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# King Weekly Sentinel

*King's Community Newspaper*

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Thursday, January 21, 2021

Volume 48, Issue 3

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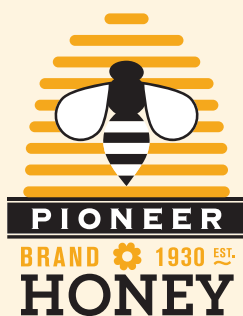
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## Township, Seneca to repurpose Eaton Hall

By Mark Pavilons  
Editor

Local Journalism Initiative

The historic Eaton Hall will get a new lease on life, thanks to an agreement between King Township and Seneca College.

Councillors gave their stamp of approval on the new deal, which will see the famous site revamped and repurposed.

Plans are in the works for Township and Seneca staff to work together, designating Eaton Hall as a municipal capital facility. It will be exempt from taxation and the facility will be available for public use.

The college initiated the request to council and they wanted to use the facility for special events such as weddings, conferences, etc. In order to do so, the building requires substantial improvements.

Staff noted Eaton Hall is an important, significant heritage asset. It has a long history associated with one of Canada's best known families, the Eatons, founders of Eaton's department stores.

There are several buildings on the 700-acre property that

is home to the 35,000-square-foot mansion. It was designed to be the Eaton family country estate and was also a working farm, producing things like butter, milk and flowers for the Eaton stores. The Eatons had planned to retire in King.

Lady Eaton was 60 and a grandmother when the estate was completed by 1940.

Lady Eaton and her husband, Sir John Craig Eaton, acquired their first parcels of land in King Township in 1920 on recommendation from their friend Sir Henry Pellatt, who owned the nearby Mary Lake property. It took two years to assemble the entire 700 acres. Lady Eaton moved into Eaton Hall three years after demolishing her city mansion, Ardwood.

Eaton Hall is adjacent to a body of water named Lake Seneca today, formerly Lake Jonda (a combination of the first three letters of her son John David Eaton's first and middle names).

Design was started in 1932 by architects from the firm of Peter Allward and George Gouinlock.

See 'Space' on page 3

Ann Duncan has been a full-time real estate professional for over 10 years. Ann's fluent Russian, Persian, Arabic and English bring her clients a new level of responsiveness and communications. Her relationship with Iranian, Chinese and Russian communities locally and internationally make her one of the most successful agents in Canada.



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REGULAR FEATURES

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Beat the pandemic blues online.

See Page 9



Fraser is King's new director.

See Page 13

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### UPCOMING MEETINGS

#### COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**Monday, January 25**  
5:00 pm – Council Working Session re:  
Presentation of 2021-2022 Budgets & Business Plan  
6:00 pm – Council and Committee of the Whole  
Virtual meeting live streamed at <http://meeting.king.ca>

**Monday, February 1**  
6:00 pm – Council Public Planning Meeting  
Virtual meeting live streamed at <http://meeting.king.ca>

**Monday, February 8**  
6:00 pm – Council and Committee of the Whole  
Virtual meeting live streamed at <http://meeting.king.ca>  
To view full Council and Committee of the Whole agendas,  
visit [king.civicweb.net/filepro/documents](http://king.civicweb.net/filepro/documents)

#### COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

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

**Thursday, February 11**  
3:00 pm – Holland Marsh Drainage System Joint Municipal  
Services Board (virtual meeting)

**Tuesday, February 16**  
6:00 pm – King Township Public Library Board (virtual meeting)

### BID NOTICES

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

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Please visit the Township website at [www.king.ca](http://www.king.ca) for employment opportunities.

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### Nobleton sewer works



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.  
**LATEST UPDATES**  
• Sheardown Drive between Highway 27 and Holden Drive and all of Chamberlain Court have been completed up to base asphalt.  
• There are currently crews working on Sheardown Drive from Holden Court to Russell Snider Drive, Cain Court, Hazelbury Drive between Cain Court and Sheardown Drive and at McCutcheon Drive installing sewers north of Sheardown Drive.  
• Temporary road restoration will follow mainline sewer crews.  
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](mailto:serviceking@king.ca).



Happy  
New Year!

On behalf of Mayor Steve Pellegrini and Members of Council we wish all of our residents and their families a very happy and safe New Year!

### PUBLIC NOTICES



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

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

- King Township Public Library remains closed but is offering curbside pickup service. Visit [www.kinglibrary.ca](http://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](http://www.king.ca).

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

#### LATEST UPDATES

The Province of Ontario has moved York Region and King Township into the Grey-LOCKDOWN level. It has also implemented a stay-at-home order. People should only leave their homes for essential trips for things like food, medicine or essential work.

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](http://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](http://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](mailto:serviceking@king.ca).

For the latest King Township COVID-19 related information, please visit [www.covid19.king.ca](http://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](http://york.ca/covid19) for more information or call Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653. You may also contact Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 for medical advice. Telehealth Ontario is a free confidential service you can call to receive health advice or information. A registered nurse will take your call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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

## Site Alteration By-law Review

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

TOWNSHIP OF KING

## SITE ALTERATION and MOVEMENT OF FILL BY-LAW REVIEW

### Your thoughts on Site Alteration and Movement of Fill



#### ABOUT THE REVIEW

The Township of King is in the process of updating its By-law regarding Site Alteration and the Movement of Fill within the Township to align with recent regulatory changes as outlined in Ontario Regulation 406/19.

The updated By-law is designed to manage activities such as altering the grade of land, changing drainage, and the removal (cut) or importation of soil (fill). The purpose is to enhance environmental protection and provide a structured approach for landowners who wish to alter their property.

We are inviting members of the public review the draft By-law and supporting documents and share their feedback. Your input will assist in finalizing the content.

#### PARTICIPATE IN OUR VIRTUAL PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021  
• 12:00–12:30 pm – Presentation with Q&A After  
Registration: ([kingbylaw@rjburnside.com](mailto:kingbylaw@rjburnside.com))

Contact: Nancy Cronsberry, Manager of By-law Enforcement  
[ncronsberry@king.ca](mailto:ncronsberry@king.ca) 905-833-5321, ext. 4001



Cannot attend? For more information about the Site Alteration By-law Review, please visit: <https://speaking.king.ca/site-alteration-by-law-review>



### You're Invited!

King stakeholders are invited to a virtual Public Open House focused on the refresh of King Township's Community Improvement Plan (CIP).  
Join us on:

**Wednesday January 27th, 2021 from 6-8pm**

A CIP is a tool that enables the Township to make grants available to property owners and businesses.

We want to hear from you to learn about the types of grants that would help you. The success of this Plan will greatly benefit from our community's input!

For more information and to register for the Public Open House on Jan. 27th, visit:  
<https://speaking.king.ca/>

Please see more King Township notices on page 5



## Space available to public

From Front Page

Construction was completed in 1939 and was supervised by John W. Bowser of the Aurora Building Company. Bowser had just worked on the Empire State Building and his Aurora gravesite contains a marker in the shape of that New York landmark.

A heritage study back in 2012 indicated the hall, and other structures “exhibit high cultural heritage value worthy of protection.”

As part of the lease arrangement with the hospitality company, Seneca will offer affordable and accessible recreation and heritage event space and programs for King residents, non-profits and community groups.

The college agreed to offer the ground lease to the municipality for 99 years, at \$1 per year.

It was challenging to calculate the actual taxes that could be levied on just a portion of the large property. Township staff hired a consultant to conduct an appraisal of the building

and seven acres surrounding the facility. This was subjectively pegged at upwards of \$14 million. However, the property doesn’t currently pay property taxes, so there is no loss of revenue to the Township.

Council also amended the current ground lease with Seneca (made to accommodate the new recreation centre) from 60 years to 99 years.

This is advantageous for the municipality for a number of reasons, including a longer-term control of a capital asset, and the ability to refurbish and extend the life cycle of such an asset.

Mayor Steve Pellegrini said King is proud having both Seneca and Eaton Hall in the community. It’s important to retain the building’s history and to purpose it for public use.

Councillor Debbie Schaefer agreed, noting Eaton Hall is very much part of Canada’s history.

“It’s wonderful to think of this structure being brought back to life,” she said, adding King is thrilled to be working with Seneca on this.

## King has 4 cases of UK COVID variant

King Township has recorded four cases of the U.K. variant strain of COVID-19. York Region noted the four King residents are among seven in total with the new strain.

York Region Public Health was notified of the first case on Jan. 2, by Public Health Ontario. The case had recent travel to the UK and tested positive on Dec. 22, 2020.

The four cases in the Township of King include the initial case who had travelled to the U.K. and three family members the individual had dinner with.

At this time the three individuals from Georgina and Richmond Hill have been confirmed with no connection to travel

This serves as an important reminder all individuals arriving from international travel must self-isolate for 14 days as part of the federal Quarantine Act even if you do not have any symptoms of COVID-19

York Region Public Health reminds residents about the importance of providing all history of contacts and contact information if you test positive for COVID-19; this is crucial to the prevention and control of this infection.

Our federal and provincial public health partners are expanding surveillance efforts to closely watch for further signs of this variant in Canada and Ontario.

If you have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, regardless of which strain the virus is, it is essential you stay home and self-isolate for 14 days.

As Ontario declared a second provincial emergency, residents must stay home, limit trips outside of your home for essential reasons only and continue following all public health advice.

For more information on COVID-19 in York Region visit [york.ca/covid19](http://york.ca/covid19)

## Feeling Stressed? Anxious? Lost? Talking about it can help.



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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

## A few failing grades in remote learning

*"People expect to be bored by eLearning – let's show them it doesn't have to be like that!" – Cammy Bean*

If only.

Let's face it folks, we are grooming a whole new generation of e-learners.

The pandemic has somewhat forced the government's hand and upped the remote learning game. The Province is on a new direction toward improved remote learning systems, to make Ontario more competitive and give our students a "leg up."

Some studies have indicated that our education system is lacking, and that we're falling behind our world counterparts. Systems in other parts of the world have year-round schooling, and others include apprentice programs. Still other countries mandate a short military service when you turn 18.

All these measures combined build strong bodies and strong minds.

We've been knee-deep in the e-learning experiment for more than two full semesters now. By now, teachers, students and parents know the benefits, drawbacks and limitations.

Most would agree it's nowhere near perfect. And I doubt many would say this is the ideal situation.

While e-learning is a great tool, it's meant to complement classroom education, not replace it.

I believe the current situation has actually placed a bit more stress on students and parents alike.

For us 50-somethings, we graduated many moons ago. While we may be okay with new technology at work or at home, this form of learning is a tough nut to crack.

My youngest daughter is in Grade 10, while my son is in his second semester of college. Both have much different curricula and both are experiencing challenges.

Let's start with the most obvious – technology. While we're lucky enough to have several Mac laptops at home, that doesn't mean we're all geniuses. And while we may be comfortable with one format, or one platform, we're not well versed in everything that's thrown at our kids.

Before the start of the current school year, I never heard of, let alone used, Google Chrome, Blackboard, Canvas, Moodle, and maybe a dozen more.

I'm not sure why teachers don't all



Mark Pavilons

use the same one. This means a student (parent) has to be tech savvy and be able to download and learn dozens of new platforms before even cracking open a book or PDF.

That simple process aside, none of the schools and programs tend to take technical limitations, breakdowns, power outages and internet woes into consideration. This is simply ignoring the reality of what tools students have and their ability to use them. I don't even want to get into the basic math of affordability, and updating all of our kids' laptops.

While dogs can no longer eat kids' homework, computer gremlins can lay waste to hours of work.

Teachers themselves aren't all masters of technology, either.

What does a student's proficiency in learning a new platform, or owning a modern computer, have to do with science or social studies?

For this lack of consideration, I give all institutions an F.

Human interaction is something that YouTube and a dozen or so different video chat rooms simply can't replicate.

Cameras on or off? Microphones on or off? Asking questions by typing comments?

Students have been reluctant to speak up in class since schools began. Doing it online is a whole other arena.

My son really wanted to attend the campus of his college, to soak up the atmosphere, facilities and student interaction. He wanted the complete "college

experience." The pandemic has denied him that opportunity.

I realize colleges and universities are limited in their reach. But this lack of physical connection does have an impact on young, formative minds. The post-secondary environment always included the social aspect, as a way to foster maturity, personal growth and engagement.

When I was in college, I always remained after class to ask questions or get into discussions with my fellow students and professors.

Academic types likely don't even consider such "frivolities" as important.

For this missing piece to the education puzzle, everyone gets an F.

Having witnessed, first-hand, the workload and teacher response to my kids, another huge failing exists.

With virtual learning, there's a tendency for teachers to increase the assignments and lessen personal attention. This is the exact opposite of how teaching should be done.

I can fully attest that workloads have increased noticeably, to the point where they exceed anything that would have been assigned in class.

Group projects and presentations are also very difficult to do virtually.

For dumping more on the shoulders

of our kids, and offering less in terms of support, guidance and assistance, instructors get an F.

According to Bernard Bull, "in order to create an engaging learning experience, the role of instructor is optional, but the role of learner is essential."

I wonder how teachers feel about that one. Some may argue that as technology improves, teachers themselves could be replaced by muppets.

Teachers and unions have asked for an extension of the current stay-at-home rules to mitigate any future outbreaks in schools. Gaps exist.

I agree that perhaps a pause is needed, if only to bring everyone up to speed in terms of consistencies in online learning practices.

"The key to success is to appreciate how people learn, understand the thought process that goes into instructional design, what works well, and a range of different ways of achieving goals," according to Tim Buff.

We're all familiar with the term "getting lost in the shuffle." What we don't need is any more students falling through the cracks, some of which have widened thanks to virtual learning deficiencies.

Let's all work together to bring up those marks!



### Letter to the Editor

## Seniors need answers on vaccine

Seniors need to have answers of when and where the vaccine will be rolled out. We need mass vaccination as soon as possible. People are dying.

The Province has the vaccine and they are not broadcasting information to seniors. They are supposed to be next of the list after hospital workers, medical people and long term care. Wee need to know, when and where.

What is the plan? We deserve to know!

Betty Reynolds

**KingWeeklySentinel** **WEBPOLL**  
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**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION**

Results from last week's poll:

**Are you concerned about the rising cases of COVID-19?**

a) Yes	<div style="background-color: black; width: 66.6%; height: 15px;"></div>	<b>66.6%</b>
b) No	<div style="background-color: black; width: 33.4%; height: 15px;"></div>	<b>33.4%</b>

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

Are you happy to see Donald Trump leave?

a) Yes  
b) No

Go to our website and cast a vote!

### Quote of the Week

*"Now that we have learned to fly in the air like birds and dive in the sea like fish, only one thing remains – to learn to live on earth with humans."*

– George Bernard Shaw

## Trivia Tidbits

*The word "tie" has been around the longest in the English language.*

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**REVISED NOTICE OF MEETINGS – REVISED – JANUARY 12, 2021**  
**DRAFT 2021-2022 BUDGETS & BUSINESS PLAN**  
**2021 WATER & WASTEWATER RATES and BY-LAW**

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: Council Working Session: **Monday, January 25, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 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 Plan will be discussed at a Working Session on Monday, January 25, 2021.

(Budget information is now available for review on the Township website at [www.king.ca](http://www.king.ca))

RE: Council Meeting: **January 25, 2021 at 6:00 pm**  
Draft – 2021-2022 Budgets & Business Plan

The Township of King's Draft 2021-2022 Budgets & Business Plan, will be tabled at the January 25, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting. (\*Council may elect to approve the draft budget at this meeting thereby not requiring the budget item on February 8, 2021)

RE: Council Meeting: **Monday, February 8, 2021 at 6:00 pm**  
Consideration of By-law for Adoption: 2021-2022 Budgets & Business Plan (\*if required – see January 25 above)

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.

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

The Township of King 2021 Water and Wastewater Rates Report will be presented at the February 8, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting. The By-law will be considered by Council for adoption at the Monday, February 8, 2021 Council Meeting.

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

Kathryn Moyle  
Director of Corporate Services/Township Clerk

**NOTICE OF THE PASSING OF DEVELOPMENT CHARGES BY-LAW FOR THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF KING**

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Township of King passed Development Charges By-law 2021-002 (the "By-law") on the 11th day of January, 2021 under subsection 2(1) of the *Development Charges Act, 1997*, S.O. 1997 c.27 (the "Act"), as amended;

AND TAKE NOTICE that any person or organization may appeal the By-law to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) as stipulated under Section 14 of the Act, in respect of the By-law, by filing with the Clerk of the Township of King on or before the 20th day of February, 2021 a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and the reasons supporting the objection. (NOTE: If the final appeal date falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the appeal date will extend to the first Monday at 4:30 p.m., following the last appeal day.)

The development charges in the By-law will apply to all new residential and non-residential development, subject to certain terms, conditions and limited exemptions as identified in the By-law.

Development charges are levied against new development to pay for the increased capital costs related to the provision of such municipal services as Water, Wastewater, Services related to a Municipal Roadway, Public Works and Waste Diversion.

The development charges imposed by the By-law, which comes into effect on January 12, 2021, are as follows:

Service/Class of Service	RESIDENTIAL					NON-RESIDENTIAL
	Single and Semi-Detached Dwelling	Multiples	Large Apartments	Small Apartments	Special Care/Special Dwelling Units	(per sq. m. of Gross Floor Area)
<b>Township-Wide Services:</b>						
Services Related to a Highway	\$ 17,047	\$ 14,439	\$ 10,705	\$ 7,332	\$ 5,392	\$ 83.53
Fire Protection Services	958	811	602	412	303	4.74
Parks and Recreation Services	11,740	9,944	7,372	5,050	3,713	21.10
Library Services	1,587	1,344	997	683	502	2.80
Growth Studies	506	429	318	218	160	2.58
<b>Total Township-Wide Services (A)</b>	<b>31,838</b>	<b>26,967</b>	<b>19,994</b>	<b>13,695</b>	<b>10,070</b>	<b>114.75</b>
<b>Urban Services</b>						
Stormwater Services	391	331	246	168	124	1.94
Water Services	2,748	2,328	1,726	1,182	869	13.24
Water & Wastewater Studies and Capital Improvements	315	267	198	135	100	1.61
<b>Total Urban Services (B)</b>	<b>3,454</b>	<b>2,926</b>	<b>2,170</b>	<b>1,485</b>	<b>1,093</b>	<b>16.79</b>
<b>Area Specific Services</b>						
Wastewater Services - King City (C)	3,484	2,951	2,188	1,499	1,102	17.01
Wastewater Services - Nobleton (D)	3,976	3,368	2,497	1,710	1,258	4.41
<b>Total King City (A + B + C)</b>	<b>\$ 38,776</b>	<b>\$ 32,844</b>	<b>\$ 24,352</b>	<b>\$ 16,679</b>	<b>\$ 12,265</b>	<b>\$ 148.55</b>
<b>Total Nobleton (A + B + D)</b>	<b>\$ 39,268</b>	<b>\$ 33,261</b>	<b>\$ 24,661</b>	<b>\$ 16,890</b>	<b>\$ 12,421</b>	<b>\$ 135.95</b>
<b>Total Schomberg (A + B)</b>	<b>\$ 35,292</b>	<b>\$ 29,893</b>	<b>\$ 22,164</b>	<b>\$ 15,180</b>	<b>\$ 11,163</b>	<b>\$ 131.54</b>

No key map has been provided in this notice as the By-law applies to all lands located within the Municipal boundaries of the Township of King. Charges for water and wastewater are applicable where municipal services are available.

Due to the efforts to contain the spread of COVID-10, a copy of the By-law is available on the Township of King's website at [www.king.ca](http://www.king.ca)

For further information regarding the 2020 Development Charges, please contact: Peggy Tollett, Director of Finance and Treasurer, [ptollett@king.ca](mailto:ptollett@king.ca)

DATED at the Township of King, 2585 King Road, King City, ON, this 14th day of January, 2021.

Kathryn Moyle  
Director of Corporate Services/Township Clerk  
[clerks@king.ca](mailto:clerks@king.ca)

**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?**

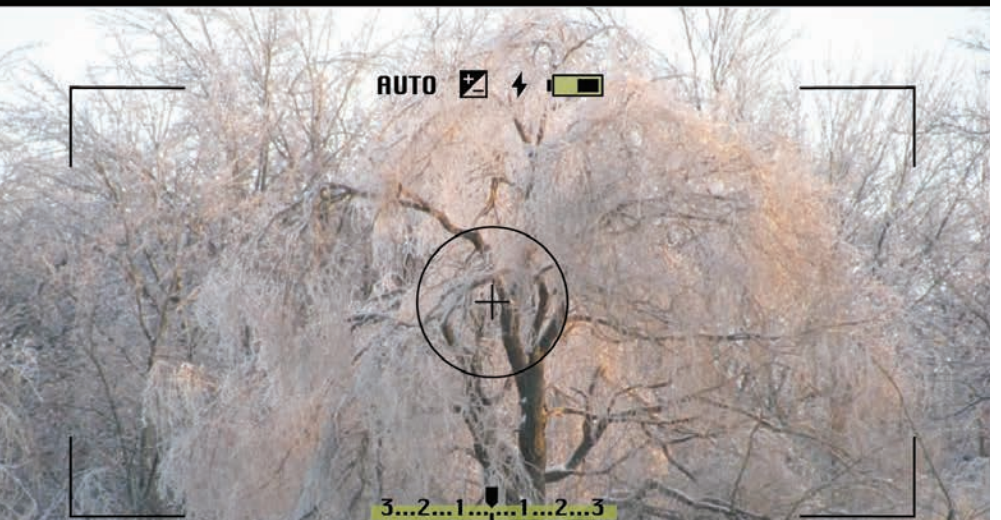
Please visit [speaking.king.ca](http://speaking.king.ca) and click on "Rural Zoning By-law Review" to register.

Alternatively, or if you require assistance, you may contact Kristen Harrison, Policy Planner, at [kharrison@king.ca](mailto:kharrison@king.ca) or 905-833-4065.

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

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Arts Society KING KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE **JAN. 15 to FEB. 15 2021**



**White hot shot**

**WINTER PHOTO CONTEST**

Cash Prizes and Prints for **9 Winners**  
Amateur & Pro Divisions

Prize Categories:

- Coldest
- Warmest
- Most Mystic
- Funniest

Capture King's coldest, warmest, most mystic & funniest winter glories

Entries invited from January 15th to the February 15th closing date.

Awards & Winners Show February 20th at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre

For contest details visit [artssocietyking.ca](http://artssocietyking.ca)

Sponsored by Rob Payne of: **Edward Jones** MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

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**KING COLD CREEK SNOWSHOE & X-COUNTRY SKI RENTALS**  
WEATHER PERMITTING AVAILABLE 7 DAYS A WEEK  
\*Pre-registration is required and spaces are limited NO DROP-INS PERMITTED  
REGISTER UP TO 3 DAYS IN ADVANCE  
Visit [coldcreek.ca](http://coldcreek.ca) or email [coldcreek@king.ca](mailto:coldcreek@king.ca) for more information  
Visit [townshipofking.perfectmind.com](http://townshipofking.perfectmind.com) to check the status of upcoming time slots

**Please do your part & recycle!**

**KING FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Calling all residents of King Township. Help your local fire fighters help YOU with **Adopt A Hydrant!**



When Seconds count, which would you feel more safe with? After a snowfall, check your nearest hydrants for a 3 foot (1 metre) radius of clearance

# Modernize Ontario's energy mix

Mr. Lecce claims Ontario is reducing litter. Really?

I could bring you a bag of trash that we collect from nearby ditches in our neighbourhood weekly, and this has increased over time. And if you are referring to litter reduction across the GTA, or the city of Toronto, the amount of litter is truly appalling, and it is not decreasing.

I really must take our MP to task for taking such wide latitudes with his platitudes, as expressed in his commentary of Dec. 24, 2020.

As for your claims about taking care of wetlands, please review my lengthy letter to the editor, dated Dec. 17, on page 6 of the King Weekly Sentinel. I wrote a long tirade because I am so fed up and frustrated with this government and its determination never to consult the public or scientists. Look up the recent research paper, on flooding in the GTA, authored by civil engineers, as referenced in my letter. Ontario is heading in the wrong direction according to those engineers.

You think you are expanding greenspace by "working on" the 500-acre East Humber Headwaters Park? It is far better to identify and set aside natural areas through watershed planning, as has

been done by Conservation Authorities, then "undone" time and again by successive OMB and LPAT decisions that favoured developers' official plan amendments over sound planning.

Those provincial tribunals are nothing but levers of intervention for developers to get their way. Now, MZO's, issued to developers in private meetings with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, have replaced OMB and LPAT hearings. Who needs democracy?

Natural areas should be preserved because restoration is very costly, and it never achieves the level of natural biodiversity and associated ecosystem services (including natural water filtration, flood control, fisheries, recycling of nutrients, etc). Natural areas perform these ecological services for free, and they do a better job than expensive "engineering solutions" that seem to result in more flooding over the increasingly paved and denuded landscape, while native species are driven to the brink of extinction due to lack of habitat.

And, how about that iron-clad appeal-proof MZO issued for the destruction of over half of the remaining Duf-

## Letter to the Editor

fins Wetlands and Headwaters Complex in Pickering while you are extolling one single 500-acre park on the ORM? These headwaters will be destroyed so another gigantic warehouse can be built. Paving and warehouse-ization of the GTA landscape must stop.

You don't save any landscape by issuing 39 MZO's (and still counting) within two years to bulldoze and destroy more farmland, forests and wetlands. What the landscape really needs is less bulldozing. You save a landscape by working with its natural features, not destroying them. Municipal councils tend to calculate tax base from development with little consideration for the intrinsic value of nature's services, so it is time to consider natural oxygen production and flood control as two new lines in the budget, under a new heading, "natural capital valuation."

Lower greenhouse gas emissions? According to Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator, greenhouse gas emissions from Ontario's gas-fired power plants will increase by over 300% by 2025, and over 400% by 2040, if no changes are made in the provincial power mix. Now, let's really review this issue.

Quebec Hydro has the hydro-electric power to sell to Ontario right now, while Mr. Ford is betting on a technology that AECL and other players are just starting to investigate - something that is in the early stages of design. Small Modular Reactors may be years down the road, if they are built at all. Besides, the problem of what to do with spent nuclear fuel rods from existing nuclear plants has not been addressed yet. Future disposal of waste from SMR will also have to be addressed.

Instead, Ontario is okay with the purchase of three existing gas-fired plants from TC Energy; yet, Ontario could start to modernize by looking into load-balancing such that a combination of existing 'conventional' and new renewable energy projects could be balanced with energy imports from Hydro Quebec. Come down on the side of conservation for a change, Ontario! Conservation of energy, conservation of natural areas, conservation of communities! Try it you might like it!

Now, about that deal with TC Energy: "Completing this transaction further strengthens our financial position,

helps fund our industry-leading secured capital program, and maximizes value for our shareholders," said TC Energy President and CEO Russ Girling, after selling three gas-fired power plants to a subsidiary of Ontario Power Generation for \$2.8-billion. A good deal for TC Energy and its shareholders, but what about the atmosphere?

On Feb. 17, 2018, Canada brought in new regulations, limiting CO2 emissions from natural gas-fired electricity generation: <http://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2018/2018-02-17/html/reg4-eng.html#footnoteRef.51584>

The only problem is these new regulations do not apply to facilities that already exist, such as those converted from burning coal to gas-fired, or those operating as "peaker" plants. Such as the ones Ontario Power Generation has purchased from TC Energy. Besides, renewables are starting to show definite cost benefits now, so gas-fired power plants are far from the only option. Private investors are backing projects in Alberta, such as Greengate Power's "Travers Solar Project in southern Alberta that will be operational in two years and produce 465 megawatts of power. That is large - within the range of a nuclear reactor." Read about this renewable project and others in Alberta at <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/oil-gas-business-climate-change-1.5808746>

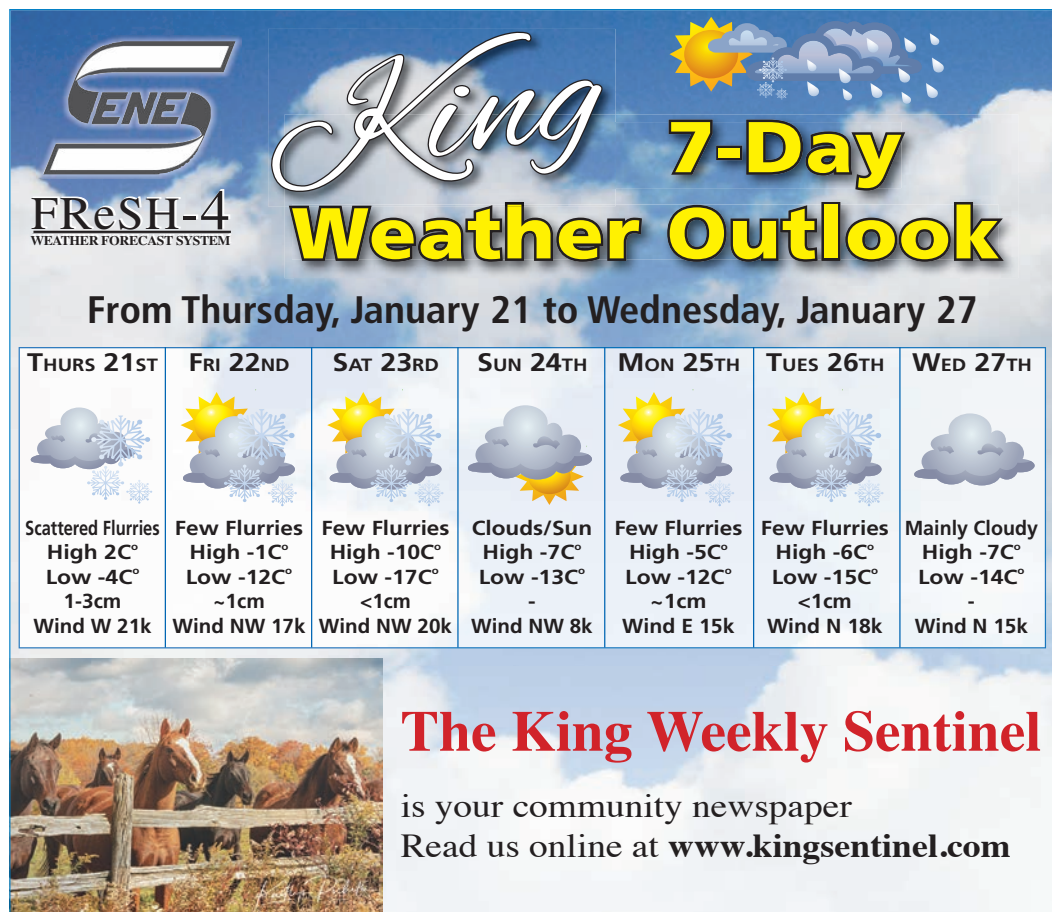
In Ontario's rush to gas-fired electricity generation, we have to think about how that gas is extracted. In Canada, 66% of gas comes from fracking. In 2018, there were over 200,000 wells being horizontally fracked for gas or oil, mostly in western provinces. Even older wells can find 'new life' through fracking.

Considering all the concerns relating to gas-fired power plants, I think a complete 'cradle-to-grave' analysis from gas extraction to its eventual use in gas-fired plants must be done. Meanwhile, start investing in renewable energy sources.

We cannot continue to accept costly, unrealistic, ill-conceived, out-sized politically-driven economic aspirations from our FOUR levels of government when their political plans clearly do not fit within the natural limits of the atmosphere and environment, which sustain all life.

There are alternatives.

See 'So many' on Page 9



**ENE King 7-Day Weather Outlook**  
From Thursday, January 21 to Wednesday, January 27

THURS 21ST	FRI 22ND	SAT 23RD	SUN 24TH	MON 25TH	TUES 26TH	WED 27TH
Scattered Flurries High 2°C Low -4°C 1-3cm Wind W 21k	Few Flurries High -1°C Low -12°C ~1cm Wind NW 17k	Few Flurries High -10°C Low -17°C <1cm Wind NW 20k	Clouds/Sun High -7°C Low -13°C - Wind NW 8k	Few Flurries High -5°C Low -12°C ~1cm Wind E 15k	Few Flurries High -6°C Low -15°C <1cm Wind N 18k	Mainly Cloudy High -7°C Low -14°C - Wind N 15k

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# Small Business Support Grants

## NEW IN JANUARY



**STEPHEN LECCE**  
MPP for King-Vaughan

2220 King Road, Unit#1, King City, ON L7B 1L3  
Tel: 647-560-9700 • Email: [Stephen.LecceCO@pc.ola.org](mailto:Stephen.LecceCO@pc.ola.org)  
[www.StephenLecceMPP.ca](http://www.StephenLecceMPP.ca)

## BUSINESSES: 3 Supports for COVID-19

- ### 1 NEW IN JANUARY Ontario Small Business Support Grant

This is a grant, up-to **\$20,000** to help small businesses that must close or significantly restrict services due to the recent Province-wide Shutdown.
- ### 2 Property Tax and Energy Bill rebates

This is a grant that will cover the **entire length of time** that public health restrictions are in place, for:

  - municipal and education property taxes
  - energy costs, including electricity and natural gas (or where natural gas is not available, propane and heating oil).
- ### 3 Main Street Relief Grant: PPE Support

This is a one-time grant of up to **\$1,000** for eligible businesses with 2 to 9 employees.

Sectors include retail, accommodation and food services, repair and maintenance, personal and laundry services, and gyms and yoga studios.

[covidsupports.ca/king-vaughan](http://covidsupports.ca/king-vaughan)

# Mayor Pellegrini serves on Ontario Heritage Trust

By Mark Pavilons  
Editor

Local Journalism Initiative

The mayor of King Township has taken on a new role – to help conserve and preserve our heritage.

Mayor Steve Pellegrini has been appointed as a member of the Ontario Heritage Trust.

The Trust has a province wide mandate to conserve, interpret and share Ontario's heritage. It acts as a centre of expertise, and serves as the heritage trustee and steward for the people of Ontario. It conserves provincially significant cultural and natural, tangible and intangible heritage, interprets Ontario's history, celebrates its diversity, and educates Ontarians of its importance in our society.

"The Ontario Heritage Trust is a great fit for me as King is rich in its places and landscapes, histories, traditions and stories that embody our heritage," he said. "This is a true opportunity to demonstrate excellence in the conservation and stewardship

within the province's heritage that reflect our diversity and complexity."

The Ontario Heritage Trust is an agency of the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. Its mandate is to:

- Advise and make recommendations to the Minister on any matter relating to the conservation, protection and preservation of the heritage of Ontario.
- Receive, acquire and hold property in trust for the people of Ontario.
- Support, encourage and facilitate the conservation, protection and preservation of the heritage of Ontario.
- Preserve, maintain, reconstruct, restore and manage property of historical, architectural, archaeological, recreational, esthetic, natural and scenic interest.
- Conduct research and implement educational and communications programs necessary for heritage conservation, protection and preservation.

For more, visit <https://heritagetrust.on.ca/>

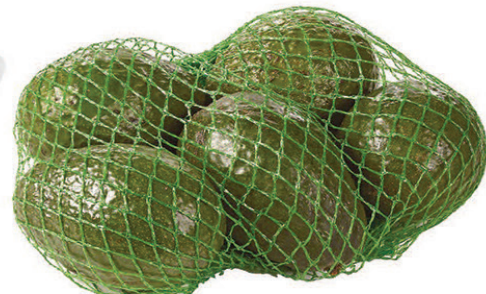


## This Week's Fresh Savings

Valid Thursday Jan 21 - Wednesday Jan 27



**Organic Blueberries**  
2 / \$7.00 (6 oz packs)  
Prod of Mexico No. 1



**Avocado Bags**  
\$2.99  
Prod of Mexico No. 1



**Cara Cara Oranges**  
\$3.99/lb (3 lb Bag)  
Prod of USA No. 1



**Fresh Swiss Chard & Green Kale**  
2 / \$4.00  
Prod of USA No. 1



**Beretta Farms Picanha Steak**  
Locally raised beef free from antibiotics & added hormones.  
**\$8.99 /lb** \$19.81 /kg



**AAA Prime Rib Roast**  
Aged minimum 21 days. Locally raised beef.  
**\$10.99 /lb** \$22.02 /kg



**Yorkshire Valley Farms**  
Organic family size chicken drums or split chicken wings  
**\$4.99 /lb** \$11.00 /kg



**Cousin's Store Made Mild & Hot Italian Sausage**  
Gluten free! Locally raised pork free from antibiotics & added hormones.  
**\$5.99 /lb** \$13.21 /kg  
**SAVE \$2.00/lb**



**Lean Ground Beef**  
Locally raised beef free from antibiotics & added hormones.  
**\$4.99 /lb** \$11.00 /kg



**Fresh Mediterranean Sea Bass**  
While quantities last.  
**\$6.99 /lb** \$15.41 /kg



**Felino Dry Cured Prosciutto**  
Product of Italy  
**\$3.99** per 100g



**Selto Grana Padano Cheese**  
Product of Italy  
**\$2.99** per 100g



**Cuddy Oven Roasted Turkey Breast**  
**\$2.49** per 100g



**La Croix**  
Natural flavoured sparkling water  
**\$3.99** (8 x 330ml)



**Kettle Chips**  
220g, Assorted Varieties  
**2 for \$6**  
**SAVE \$2.00**



**King Island**  
1 Litre Coconut Water  
**\$3.99 each**  
**SAVE \$2.00**



**Made Good**  
Ganola Mini's, 96g  
**2 for \$6**  
**SAVE \$2.00**



**Aurora Extra Virgin Olive Oil**  
**\$3.99**  
**SAVE \$4.00**



**Dutchman's Gold**  
250ml, Pure Maple Syrup  
**\$5.99 each**

### Cousin's In-House Kitchen

# INGWHATWEDO



**Cousin's Jumbo Biscotti**  
Available in: Nutella, Double Chocolate, Orange Cranberry & Hazelnut Cantuccini.  
**\$2.99 / 3pc Package**  
Regular Price: \$3.49/Package



**Cousin's Moussaka**  
Layers of ground Beef, Eggplant, Potato, Béchamel Sauce, fresh Herbs & Spices. Available in family size & single serve. A Greek classic. Simply Heat & Serve.  
**\$1.59 / 100g**  
Regular Price: \$16.90/kg **SAVE \$1.00**



**Cousin's Stracciatella Soup**  
All the goodness of our Chicken Brodo with heavenly notes of garlic & Parmesan. A classic egg drop soup with wilted Baby Organic Spinach. Simply Heat, Serve & Enjoy!  
**\$7.99 / 1L Jar**  
Regular Price: \$8.99/L **SAVE \$1.00**

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## Applications open for Small Business Support Grant

The Ontario government has opened applications for the new Ontario Small Business Support Grant. The grant, first announced in December, provides a minimum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$20,000 to eligible small businesses who have had to restrict their operations due to the province-wide shutdown.

The tightened restrictions were put in place to help stop the alarming rise of COVID-19 cases in Ontario.

“As Ontario’s employers do their part to defeat COVID-19, they are facing unprecedented challenges as a result of this global pandemic,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board. “I encourage every eligible small business owner in Ontario to visit Ontario.ca/COVIDSupport to access the support our government has made available. While we still have a lot of work ahead of us, we can all look confidently to the future as we resolve to do our parts and put COVID-19 behind us.”

Small businesses required to close or significantly restrict services under the province-wide Shutdown will

be able to apply for a one-time grant and use this funding in whatever way makes the most sense for their individual business needs. For example, some businesses could need support paying employee wages, while others could need support with their rent.

Eligible small businesses include those that:

- Were required to close or significantly restrict services due to the province-wide shutdown being imposed across the province effective 12:01 a.m. on Dec. 26.

- Have fewer than 100 employees at the enterprise level.

- Have experienced a minimum of 20 per cent revenue decline in April 2020 compared to April 2019. New businesses established since April 2019 will also be eligible if they meet the other eligibility criteria.

“Small businesses are the heart of Ontario’s economy,” said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. “The Ontario Small Business Support Grant will help thousands of small businesses get through this difficult time, while

strengthening our province’s economic recovery.”

“As the son of two small business owners, I understand what small businesses mean to the families, employees, and local communities they support,” said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction. “Our hard-working businesses can be encouraged that the government’s new Ontario Small Business Support Grant offers yet another helping hand that will give them the boost they need to meet the challenges of today and prepare for a brighter tomorrow.”

Businesses impacted by the province-wide shutdown are also eligible for additional supports, including the government’s program to provide rebates to offset fixed costs such as property tax and energy bills. These rebates will continue to be available for businesses impacted by the Provincewide Shutdown and earlier restrictions.

More information about the Ontario Small Business Support Grant and other rebates is available on Ontario.ca/COVIDsupport.

The businesses must demonstrate they experienced a revenue decline of at least 20 per cent when comparing monthly revenue in April 2019 and April 2020. This time period was selected because it reflects the impact of the public health measures in spring 2020, and as such provides a representation of the possible impact of these latest measures on small businesses.

New businesses established since April 2019 will also be eligible if they meet the other eligibility criteria. They will be able to select alternative months for comparing revenue decline through the application portal. In addition, winter seasonal businesses, such as ski hills, will be permitted to compare revenue from December 2019 or January 2020 to December 2020.

## Residential evictions are on hold

The Ontario government has issued an emergency order to temporarily pause the enforcement of residential evictions and ensure people are not forced to leave their homes during the provincial declaration of emergency and while the stay-at-home-order is in force.

“By temporarily pausing residential evictions, we are ensuring that all Ontarians are able to stay home, stay safe, and save lives,” said Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “Our government will ensure that residential evictions continue to be paused for the remainder of the state of emergency, as long as it lasts.”

This is the second time in less than a year that the province has paused residential evictions. This emergency order will also protect homeowners who are facing evictions due to court orders for possession of their properties.

Since the onset of COVID-19, Ontario has introduced a number of measures to protect tenants and provide supports to those most affected by the pandemic, such as freezing rent so the vast majority of Ontario’s residential tenants will not see an increase this year. Changes to the Residential Tenancies Act also require the Landlord and Tenant Board to consider whether a landlord attempted to negotiate a repayment agreement, before resorting to an eviction for non-payment of rent during COVID-19.

“We’re encouraging landlords and tenants to work together – as they have been doing for the last several months – to ensure that we keep Ontarians safe,” said Minister Clark. “We want to remind tenants who can pay their rent that they must continue to do so, to the best of their abilities.”

The latest modelling trends in key public health indicators have continued to worsen, forecasting an overwhelming of the health system unless drastic action is taken. The pause on residential evictions is one part of the province’s plan to stop the spread of COVID-19.

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with questions.

## Council okays subdivision, wants calming measures implemented

By Mark Pavilons  
Editor

Local Journalism Initiative

King wants to mitigate traffic and safety issues before a Schomberg subdivision is built.

Councillors approved staff recommendations to pave the way for Forestbrook Hills phase 2, off of Roselena Drive in Schomberg.

This “extension” of the existing community has been in the works for years, with plans dating back to 2016. A draft plan and bylaw amendments were submitted by the proponents in 2017 and a public meeting was first held in 2018.

The plan has been revised, and now includes 51 single-detached homes on the lands, which will be accessed from an extension of Roselena, crossing the river and forming a new intersection with Church Street. The extension of Roselena, staff said, will facilitate the connection of the existing community as envisioned in the Community Plan.

Protecting the Schomberg River is important, and measures will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts. Also, staff said a hardwood forest adjacent to the development will be enhanced with buffers intended for replanting.

The plan also includes a reasonable transition of lot sizes. Curbs, gutters and a sidewalk will be installed at the frontage of the development abutting Church Street. Retaining walls will be necessary in some spots.

Commenting agencies such as King, LSRCA and York Region have no objections, noting any outstanding matters will be addressed during the draft plan approval stage.

This type of development is permitted and even supported by residents.

The main concerns surround traffic and pedestrian safety. Residents contend when the extension to Roselena takes place, it will create a bypass through the neighbourhood.

Staff said Roselena would be a second principle entrance for the

development and would allow water services to be “looped” and provide optimal response times for emergency vehicles. Right now, more than 100 homes are served by a single access at Roselena and Moore Park Drive.

“Two fully maintained road access points would also foster better traffic flow and protect for future transportation-transit planning,” staff said.

Staff also noted that King’s new Traffic Calming Strategy can help in terms of alleviating potential traffic woes, such as speeding. Staff suggested that Roselena be considered for “passive traffic calming techniques,” which include signage and markings used to slow traffic. Staff also said the developer will have to build and maintain the calming measures, and monitor traffic on an ongoing basis.

Residents, however, are not completely convinced. While they support new housing, they point to safety and speeding as major concerns.

One resident said compromises need to be made, and he’d like to see a double cul-de-sac, instead of the connection of Roselena with Church. Opening Roselena will only compound the problem, he said, adding this new phase need to be done with safety in mind.

One resident did a house-to-house survey prior to the recent virtual council meeting. He said most residents thought the cul-de-sac was the preferred option.

Other residents pointed to the quality of life, stressing the character of the existing neighbourhood needs to be maintained.

Planner Paul Kulyk aid staff don’t support the double cul-de-sac. He noted the Township now has the benefit of the traffic strategy to help guide them. The developer, he said, is obligated to implement the traffic control measures. A lot of the concerns, he said, point to driver behaviour, and it’s difficult to design for behaviour.

Councillor Bill Cober put forth an addition to the recommendations. It calls for traffic mitigation measures be included in the design.

# HAHN

LAW FIRM

Real Estate Law | Corporate Law

**905-638-8888**

lhahn@hahnlaw.ca

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**Rob Payne**  
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# Self-discovery course helps beat the pandemic blues

By Julia Galt

“It’s so important to know you’re not suffering alone. Other people are having trouble too, and it’s okay to feel whatever you are feeling.”

Jennifer Schramm is a registered counsellor and life coach with over 15 years’ experience working with patients affected by anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, disordered eating, addictions, and more. In the past year, she’s seen the hardship and isolation of COVID-19 mark a sharp increase in mental health issues and concerns.

“We’re seeing so many people who are anxious, depressed, frustrated, and scared, who are alone at home and not connecting with others,” said Schramm. “It’s so important to talk to someone and know you’re not alone.”

Sometimes, the best solutions are the simplest ones. Working from Sherwood Farm, a picturesque retreat in the heart of rural King, Schramm incorporates the serenity of nature, from the silence of the countryside to the kinship of the farm’s horses, into her services. Her counselling includes equine-facilitated therapy – learning more about oneself by interacting with horses – while sessions often take place in the farm’s barn and paddocks.

“Most of us are always in our heads, but you have to be in your body to interact and communicate with horses,” said Schramm. “Being around them helps people learn how to set boundaries and how to understand their own body’s language and messages, instead of just listening to the stress of the mind.”

To best help individuals on their journey of self-acceptance and discovery, Schramm offers both individual counselling and a more intensive personal discovery course. Working alongside 6-8 fellow learners, clients will learn how to listen to their bodies, connect with their intuition, explore their emotions, and harness their inner strength to become the best possible version of themselves. The goal of the course, Schramm says, is to know yourself on a deeper level than

ever before and to make peace with the things that cannot be changed. In light of recent lockdowns, she’s currently operating via individual and group Zoom sessions.

“It’s an opportunity to be vulnerable, to have a safe space to discuss things that may have been kept inside for years and years, and to share in a place without judgement,” said Schramm. “It’s a safe and confidential place to release the shame, fear, and troubles that can otherwise fester inside oneself and cause mental health issues.”

Split into two, 12-week modules with a third, on self-love and relationships, coming soon, Schramm’s course includes 12 online weekly group sessions, a two-day intensive retreat at Sherwood Farms, individual and group activities, and more per module, with an estimated time commitment of 3 hours a week. Each week explores a different topic, diving deep into themes like forgiveness, connecting with your inner child, compassion, taking responsibility, and more. The first module is set to begin Jan. 27, and will take place exclusively over Zoom until COVID-19 regulations allow otherwise.

Schramm encourages anyone wanting to make a change in their life to call 416-277-4950 for a free, 15-minute discovery talk.

“My goal is for people to know themselves better, to explore themselves mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually,” said Schramm.

Though she works primarily with women, male clients are more than welcome to work with Schramm as well. The only requirement, she says, is a willingness to be open, learn more about yourself, and foster a deeper connection with the world.

“Once you start to understand and know yourself, you start to do things that are right for you,” said Schramm. “When you’re not connected to yourself, you do things that can make you feel upset and suffer. But it doesn’t have to be that way.”

For more information, please visit [www.jenniferschramm.com](http://www.jenniferschramm.com).



## So many options for energy

From Page 6

States in the USA are starting to turn their backs on gas-fired power plants, as explained at <https://www.wri.org/blog/2019/07/natural-gas-beat-coal-us-will-renewables-and-storage-soon-beat-natural-gas>

In the U.S., there is a worry that gas-fired plants will become uneconomic stranded assets.

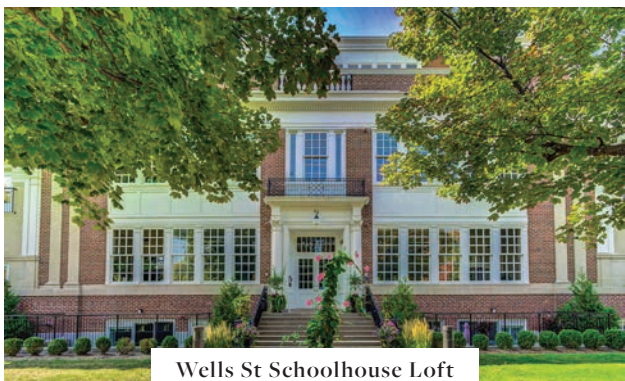
In Canada, a ‘stranded asset’ ALWAYS means taxpayers get hit with all the costs, and that is something else to consider. It is time that taxpayers were consulted through regular referenda regarding the use of their tax dollars. This doesn’t necessarily mean a tax cut, but taxpayers should be able to decide where a portion of their tax dollars are applied. I want a chunk of my taxes to go to Conservation Authorities, watershed planning, and mandatory public consultations. Add in Citizen Panels who can make real decisions affecting their communities, instead of citizen disenfranchisement due to some form of cronyism or backroom deals.

Now is the time to modernize Ontario’s energy mix because there are so many new and better options. Instead, we get delays and back-pedaling from this Conservative government. It’s like Ontario is in a time machine, and we are heading back to 1950 with larger governments, more developers, a population three times the size, and a fragmented degraded landscape ... and loads of Tory “blue tape,” used to gag the public, while wrapping up the remaining landscape, topped with a big blue bow, bestowed upon developers as a gift.

Vicki Hottel  
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KingWeeklySentinel

# Arts & Entertainment

## How one special hawk owl made Schomberg popular

By Robert Belardi

You don't know what you have until it is gone.

Schomberg witnessed a Northern hawk owl come to town last year. Residents, witnessed this unique creature soar through the brisk-cool air and photographers and birders from far afield, had the pleasure of taking exquisite snap-shots. Its presence is tantamount to its rarity. It isn't every day a hawk owl flaps its wings and decides to fly hours south of its normal habitat.

In fact, when bird photographer and Scarborough resident Ed McAskill found out a Northern hawk owl was present at the Dufferin Marsh, he knew this was something historic.

"A hawk owl normally doesn't migrate from its breeding grounds. When a lot of chicks are born, they simply run out of food. They come south looking for food. And, Dufferin Marsh, is probably a duplicate of its environment in the north. They call this an eruption."

Hawk owl's breed once a year, anywhere between 3-13 chicks at a time. But, 13, is seemingly a one-off. McAskill

says anywhere between three to six is more like it.

The Northern hawk-owl behaves like a hawk. The bird will hunt throughout the day and roost at night; instead of the normal habitat of an owl which is more popularly known for being nocturnal.

This owl hunts meat-based prey. McAskill saw this owl hunt its favourite food voles and other small rodent-sized animals. The hawk owl cached the vole and even tried chasing after a hare.

The bird will sit up high and hunt. It found its comfort at the top of the tallest tree in the marsh. Its sight, stretches up to a half-a-mile long. Prey never escapes its sight.

"I was just completely blown away by how it behaved," McAskill said. "When a hawk owl does show up, normally, you wouldn't see it out in the open like it was at Dufferin Marsh. It would be in a spot where it would be hard to get to or hard to see. But at Dufferin-Marsh, because it was able to hunt in the open, everyone got to see this and everyone was blown away."

McAskill got to see this bird walk, eat, fly, eat snow and bathe. This owl wasn't fazed by the amount of people flocking over its beauty. It embraced the human interest and vastly became Schomberg's celebrity; whether it knew it or not.

When word continued to spread, people travelled from as far as Michigan and Pennsylvania to come lay their eyes on this remarkable creature. A couple, even travelled from Germany to check out the bird.

"I will travel three to four hours to see a bird. But, from people to come



from Germany to see this bird. That goes to show you how special this bird was to be there."

When the bird finally decided it was time to return to its natural habitat and say goodbye to Schomberg, McAskill was ready to print a poster for himself and he came up with the idea of including other photographers. He had reached out to ask if they wanted to contribute.

He posted it on Facebook and one of his friends, is mutual friends with Susan Heslop, who is a member of the Schomberg Community Group. It was published on the community page and residents garnered more of an interest. They wanted to buy it.

All proceeds were going to be given to the King Township Food Bank.

"Carol (Ann Trabert) from the food bank, was the one who suggested that something permanent should be done in Schomberg about the owl," McAskill said.

Trabert got a hold of Sabrina Furfaro at Nik Nak Nook in Schomberg to sell the posters for \$15. Posters are still

available now.

McAskill designed three posters in total and one is set to be presented at the Dufferin Marsh permanently on display.

Its presence, naturally tranquil, may or may not be back ever again. These posters, are one of a kind.

McAskill deeply thanked Randy at Motive Media and Brent Hayhoe from Stream Filtration By Cedar Springs Water for their help in printing these posters. He would also like to thank photographer Helena Chu, Dufferin Marsh board member Mary Asselstine, Dufferin Marsh Chair Charles Cooper, photographer Connie Miller, Carol Ann Trabert, Susan Heslop and Sabrina Furfaro for all of their help and their contributions to make this concerted effort a monumental success.

And while Schomberg reminisces in its historic moment. It's one that will not be forgotten and one you can tell your children one day, that a rare bird brought a town closer together and expanded a small community, far and wide.

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# 'Up Your Life' guide showcases community resources

An updated community resource aiming to help people in York Region navigate their way through life is now available.

The "Up Your Life" guide is a collection of more than 400 community resource listings, tips, personal stories of struggle and resilience and other helpful information for people living in York Region.

The updated edition has been revised to reflect changes to services due to the current pandemic and is sorted into sections that address issues like food and food insecurity, shelter and housing support, clothing and furniture and much more.

The guide also serves as a handy companion to Up Hub, York Region's only comprehensive digital and print social services directory and storytelling initiative created in partnership with peers or people with lived experience dealing with mental health conditions and addictions.

"There's a real cost to people's mental health in terms of increased loneliness, social isolation, anxiety and depression," said Charlene Biggerstaff, Up Hub's project coordinator. "We hope this guide will serve as a gift to the community to help them cope during these challenging times."

"The updated Up Your Life guide is an easy-to-navigate directory that can help community members connect to key services, with new sections for youth, newcomers, abuse survivors, seniors, 2SLGBTQ+ folks, new mothers, First Nations, Metis and Inuit and other vulnerable groups," adds Biggerstaff.

Formerly known as the York Region on a Limited Budget book, the guide was originally inspired by a group of individuals who wondered how they could eat and live better, but do so inexpensively. A committee was formed by people living on limited incomes and they were given an opportunity to research options for stretching one's budget. The first edition of the guide was published in 1997 as a result of their work.

Since then, York Support Services Network (YSSN), a community-based, non-profit agency offering a range of

case management and community crisis services throughout York Region and South Simcoe to support people with a developmental disability and/or a serious mental illness, has continued to update, print and publish the guide, with the assistance of peers and the public.

Being a part of the project has had a lasting impact on those involved:

"I developed my own family of people that actually cared about me," shares Margaret Anderson-Clarke, a current member of Up Hub's Peer Advisory Committee, comprised of people with lived experience with mental health conditions and addictions who hope that their collective information and personal stories will pay-it-forward and help others navigate through similar situations.

The guide has grown in popularity over the years and has garnered the interest and generous support of valued community partners. More than 30,000 copies of the previous edition were distributed.

The new Up Your Life guide, made possible in large part thanks to a \$457,600 Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) Grow grant from 2017, will be available at community service agencies across York Region by the end of the year, but only in limited quantities due to funding restrictions. YSSN hopes that the local community will continue to help pay-it-forward by supporting the initiative so that the publication will be accessible and available to those who need it in the future.

"Each copy of the Up Your Life guide has the potential to connect our community to vital services and resources," emphasizes Kimberly Thorn, YSSN's executive director. "We're grateful to our partners and funders like OTF for ensuring that we reach our goal of helping economically vulnerable people more easily access community services."

York Support Services Network (YSSN) is a community-based non-profit agency that offers a range of case management and community crisis services throughout York Region and South Simcoe helping people with developmental disabilities, children with

complex needs and people with mental health conditions navigate through life's challenges. For more information: [www.yssn.ca](http://www.yssn.ca)

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Govern-

ment of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations. OTF awarded \$115 million to 644 projects last year to build healthy and vibrant communities in Ontario. [www.otf.ca](http://www.otf.ca)



## Caledon OPP investigating fatal shooting in Bolton

Few details were available (at press time) surrounding a fatal shooting that occurred Jan. 18 in Bolton.

Caledon OPP report that on Jan. 18 at approximately 12:26 p.m., officers responded to a reported shooting in the area of Harvest Moon Drive, Bolton, in the Town of Caledon.

Upon arrival, officers located two male victims. One was pronounced deceased at the scene and the second victim was injured and transported to a hospital.

The investigation is ongoing by the Caledon Detachment Major Crime Unit under the direction of the Criminal Investigation Branch. Anyone with additional information regarding this homicide is asked to contact the Caledon OPP at 905-584-2241 or toll-free at 1-888-310-1122.

You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at [www.peelcrimestoppers.ca](http://www.peelcrimestoppers.ca). When you contact Crime Stoppers, you stay anonymous, you never have to testify, and you could receive a cash reward of up to \$2,000 upon an arrest.

More information will be communicated as it becomes available.

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# Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital part of pandemic response

The Ontario government is providing up to \$125 million to immediately add over 500 critical care and high intensity medicine beds to hospitals in areas with high rates of COVID-19 transmission. A portion of the funding will also be used to temporarily transition Mackenzie Health's Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital into a system-wide resource supporting the province's COVID-19 response when the new hospital is scheduled to open on Feb. 7.

These initiatives will help relieve pressures on nearby hospitals due to rapid increases in hospitalization and ICU occupancy rates.

Details were provided Monday by Premier Doug Ford and Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health.

"The Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital is the first newly built hospital in three decades and this net new capacity will be critical until we are in a position to widely administer vaccines across the province," said Premier Ford. "I want to especially thank Mackenzie Health for stepping up to allow us to temporarily use this new facility to support our COVID-19 response and take pressure off other hospitals in the region. It's these kinds of innovative partnerships that make a world of difference in our fight against this deadly virus."

Initially, Mackenzie Health's Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital will provide a total of 185 beds, including over 35 critical care beds and 150 general medicine beds, which will support patients from other hospitals and alleviate hospital capacity pressures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Once COVID-19 capacity pressures have stabilized, the new hospital will provide care and services to patients from across the western York Region as originally planned, including emergency and modern surgical services, and offer advanced diagnostic imaging capabilities, intensive care beds, medicine, birthing, pediatrics and mental health services, as well as the York Region District Stroke Centre.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ontario's government has been working with its hospital partners to create unprecedented capacity and be

ready to respond to any scenario. The province invested an additional \$2.5 billion in our province's hospital sector this year, and the new beds announced today at Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital and across the province are in addition to the more than 3,100 beds funded by the province as part of its COVID-19 response.

"Our government is using every tool at our disposal to support our hospitals as they respond to COVID-19," said Minister Elliott. "This new funding will help to alleviate capacity pressures being faced by hospitals, allowing our health care system to work more seamlessly and effectively to keep Ontarians safe. We will continue to work together with all our hospitals and health care partners to care for those affected by this deadly virus."

To further support frontline health care workers caring for patients during the pandemic, Ontario has also amended O. Reg 74/20 (Work Redeployment for Certain Health Services Providers) in response to the increasing demands on hospitals and retirement homes. The amended order will allow hospitals to temporarily redeploy health care workers to other hospitals or retirement homes that urgently need additional support. The order was previously amended to allow hospital staff to temporarily work in long-term care homes.

The province continues to work with its hospital partners to further enhance capacity as required.

The government is investing \$18 billion over the next 10 years in hospital infrastructure projects across Ontario that will lead to \$27 billion in capital investments and \$175 million in repairs and upgrades to 129 hospitals this year

through the Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund.

Operations at Mackenzie Richmond Hill Hospital will continue as they are while Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital temporarily focuses on supporting the province's short-term pandemic response. The Emergency Department at Mackenzie Richmond Hill Hospital will remain open to serve the community. The Emergency Department at Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital will not open until the system has stabilized. Program transfers planned for Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital, such as Woman and Child, Inpatient Mental Health and Inpatient Integrated Stroke, will not proceed at this time.

As Ontario's first net new hospital in over 30 years, Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital was built to help solve hospital capacity challenges in the Greater Toronto Area and end hallway health care.

As part of Mackenzie Health, Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital will feature fully integrated smart technology systems and medical devices that have the capability to interact directly with one another to provide real-time information and anticipate the patient's and the hospital's needs to enhance the patient experience.

The latest modelling projects ICU occupancy to be as high as 1,000 beds by early February in the most severe, but realistic scenarios, with deaths expected to double from 50 to 100 deaths per day between now and the end of February.

A stay-at-home order is in effect. Ontarians are required to remain at home except for essential purposes such as food, health care, exercise, or work. Stay home, stay safe, save lives.

## COVID-19 vaccine update in York

York Region Public Health continues to work closely with long-term care homes in York Region to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to all residents, staff and essential caregivers who consent and are able to receive the vaccine

All 28 long-term care homes have been delivered Moderna vaccines.

As of Jan. 15:

- 5,190 doses delivered to long-term care homes and 1,620 to retirement homes (total 6,810 doses).

- 2,831 doses administrated to long-term care residents (not including staff and essential caregivers).

- 1,320 doses administrated to staff and essential caregivers in long-term care homes; will increase as more doses are administrated.

- 1,569 residents and 91 staff and caregivers in retirement homes immunized.

York Region received 8,400 doses of Moderna vaccine on Dec. 31, 2020 and 600 additional doses Friday, Jan. 15, 2021 for a total of 9,000 doses

Delivery of Moderna to retirement homes has currently stopped to re-allocate the Pfizer vaccine to the homes in an effort to hold back a second dose for long-term care home residents, staff and essential caregiver who received a first dose of Moderna.

As such, the remaining doses, 2,190 are being held back as second doses for those in long-term care and retirement homes who already received the first dose.

Some catch-up of long-term residents, for example those not able to receive the vaccine at previous visits due to being COVID-19 positive or consent not provided by substitute decision-makers, were done Jan. 14 and 16.

Total number of long-term care residents in 28 homes in York Region: 3,724

Total number of retirement home residents in York Region: 3,463

Updates will be provided when available at [york.ca/covid19vaccine](http://york.ca/covid19vaccine)

To help educate and raise awareness around the prioritization of vaccines to all Canadians, a Vaccine Calculator has been linked on [york.ca/covid19vaccine](http://york.ca/covid19vaccine)

## York Catholic board elects new chair, vice-chair

At its annual inaugural board meeting on Dec. 7, the York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) elected Dominic Mazzotta, Trustee for Richmond Hill, as Chair of the Board and Carol Cotton, Trustee for Markham Area 1, as Vice-Chair.

Dominic Mazzotta has been a trustee for 10 years and previously held the position of chair in 2018-2019. Prior to being elected as a trustee, Mazzotta was a YCDSB principal, vice principal and teacher during a 30-year career as an educator.

Carol Cotton has served the Markham community as a Trustee for 24 years. She previously held the position of chair from 2015-2017 and vice-chair for eight years between 2001 and 2015. Ms. Cotton is also currently serving as Regional Director, representing YCDSB, at the Ontario Catholic School Trustee Association (OCSTA) since 2010.

The newly elected chair and vice-chair will serve a one-year term.

To learn more about the role of trustee, visit [www.ycdsb.ca/trustees/](http://www.ycdsb.ca/trustees/).

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## King names new public works director

King Township is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Samantha Fraser, P. Eng. as Director of Public Works effective Jan. 11.

Ms. Fraser has 19 years of experience in Public Works supporting Water and Wastewater Treatment, Storm Water Management and Solid Waste Management. She also has Water and Wastewater Equipment Manufacturing experience in the private sector.

Ms. Fraser most recently held the position of Manager of Design and Construction for the Don River and Central Waterfront Unit with the City of Toronto. In this capacity she oversaw the delivery of a \$2.1 billion, 10-year construction program consisting of complex projects related to wastewater and storm water infrastructure.

Ms. Fraser is a licenced Professional Engineer and brings to King innovative project delivery, stakeholder management and customer service excellence.

“We look forward to having Samantha join the Senior Leadership Team and lead the Public Works Department,” said Chief Administrative Officer of King Daniel Kostopoulos. “Her experience, strategic thinking and initiative will be a strength to the Public Works Team and King as a whole. We strive for continued improvement and innovation, and Samantha is aligned with this philosophy.”

“On behalf of King Council and staff, I extend a warm welcome to Samantha in joining the King family,” Kostopoulos added.



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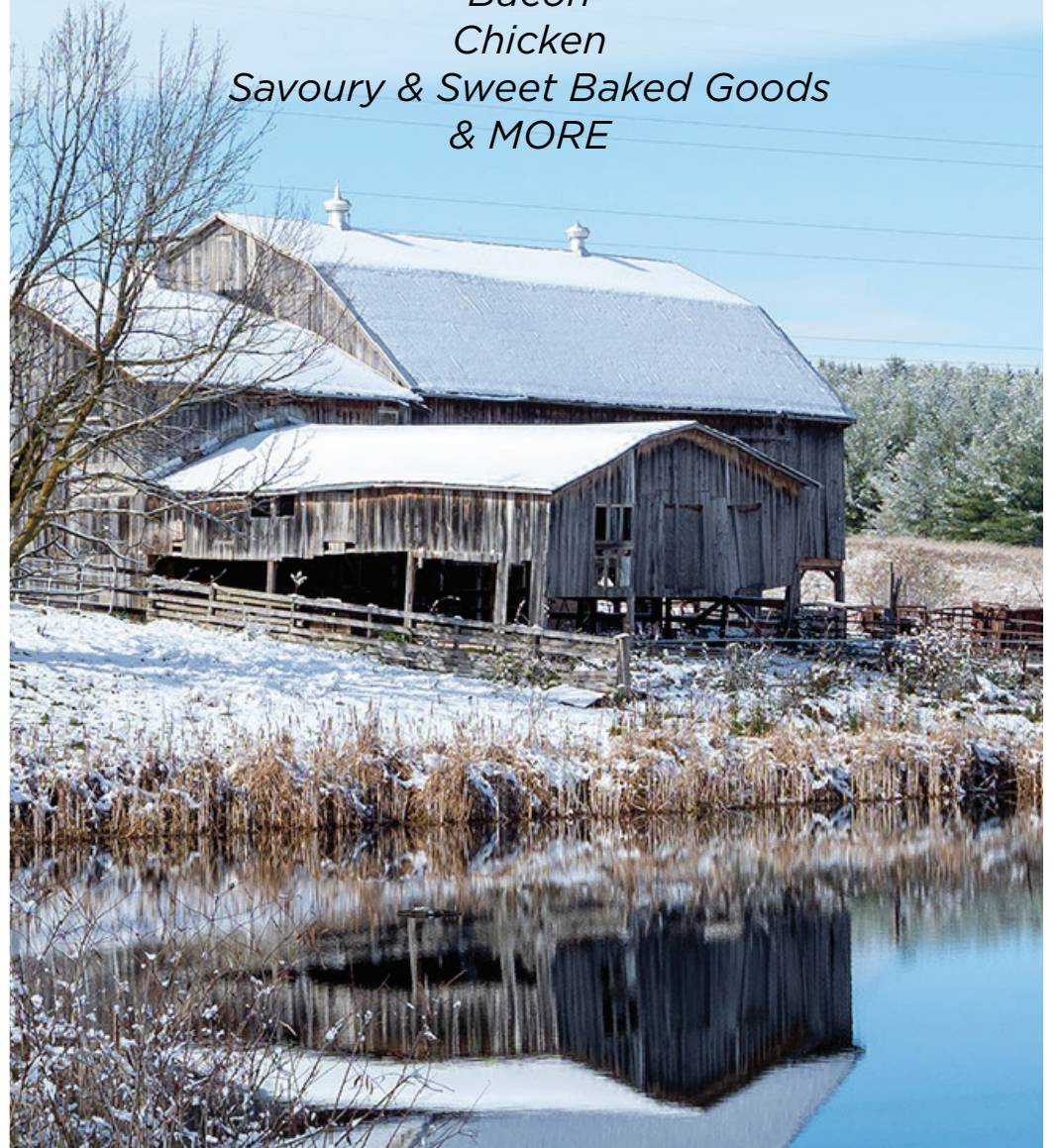


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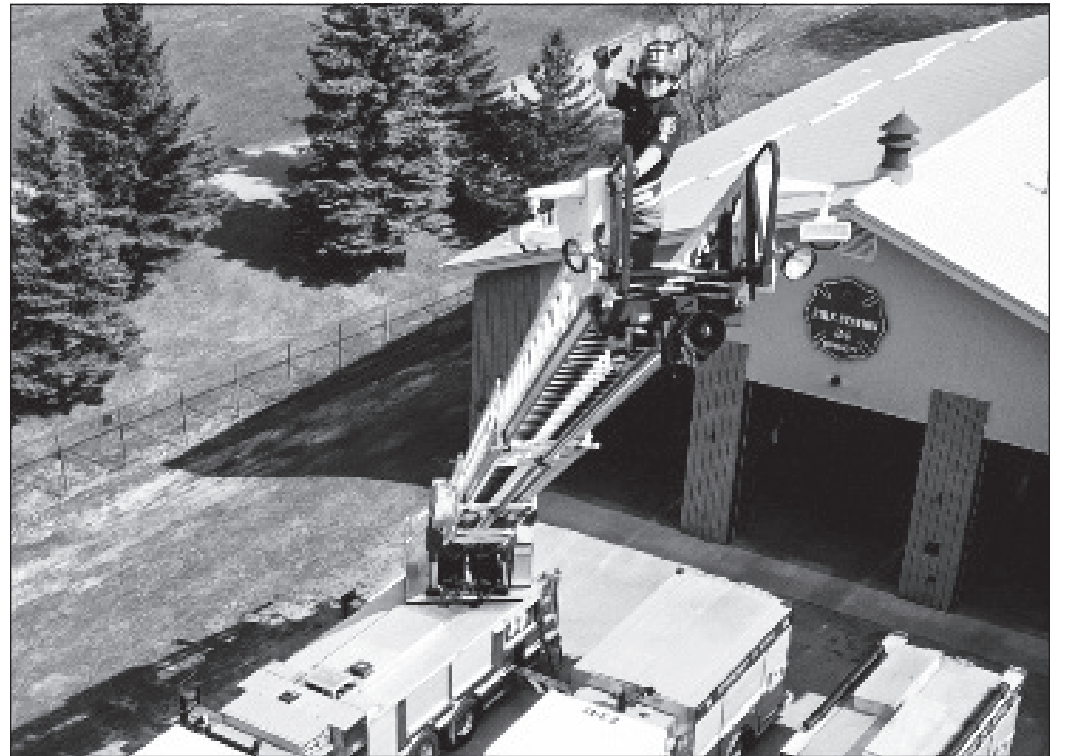
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### *Strength in community*

During the pandemic there has been a number of interesting campaigns launched on social media platforms. The #24hour black and white photo empowerment challenge is one of them.

The campaign has focused on different demographics. Many will recall the original focus encouraging women to post photos capturing moments of empowerment – a campaign so successful it gained celebrity participation and national coverage.

Recently the theme continued into the field of Emergency Services. Momentum quickly built among King Fire and Emergence Services.

Gathered is a collection of photos posted by KFES colleagues feeling empowered by the work that they do, the commitment they share as members of an incredible team and their collective strength in service.

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## Orangetheory coaching right from the screen

By Robert Belardi

Orangetheory confirmed all 100 locations across Canada will be leading work-out sessions virtually on Orangetheory Live, the science-based gym confirmed last Thursday.

Coaches will be offering real-time motivation in a period where exercising has seen a dramatic decline.

“While there are a multitude of at-home workouts available to Canadians, both free and paid, every one of these offerings fail to deliver on the most critical component of a successful fitness routine – the accountability and motivation that can only be delivered by a live local coach,” said Blake MacDonald, president of Orangetheory Canada, in the release.

“Our goal is to deliver world-class interactive, coach-led training to our members, regardless of the government timeline to re-open studios.”

Based on a scientific approach, Orangetheory believes in excess post-exercise oxygen consumption (EPOC).

Exercise sessions are designed for patrons to use 84 to 91 per cent of their

maximum heart rate in a one-hour session, consisting of cardio and weight training.

“You can connect your OTbeat Burn heart rate monitor so you and your coach can track your splat points and see your personalized results in real-time. Doing so gives you the motivation you need to get you through your workout and helps your coach make sure you don’t overtrain or under-train,” MacDonald said.

For every minute of exercise, within the 84 to 91 percentile, one splat point will be awarded. If you achieve 12 splat points in a session, according to the science, your body will burn calories for 36 hours at a much faster rate.

As an in-home exercise over Orangetheory Live, a sole proprietor similar to Zoom, this is quite different than in-person sessions. Member associate Nicholas Hunt at the Bolton location says members have been pleasantly surprised with their results.

“A lot of people are skeptical when it comes to a virtual work out. You don’t really see how good it can be. Once we’ve had members come out, they



almost get the same amount of splat points as they would in studio and almost the same calorie burn,” Hunt explained.

With virtual workouts, coaches understand not every member will have exercise equipment at their disposal at home. Orangetheory, is basing at-home sessions as cardio-based sessions and body-weight exercises. Equipment is simply a bonus.

As for packages, members are encouraged to purchase a package deal and Orangetheory has reduced the

prices.

The premiere package enabling a member to exercise at any time, will be reduced by \$50, an elite package with the availability to exercise eight times a month is reduced by \$50 and the basic package will be reduced by \$20 for four sessions a month.

“Orangetheory will continue to innovate as a response to Canadian health and fitness preferences. At this time, Orangetheory Live will be permanently included as a membership option,” MacDonald said.

## Trisan Live – get fit at home!

The Township of King is excited to offer Trisan Live, a virtual monthly fitness membership that allows you to get an amazing workout from the comfort of your living room!

Trisan Live offers a variety of classes from Yoga to Bootcamp to Pilates and much more. Each month will feature ten live classes a week via the Zoom application and every month will bring new classes to keep your workouts fun and effective. Trisan Live has even re-kindled with past members who have moved and are give them the chance to see their favourite instructors, live in their home!

Brigitte Gregoire, former member of the Trisan centre before relocating to Alberta in 2017, has re-connected with Trisan virtually and has picked up right where she has left off.

“Having relocated from Nobleton to Alberta a few years ago, I truly missed my daily fitness classes at the Trisan Centre in Schomberg. I was a member there from 2013-2017. COVID restrictions across Canada has made it difficult for me to find the perfect virtual on-line fitness program. I decided to research some more and found, by chance that the Township of King was offering fitness programs live through virtual programming. Joyfully on Jan. 11, even with a two hour difference in Alberta, I reconnected with my favorite instructors. I’m getting support from these wonderful ladies, using my theatre room big screen! It actually feels like I’m at the facility with them. I’ve missed them tremendously since leaving Ontario. Virtually, I can feel their energy, their enthusiasm, their passion they have for fitness and their clients. This is my perfect solution during our recommended stay at home period across Canada.”

According to Anthony Turosky, Active Living Coordinator at King, one of the members is 82 and she attributes her health to staying active.

Turosky added the sense of community developed at the centre is unmatched as it is a tight-knit atmosphere.

“A lot of our senior population feel intimidated by a gym setting and I think this will help lessen those fears and get our seniors up and moving,” he said,

They also offer a walking track from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Monday to Friday free of charge, and a community exercise class that is free of charge and designed for those who want a lighter, low-impact workout. The track is great for seniors because it is often too hot in the summer to go outside or too slippery in the winter.

Stop by and try a class for only \$5 a class or \$40 for unlimited classes for the month!

For details on how to register, to view the class schedule and much more, please visit the Recreation & Living section at the [king.ca](http://king.ca) website or contact [aturosky@king.ca](mailto:aturosky@king.ca).



## Strong Play is an educational avenue

By Robert Belardi

Six years ago, the dream began.

Volunteers of Strong Play, Adib Razavi and Alexander Arthur, always had a sentimental idea of running a not-for-profit service to support families in need.

Initially, the service was intended to be solely in-person. However, a few years back, both highly driven individuals formulated an idea, predicated on providing a virtual service. Fast-forward to last year, when the global pandemic began, the virtual idea became the focal point.

Strong Play became a program to provide youth education in sports, technology and the arts.

“We wanted to be able to provide programming for youth in athletics and technology and anything related to enhance their knowledge and anything in the Canadian culture,” Razavi said.

Receiving help from Canadian Red Cross, Strong Play was a successful project this summer. Offered in six, eight- or 12-week sessions, Strong Play served 820 youth across the Greater Toronto Area.

Technology-based classes such as coding, 3D design, digital imaging, graphic design and financial literacy courses taught students every-day essentials. It also offered virtual coaching in soccer, basketball and dance. All of these meet mental health standards and needs for youth and some education on the COVID-19 virus.

“We’ve been able to design all of these programs with community partnerships in mind as well. A lot of parents have given us feedback on what has been useful in the past,” Arthur said.

“The beautiful thing about Strong Play and having these programs for free and running them through Canadian Red Cross, is we’re able to bring programs, that would otherwise be premium programs, to anyone with access to a computer.”

See ‘Virtual’ on Page 16



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# Virtual play opportunities are now limitless

From Page 15

Students were provided with equipment this summer as per the grant from Canadian Red Cross. Parents had the availability to pick up the items before anything began.

As for students without access to technology, in-person holiday camps were available all summer.

Both Razavi and Arthur contacted 412 schools across the Toronto District School Board and York Region District School Board, 31 community centres, six MPs and over 30 private organizations to notify citizens.

Plenty of children in Richmond Hill-Aurora were enrolled. And the plan is to continue to expand, beyond the city and York Region.

Razavi said the beautiful thing, COVID has brought to us is the limitless virtual opportunities. Arthur

added, Strong Play hopes to reach out to as far as other regions including Peel and Simcoe, as well as other provinces and internationally.

"Right now, we're in the process, hopefully with the numbers going down we want to have a location up north. Maybe even Lake Simcoe or Newmarket," Razavi said.

And the program will look to expand to offer services to seniors. Services such as delivering groceries are being considered for seniors who need assistance with that this summer.

For those interested in enrolling their child for Strong Play this upcoming summer, head to [strongplay.ca](http://strongplay.ca) for more information.

You may contact Razavi and Arthur directly as well. To reach them, please email [info.strongplay@gmail.com](mailto:info.strongplay@gmail.com).



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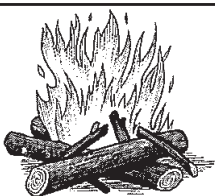
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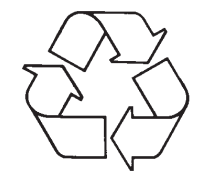
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## Nobleton Notes

By Angie Maccarone

Good news! The next Alpha Course will begin on Wednesday, Feb. 3, running weekly until April 21, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Zoom.

If you are looking for a virtual 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, please go to our website, [stpaulsnobleton.ca](http://stpaulsnobleton.ca), and check out the trailer and find the instructions for registration.

This Sunday, Jan. 24, Jeff's message is entitled, "Eating and Drinking," based on Romans 14:1-23. Due to the lockdown, our in-person gatherings are cancelled until further notice. Our live-streamed broadcasts are available directly on [stpaulsnobleton.ca](http://stpaulsnobleton.ca) or on our YouTube channel live each Sunday at 10 a.m. You can watch previous services or messages anytime, also on our YouTube channel ([youtube.com/stpaulschurchnobleton](http://youtube.com/stpaulschurchnobleton)).

Our women's Life Connect Groups have started up again online, every

Tuesday morning at 9:30. 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 office at [secretary@stpaulsnobleton.ca](mailto:secretary@stpaulsnobleton.ca).

### 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](http://www.spmchurch.ca) and our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/stpstmchurch](http://www.facebook.com/stpstmchurch) to participate in the Livestreamed Mass.

### 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.

If you would like to support our ministry, you can find us on [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org). You can contact Carol-Ann at [ministernobletonschomberg@gmail.com](mailto: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 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!



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*Rumble, Ross Austin*

August 12, 1944 ~ January 12, 2021

At Toronto General Hospital on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, Ross Austin Rumble, of King City, in his 77th year, beloved husband for 51 years of Margaret (née Smythe). Loving father of Janet, Susan, Karen, and David. He is also survived by his brothers, Paul, Bruce, and Glen and their families as well as his sister-in-law Mary. He was predeceased by his parents Austin and Helen Rumble of King City and his infant sister Norma. Ross was employed by the Toronto Star for 47 years, retiring in 2009. He also served as a volunteer fire fighter for the King City Fire Department for a number of years. He will be remembered by many good friends and neighbours for his good nature and laugh. Ross always enjoyed spending time with family and friends, a BBQ, cocktails, a game of cards and reminiscing. He took great pride in his garden and could always be found working outside during the summer. The family wish to thank the cardiac teams at Mount Sinai and Toronto General Hospital for their expert care over the years. Due to the global pandemic, cremation has already taken place. At Ross' request, a private burial will take place at King City Cemetery. If desired, memorial donations may be made to the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario ([www.heartandstroke.ca/](http://www.heartandstroke.ca/)) would be appreciated by the family. Condolences for the family may be offered at [www.EganFuneralHome.com](http://www.EganFuneralHome.com)

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**This country favourite makes the perfect side dish**

"Country cooking" has different connotations depending on where one might be in the world. Many people attest that country cooking involves comfort cuisine foods that originated in the southeastern United States. Quite often such cuisine includes biscuits, gravy, fried chicken, boiled greens, and other delicious items made from simple ingredients.



Corn muffins can be another staple of country cooking. Corn meal is a versatile ingredient that is the star of this simple side dish that can be made sweet or savory with just a few substitutions. Check out this lip-smacking version of corn muffins, from "Virgil's Barbecue Road Trip Cookbook" (St. Martin's Press) by Neal Corman.

**Lip-Smacking Corn Muffins**  
Serves 4-6

- 1 1/3 cups yellow cornmeal
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup, plus 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt
- 3/4 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 cups buttermilk
- 1/2 cup whole milk
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 1/2 8-ounce bag shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup fresh corn kernels
- 3 tablespoons chopped scallions
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
- 1/2 teaspoon hot sauce

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F. Butter a muffin tin and dust it with flour.
2. Thoroughly combine the first six ingredients in the bowl of a stand mixer or a large mixing bowl, if using a hand mixer. Combine and mix the remaining ingredients in a separate mixing bowl.
3. Slowly add the wet mix to the dry, while blending on low speed. Continue blending until entirely incorporated.
4. Fill each muffin tin three-quarters full of the batter. Bake for 18 to 20 minutes, or until light golden brown on top.
5. Remove the muffin tins from the oven and allow to cool for 15 to 20 minutes. Serve slightly warm.

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**King Weekly Sentinel**

# King's Corners

**King City United**  
By Sheryl Sinka

The message in last weeks worship, "How Odd is the Call of God," offered a perspective on those we know have been called, young and old, in the distant past, in the near past and with regards to our own callings.

Rev. Bruce reminded us to be open to the works of God, whose gracious blessings are offered to us and through us as we travel through these uncertain times. Will you allow God to work through you and answer His call?

Our Jan. 24 worship will be available online at 10 a.m. on Sunday with Rev. Bruce Roffey presiding. You can also access the worship off our website at [kcuc.net](http://kcuc.net) If you would like to emails please contact the church at [kcuc@bellnet.ca](mailto:kcuc@bellnet.ca) to be put on the list. We continue to offer our thanks to the many individuals who are fighting this virus and its devastation on the front lines and pray that you and your families remain safe while you continue to fight.

While we continue to remain in grey lockdown in the province of Ontario, we will be worshipping online only. We will update you when we resume on-site worship but we hope that you will stay home, stay safe and join with us virtually. 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.

While we are in grey lockdown in the province of Ontario, we have moved back to worshipping online only. We will update you when we resume on-site worship but we hope that you will

stay home, stay safe and join with us virtually. 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.

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.

Full PDF of the Precautions and Procedures are on our website and if you would like a copy sent to you please contact our office at 905-833-5181.

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.

## King Bible Church

This week we're online on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Pastor Mark will be continuing our sermon series Living Between Two Worlds with a talk about "The Witness of Servanthood."

Living Between Two Worlds - "Elect Exiles," this is the title Peter gave to the recipients of his first letter, Christ followers who found themselves caught living between two worlds, their earthly home and their eternal one. It is also

the reality of every Christian that has ever walked this planet, the pressure of knowing that because of Jesus, we no longer fit in with the world around us, yet also knowing that while we are still here, we are called to be both salt and light to the world around us.

This brings us to the theme of the journey we are going to be taking through the letter of 1 Peter, to learn how to effectively live in this place between two worlds, to understand how our identity in Jesus, informs our actions so that we maintain both our calling to be to be holy and our calling to love others?

Would you commit to joining us in this journey?

All of our services are available through Facebook and YouTube. Missed it? You can also find previous services and sermons on there too. Please visit our website for full details on our sermons as well as other online ministries. [www.kingbiblechurch.com](http://www.kingbiblechurch.com)

## St. Andrew's

By Kathy Patterson

As we continue to worship online together, join us at [standrews-kingcity.ca](http://standrews-kingcity.ca) at 10:15 a.m.

Following the service, "Coffee Fellowship" is held. 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.

Lynn announced last Sunday that virtual Art for the Soul is starting up again on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. Contact Lynn for the Zoom link.

The King Township Food Bank is still continuing with its safe monthly food distribution.

Also, should you need to contact Pastor Niyazi or Irada Bilgen of the Great

Grace Fellowship, call 416-878-8499.

For pastoral care, call or text Lynn Vissers, 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

The provincial state of emergency means we will shut down our church office for the next 28 days, but we will regularly check telephone messages and mail. Worship continues on Zoom at 10:30 Sunday for morning prayer and Compline at 8 p.m.

"Words to live by - Fr. Michael preached from John 1 where Jesus calls Nathaniel: "Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you get to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.'

"What does it mean to be seen and known by God, and how, if we choose, we can start to see the world and one another through God's eyes

"Old age can erase people from the public view, make them feel invisible. Poverty and homelessness can have the same effect. We all want to be seen. That's where our dignity is confirmed, in the eyes of others. Our faith makes dignity real because Jesus wants us all to be visible, and we really see others, we can start to see them as God sees them.

More on Page 19

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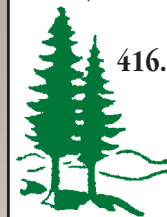
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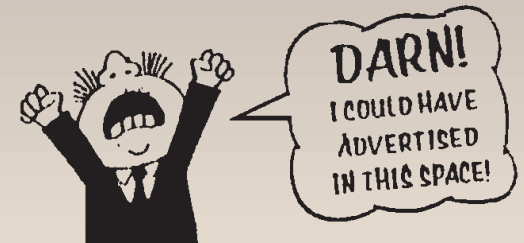
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# King's Corners

From Page 18

“The most interesting part of today’s gospel is how Jesus sees the people around him. In these accounts, there is something remarkable about how Jesus finds these strangers, as if he has known them all their lives and just been waiting for this moment to call them disciples. Just before the start of today’s gospel, one of the first disciples, Andrew, introduces his brother Simon to Jesus. Jesus looks at him, and then immediately gives him another name - Peter.

Why do this, unless Jesus knew Simon thoroughly and saw a destiny that Simon wasn’t aware of (“Mt 16.18, “you are Peter, and on this rock I shall build my church”).

“Then, Jesus goes to Galilee, a region, and John simply tells us that Jesus “found Philip” (Jn 1.43). Jesus simply says “follow me” and Philip follows. Again, there’s a sense of destiny being fulfilled here.

Finally, there is Nathanael, Philip’s brother, who is sceptical and sarcastic when he hears that he has to come and meet the Messiah: A saviour from a hick town? (Jn 1.46). Jesus meets him and compliments him on his honesty. Nathanael notes: ‘How can you say that? You’ve never met me!’ (Jn 1.48). Jesus’ response, that he saw Nathanael ‘under the fig tree’ is one of those moments in John’s gospel when we realize that Jesus sees through God’s eyes with amazing clarity.

“Would you be surprised that Jesus sees you just as clearly, knows you just as well, and has a purpose and a destiny for you? Can he not see you at your workplace, in your car, or in the quiet of your house? If Jesus called these men to follow him, does he not also call us also to go with him?

Does he not also call us into new identities as disciples, as children of God. We go where Jesus goes, to those who need God, and we see with Jesus’s eyes, seeing those who the world no longer sees, respecting those who are no longer granted dignity or worth.

“Jesus gifts his followers the gift of

the visibility, but that gift comes with a responsibility. We who are truly loved by God are given the privilege of seeing the world through God’s eyes. We see those who would otherwise be invisible and forgotten.

At All Saints we discuss housing, cli-

mate change, and reconciliation with our indigenous brothers and sisters. We may not be able to address all these issues equally, but the fact that we see them is because of this gift of visibility, this gift of seeing through God’s eyes, that Jesus has given us.”



## Nobleton Lions boost hospital

The Nobleton Lions Club continues to hold regular meetings including guest presentations via Zoom. Here, Wendy Dias, Principal Gift Officer with the Mackenzie Health Foundation, is shown receiving the club’s annual contribution from Lion Manny Pereira following a recent meeting. Ms. Dias started by thanking the Club for the 30 plus years of financial support and moved on to providing information regarding the Mackenzie Health Hospital in Richmond Hill and the new Cortelucci/Vaughan Hospital, located at Major Mackenzie Drive and Jane Street. The new hospital is scheduled to open in February 2021.

## Webinars aimed at electric vehicles

Climate Action King and the EV Society of Ontario are presenting free webinars to give residents some insight into electric vehicles.

The webinars will take place Wednesday, Feb. 24 and March 24, both at 7 p.m.

If you’re thinking of buying an electric vehicle and have questions, year from experienced owners who will share their thoughts.

EVs are a good way for individuals and businesses to significantly reduce their carbon footprint and this opportunity is a good way to learn about the process. Climate change negatively impact us all ... we are all in this together.

To register, visit [www.ClimateActionKing.ca](http://www.ClimateActionKing.ca)

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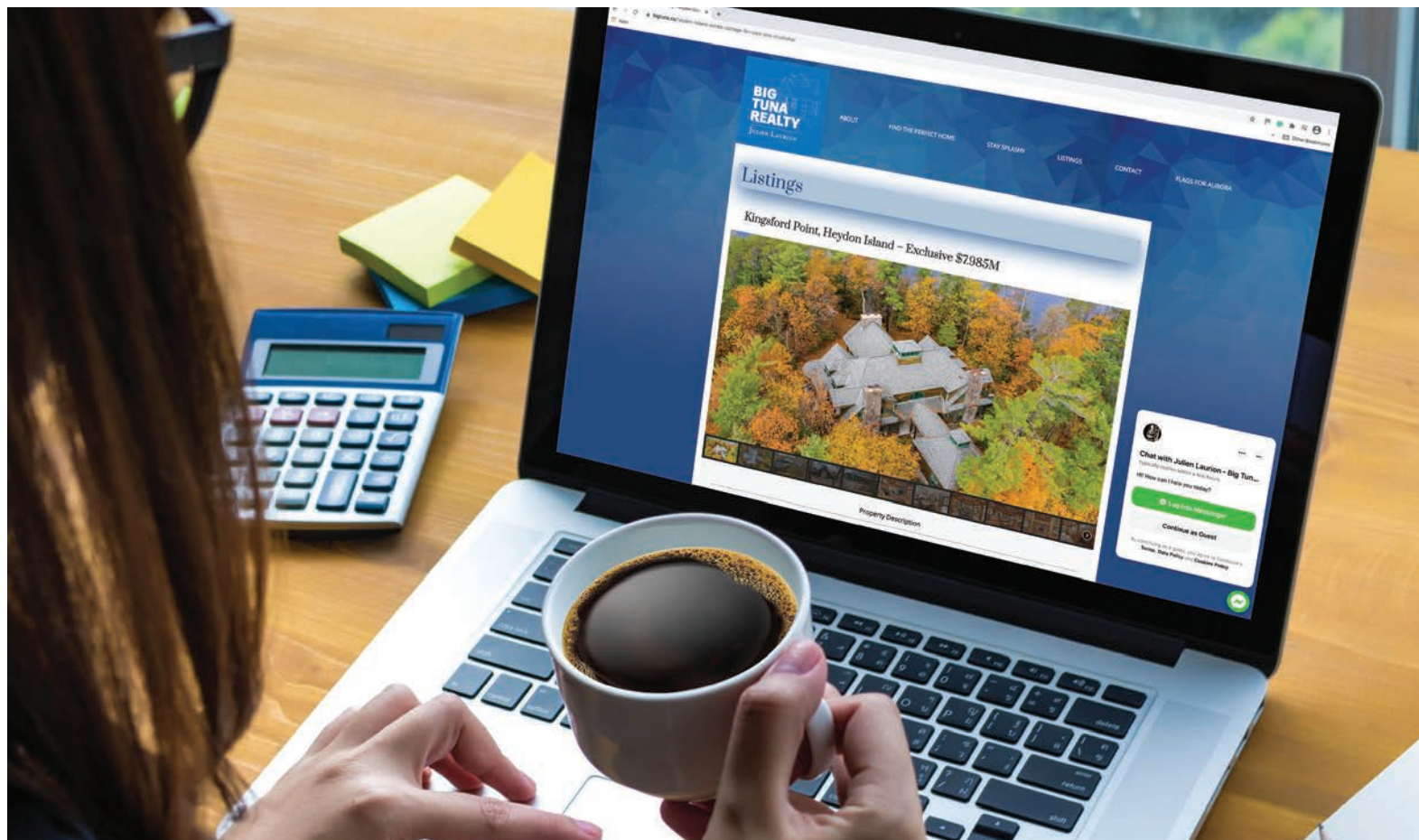
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## Creative ways to get your photos off your phone and enjoy them

(NC) Did you know that today only an average of one in every 100,000 photos are printed?

With most of us taking all our shots on smartphones or digital cameras, we have more images, but fewer tangible records of our best memories.

Fortunately, there are many ways to enjoy your life's precious moments and make sure that they're not just another file in the cloud. Here are some key ways to enjoy your photographs to the fullest:

**1 Don't just print the highlights:** Every moment is print-worthy, from the candid to the curated. Print off and display photos that make you happy, even if they weren't taken in a studio.

**2 Manage digital photos:** Create a yearly album in your cell phone and print a photo book for each year. Instead of printing individual photos and putting them in albums yourself, you can upload them all to a photo book throughout the year. Pro tip: add your favourite photos to a folder on your phone as you take them to save time when sorting later.

**3 Surround yourself with photos:** Hang up, frame and show off your favourite moments with pride. Surrounding yourself with your favourite memories is a great way to decorate your home and brighten your day.

**4 Gift photos:** Use your favourite pictures with friends and family to create unique gifts such as blankets, puzzles, books and canvas art pieces. Fujifilm Printlife is a great and affordable service for making jaw-dropping, high-quality gifts locally in Canada.

Find more gift ideas and ways to enjoy your photographs at [fujifilmprintlife.ca](http://fujifilmprintlife.ca).

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By Julien Laurion  
The Big Tuna of Real Estate

# Real estate and the pandemic

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** Even though the beginning of 2021 looks just like 2020, the great news is there is a vaccine on the horizon which is a game-changer! In the meantime, we must endure and abide by the stay-at-home order and health guidelines that are in place. The spread of COVID 19 is at alarming rates in the province and the GTA. The latest stay-at-home has created considerable confusion around a number of areas. I will try and clarify how this order impacts the world of Real Estate.

Masks are required to be worn at all times! Inside a home, outside a home and anytime you are with people. This has been the case all along, so no change there.

All open houses are BANNED. Full stop.

Virtual options are to be utilized first before an in-person viewing, which is permitted. Realtors are encouraged to use this option as much as possible and may replace an in-person visit if the purchaser is satisfied with what can be observed via video.

If a virtual tour is not available on a specific property, your agent could go into the home and walk you through with a Facetime or Zoom call. This reduces risk by quite a bit since the realtor would be alone in the home. If you would like to see a sample of a virtual tour, feel free to head over to my website [bigtuna.ca](http://bigtuna.ca) and click on my listings tab to see an active listing where I had to employ all the virtual tactics. Not only because of the pandemic, but it's a luxury property on its own private island in Muskoka.

Should the purchaser wish to do an in-person tour of the home, PPE must be in place and all social distancing measures are to be followed. A detailed log must be kept on who enters the home. Additionally, a consent form must be completed certifying that you have not been in contact with someone who has COVID and you are free of any symptoms.

Real Estate transactions have been deemed an

essential business/service. However, it is not business as usual. We are all becoming very familiar with the procedures and protocols that have to be followed to keep everyone safe and healthy. By following them, you can comfortably sell or buy a home. I would be happy to speak to anyone who would like more information on how to proceed. Stay healthy everyone!

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

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# Planning a renovation?

## Staying safe is your number one priority



(NC) As we spend more time at home during the pandemic, we're thinking about our spaces differently so we can make the most of them. Reinvention can help you extend your functional square footage and ensure your home keeps up with your evolving needs. Here are some inspiring ideas to try:

### RETHINK YOUR OUTDOORS

We've all fallen in love with spending time outside, as it's a safer way of seeing friends and family separate from our household. But as the temperature dips, it's time to get creative to keep these get-togethers going. You can continue to enjoy your backyard with an outdoor firepit or heating lamp. Your garage can function as a man cave with a well-loved couch and foosball table, while a screened-in porch can make the perfect sunroom when you add a comfy armchair and fuzzy blanket. To help make your garage, covered porch or patio feel cozy and inviting, lay down some subfloor panels from Dricore. They insulate against cold, hard concrete to create a softer and warmer environment.

### REIMAGINE YOUR CLOSETS

Who says a closet can serve only one purpose? There are many creative ways to use these small spaces throughout your home. If you have a walk-in closet in your bedroom, consider turning it into a snug nursery with a basinet and a couple of chests of drawers for your clothes and the baby's things. If you have a traditional sliding-door closet in the kids' room, try pulling off the doors and using the resulting nook for a dedicated playspace or at-home learning spot. If you're planning on keeping your closets for storage, then invest in quality organizers to fit more things and free up space in other areas.

### RECLAIM YOUR BASEMENT

A chilly, damp basement is uninviting and doesn't encourage you or your family to spend time there. But what if you could turn it into a warm and comforting space? Dricore subfloors can also help in here by helping to protect against moisture, mould and mildew so you have peace of mind knowing your flooring is safe. Once you have this essential step down, you can transform your basement into a valuable area of your home, like a gym or playroom. And because subfloors provide cushioning and warmth, you can feel comfortable walking around in your bare feet while doing yoga or letting the kids have fun on the floor.

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### Planning a renovation? Staying safe is your number one priority

(NC) Whether it's for safety, work, or play, many of us are spending more time in our homes. Renovations and DIY projects are great ways to enhance your living space.

Whether it is just a new coat of paint, wallpaper, or something more involved like updating your kitchen, safety should always be priority number one.

Here are six tips to keep you and your family safe during renovations:

- 1** Gather the appropriate personal protective equipment. Protective gear may include gloves, a proper mask or respirator and safety glasses. Product labels and additional instructions included with the product may provide more detailed information on what you need to wear, including special types of masks or respirators. Remember – a dust mask will not protect you from chemical fumes.
- 2** Some building materials (like wallpaper, cleaning products, glues, particle board, paints and sealants) can emit harmful gases called volatile organic compounds (VOCs) into your indoor air. So be sure to buy low- and zero-VOC emission products wherever possible.
- 3** Keep your work areas well ventilated. This is especially important when refinishing furniture, using paints, varnishes, glues and adhesives, or doing other renovation projects that may create dust or release chemical fumes. Open windows and doors, run your exhaust fans and work outdoors, if possible.
- 4** Asbestos can be found in older building materials like insulation, cement, plaster, ceiling and floor tiles, house siding, and automobile parts. Hire a professional to test for asbestos before doing any renovations, remodelling or demolitions if you think you have some in your home. Never disturb or try to remove asbestos materials yourself. Hire an asbestos removal specialist.
- 5** Hire a professional to check for lead-based paint in homes built before 1990 as it can release harmful dust if disturbed or removed during renovations.
- 6** Find all mould and sources of excess moisture throughout your home. Depending on where you're renovating, check basements, closets, windowsills, roofs, and around sinks, tubs and pipes. Consider hiring a professional to clean it up, especially if there is a large amount of mould. If the mould keeps coming back after you clean it, seek professional advice for help identifying and repairing persistent moisture issues.

Now that you've done your all-important safety homework, you're ready to get down to business with picking colours and designs. Find more information on keeping a healthy home at [canada.ca/healthy-home](http://canada.ca/healthy-home).

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**RESALE HOMES COLLECTIONS**



## Indoor winter activities the whole family can enjoy

(NC) Got cabin fever? You're not alone. Being stuck indoors all winter long is such a buzzkill. Instead of going stir-crazy, channel your inner creativity and try out these indoor winter activities to do with your kids.

**1. Make a snowman suncatcher.** There are plenty of tutorials online, but you can try this one: Print out a suncatcher snowman craft template onto heavy cardstock. Cut out the snowman template. Then, cut out a piece of clear contact paper. Stick the front side of the snowman onto the contact paper. Remove the excess contact paper.

Cut out the eyes, nose and button templates. Trace them onto coloured construction paper and cut out and place them on the snowman. Cut small squares out of white tissue paper. Place them on the inside of the snowman, making sure to completely cover the contact paper. Hang it in a window that catches the morning sun.

**2. Cozy up with homemade hot cocoa.** Embrace the cold winter nights and warm up with some hot chocolate, your favourite pjs and a cozy blanket.

If you've got older kids, let them take the reins in the kitchen. You could even try to make a coffee-flavoured dessert to accompany the hot cocoa.

**3. Host a living room campout.** Grab chairs from the kitchen, sheets from the linen closet and comfy blankets, pillows, throws and stuffed friends from the bedroom to build your fort. Next, bundle fairy lights inside Mason jars so when you turn off the lights it looks magical. Finally, serve up some snacks with camping vibes like Orville Redenbacher buttery microwaveable popcorn with no artificial colours, flavours, or preservatives, hot dogs and gummy worms.

Find more recipes to enjoy this winter at [orville.ca](http://orville.ca).  
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## Working remotely? How to optimize your setup

(NC) Though social distancing has been in place for months now, perfecting our work-from-home setup continues to be a challenge for many of us.

Here are a few surprising ways that you can streamline your routine using your mobile phone from anywhere:

**1 Consider dark mode.** Need to give your eyes a break? While blue light blocking glasses can help, another option is to give your eyes a rest by catching up on email from your phone using dark mode, which will help alleviate strain as you read.

**2 Get a stand.** Using your smartphone for conference calls can help add flexibility if you're having to move rooms to accommodate other family members' schedules. That said, the quickly draining battery and constant holding can be a pain. Look for a phone stand that has a built-in charger so battery life doesn't slow you down and you can dial in hands free.

**3 Wi-Fi vs data.** With home now acting as everything from the boardroom to the movie theatre, it's worth assessing your internet plan to ensure you get good download speeds and a reliable signal. But Wi-Fi is only half the equation. Connect with an unbiased mobile expert like those at The Mobile Shop virtually or in store to make sure your mobile plan is working optimally for you right now. If you have internet issues, you may want to consider an unlimited data mobile plan, so you don't get dropped from conference calls.

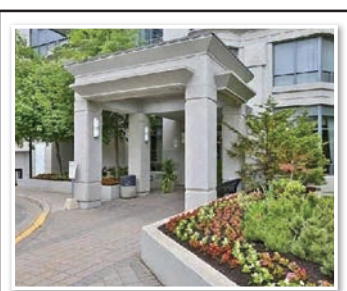
**4 Use alarms and reminders.** Have you dialed in late to a virtual meeting since working from your home office? Set up reminders and alarms on your phone to add extra security for important meetings and mix in reminders to walk the dog or check in with the kids while you're at it. Our routine has changed, we can all use an extra nudge or two.

**5 Create space.** Whether we're at home or out of the house during the day, many of us need constant access to our mobile devices, so juggling the needs of family members who may need to get connected for at-home learning can be tough. Accessories like noise-cancelling headphones and phone stands can be game-changers if you're not able to spread out.

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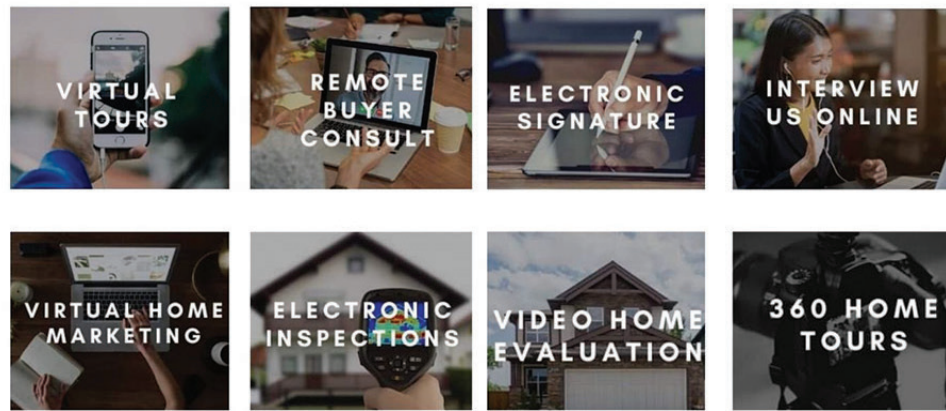


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# Plow through layers of laundry with some simple hacks

(NC) Sometimes it can feel like we have an endless laundry list of chores to take care of around the house, and laundry is one of them. And as we start to bundle up, put on more layers and continue to swap out masks daily, it's important to work smarter, not harder.

Here are some easy tips to help you reduce your time in the laundry room and keep your clothes looking brand new.

- Preparation is key – purchase a multi-bag laundry hamper for you and your kids. This way, when it's time to throw things in the laundry, clothes can be sorted with little-to-no effort.
- Skip the detergent measuring. Did you know if you use too much detergent in your washer it can actually make your clothes dirtier? With Whirlpool's load and go feature, simply add detergent once and skip refills and measuring, so you get the perfect

amount of detergent for each and every load, meaning you never have to worry about too much detergent again.

- Use mesh laundry bags for small and delicate items like face masks to ensure they don't get lost in a pant leg or damaged during the cycle.
- There's nothing worse than staining your favourite new shirt. Avoid wasting your time soaking and scrubbing day-old stains, instead look for a washer that will fight the stains for you. While some stains dissolve best in hot water and others in cold, a Maytag washer can fight both in a single load with

its extra power button feature with dual-temperature wash. Easily transfer loads from washer to dryer and from dryer to laundry basket without worrying about clean clothes falling on the floor by getting a dryer with a hamper door.

Most importantly, picking a washing machine and dryer that do the hard work can help you spend more time with your family and less time doing laundry. Look for Wi-Fi capabilities so you can be notified as soon as your laundry is done, and you never have to worry about forgetting a load in the washer or dryer again.

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## TOP TIPS FOR AFFORDABLE winter storage solutions

(NC) It's time to pack away the last of your warm weather wear as we transition into another cold winter. But with home serving more functions than normal right now, space is at a premium and you may not have many places left to store things in an organized way.

To make this year easier, we spoke with Kevin Joyce in Hardgoods Buying, from Canadian discount retailer, Giant Tiger for some tips for affordable storage solutions for your home and car.

**WINTER WARDROBE**  
When using and storing winter gear like scarves, hats, mittens and other knits, it's important to ensure they have air circulation. Many of these fabrics are at risk of being put away damp, which can cause odours if stored in plastic bins or air-tight containers. An easy solution is

to purchase a rolling rack with wire baskets. Each member of the family gets their own basket shelf, and the open-wire design allows air to flow and items to dry. If you buy a rack on wheels, it can be easily stored in your hall closet and wheeled out when needed.

**WINTER FOOTWEAR**  
Make sure to protect your floors from salt or water damage caused by wet footwear. Keeping your outdoor shoes on a plastic boot tray may be one of the simplest and most cost-effective winter storage tips. Additionally, shallow plastic bins can be placed on the closet floor, perfect for organizing winter footwear that comes in various heights and sizes.

**WINTER CAR STORAGE**  
From ice scrapers to extra gloves, chances are you've got a variety of seasonal accessories that are loose inside your vehicle. Try using collapsible organizers with multiple compartments to keep all your items in one place. This will help declutter your cargo space and prevent items from rolling around while driving. Any low-cost storage bins will do the trick, but if they are collapsible you can easily hide them under the seats when not in use.

Storage solutions come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes to meet your needs, but they also come in a variety of price points. Organizing your home for the winter doesn't need to break the bank, so try your local discount retailer like Giant Tiger where you can find quality items for less.

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# RECIPE FOR STYLISH SPACES: Designer tips to transform your kitchen with colour



(NC) The kitchen is truly the heart of the home, pulling more than just double duty by serving as study space, second living room, work-from-home zone and dining room.

With more of us spending more time at home – and more time cooking – now is the perfect time to transform your kitchen. Here Sharon Grech, Benjamin Moore colour and design expert shares her designer advice to give your kitchen a fresh new look.

**TRUE BLUE** This year, one of the hottest trends in kitchens is blue accents. “If you tend towards a more

neutral palette, blue is an ideal colour to experiment with as it pairs well with multiple styles and with other colours,” says Grech.

Stylish shades of blue-green, like the 2021 colour of the year Aegean Teal 2136-40, will make your kitchen a welcoming, comforting space for creativity and culinary adventure.

**SERVE UP LOOKS** One of the most impactful, fast and cost-effective ways to transform your kitchen is by painting your cabinets.

“I am an advocate for repainting, not replacing and with Benjamin Moore paint a DIY kitchen transformation with professional results is possible in a weekend,” says Grech.

The kitchen is the most high-traffic space in

any home making durability essential. “Opt for the hard, furniture-like finish of Advance interior paint, available in four popular sheens, including matte and high gloss, to suit any kitchen style from farmhouse to ultra-modern.”

Once you have repainted your cabinets, add new hardware to replace existing door pulls and handles to complete your DIY transformation.

**ACCENT YOUR ISLAND** Want to add just a touch of colour to your neutral kitchen? Painting the island in a complementary shade is a favourite designer trick to add style and a focal point to the kitchen.

Grech recommends shades like Hale Navy HC-154 and Van Deusen Blue HC-156 for blues that suit styles ranging from minimal to traditional.

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## Remodel your kitchen habits for less waste

(NC) Although kitchen renovations can be very worthwhile, sometimes it's the little things that can make a big difference. For example, consider some more eco-friendly habits.

The kitchen has more potential for waste and inefficiency than other areas in the home, but there are easy ways to be less wasteful without a major overhaul, all while helping to take a load off the planet. Here's how:

### RETHINK STORAGE FOR FOOD AND LEFTOVERS.

Swap single-use food wrapping for reusable elasticized bowl covers, beeswax wraps and non-plastic zipper-top storage bags. Use recyclable mason jars or glass containers with airtight sealing lids. These all come in pretty designs and colours to suit all tastes.

### INVEST IN REUSABLE BAKING ESSENTIALS.

With home baking here to stay, trade in the disposable parchment paper and cupcake and muffin liners for eco-friendly silicone baking mats, pans and baking cups. The icing on the cake – pop them in the dishwasher for easy cleanup.

### PREVENT FOOD WASTE WITH A MEAL PLAN.

Plan meals ahead with more mindful grocery shopping and do more home cooking. Learn how to use commonly discarded – yet still usable – parts of food, such as vegetable scraps for soup stock; think broccoli cores and kale stems. Get into composting what you can't use to keep it from landfills. Buy yourself a stylish compost tin for the counter to collect organic waste and discard appropriately.

### USE THE DISHWASHER MORE.

Contrary to popular belief, running the dishwasher half full wastes less water and energy compared to handwashing those same dishes. An Energy Star-certified dishwasher uses 15 litres of water every cycle while a running faucet uses the same amount every two minutes. Consider Cascade Platinum ActionPacs, which save water by not requiring pre-washing.

Find more tips and information at [cascade.takeahalfoff.ca/en](http://cascade.takeahalfoff.ca/en).

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# Organizing your home?

## DON'T FORGET THIS IMPORTANT STEP

(NC) With many of us spending more time at home, we're tidying our closets, basements and storage spaces. While you're doing this, it's a great time to calculate the value of your belongings with a personal inventory.

Over the years, we accumulate a lot of things, and it's easy to lose track. However, all belongings are worth a price, and you may be surprised. That's where a personal inventory comes into play. To create your own and ensure you will be adequately compensated for your possessions if they are stolen or damaged, here are some tips to follow:

**DO YOUR RESEARCH**

Shopping addicts will be thrilled because an important step to creating your personal inventory is to identify the retail price of your goods. Do some online sleuthing at your favourite stores to have a better idea of what it would cost if you had to replace everything.

**CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSET**

You don't have to wait for a change of season to tidy up your wardrobe. Go through your clothes and accessories one by one in order to have an accurate count and take the opportunity to donate what you don't want anymore. This will help you develop an estimate of what your closet is worth. In the future you can save your receipts to update your inventory with new items.

**USE ONLINE TOOLS**

Some insurance providers such as Belairdirect offer user-friendly forms to help you. They will speed up the process and make it easy to keep it updated, organized and accessible.

**RENT WITH PEACE OF MIND**

Even if you are a tenant, it is important to make an inventory of your belongings. Whether it's the fridge your aunt gave you when you moved out, your grandmother's sofa or your parents' old bed that furnishes your home, all your belongings must be listed so that you have an accurate replacement cost for all your household goods should anything happen.

After all the hard work you've done, it's important to stay on top of your list with check-ins every year or each time you make large purchases.

Find other tips and learn more about the importance of an up-to-date personal inventory at [belairdirect.com](http://belairdirect.com). [www.newscanada.com](http://www.newscanada.com)

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**Real Estate Market Update – Aurora**



## Strong demand to lead into the New Year

With high anticipation for a fresh start to a healthy New Year, 74 homes were sold across Aurora at an average price of \$1,104,698 in December 2020. There were 66 new homes placed for sale, and on January 1st, 2021, only 92 homes were available for sale, making it a strong Seller's market with such a low inventory of homes on the market.

Sellers are typically yielding 100 percent of the asking price, and on average, all home types were sold in 31 days or less.

There were 17 percent more homes sold in 2020, translating to 1,125 sales across the ten neighbourhoods of Aurora, and the average price for a detached home at year-end was \$1,264,812 which is a 40 percent improvement year over year. In the month of December, the average price for a detached home rose to \$1,399,166, a 32 percent improvement compared to the prior year.

Low-interest rates are keeping Buyer's interested in the real estate market regardless of the COVID-19 concerns, and REALTORS® is continuing to serve clients

as essential service real estate professionals as safely as possible with COVID-19 protocols.

If you're considering selling or buying real estate, book an online virtual appointment with a real estate professional to safely review market statistics for the neighbourhood and to design the ideal plan of action keeping safety as a top priority.

– Written by Connie Power

Connie Power is the Manager, Real Estate Sales Representative CNE® SRS® ABR® SRES®, for RE/MAX Hallmark York Group Realty Ltd., Brokerage serving York region and beyond in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

Empowering you in Real Estate, Call Connie today to make an appointment to discuss your next move at (905) 726-0856.

\*The statistics provided herein were obtained from the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board; Statistics and Counts for York Region, Aurora for December of 2019, 2020.

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