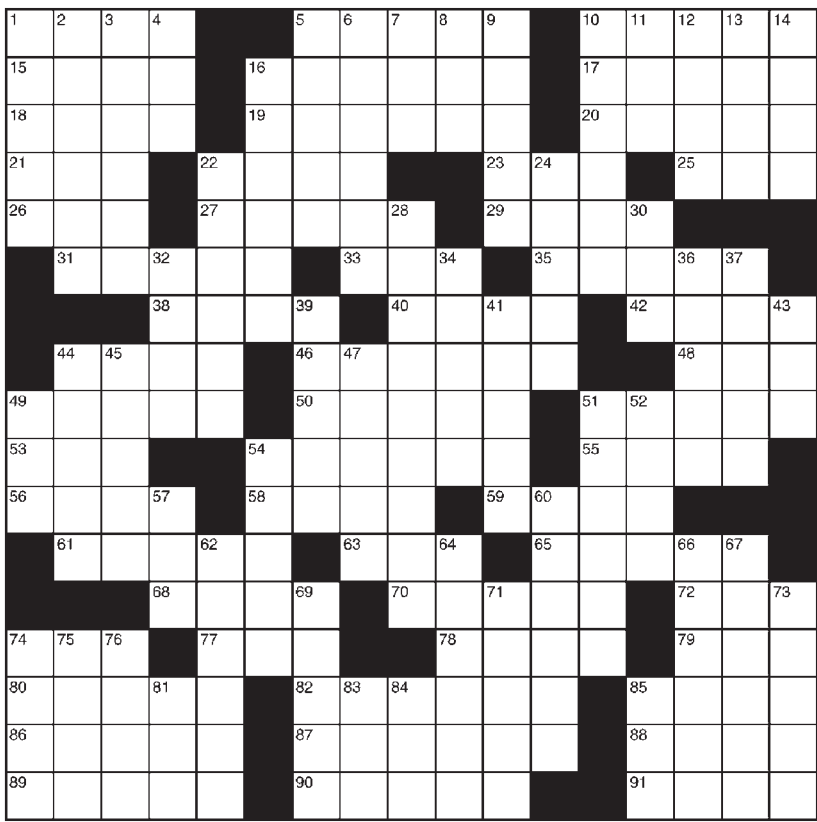


Richard Gong, Agent
905-727-6333



X CROSSWORD

PUZZLE 424



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ACROSS

1. Old lace hue
5. Allow to enter
10. Gold bar
15. Word of regret
16. Record envelope
17. Horse sound
18. Antitoxins
19. Tropical fruit
20. Flood foiler
21. Type of silkworm
22. Maiden
23. Aegean, e.g.
25. Still, in poems
26. Kindled
27. Knight's garb
29. Censor
31. Go by ten-speed
33. Babble
35. "Talk turkey," e.g.
38. Zip
40. Catch the waves
42. Extol
44. Mentally healthy
46. Fish hawk
48. Shrewd
49. Unfilled
50. Violin's kin
51. Variety is the ____ of life
53. Masculine address
54. Avenue
55. ____ browns
56. Covered walk
58. Spinning sound
59. Racetrack
61. Come next
63. To's companion
65. Protozoan
68. British baby buggy
70. Certain agave
72. Liable
74. Take it on the ____
77. Bikini part
78. "More ____ You Know"
79. Dennis Quaid film
80. Soul
82. Tyrant
85. Frittata
86. Passenger car
87. Excite
88. Sock fillers
89. Once too often?
90. Paint finish
91. Deuce follower

DOWN

1. Art stand
2. Churchman
3. Nonesuch
4. UN member
5. Startle
6. Arrange, as troops
7. "Cry ____ River"
8. College vine
9. Bedevil
10. Like parquetry
11. Named formerly
12. Bestow
13. S-shaped molding
14. Next
16. Rose-family shrub
22. Skipper's kitchen
24. Enlighten
28. Bronx cheer
30. "Dusk ____ Dawn"
32. 1/100 of a dollar
34. Blender button
36. Haven
37. Gardener's material
39. Compass point
41. Right-hand page
43. Artificial color
44. Strike
45. Cook's garment
47. Letter stroke
49. Sibilant sound
51. Tribal medium
52. Turn white
54. Pledge an oath
57. Cleo's serpent
60. Leave
62. Well-mannered
64. Product
66. Pester
67. Climax
69. Term of address
71. Opted
73. Toothsome
74. Stick with
75. A fresh
76. Average skirt
81. Slicker
83. Timespan
84. Tippler
85. Small newt

Solution on page 15

Councillor charged with breach of trust

By Mark Pavilons
Editor
Local Journalism Initiative

York Regional Police have charged a Richmond Hill councillor with fraud and breach of trust.

Investigators with the York Regional Police Financial Crimes Unit began a fraud investigation back in July, looking into a city councillor's fraudulent use of funds. Police report the investigation revealed that Ward 5 Councillor Karen Cilevitz, 63, hired an additional staff member, then arranged for the new employee to give a portion of their pay to the councillor's spouse.

Police believe more than \$21,000 was paid to the councillor's spouse between August 2019 and May 2020.

Police also charged 59-year-old Derek Christie with fraud over \$5,000 and possession of proceeds of crime.

Mayor Dave Barrow said it's important to allow the legal system to determine the outcome of this case.

"City officials are cooperating with police. Under the Municipal Act, the councillor is permitted to retain her seat at this time.

"I want to reaffirm to residents that City Council is committed to serving the public good and we will continue to stay focused on helping our community emerge strong from the pandemic.

"As this is an ongoing police investigation, the City will be making no further comment at this time."


Cilevitz was first elected in 2014 and re-elected in Ward 5 in 2018.

Christmas in King Holiday Light Tour

Want to enjoy the lights of the season around King Township while supporting a great cause? Christmas in King (CiK), a sister organization of the King Township Food Bank, is coordinating a Holiday Light Tour for both residences and local businesses to raise needed funds and provide a COVID-friendly driving event for all.

A map with the addresses of almost 30 participants is available for \$10 from christmasinking.ca. With your purchase, you will also get an opportunity to vote for both your favourite residential and business light display. The winners will receive an exterior service valued up to \$300, donated by Shack Shine, and will be announced in the King Weekly Sentinel and on social media.








Funds raised from this event will be used by Christmas in King to provide King Township individuals and families with their choice of gifts, a hamper of festive foods, and other items to help make the holiday season brighter.




King

7-Day Weather Outlook

From Thursday, December 24 to Wednesday, December 30

THURS 24TH	FRI 25TH	SAT 26TH	SUN 27TH	MON 28TH	TUES 29TH	WED 30TH
						
Rain High 4C° Low -7C° ~10mm/1-3cm Wind S 25k	A Few Flurries High -6C° Low -9C° ~1cm Wind SW 20k	Sun/Clouds High -4C° Low -7C° ~1cm Wind W 15k	Sun/Clouds High -2C° Low -5C° ~1cm Wind N 16k	Snow High -2C° Low -10C° 2-4cm Wind NE 15k	Sun/Clouds High -4C° Low -9C° <1cm Wind NW 16k	Light Snow High -1C° Low -6C° 5-10cm Wind SE 31k



The King Weekly Sentinel

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Read us online at www.kingsentinel.com

Two new electric vehicles help King lower its emissions

King Township continues to show leadership when it comes to fighting climate change with the purchase of two fully electric vehicles to add to its vehicle fleet.

Two, white 2021 Hyundai Konas were purchased this year. One will be used by King Township Fire and Emergency Services Fire Inspectors and the other by the Community Services division.

These are the first fully electric vehicles in King's fleet as the Township transitions to a green fleet over the next nine years.

"I'm proud that we are taking concrete actions to lower our emissions, protect our environment, fight climate change and move to a more environmentally sustainable fleet," said King Township Mayor Steve Pellegrini. "We've always prided ourselves on our commitment to protecting the environment, whether it is through our Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, the adoption of our green development standards or our recent declaration of a climate emergency. However, words on paper are never enough, which is why we are greening our fleet with each new purchase."

The vehicles utilize newer Hyundai technology that includes a heat pump within the engine to help winterize the vehicles to prevent additional battery drainage in winter and colder climates. The vehicles have a range of up to 415 kilometres on a single charge.

King is also in the middle of drafting a Climate Action Plan. It's a community-wide plan to best mitigate, adapt and improve resilience to the effects and impacts of climate change on a local level both in the near and far term. This plan aims to provide a framework of future priorities, actions, studies and pilots.

For more information on the plan, watch two recent webinars and provide feedback please visit <https://speaking.king.ca/climate-action-plan>.

King has made Christmas brighter

Despite putting Toys for Tickets on hold, the donation continues to touch hearts.

Last year, King Township ran the Toys for Tickets program where anyone receiving a parking ticket close to Christmas was able to donate a toy for local underprivileged children instead of paying the fine.

Unfortunately due to the COVID-19 pandemic this year, in-person donations of toys was not possible.

"As much as we were looking forward to seeing the toys coming through the front door, it's just not possible this year due to the pandemic and the fact the Municipal Centre is closed to the public," said Manager of Bylaw Enforcement Nancy Cronsberry, on behalf of the Bylaw Enforcement Division.

This year, staff came up with the idea of donating directly. Last year, the toys were donated to "Christmas in King," a sister organization of the King Township Food Bank. This year, King Township directed a portion of traffic infraction fines to match the amount donated last year.

"We know how difficult this year has been for the community," said Cronsberry. "Many people have had their hours cut back significantly and others have been without work for months on end. Being able to help these families out at Christmas was something we wanted to do. No child should go without a toy under the Christmas tree or in their stocking."

King is also encouraging people to donate to Christmas in King in any of the following ways:

- Donate a hamper of festive foods. CiK will provide the box and a family profile to assist in choosing items. CiK will also provide a list of suggested items as thought starters.
- Sponsor a Santa box, which is like a gift stocking.
- Donate funds. The Food Bank will issue tax receipts for your donation.
- Donate a gift. CiK's program works by providing one requested present per adult and two per child.
- Fully "adopt" a family and provide Christmas. Wreath, turkey, gifts and hamper would come to \$400 for a family of 4 with two children.
- Volunteer to shop, with reimbursement from CiK.

For more information, please visit <https://ktfb.ca/christmas-in-king-2020/>.

For more, visit www.king.ca



Stephen

LECCCE

MPP for King-Vaughan



*Wishing you peace
this holiday season
and hope for the
New Year ahead*

Stephen





2220 King Road, Unit #1
King City, ON L7B 1L3

Tel: 647-560-9700
Email: Stephen.LecceCO@pc.ola.org

www.StephenLecceMPP.ca



Business, Finance & Real Estate

KING
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

www.KingChamber.ca
Your Voice for Business in King



New tutoring business in King is predicated on nature

By Robert Belardi

Co-founders of The Blue Marble Academy Savita Despot and Oussama Benkabbour bring forth an ideology to their tutoring service separating this one from the rest.

"We found a lot of these tutoring businesses and companies weren't founded on environmental and sustainable beliefs," Despot said.

"We try to work to bring those two things together. Not only is every decision we make focused on making it a sustainable goal in mind, we also look to help teach and educate; so, families, on how to make those small lifestyle changes themselves," Despot added.

Students signed up in the academy are placed in three various levels, classified based on the growth of a tree.

Seedlings are placed in between Grades 1 to 5. Sprouts, are students from Grade 6 to 8 and Saplings are from Grade 9 to 12. Kindergarten courses are expected to be introduced soon.

But for Despot and Benkabbour their intention was to offer this service in-person. In January, the owners signed the lease for a location in King

City, but when COVID-19 hit, the aspirations of an in-person service simply went down the drain.

After months of planning and re-modelling the business, the academy went virtual two months ago, now with a special offer to come in the next few weeks.

"We're launching three workshops in the next couple of weeks for free. It gets kids to grow social interaction that they've been missing and to kind of help them with those barriers that they've been growing through," Despot said.

She discovered parents and young learners have endured through technological barriers through this year's curriculum. She also acknowledges, not everyone has access to the internet from their home.

The main objective is to further educate students and parents as well study the curriculum as of now in school, to adjust to the current needs and demands of the mass.

Despot says the company is in the process of hiring another tutor with fantastic experience with children with disabilities. She says this is another ex-

panation of the business set to take place.

As of now the academy will have four tutors. Benkabbour, specializes in biology, chemistry and French.

On the company's website, the "free assessment" tab opens the doorway for a phone call conversation between the teacher's and the parent (only if the child is comfortable). Upon registration, Despot and Benkabbour try to understand the child and learn what their needs are in order to help them progress.

Worksheets would be prepared based on their needs and the company's own model placed.

Currently, Despot and Benkabbour are aware of the disparities from learning online.

The Sentinel has spoken with numerous student-athletes over the past few weeks and all have said online learning is simply "boring."

"Our tutors are trained to see if our students are losing engagement so

we definitely have resources lined up where our tutors can say here's another creative way we can go about it."

The academy schedules virtual walks with younger and middle-aged children to point out what they see in nature and discuss their surroundings.

The company also uses YouTube videos, virtual walks for younger children and an interactive read along to maintain student engagement.

In future, post-COVID-19 and the company can offer in-person tutoring sessions, students will have the experience walking in nature to promote mental well-being.

Despot and Benkabbour firmly believe nature is a natural resource from taking a break from the screen in this virtual society.

To contact Despot for a free consultation, you may reach her via email info@thebluemarble.ca or via phone at 905-833-3233 to schedule your free assessment today.

Municipalities welcome second round of funding from Province

By Mark Pavilons
Editor
Local Journalism Initiative

The Ontario government is allocating an additional \$695 million to provide financial relief for municipalities and help ensure they do not carry operating deficits into 2021. This investment builds upon the first phase of the federal-provincial Safe Restart Agreement announced this summer and will help municipal partners deliver critical services during COVID-19.

It's welcome by municipalities like King Township.

According to Treasurer Peggy Tollett, the Township received \$574,400 as part of Phase 1 which is for 2020. The allocation for Phase 2 for the Township is \$243,000.

"This joint funding will help Ontario's municipalities recover from the impacts of COVID-19 faster, by helping them to enter into 2021 without operating deficits from this year," said Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "By ensuring our municipal partners are in a sound financial position to begin the new year, they can focus on keeping their capital projects on track while continuing to provide the critical services their residents rely on."

Of the \$695 million announced, \$299 million is being allocated across all 444 municipalities to help provide more financial relief, as 2021 operating budgets are finalized. An additional \$396 million is also being allocated to 48 municipalities that have been hardest hit by COVID-19 and have demonstrated a need for additional assistance in covering their 2020 operating deficits. This is in addition to funding being provided to municipalities to help with local transit pressures.

Ontario issued letters to municipal-

ities about the next stages of transit funding for the Safe Restart Agreement. The province is notionally allocating \$1.3 billion for municipal transit systems. This is in addition to the \$700 million allocation under Phase 1 of the Safe Restart Agreement, which included needs-based top-ups. Further details about this funding will be available in January.

The funding also drew praise from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

"This funding will ensure municipalities in every part of Ontario are in a better position to maintain vital municipal services in 2021 and to proceed with capital investments essential to Ontario's economic recovery," said Graydon Smith, president of AMO.

The funding will help municipalities to develop 2021 budgets that reflect the reality of COVID-19 in their communities and give them the confidence they need to proceed with capital projects that will help drive economic growth.

First, \$396 million will be allocated to 48 individual municipalities that have demonstrated the need for additional assistance in covering operating deficits for 2020.

The remaining \$299 million will be allocated across all 444 municipalities to help provide additional financial relief to help support operating budgets in 2021.

AMO understands that 20% (\$59.8 million) of this allocation will be provided to all municipalities on a per household basis (like Phase 1 SRA funding).

The remaining 80% (\$239.2 million) is to be allocated through a new methodology that proportionally reflects COVID-19 case counts with data provided by Ontario's 34 Public Health Units. More information on this methodology and the associated allocations will be provided by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

AMO is pleased that the remaining Safe Restart Agreement funding is being provided to municipal governments at this time.

"This funding will ensure municipalities in every part of Ontario are in a better position to maintain vital municipal services in 2021 and to proceed with capital investments essential to Ontario's economic recovery," said Smith.

This financial relief package and, notably, the early support in 2021 follows AMO's direct advice to create greater certainty around the financial needs of municipal governments. This will help ensure municipalities continue to protect our communities and play an essential role in Ontario's economic recovery as we enter the coming year ahead.

The federal-provincial Safe Restart Agreement is an historic partnership that secured up to \$4 billion in emergency funding for Ontario's municipalities to help them on the road to a safe recovery.

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Wishing you the happiest of holidays and a fantastic New Year.

York's hospitals to receive COVID-19 vaccine

Ontario will be distributing additional doses of the Pfizer vaccine to 17 more hospital sites over the next two weeks, including regions with the highest rates of COVID-19 infection.

This is part of the initial phase of the government's three-phase vaccine implementation plan that began on Dec. 14.

Ontario is expecting to receive up to 90,000 Pfizer-BioNTech doses from the federal government before the end of the year to continue vaccinating health care workers and essential caregivers who work in hospitals, long-term care homes, retirement homes and other congregate settings caring for seniors.

Southlake Regional Health Centre and Mackenzie Health are among the recipients.

"Following a successful pilot, we are excited to continue onto the next stage of our rollout of the COVID-19 vaccines to Ontarians," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "While we are planning to ensure that everyone who wants a vaccine will receive one, we need to first protect our frontline workers and those providing essential care to our most vulnerable."

All of these sites already have the equipment necessary to safely store the Pfizer vaccine at -70 degrees and the required staff are ready to receive and administer vaccines. Since this vaccine cannot be transferred beyond the

initial delivery location at this time, vaccinations will continue to be administered to health care workers in high-risk settings first, such as long-term care homes and hospitals.

"Our guiding priority is to ensure frontline health care workers and vulnerable populations receive the vaccine in this initial phase to ensure they are protected," noted Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. "As the supply of available dosages increases and is delivered to Ontario, we will be prepared to provide the vaccine in communities across the province."

As Phase One progresses, Ontario will continue to monitor the logistics of delivery, reconstitution of the vaccine, clinic management, and post-vaccine surveillance to help inform the province's preparedness plan to receive larger vaccine quantities.

During this phase, Ontario is expecting to receive doses of the Moderna vaccine once approved by Health Canada, which will allow vaccines to be administered onsite at long-term care homes in lockdown areas, followed by retirement homes, other congregate care settings for seniors, and remote Indigenous communities.

In early 2021, additional hospital sites across the province will be administering the Pfizer vaccine to health care workers, as well as essential caregivers, and long-term care home and retirement home residents.

"This expanded distribution list is fantastic news and allows us to continue to test and refine our vaccination rollout plan," said General Rick Hillier. "This is the next important step that gets us ready for all of Ontario in 2021."

As the province is rolling out its phased vaccination program and heading into holiday season, it remains critically important that all Ontarians continue following public health advice to protect our communities and most vulnerable populations, and to stop the spread of COVID-19.

The province's decision to identify key populations to receive the vaccine first is based on the advice of medical experts and ethicists, and recommended by the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force and aligned with the National Advisory Committee on Immunization's recommendations.

On Dec. 9, Health Canada authorized the first COVID-19 vaccine in Canada, manufactured by Pfizer-BioNTech.

Health Canada authorized the vaccine after an independent and thorough scientific review for safety, effectiveness and quality. Health Canada will continue to monitor the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine.

The province will shift to Phase Two of its vaccination implementation plan, which is expected to begin later in the winter of 2021, when more vaccines become available to Ontario. During Phase Two, vaccinations will be administered to health care workers, as well as to residents in long-term care homes, retirement homes, home care patients with chronic conditions and additional First Nation communities and urban Indigenous populations, including Métis and Inuit individuals.

Ontario will enter Phase Three when vaccines are more widely available for everyone who wishes to be immunized. While vaccines will not be mandated, people will be strongly encouraged to get vaccinated during this phase.

Cost of vaccines tops \$1 billion

By Mark Pavilons
Editor

Local Journalism Initiative

A diverse portfolio of vaccines, and a mandate to deliver them to Canadians, will cost the federal government more than \$1.3 billion.

So far, Canada has invested over \$1 billion in vaccine agreements and secured a domestic supply of up to 429 million doses of seven promising COVID-19 vaccine candidates. Canada has secured the most diverse portfolio of any country. All Canadians can rest assured that a safe and effective vaccine will be available at no cost to them.

Additionally, since May, in preparation for vaccine roll-out, the government has invested a total of \$284.2 million to improve our capacity to distribute COVID-19 vaccines to Canadians. This investment includes \$125 million in 2020-21 for the shipping and storage of COVID-19 vaccines and \$159.2 million, starting in 2020-21, to procure supplies needed to vaccinate Canadians (e.g. needles, alcohol swabs) and increase vaccine deployment capacity through improved infrastructure, promotion and national guidelines for the delivery of vaccines.

The money includes up-front payments that companies require to support vaccine development, testing, and at-risk manufacturing. Subsequent payments are contingent on vaccines passing clinical trials and obtaining regulatory approval.

These investments guarantee Canada's earliest possible access to the production of an approved COVID-19 vaccine.

Agreements have been signed with the following suppliers:

AstraZeneca, 20 million doses; Johnson & Johnson, up to 38 million doses; Medicago, up to 76 million doses; Moderna, up to 56 million doses; Novavax, up to 76 million doses; Pfizer, up to 76 million doses; Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline, up to 72 million doses.

All of the vaccine candidates for which Canada has agreements are a 2-dose vaccine, with the exception of the Johnson & Johnson candidate, which is a 1-dose vaccine.

Temporary closure of 15th Sideroad

The Regional Municipality of York is implementing a temporary road closure of 15th Sideroad, 500 metres west of Dufferin Street in the Township of King for emergency replacement of culvert.

To complete this work, 15th Sideroad, between Keele Street and Dufferin Street, is scheduled to be temporarily closed to Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021 at 9 p.m.

During the temporary closure, traffic will not be permitted in the construction area. Local access to 15th Sideroad will be maintained from Keele Street to properties west of the work location and from Dufferin Street to properties east of the work location.

To help manage your daily commutes during construction, travellers can plan their route in advance by using traffic and navigation tools. York Region provides real-time traffic and road information in open data used by many app developers.

Construction can be inconvenient and staff are making every effort to minimize disruptions and keep residents informed with regular updates.

For more information about current and upcoming road construction projects please visit york.ca/roadconstruction

This work may be rescheduled due to weather conditions or delays related to COVID-19 and Public Health guidelines. York Region will provide advance notice whenever possible.

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KingWeeklySentinel

Arts & Entertainment

King's Diva presents her online Christmas special

You don't need a newspaper to tell you that this has been an odd year, to say the least. We're spending this Christmas season in lockdown, and all our traditional family activities are taking a sharp left turn or disappearing altogether.

Not least, a Christmas tradition in these parts for several years now has been the annual Diva in The Rough Christmas Concert, brought to us by our own inimitable Catherine Hughes and her long-suffering piano player Don Guinn.

And now, "Fiasco 2020" as The Diva calls it. There is no live Christmas show. How, she wondered, could Christmas cheer be delivered?

"I had a lot of people ask me if I would walk up and down the village streets singing. Or if I would get on a truck, and sing. Well ... charming in theory but hardly practical. Unfortunately, the vocal cords like the warmth."

"I decided to write a little Christmas special without ignoring what was obviously going on. What would happen if a real Christmas special was going to air and the show, the talent, the network decided they were going to go ahead with a live special during a pandemic? What kind of acts would there be? What acts wouldn't cancel? How would you replace any act that DID cancel? So the idea for this special was born."

The Diva in the Rough Quarantine Christmas Special was filmed at her home in Kettleby.

"My family agreed to be in it and be part of it. We knew that it was something creative and fun to do together at Christmas, and we knew we could always look back and say look what we

did in 2020." The special, running just 30 minutes, was filmed over a day and a half with the Diva's household. Her son, step-children and husband, as well as Don Guinn who is family in every non-biological sense of the word.

Hughes wanted a special that was a little bit "The Muppet Show meets 30 Rock." What emerged is a show that is filled with vignettes of what can go wrong behind the scenes and the terrible things that can go wrong with a live show.

Hughes still swings through some Christmas favourites and has a great rendition of Jingle Bells which appears to happen spontaneously after her Frosty the Snowman sculpture is handed to her; a melted puddle on a plate, forcing her to forgo the song.

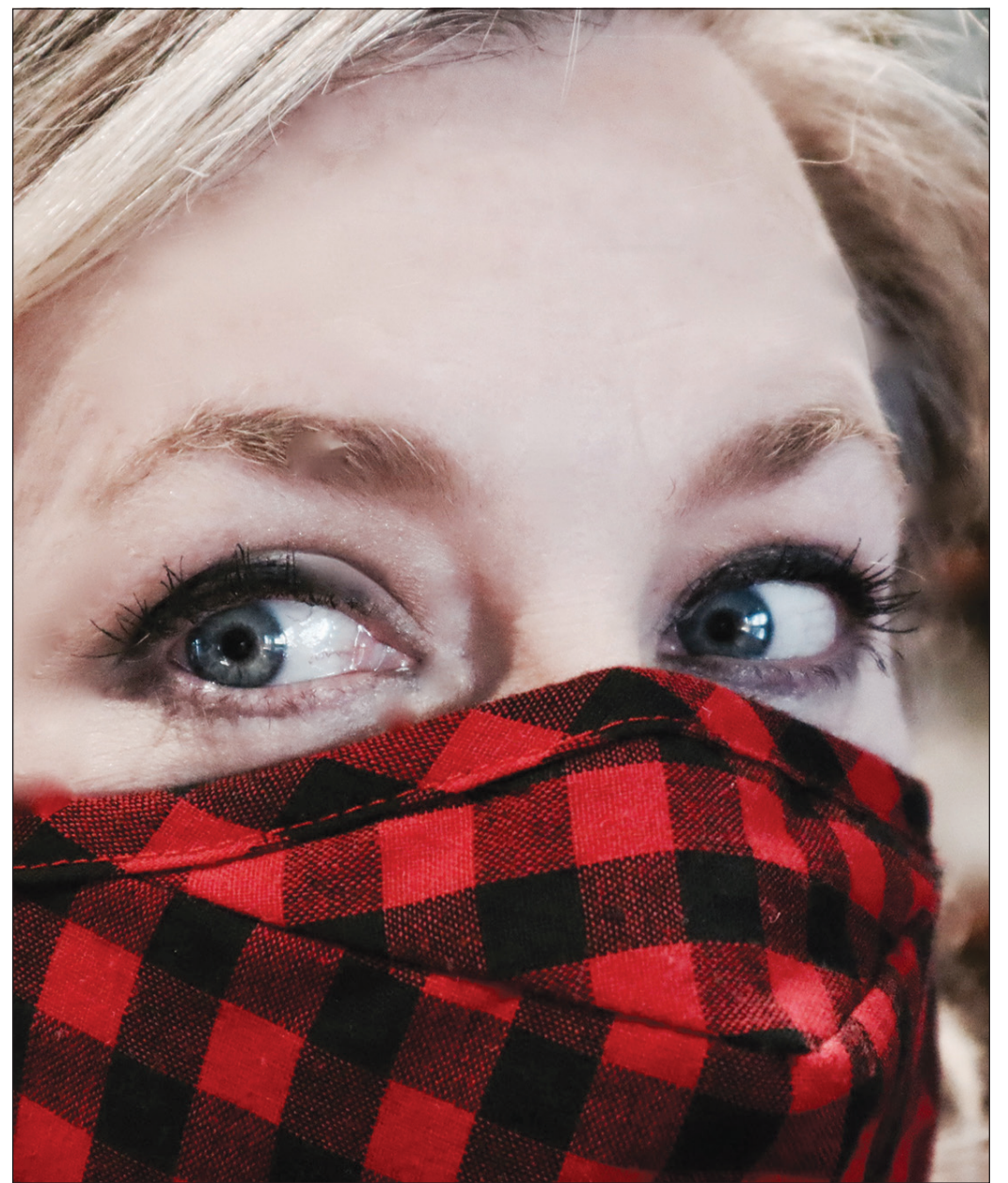
Finishing the chaos and the show with some heartfelt thank yous to her family she sings Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas. The lyrics, originally written about the Great War, are very relevant today. We hear a little catch in her throat as she sings "next year all our troubles will be miles away."

She even admits to having a hard time getting through the song because of the lyrics.

"It's been such a hard year for everyone. But there is something beautiful about being part of a collective experience. We all know, we all feel it, and so the words hit me a little harder this year."

On a lighter note Hughes talked about what she's learned about shooting a special.

"Well I learned that I am grateful that my stepdaughter Aisha has worked as



a producer and is super organized, can make a shot list, and can keep things running smoothly. I'm grateful my son, Emmett will let me dress him up in a ridiculous costume. I've learned my stepson, Kamal can shoot and light with limited resources and gear and is a great at his job, editor. I've learned that my husband will in fact wear a tutu on camera. Most importantly I've learned that COVID hair is NOT beautiful on me. But what I really treasure is being loved."

The Diva in The Rough Quarantine Christmas special will also be on YouTube as well as Vimeo at <https://vimeo.com/492935730>. For YouTube channel: Diva In The Rough. The Facebook address is: Catherine Hughes is Diva in the rough. Instagram is: divaintherough

This performance is free and unlike previous years, there is no chance of it being sold out.

She looks forward to performing again and hopes to have a Christmas show next year, which she's already planning for.

King Weekly Sentinel

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Sisters' Touch of Christmas moves to curbside after making merry on the edge of lockdown

The Sisters' Touch of Christmas is a Christmas gift shop established by Bolton's St. Kosmas Aitolos Greek Orthodox Monastery.

Situated in a heritage home on the Caledon King Townline, the Sisters' Touch of Christmas, like so many of us, have experienced an unusual festive season, one made doubly so by the fact The Touch of Christmas is on the York Region side of the border.

For the past few weeks that Peel Region has been under lockdown, the shop on just the other side of the street has been serving customers, for whom Touch of Christmas is a holiday tradition. Now, as they settle into lockdown with the rest of York Region, they are shifting their operations to curbside pickup.

They're accepting phone and email orders for what people need, and they're just going to try to assist customers as best they can.

For more on The Sisters' Touch of Christmas, visit thesisterstoc.com or call 905-859-8077.



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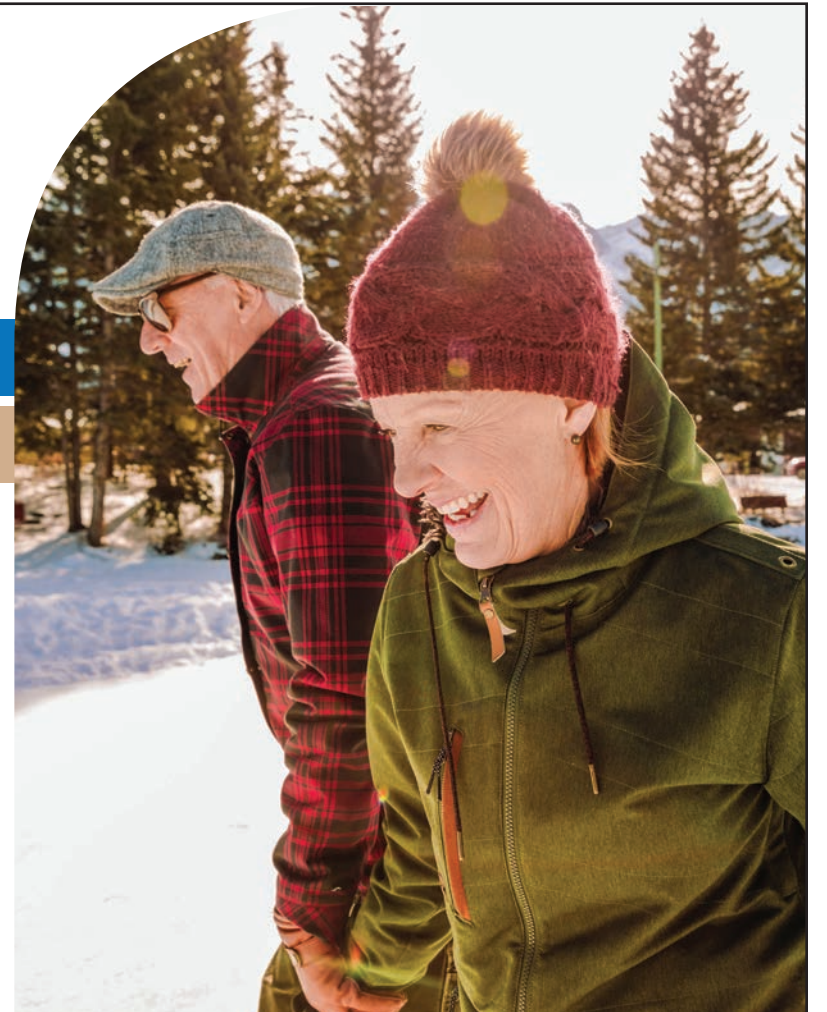
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Helping youth may be key to addressing mental health

By Robert Belardi

It's quintessential to look at the facts before anything else.

Before the pandemic began, even well before, you wouldn't be at fault to surmise that mental health, particularly in youth, had been at risk. Adults, too, continue to face challenges as well in their lives.

Mental health is one of the most prevalent discussions to date. It's truly staggering to look at it and it could even have you in disbelief.

And it might be because of the infectious globe we live in. Competition, money, success are all compounds to distress.

I can tell you first hand, as a 26-year-old man, it's taken a toll on me at times. It's taken a toll on my family members. Going to school. Earning an education. Paying off debt and somewhere affording a decent home in this barbaric real estate market. These are some that grind my gears.

No wonder pre-pandemic youth minds were practically at self-civil-wars with themselves and we've never known it. The Centre of Addiction and Mental Health knew it.

"When we broaden it to moderate and serious psychological distress we see really high numbers as well. For example, over half of girls report moderate to serious psychological distress. That's 56 per cent," said Tara Elton-Marshall, an independent scientist, for the Institute for Mental Health Policy Research at Centre For Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH).

"What is also concerning that maybe isn't there in the total figure is, the fact that we're seeing boys; who tend to indicate less psychological distress but we're seeing a significant increase among boys. We've seen a doubling of moderate and serious psychological distress since 2013. It went from 15 per cent to 31 per cent."

Every two years since 1977, CAMH has conducted a survey for students in Ontario, monitoring their stress levels.

The numbers from the 2018/2019 year, before COVID-19, displayed gut-wrenching figures such as these and more.

The latest report for Ontario, saw 15 per cent of students have purposefully harmed themselves, 20 per cent of students report the use of prescription opioid use and 16 per cent have thought about suicide.

Not to mention one-quarter of students have visited a health care professional (260,900) and 35 per cent didn't know where to turn.

The causes of these issues, can be speculated everything aforementioned before and social media use, time in front of screens, sleep and exercise. Although it isn't confirmed these are all of the triggers, these most certainly are some.

You can also imagine the impediments of the pandemic and what the numbers might look like due to COVID-19. For youth it hasn't been confirmed, but for adults, on CAMH's COVID-19 survey, it has.

Between the ages of 18-39, 31.2 per cent of Canadians have been experi-

encing severe levels of anxiety while 27.1 per cent of Canadians aged 40-59 reported moderate to severe anxiety.

In the binge drinking category, 29.8 per cent of Canadians between the ages of 18-39 have indulged in binge drinking and 26.8 per cent have done it between the ages of 40-59.

More statistics can be found directly on the CAMH website for more information.

But the light at the end of the tunnel isn't simply to have the youth shut out and the adults, left to ponder upon numerous hypotheses to fix these issues.

Senior Scientist in the Child, Youth and Emerging Adult Program at CAMH and Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto, Joanna Henderson says the resilience from the youth has been remarkable.

"When we look around the world and we look at who is driving change, we see youth leaders. We look at some of the things happening around indigenous rights, rights for black and other racialized people. We see youth leading," Henderson said.

She is studying on how the youth can co-create an existential solution that would show how services are being delivered and if there are more prominent solutions to deliver positive messages of change.

How do we increase awareness? How do we indicate to someone to recognize when their mood swings shift because of the content that they are sub-consciously processing? When do we simply take a break?

For some that live in the web of media, there's no way to work around it. Elton-Marshall says youth who are exposed to high levels of social media suffer from psychological distress.

Most of the services even used for school revolve around social media. But, limiting some of the content may work without falling back into withdrawal.

But reducing it would be an option. Tune out some of the noise. Be aware when platforms study your algorithms. When a website that you would normally never visit before shows up on your feed, be aware of that promotion and how it affects you.

For as long as the pandemic looms, for adults the numbers say it all. For youth, pre-pandemic numbers might influence your opinion to be around the same neighbourhood of what has been seen before; maybe worse.

But to create a bona fide society; one that may have despondent thoughts, it's time to research how we all can benefit from the education on mental health and preach its findings and concerns to others.

That first starts with a conversation. Then it turns to action. It's much easier said than done but when you study and craft a method for improvement much like CAMH has, it can become an open conversation.

And when we as a society, are unabashed to speak about these issues, that's how it gets better. To know it's okay. Because it is okay to feel what you feel and it is possible to improve it. To some degree, we've all been there.

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CMHA moves forward on urgent mental health care centre

By Brock Weir

The Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region and South Simcoe is moving forward with a new mental health hub for the community, following an “incredible” commitment from the Province of Ontario.

The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) welcomed an investment from the Ministry of Health of up to \$200,000 to make their long-held vision of the York Region Mental Health & Addictions Crisis Centre a reality.

Once borne to fruition, the hub will serve as a resource for people experiencing mental health or addiction crises 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and will serve as an alternative to hospital emergency departments.

“The York Region Mental Health and Addictions Crisis Hub will make a significant difference for our community in York Region by targeting specific gaps in mental health and addiction services,” said Christine Elliott, Ontario’s Minister of Health, in a statement. “Supporting innovative projects like this is part of our government’s plan to build a comprehensive and connected mental health and addictions system

that offers Ontarians better access to high-quality care, when and where they need it.”

From the perspective of Rebecca Shields, executive director of the CMHA York Region and South Simcoe, it is an “incredible commitment” that will lead to a “best-in-class” facility for the community.

“People are now going to have a 24/7 dedicated specialized facility where they can walk into a place that is welcoming, provides care for them or their loved ones who might be in crisis, (and) it is going to help individuals twelve and up,” says Shields. “We know lots of times mental health starts in their youth, so this will have specialized care for youth and will be able to help people.

“The other part of this is for crisis. (People are) coming in through paramedics and police now and they can come to this facility, which means they are not in the general hospital, but come into a truly welcoming [environment that] supports their recovery and gets them connected immediately to community services because we’re all going to be right there on site to make sure people get what they need.”

The investment of up to \$200,000 from

Ontario’s Ministry of Health means that the CMHA can begin moving forward on planning, including retaining architects and engineers to get the job done. Coupled with finding a location and developing their suite of clinical expertise, they hope to have the 20-bed facility opened in the next two years.

“We’re now going to move as quickly as we can because now we have the support to know that we can start to build and draft the plan,” said Shields. “We will be consulting with the community partners and people with lived experience all along the way to make sure that we’re building something that truly meets the needs of residents.”

This mental health and addictions hub was first envisioned by the CMHA more than two years ago, long before a new global pandemic was ever a thought. From the outset, among their concepts for the facility were individualized rooms with private bathrooms. That was a must to give people in crisis the respect and privacy they need to heal. Now, with new health protocols

ever-present, they are now somewhat ahead of the game.

“What we’re aware of, since the pandemic, is we realized the volumes are going to be much higher because we’re seeing [the pandemic take its toll] on mental health,” says Shields. “For people in our community, we want to make sure when people need care, they can walk in and get it right away. The one other thing that has changed [due to the pandemic] is we will be re-looking at what the needs are in the community.

“We will be working with all our community partners and we’re excited to open up a conversation with our community around this to make sure it is going to meet the needs of our community members and their families to reflect the diversity of our region. We just hope for everyone’s support and everyone believes mental health is health, and we really do need to make sure that nobody is suffering. We’re so privileged to work on behalf of our community to help build this much-needed service.”

Schomberg community rallies to help local single mother

By Kinjal Dagli Shah

A single mother who migrated to Canada a few years ago found herself in dire circumstances this season, with no money to feed her 4-year-old son or to heat the Schomberg home they were living in at the time. Fortunately, she happened to disclose her situation to her son’s school bus driver, Gillian Tibbits, who immediately sought the help of Susan Heslop, who runs the Schomberg Community Group on Facebook.

“Within a couple days, we had three truckloads of items for the family, as well as \$2,000 in cash. The community came together immediately and we were overwhelmed with requests to help,” said Heslop, who created the group four years ago. “I always verify the information given to me before I post a call for

help. In this case, we knew a family that were in a neighbouring home and they confirmed that the family was indeed struggling to make ends meet.”

From offers to buy toys and clothes for the boy and his mother, to arranging a load of firewood, the community reached out in big ways and small. Groceries were dropped off, as well as offers to drive her to the grocery store so she could purchase what she needed.

“The mother lived in an area of town where she couldn’t access public transportation so was unable to work. She has since found a subsidized apartment, and because the situation was brought to light, it helped get the attention of social services as well.”

Gillian Tibbits, who regularly asks for donations at Christmas to support seniors, isn’t surprised at this outpouring of support.

“I feel what our community has done is not surprising. We are fortunate to live in a great community that regularly helps others in need. I know there are lots of people in our town willing to help out those who may need a hand up,” said Tibbits, adding, “I think she was at the end of her rope and I just happened to be the first person she saw that day. We had never spoken much other than general chatter as I picked up her son to drive him to school.”

The lady and her son, are extremely grateful that the town came to their rescue when they needed it the most. (Their names are being withheld in order to protect their identities.) Even a simple box of chocolates lit up the little boy’s eyes, according to Heslop, who delivered the goods to their home.

After all, it is these small acts of kindness that make the magic of the holiday season come alive.



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Tigers name co-captains for this upcoming season

By Robert Belardi

Trevor Grasby and Rocco Testa-Basi will be wearing the illustrious “C” on the Schomberg Cougars’ parent club, the Aurora Tigers, in a year where leadership is needed the most, Jim Wells Jr. said.

“Not only by the coaching staff, but by the captains because of COVID. They’re dealing with things they’ve never had to deal with. Especially the young kids. First for the rookies, they’ve never played Junior A before, now they’re dealing with COVID, now they’re getting tested, now they’re getting their temperature taken. Now they gotta wear masks,” Wells Jr. said.

“I think the maturity of both Grasby and Rocco will help the coaching staff with that.”

Heading into his second season as coach, this is the first time Wells Jr. will implement co-captains with an OJHL squad. And there’s no better players to do it.

In his third season as a Tiger, Trevor Grasby is the hardest worker on the team according to wells. He doubled his point total last season from the year, tallying four goals and 18 assists from 10 assists the year before. He has illustrated excellent work ethic and charity work as well.

“It’s truly an honor to wear the C for the Aurora Tigers and share it with Rocco. This is an organization full of rich history and one that’s not far off from a RBC Cup victory. Some great players have come and gone through this program and to be lucky enough to be one of those players while also wearing the C is an experience next to none,” Grasby said.

He says he is motivated to be a part of building an identity on the roster

with Testa-Basi, creating a positive energy in the locker room.

“We’ve got a great core group of returning players from last season who know what we’ll be all about this year. Plus, with the addition of some solid 20-year-olds Jim and Dermott brought in, as well as the talented younger guys, Rocco and I believe that our team has great things ahead.”

Testa-Basi, just recently signing with the Tigers, is a first-year player in this group, but one who brings in different dynamic that Wells Jr. was fond of.

Last season, Testa-Basi played for an experienced Collingwood Colts roster and is looking forward to wearing the “C” with Grasby this year.

“I feel honoured and excited to be recognized as a leader by the Aurora Tigers organization,” Testa-Basi said.

“I was shown all the support I could ask for from the moment I joined the team making it very easy to connect with my teammates and coaches.”

Testa-Basi has displayed an excellent work ethic since coming to the Tigers and a dedication to the Inn From The Cold homeless shelter in Newmarket.

As a dual-citizen and also with prep-school hockey experience at Gilmour Academy south of the border, a meeting with Jim Thompson instantly convinced him the Aurora Tigers were the right team to be a part of.

As January rolls around, there is no telling if the OJHL will begin their season next month as it was previously expected.

With York Region in lockdown as of now, the motivation has never been higher from this Tigers group. Grasby and Testa-Basi are excited to lead the team out on to the ice for a highly-anticipated season ahead.



Trevor Grasby (left) and Rocco Testa-Basi (right) were named co-captains of the Aurora Tigers Junior A club this past week by head coach Jim Wells Jr.

Roger Thompson weighed out his options, and chose York9

By Robert Belardi

Roger Thompson signed a multi-year extension with the Nine Stripes in a decision he said, was family based.

“There were a lot of things to look at when it comes to my family and financially,” Thompson said.

“The best decision was to stay here long term and be here with my family. Also, I did leave Sweden to come back in front of my family for my dad and my friends to be able to come and watch me play. I missed that being in Europe.”

The Canadian-Jamaican international spent a few years in Sweden playing for Trelleborgs FF and Ljungskile SK before securing a contract with York9 FC for the Canadian Premier League inaugural season.

“My last two years there, I became one of the key guys on the team. You learn a lot there as well and take responsibility for certain things. I think it helped me grow a lot and become a better player in the process.”

The 28-year-old missed the entirety of the 2019 Canadian Premier League campaign due to injury and the most important factor heading into this past Island Games was remaining fit.

Moving into the project for next season, Thompson is excited to be under the tutelage of Jimmy Brennan and Paul Stalteri as well as the “young project” from Managing Consultant Angus McNab.

“He (McNab) wanted to rebuild the club and go young and help the young boys to get better. I feel like I’m at a point in my career where a project like that entices me. You know I want to stay home I want to get better and play for the team closest to where I grew up. If I can help younger players get better in the process I’ll happily be a part of that.”

York United acquires Colombian midfielder Sebastian Gutierrez

By Robert Belardi

Every soccer culture has their niche.

There’s a methodology to the madness. A wick to the candle. The Italians are known for goalkeeping and defence. The Germans are known for tactical dominance and proficiency. The French produce some of the finest midfielders in the world and the Brazilians, well, although they attack like wildfire they also know how to defend.

So, when management personnel gather in the board room over freshly brewed coffee there’s always one question that looms above all of their heads like an animated bubble in a comic book; who do we want?

That is usually answered, corresponding to the club’s values and identity. Managing Consultant Angus McNab addressed these fine margins of conversation a few weeks ago while unveiling the club’s new crest. It was important to him and rightfully so.

And one answer York United fans received last week was loud and clear. The club has been keeping an eye on South American players and most particularly, domestic leagues in Colombia.

“I feel that it offers phenomenal value and there are a larger proportion of young talents that would be realistic targets for us in both the 1st and 2nd divisions than in other competitions in South America,” McNab said in York United’s press release last week.

The club announced their first signing under the new brand. Midfielder Sebastian Gutierrez arrives from Llaneros in Primera B; Colombia’s second division of soccer.

Colombia, much like its South American neighbours, have predicated their system on attacking football. Players such as Radamel Falcao, James Rodriguez and Duvan Zapata are forwards from the nation with a

keen eye for goal.

York also signed Lisandro Cabrera not too long ago. The Argentine, spent some time in Colombia and Argentina before securing a move to York United.

The 23-year-old Gutierrez, Cabrera, Brazilian William Wallace and Argentine Mateo Hernandez, will provide the attacking element the club is looking for.

In the Island Games last year, York struggled to finish clinical chances. Out of their eight goals scored in the competition only two goals were from open play.

Thankfully, fans have the opportunity to see video of how Gutierrez plays. Being from a second division in a country like Colombia, it is quite difficult for soccer fans to truly know what kind of player you are getting.

Head to YouTube and type in “Sebastian Gutierrez Futbol Pro” to see his highlight reel.

You’ll see his tenacity in the midfield. The ability to use his offensive prowess to burst through midfielders and defenders to create a chance that the naked eye wouldn’t see.

He has an exquisite touch from free kicks and vision that can open up the game.

McNab never completely classified what the York United values were. But if some moves have made any indication. These South American acquisitions can develop a strong argument this is the influence he might want to draw in the roster along with a one German player, one Spanish player and the rest of the group straight from Canada.

All foreign acquisitions complement a dominant Canadian roster.

Gutierrez, said in the release he is excited to join York United and intends to be a fundamental part of the new era of the club moving forward.

The contract is a deal through 2021 with an option to extend for two more seasons.

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King Weekly Sentinel



Students at King City Secondary School spread some holiday cheer

By Emily Peelar

This holiday season, the King City Secondary School community took the initiative to spread some cheer during these trying times.

The Spread Cheer Campaign was led by the ESP, (Empowering Student Partnerships) team and raised an outstanding \$1,140 for the King Township Food Bank. The fundraiser took place from Nov. 27 to Dec. 16 on an online platform. The event occurred in a very similar fashion as the previous Toonies for Turkeys fundraiser, which raised \$1,240 for the food bank this fall.

Both of these events recognized the growing demand for food amid the pandemic, and aimed to fill the needs of families within our community.

The team would like to send a huge thank you to all of the students, their families and staff of KCSS who played a vital role in the success of the Spread Cheer Campaign.

The team would like to encourage everyone to take some time to reflect and be grateful for the little things throughout this holiday season.

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Schomberg Should Know

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

Nobleton, Schomberg
United Churches

We continue to have recorded on-line worship each Sunday that can be received by e-mail, viewed on the Nobleton Facebook page, or via the Nobleton YouTube channel. If you add your name to our e-mail list, you will also receive our Newsletters and links to some music selections. If you would like a text copy of the service, please contact Carol-Ann so she can drop one off for you.

Christmas Eve service will be on-line and distributed like our Sunday services. An intimate outdoor candle-light service will happen outside of St. Mary Magdalene at 7:30 p.m. Due to the current restrictions we

can only have 10 people and must insist that participants register with Carol-Ann before attending.

If you would like to support our ministry, you can find us on CanadaHelps.org.

You can contact Carol-Ann at min-isternobletonschomberg@gmail.com or leave a message at (picked up weekly) at 905-859-3976.

Christmas Eve

I saw this on Facebook and whole-heartedly propose we all do it in Schomberg on Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve, at 6 p.m. everyone should come out onto their doorsteps or balconies and ring a bell for two minutes to spread Christmas spirit and to help Santa fly his sleigh and find his way to Schomberg!

After the awful year that 2020 has proven to be, it would be an amazingly profound memory for the kids and all the community! Let's end 2020 with a bit of magic, hope and togetherness!



Vaughan Toy Drive

Stephen Lecce, MPP for King-Vaughan and Minister of Education (right), joined Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua to drop off toys for the City of Vaughan's 11th annual Toy Drive. All donations from the toy drive will be directed to the CP24 CHUM Christmas Wish, which supplies a variety of charitable organizations, agencies, and community centres with these new unwrapped toys, as well as financial donations.

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Start the year off on a Mediterranean foot

Peppers play a significant role in the Mediterranean diet, providing nutrients such as vitamin C and potassium while also giving meals a fresh boost of flavor. Long touted for its health benefits, the Mediterranean diet has piqued the interest of men and women looking to get healthy. Those who want a meal with a little Mediterranean flare can try the following recipe for "Mediterranean Beef Ragoût" from Judith Finlayson's "The Healthy Slow Cooker (Second Edition)" (Robert Rose).

Mediterranean Beef Ragoût

Makes 8 servings

- 2 pounds trimmed stewing beef, cut into 1-inch cubes and patted dry
- 2 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 2 onions, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons ground cumin (see note 2 below)
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon zest (optional)
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cracked black peppercorns
- 1 cup beef stock
- 1/2 cup dry red wine
- 1 14-ounce can no-salt-added diced tomatoes, including juice
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 roasted red bell peppers, thinly sliced, then cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1/2 cup sliced pitted green olives
- 1/2 cup finely chopped parsley leaves

1. In a skillet, heat 1 tablespoon of the olive oil over medium-high heat. Add beef, in batches, and cook, stirring, adding more oil as necessary, until browned, about 4 minutes per batch. Transfer to slow cooker stoneware as completed.
 2. Reduce heat to medium. Add onions and garlic to pan and cook, stirring, until onions are softened, about 3 minutes. Add cumin, thyme, lemon zest, if using, salt, and peppercorns and cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Add beef stock, wine, tomatoes with juice, and bay leaves and bring to a boil. Add to slow cooker and stir well.
 3. Cover and cook on low for 6 hours or on high for 3 hours, until mixture is bubbly and beef is tender. Stir in roasted peppers, olives and parsley. Cover and cook on high for 15 minutes, until peppers are heated through. Discard bay leaves.
- Note 1: This dish can be partially prepared before it is cooked. Heat oil and complete step 2. Refrigerate overnight for up to 2 days. When you're ready to cook, complete steps 1 and 3.
- Note 2: For the best flavor, toast and ground cumin seeds yourself. Place seeds in a dry skillet over medium heat and cook, stirring, until fragrant, about 3 minutes. Immediately transfer to a spice grinder or mortar and grind.



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King's Corners

**King City United
By Sheryl Sinka**

Christmas Eve worship will be online only and can be accessed through our website and will also be emailed out on Sunday morning and Dec. 24.

If you would like to receive an email please contact the church at kcuc@bellnet.ca We hope you will join us virtually for the fourth Sunday of Advent with Rev. Andrew Lee presiding.

As the numbers in our province have risen we have decided to move back to only worshipping online for the coming weeks. We will update you when we resume onsite worship, but we hope that you will stay home, stay safe and join with us virtually in this season of Advent. Our YouTube channel is York United Ministries and all our services and postings can be viewed and you will receive notifications to new content if you subscribe.

The Christmas Eve Worship at 7 p.m. on Dec. 24 will be live via ZOOM. The invitation will be e mailed out to you and there will be a link on the main page of our website. It will also be streamed to our YouTube Channel for those who wish to watch later.

If you have any questions you may contact the King City office for more information at 905-833-5181. We are grateful for your cooperation in following our safety protocols when entering our buildings. Our churches have opened adhering to the guidelines of the Province of Ontario, York Region and Shining Waters Region (United Church of Canada) and we continue to comply with the RedZone requirements for worship.

The Women's Prayer Circle is still "open for business," and we can still pray together, even if not in person. Although our weekly Tuesday morning meetings at the condo building on Burns Blvd. are still suspended, they will resume as soon as the government rules are relaxed.

Meanwhile, if you need prayer, for yourself or a loved one, please call Deana at 905-833-5375 and your request will be shared by phone with other prayer sisters. Surely we all agree that prayer is needed now, more than ever. Be still and be well.

If you are in need of assistance please contact the office at 905-833-5181 and leave a message. Website: kcuc.net

King Bible Church

It has been quite the year hasn't it? Who could have imagined as we entered 2020, that this year would contain so much uncertainty?

Let's face it we are all in need of some good news! Enter the message of Christmas, that into the messiness of our world, in the small town of Bethlehem a Saviour was born. And during this season where so much seems to be different, we would like to invite you to join us at King Bible Church as we seek to reconnect with the reality of God's love for us, proclaimed through the story of that first Christmas.

Our series entitled, "The Christmas Experience" focuses on some of the traditional themes of advent. We are currently meeting online only for the next number of weeks. Please visit our website www.kingbiblechurch.com for directions on how to join us online.

We would love to have you join our church family this year as we celebrate the good news or the birth of

the Saviour.

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

St. Andrew's wishes you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

Join us online at standrews-kingcity.ca as we continue to worship together. Thank you to Catherine and Cassandra Khani for lighting the Candle of Love last Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Advent. A short virtual Christmas Eve service will be held at 7 p.m. December 24.

Our Sunday morning services are held at 10:15 a.m. Following the service, "Coffee Fellowship" is held, so pour yourself a coffee or tea and click on your invite link. Get in touch with Lynn or Kathy at 905-833-0391 if you need the link.

The King Township Food Bank is still continuing with its safe monthly food distribution. To contact Pastor Ni-yazi and Irada Bilgen at Greater Grace Fellowship call 416-878-8499.

Christmas in King's Holiday Light Tour Display continues through Dec. 31. Buy a map for \$10 to support CiK by going to christmasinking.ca.

Lynn has arranged for special weekly emails during this Advent Season leading up to Christmas. The Rev. Konnie Visser has prepared this weekly package which has thoughtful, inspiring messages, including wonderful ideas to do with your children or grandchildren, helping them to know the real meaning of Christmas. Please contact Lynn should you wish to be included on the mailout.

Special Gift Bags with all the fixings for a Birthday Cake were distributed to families who had participated in

our Messy Church and Art-in-the-Park events. The families will make a birthday cake to Celebrate the birth of Jesus, God's great gift of love to all.

For pastoral care, call or text Lynn Visser, Director of Congregational Ministries at 416-998-4652 or the Rev. Paul Johnston, our Interim Moderator at (705) 341-7738.

May you know God's presence daily, bringing hope, peace, joy and love as we give our concerns to the Lord, for He cares for us. Philippians 4:6&7.

Keep in touch and we hope to see you soon.

**All Saints Anglican Church
By Patrick Gossage**

York Region lockdown means All Saints can no longer offer in person church services. We will continue worshipping virtually. Please check our website <http://www.allsaints-kingcity.com> for details.

You are also welcome you to join us on Sunday evenings at 8 p.m. via Zoom for the Service of Compline from the Book of Common Prayer. These short and peaceful prayers are a perfect end to the day. Call the church office at 905-833-5432 for log in information.

Words to live by - Fr. Michael based his sermon last recently on the Gospel reading from John 1:

"There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light." "My first parish included a few bachelor farmers. One of them, Bill wasn't in church one Sunday.

More on Page 17

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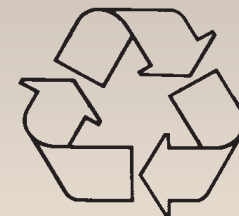
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Nobleton Notes

By Angie Maccarone

Due to the lockdown, our in-person gatherings are cancelled until further notice, but our live-streamed worship broadcasts are available on stpaulsnobleton.ca or through our YouTube channel.

Christmas Eve worship will be available on YouTube on Thursday afternoon, and Christmas Day worship with the Lord's Supper will be available on Friday morning – or any time after that. All our Sunday broadcasts (or just the messages) may be viewed on demand any time after 4:00 that Sunday afternoon. You can watch previous services or messages at youtube.com/c/stpaulschurchnobleton.

LifeConnect Groups will reconvene online in the new year. These are safe groups where we can just dig a little deeper into the Word, as well as encourage each other. If you would be interested in joining, please just email the church at secretary@stpaulsnobleton.ca.

We plan to run an Alpha course in the new year, online once again. If you're looking for a Zoom gathering that will provide a safe place for you to learn and explore, ask questions, discuss, share opinions, make friends and have fun, all in a Jesus-centred environment, check out <https://alphacanada.org/en>, and watch this space in the new year for online meeting nights.

St. Paul's wishes you a very Merry Christmas, and a joy-filled new year.

St. Mary's

Dear parishioners of St. Patrick's

Parish and St. Mary's Mission, following the recent announcements from the Ontario Medical Officer and the Archdiocese of Toronto, the celebration of public Holy Mass has been cancelled. All Masses will be celebrated privately. The Sunday Holy Mass will be Livestreamed. Please refer to the parish bulletin for Livestreamed Mass schedule by visiting our website: www.spmchurch.ca and our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/stpstmchurch to participate in the Livestreamed Mass.

"May the Christ Child in the manger and the Holy Family of Nazareth grant you a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with Peace and Joy."

Nobleton, Schomberg United Churches

We continue to have recorded online worship each Sunday that can be received by e-mail, viewed on the Nobleton Facebook page, or via the Nobleton YouTube channel. If you add your name to our e-mail list, you will also receive our Newsletters and links to some music selections. If you would like a text copy of the service, please contact Carol-Ann so she can drop one off for you.

Christmas Eve service will be on-line and distributed like our Sunday services. An intimate outdoor candle-light service will happen outside of St. Mary Magdalene at 7:30 p.m. Due to the current restrictions we can only have 10 people and must insist that participants register with Carol-Ann before attending.

If you would like to support our ministry, you can find us on CanadaHelps.org.

You can contact Carol-Ann at ministernobletonschomberg@gmail.com or

leave a message at (picked up weekly) at 905-859-3976.

Nobleton Lions Club

Your Nobleton Lions Club is alive and well and practicing physical distancing, as mandated by health authorities, conducting meetings via Zoom. Updates on club activities are shown on the club's website at <https://e-club-house.org/sites/nobleton/>

Also of note is an ongoing service that the Club is offering to people in

King's Corners

From Page 16

So his nephew drove to his farm and noticed uncle Bill's truck by the woodlot out back. There he found his uncle, lying on the ground. The Friday before, Bill had taken his ladder and his chain saw to go limb some trees. The ladder slipped and he fell, and with a broken hip and ribs he lay there for three days. I met them at the hospital and he spoke of seeing guardian angels in the sky.

Recovered, he was transformed into an enthusiastic evangelist. Bill had prayed constantly lying in that wood, and he firmly believed that Jesus had saved him. Bill bore witness to this in churches and in the community.

John "the Baptist" should really be "John the Witness." His job is to tell people about Jesus, the Messiah. John denies being anything but a witness, a herald, the voice crying in the wilderness. Why were my parishioners reluctant to witness to Jesus?

Did they lack of confidence in the idea of God being active among us? As Anglicans who value reason and critical

self-isolation and others unable to leave their homes. The Lions are providing a free delivery service for Pharmasave prescriptions. Just call Club president Rick Evans at 1-905-806-9988, and we will drop packages outside your door.

In the meantime, we still welcome prospective new members. You may join us as a guest via Zoom at an upcoming meeting by contacting our Club president. From all of us to all of you, please respect the guidelines from our health authorities, and Stay Safe! We're in this together!

thinking, we straddle a fence between faith and science. We may be reluctant to say that God answers prayer because how can you find evidence for that claim. In C.S. Lewis's book *Miracles*, he writes that there are two ways of seeing the world, Naturalism and Supernaturalism. Naturalists see the world as a closed system, where every action and thought can be explained through science. If we accept Naturalism, there is no door into this world because it's not needed. To believe in miracles is to believe that there is a transcendent or supernatural reality that can get into the world and work there.

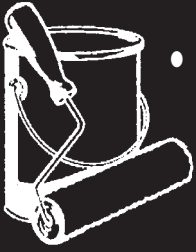
"Witness is not just about miracles or answered prayers. I've seen Christians with terminal illnesses witness about God's love and faithfulness.

Christmas to be sure is about miracles. It is the time when a door to the world opens, when Jesus comes, when the Word of God takes flesh and lives in the world. My prayer and hope for All Saints is that, like Bill, we never lose our faith and hope in miracles, for what greater miracle is there but the coming into the world of the God who loves and save us? May we witness to this God of Christmas and God of miracles."



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community for supporting Margaret Bahen Hospice
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residents and their families. Through it all, we were able to help
families stay together.

Without your support, hospice moments
like this one would not be possible.



Hospice resident Stephen reunited with his dog, Dexter, one last time. May 2020.

Wishing Everyone Safe and Happy Holidays!

There's still time to make a gift in support of hospice, you can donate online at
myhospice.ca/donate or mail your cheque to Margaret Bahen Hospice,
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