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King's Community Newspaper

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Thursday, March 11, 2021

Volume 48, Issue 10

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Donation of supplies to seniors

More than a few smiles were shared at Wilsen Road in Nobleton on Monday as Dr. Diane Contino delivered dental care packages that were thoughtfully put together for the residents of the seniors' complex. Kerri Klywak of York Region Housing ensured safe delivery of the packages to each of the residents, many of whom said it brightened their day. Councillor David Boyd was on hand to thank Dr. Contino noting "this is another great example of the ongoing kindness and generosity that Nobleton Family Dental has shown our community. The clinic has also supported King Minor Hockey League's mouth guard program for many years." Dr. Contino added that she was happy to assist the residents maintain their dental health, recognizing that some may have been reluctant to visit a dentist during the recent lockdowns.

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Vaccinations in York continue at fast pace

By Mark Pavilons
Editor
Local Journalism Initiative

York Region opened a limited supply of appointments Monday to vaccinate those residents 80 and older.

Monday marked the first week of vaccinations. Public Health opened up 3,000 appointments for residents, who can access them by visiting york.ca/covid19Vaccine

The spots were filled quickly as residents didn't waste any time.

Health officials note walk-in appointments are not available; please do not visit a vaccination clinic without an appointment – you will be turned away

At five clinics in York Region, 18,134 vaccine doses were administered last week. To date, a cumulative total of 66,420 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered to long-term care, retirement homes, congregate living facilities, residents and non-residents who work in York Region.

This is great news for our residents and our communities, according to York officials.

York Region Public Health and hospital-led clinics continue to work collaboratively to release additional appointment slots as vaccines become available. As a result of no-shows

and/or cancelled appointments, additional vaccine supply may become available and a small number of appointments may appear through the online booking systems.

To support residents in understanding this, a new colour-coded system has been applied to the york.ca/covid-19vaccine page to help residents easily identify which clinics may still have available appointments:

A colour-coded system is in effect to help enable residents to check back often to see if appointments become available. Green means booking now.

Right now, york.ca/covid19vaccine continues to serve as a centralized access point to book an appointment across the five clinic locations. Residents have become accustomed to coming to york.ca/covid19 for accurate COVID-19 information and this was certainly true when it came to booking appointments.

Officials note that over the last week, the website has seen more than 650,000 page views with more than 250,000 page views last Monday alone (175,000 on the Vaccine clinic page specifically). Overall, the average daily users in 2021 have increased by 12x over previous daily users

Reports from onsite staff indicated all clinics operated by York Region and hospital partners are running smoothly and without any significant issues.

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Funding helps King get more charging stations.
See Page 7

Positive response to plan to grow the Greenbelt.
See Page 12

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, March 24
1:00 pm – Special Council Meeting Closed Session
Re: Council Education and Training purposes

Monday, March 29
6:00 pm – Council and Committee of the Whole
Virtual meeting live streamed at <http://king.ca/meetings>

Monday, April 12
6:00 pm – Council and Committee of the Whole
Virtual meeting live streamed at <http://king.ca/meetings>

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

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Tuesday, March 16
6:00 pm – King Township Public Library Board (virtual meeting)
NEW DAY – Tuesday, March 23

6:00 pm – Committee of Adjustment
Virtual meeting live streamed at <http://king.ca/meetings>

Wednesday, March 24
6:00 pm – Sustainability Advisory Committee (Virtual Meeting – Not Live-Streamed) If you wish to participate in the meeting virtually, register by emailing jwelch@king.ca by 12pm (noon) on the day of the meeting.

BID NOTICES

For all bid opportunities, please visit the Township of King's website www.king.ca, click **Popular Topics** and click **BID OPPORTUNITIES**.

Or visit on the following link
<https://king.bidsandtenders.ca/Module/Tenders/en>

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Equipment Operator – closes March 19 at 4:30 pm
- King Township Public Library – CEO / Chief Librarian – closes April 12 at 4:30 pm

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

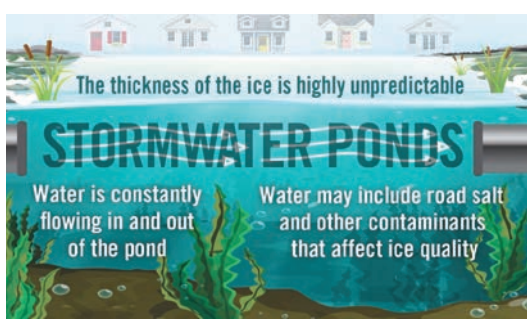
Pre-Authorized Debit Program (PAD): PAD program is available for Property Tax accounts. The enrolment form is available at www.king.ca (search for "PAD")



To ensure enrollment please apply prior to due date.

The deadline to enroll for the monthly PAD program is June 1, 2021 In accordance with the Township By-law 2021-074 unpaid balances following the due date, a penalty of one and one quarter per cent (1.25%) per month, shall be levied on the first day of the next calendar month following the due date and each month until paid in full.

Please visit our website for details.



Stay off stormwater ponds

Staff and by-law officers are reminding residents found using stormwater ponds for skating that this is prohibited and unsafe due to possible changing conditions. As indicated by the conservation authorities:

Stormwater ponds are designed to continuously collect stormwater from surrounding roads and neighbourhoods

No matter how deep into the winter or how thick the ice may appear, temperature changes and water flowing in/out can cause major variations in ice thickness

Air pockets are also easily formed under the surface and contaminants like salt weaken the ice

Stormwater ponds are dangerous in winter. All these factors combined, create dangerous and unpredictable conditions that put your safety at risk.

You can book ice and use the four open municipal ice pads (King City, Nobleton, Schomberg & Cold Creek). More details can be found at king.ca/OutdoorRinks and booking can be completed at <https://townshipofking.perfectmind.com/>

Half-load Restrictions

The annual half-load period to limit vehicle weights to 5,000 kg per starts on designated Township roads effective March 1, 2021 to May 31, 2021 per our By-law 2010-141. For further information, call 905-833-5321.



Please see more King Township notices on page 5

PUBLIC NOTICES



Due to the constantly changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects, this information may not be current. Please visit covid19.king.ca for the most up-to-date information.

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

- King Township Public Library remains closed but is offering curbside pickup service. Visit www.kinglibrary.ca for more information.
- The Municipal Centre at 2585 King Rd. is closed to the public until the end of 2020.
- All essential services will continue, including Fire and Emergency Services, water, wastewater, waste collection and roads and sidewalk maintenance.
- Some non-essential services may be impacted. For a list of all services please visit www.king.ca.

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

LATEST UPDATES

York Region and King Township are currently in the Red -- Control level.

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

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

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

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

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

COVID-19 information

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

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

**NOTICE OF MEETING
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING,
CLOSED SESSION**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021 - 1:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

(Electronic Meeting pursuant to section 238 (3.1) (3.3) of the Municipal Act, 2001)

As the Municipal Centre is now closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this will be an electronic meeting held virtually.

The purpose of this special meeting is to accommodate a necessary Special Council Meeting, Closed Session for Council Education and Training purposes.

Motion to move into Closed Session pursuant to Part 5, Section 39 of the Procedural By-law Number 2018-60, as amended, to consider the items as set out in the Agenda.

- (i) Part 5, Section 39, Subsection 39.3(a): Purpose of Education or Training the Members

Council Education / Training Session
Director of Growth Management Services
York Region MCR – presentation

Council Education / Training Session
Director of Growth Management Services
LPAT Changes – presentation

Council Education / Training Session
Director of Community Services
Township Real Property Assets - presentation

Kathryn Moyle
Director of Corporate Services
Township Clerk



Don't forget to change your smoke alarm batteries and move your clocks one hour forward before you go to bed on Saturday, March 13.

Winter snow removal reminders

Please follow these tips to keep pedestrians, motorists and King Township snow removal staff safe.

- Remove ice, snow and other obstructions from catchbasins to allow proper drainage of snowmelt and rainwater.
- Make sure you or your snow removal contractor do not push snow or blow snow from your driveway onto the street or across the street onto other properties.
- Do not place snow or ice in a ditch or anywhere it may obstruct a culvert or other drainage outlets.
- Every time the snow plow clears your road, it pushes snow to the curb. It is your responsibility to remove plowed snow at the end of your driveway.
- Park vehicles off the street. Vehicles left on the street during plowing operations will be ticketed.
- Remove snow from around fire hydrants.
- Do not block sidewalks with motor vehicles to allow sidewalk plows to clear sidewalks.
- Snow plows make second and third passes during heavier snow events to push back and clear off snow, slush and ice.
- If there is a winter snow event on your garbage day please do not place the bins on the road and keep them back behind the curb.



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Next phase of the COVID vaccine rollout arrives

By Mark Pavilons
Editor

Local Journalism Initiative

The tide is turning in the battle against COVID-19.

Queen's Park announced Friday it will enter phase two of the vaccination plan next month, getting vaccines into older adults and those at risk.

The focus will be based on age and risk. This approach is designed to save lives, protect those at risk of serious illness and to stop the virus from spreading.

Details were provided late last week by Premier Doug Ford, Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, Solicitor General Sylvia Jones, and General Rick Hillier (retired), Chair of the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force.

"Due to the incredible work of an army of people we have a solid vaccine distribution plan and we are ready to get needles into arms as soon as the doses arrive," said Premier Ford. "This is a true Team Ontario effort and we are mobilizing our greatest asset – the people of Ontario. Vaccines will be administered in hospital clinics, primary care settings, mass vaccination sites, mobile clinics and pharmacies across the province by dedicated, caring and compassionate frontline health care heroes."

With vaccine supply stabilizing and over two million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine expected from the federal government before the end of March, the province will enter the next phase.

Between April and July, upwards of nine million Ontarians will be vacci-

nated.

During Phase Two, groups that will receive the vaccine include:

- Older adults between 60-79 years of age.
- Individuals with specific health conditions and some primary caregivers.
- People who live and work in congregate settings and some primary caregivers.
- People who live in hot spots with high rates of death, hospitalizations and transmission.
- Certain workers who cannot work from home.

"Thanks to the hard work of our health care partners and frontline heroes, Ontario's vaccine rollout is making a positive difference and helping to save the lives of some of our most vulnerable," said Minister Elliott. "We continue to ramp up capacity and are committed to administering as many doses, as quickly as possible to every Ontarian who wants a vaccine."

Phase one of the rollout is well under way, with more than 820,000 doses administered and over 269,000 Ontarians fully immunized.

More than 95 per cent of long-term care residents are fully immunized and public health units are working with homes to vaccinate staff and essential caregivers as a priority. Some local public health units, based on local context and capacity, have been able to vaccinate some people aged over 80, before the anticipated timeframe of mid-March.

By focusing early vaccination efforts on long-term care residents, combined

with public health measures, Ontario has notably rapidly reduced infections and the daily death rates in long-term care homes.

Starting March 15, the province will launch an online booking system and a provincial customer service desk to answer questions and support appointment bookings at mass immunization clinics. This will initially support individuals over the age of 80 as part of Phase One, eventually extending to more groups during Phase Two.

"The fight against COVID-19 continues to be our government's top priority," said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. "With the approval of the AstraZeneca vaccine, and now the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, and with increased supplies coming into the province, this gives us renewed focus to get even more Ontarians vaccinated sooner. We've made tremendous progress and ask that Ontarians continue to stay the course to protect themselves and keep their families, friends and communities safe."

As supply increases, Ontarians will be able to get vaccinated with the three Health Canada approved vaccines in several new settings. In addition to hospitals, mobile clinics and mass vaccination clinics, the province is working with the pharmacy sector and with primary care professionals to offer vaccinations in primary care settings and community locations in collaboration with public health units.

A pilot for pharmacy vaccine administration is planned for mid-March in select regions, including Toronto, Windsor and the Kingston, Frontenac

and Lennox & Addington region, followed by specific primary care pilots in collaboration with public health units.

Ontario will enter Phase Three when vaccines are available for every Ontarian who wishes to be immunized. While vaccines will not be mandated, during Phase Three, people will be strongly encouraged to get vaccinated.

In York, appointments for those 80+ began March 1.

King Mayor Steve Pellegrini said he's hoping that King can use the Tri-san Centre for its own vaccination centre when the time comes.

"The roll out of vaccinations on this scale is new to all of us, and as the province has said, it will not be perfect. What is important is we get available vaccines into arms," the mayor said.

The federal government, according to a spokesperson with MP Deb Schulte's office, has played an important role in the vaccination process, including the procurement of vaccines and Health Canada's approval of vaccine candidates. But roll-out is the responsibility of provincial and territorial governments.

The plan is for residents to get the vaccine close to home and York Region has developed a multi-faceted communication strategy developed to support three main goals:

- Increase awareness and understanding of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Increase number of individuals receiving COVID-19 vaccination (goal to vaccinate 75% population).
- Dispel misinformation, myths, harmful untruths which contribute to vaccine hesitancy.



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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

Venturing down countless modern rabbit holes

For decades, humans have been aware of the existence of black holes in the universe.

These all-consuming regions pull in everything in their path and the gravity is so strong not even light can escape it. Black holes often occur when suns die.

There's nothing like it on earth, and fortunately not one within earshot in our solar system.

And then there are rabbit holes, but not the dens for small furry rodents.

Merriam-Webster defines "rabbit hole" as a "complexly bizarre or difficult state or situation conceived of as a hole into which one falls or descends ... one in which the pursuit of something (such as an answer or solution) leads to other questions, problems, or pursuits."

These, on the other hand, abound almost everywhere on terra firma.

These invisible whirlwinds that suck the life out of people in search of answers, can be mind-boggling. And they're everywhere.

I bumped into one the other day and almost lost a shoe!

The term was first coined by Lewis Carroll, in his 1865 classic *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Within those captivating pages, Alice follows the White Rabbit into his burrow, and is transported to the very strange, often nonsensical world of Wonderland.

If only our modern rabbit holes were that simple, and that enjoyable.

Our technologically advanced rabbit holes involve seemingly endless rolls of red tape. They almost always defy logic. It's often difficult, if not impossible, to escape from such a hole.

Alice herself admitted the futility of it all.

"It's no use going back to yesterday, because I was a different person then."

Venturing down one of these holes will change you.

Today's rabbit holes, often facilitated by the internet, feature countless distractions, dead-ends and endless loops.

So brothers and sisters, here we are living in a world of misinformation and mistrust, a world we all pitched in to build.



Mark Pavilons

I never thought of myself as naive, but wakeup calls are there, just waiting for you to hit "snooze." But eventually you have to get up.

Some of these can be minor, but others are like a shovel in the face; The Three Stooges style.

In recent excursions in the surreal world of the internet, I discovered there's a fair amount of dishonesty. Many people would like to sell you something, but it's nothing like what's depicted. It's a finely crafted lie, a deceitful myriad of photos, promises and methods of payment.

Some would say that at this very minute, people are lined up in cyberspace, ready to lie to you at the drop of a hat.

The most annoying rabbit holes are customer service sections of company websites. It takes forever to find an appropriate way to "contact us" and it's often in a template format, a message board that is never answered.

Few even want to accept emails, likely because they don't want to pay staff to answer them. There are "live" chats, but the only living thing in this case is you.

Go to the list of FAQs and "commonly asked questions," which almost always

offer little help at all.

Then, we're faced by the always optimistic "was this helpful" or "glad we could help."

Oh, what a tangled web we've woven. Misinformation and mass distrust, partly due to the isolation of the pandemic, is abundant. People today seem to be more vulnerable to conspiracy theories and baseless ideas.

During the worst of the pandemic, we've heard people say the virus was man-made and let loose on an unsuspecting society. We've heard that the vaccines are "poison." Anti-maskers came together.

Of course, there's a big difference between conspiracy theories, and uncovering oddities, discrepancies and unusual circumstances.

As a journalist, I wanted to know the total budget being spent by the federal government and provinces on vaccines. Three or four attempts provided no answers. Surely someone, somewhere must know how much Ottawa is paying Pfizer or Moderna. Someone is signing the cheques.

And make no mistake, when sums as large as billions of dollars are at stake, well, anything can happen. Is this an unfounded conspiracy theory, baseless assumption or plain quackery?

COVID-19 and the pandemic has created one massive, global rabbit hole. The vaccines work, but some may require annual doses, like the flu shot. This sets in motion, an endless, multi-billion-dollar gravy train for pharmaceutical companies. It's enough moola that they could afford to abandon all research and production of other life-saving drugs.

Just saying.

Masks may become commonplace in public from here on in.

Mask-makers are a dime a dozen, and all promise fantastic results, all for the one-time low price of ...

Again, government contracts for PPE are massive and likely have created millionaires overnight. People have lied, cheated and killed for much, much less.

I'm not saying that government graft and inappropriate behaviour is common. I'd like to think it's rare in our society today and everyone is working together in our best interest.

That's not to say rabbit holes don't exist at all levels of government. Think of dropping a dime through a sewer grate. You want it back, and make every effort to find it, but it's gone forever. There's no evidence that dime existed in the first place! And, no one will offer to replace it.

Just saying.



Letter to the Editor

Take your tree decorations down

As we all know, beautiful outdoor lights can brighten our spirits. From houses to trees, everything seems to twinkle throughout the holidays and beyond. But, if not carefully managed, these decorations can be damaging and even fatal to trees!

Though beautiful, decorative lighting, when left on too long, girdles the tree and causes long-term, life-threatening damage.

Consider the biology of trees. Trees have living tissue immediately below the bark which, among other things, transports water, oxygen and nutrients. A tree's ability to transport these crucial elements becomes compromised when something restricts this flow, such as when a foreign object is wrapped tightly around it. This is called girdling and it is seriously destructive and eventually fatal to trees.

The solution to this problem is simple. Remove holiday decorations and lighting well before the growing season begins. All decorations or lighting should be removed now to provide optimum protection for trees. Spring is in the air!

Susan Beharriell

King Weekly Sentinel **WEBPOLL**
www.kingsentinel.com

Results from last week's poll:

Are you optimistic about getting the COVID19 vaccine in a timely manner?

a) Yes **25%**

b) No **75%**

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

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Will you get the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available to you?

a) Yes
b) No

Go to our website and cast a vote!

Quote of the Week

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose."

- Dr. Seuss

Trivia Tidbits

Shakespeare originated common phrases such as "cruel to be kind, it's Greek to me, love is blind, pure as the driven snow" and "be-all, end-all."

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATIONS CONCERNING A PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT AND DRAFT PLAN OF SUBDIVISION

The Township of King has received applications for a proposed amendment to Township's Zoning By-laws (74-53, as amended and 2017-66) and for a Draft Plan of Subdivision to facilitate development on the property outlined below, submitted to the Township of King in accordance with Section 34 and Section 51 of the *Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter P.13*, as amended.

The Township has determined that these applications are considered complete and the Planning Department has commenced processing. We welcome your comments regarding these applications.

SUBJECT PROPERTY

Location: 2720 King Road, King City, ON
Part w half Lot 6, Pt. Lot 7, Concession 4
Owner: Rimrock Estates Inc.
Applicant & Agent: RD LandPlan Consultants
Township File No.'s: Z-2021-04 and 19T-21K01

PROPOSAL

The subject applications propose to amend the Township's zoning by-law and seek approval for a related application for Draft Plan of Subdivision to facilitate the development of 5 residential lots for single detached dwellings which includes the extension of James Stokes Court, terminating in a cul-de-sac, while one lot is proposed to obtain frontage from King Road. The proposal also seeks to place environmentally sensitive lands and buffer blocks in an Environmental Protection (EP) zone.

At such time as a public meeting is scheduled in accordance with the Planning Act, the Township of King will provide further notice specifying the date and time of the meeting. Any person may attend the public meeting (or participate virtually if the meeting is remote due to public health restrictions), and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed official plan amendment or zoning by-law amendment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A copy of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment application as well as related background and supporting information, are available for inspection by contacting Paul Kulyk, Planner II at pkulyk@king.ca or by telephone at 905-833-5321, ext. 4063, quoting **File Numbers Z-2021-04 and 19T-21K01** (2720 King Road). Written comments may be emailed or personally delivered to the Planning Department and will become part of the public record.

Dated at the Township of King this 11th day of March, 2021.



Kathryn Moyle
Director of Corporate Services
Township Clerk
Township of King
2585 King Road, King City, ON
L7B 1A1
(905) 833-4018

Gypsy moths

What are they?

Gypsy moths are destructive pests. They get their name from their ability to travel by attaching to various objects. They appear in late July or August.



Gypsy moth caterpillars (larvae) change looks as they grow. Young caterpillars are black or brown and about .6 cm (.24 inches) in length. As they grow, bumps develop along their backs with coarse black hairs. The caterpillar is easily recognizable in the later part of this stage: charcoal grey with a double row of five blue and six red dots on its back. Feeding ends by early July, and mature caterpillars can be as long as 6.35 cm (2.5 inches).

Should I be concerned?

Gypsy moths are a concern because the larvae feed voraciously, mostly on the leaves of deciduous (leafy) trees, but also on some conifers (evergreens). During the larval stage, a single gypsy moth caterpillar can eat an average of one square metre of leaves.

How can I get rid of gypsy moths?

Egg masses

Gypsy moths spread easily, as the young larvae can be carried by wind currents for a distance of up to one kilometre. More commonly, however, they hitch a ride (mainly egg masses) on objects like vehicles, tents, trailers, and lawn chairs to infest new areas. Vacationers, especially campers, should be aware of this and should check their equipment before moving on.

It is important to be thorough when looking for egg masses as they can be difficult to locate. Common hiding places include:

- the underside of branches
- tree trunks
- fences
- firewood
- outdoor furniture
- swing sets, boats
- trailers
- under the eaves of buildings



When an egg mass is found, it should be scraped off with a knife and dropped into a bucket filled with hot water and household bleach or ammonia. Remove picnic tables, swing sets, and lawn furniture from around the bases of trees, because these objects provide the insects with protection from the heat of the sun.

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

- Sanitary installation continues on Holden Drive north of Sheardown.
 - Sanitary installation continues on Robb Drive then will mobilize to MacTaggart at Sheardown and start heading north.
 - Sanitary installation continues on MacTaggart between McCutcheon and Holden. Likely start on MacTaggart west of Holden.
- 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.

Pet Licences

A friendly reminder to get your 2021 pet licence(s) before April 15th. Get your licence(s) early to save the late fee of \$5.

Pricing:

- Dog licences are \$20 before April 15th.
- Service Dogs are free with documentation.
- Cat licence fees are waived.
- Seniors (65+) receive a \$5 discount.
- Replacement tags are \$10.

Any cat or dog over the age of 3 months requires a licence. Pet tags must be worn at all times.

Have questions? Email clerks@king.ca



King launches feature-packed recycling app

King Township has partnered with Recycle Coach to launch a mobile app to help residents become expert recyclers and reduce the amount of waste going to landfills.



By using the Recycle Coach app, residents will have instant access to their area's collection schedule, personalized reminders, key event dates (such as bulky item pickup) as well as a powerful search engine that provides information on the proper sorting of waste and recycling.

The app will also allow King Township to communicate directly with the community about waste management program or scheduling changes.

Citizens are encouraged to visit <http://www.king.ca/waste> to learn more.



PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE DEPARTMENT

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 or email coldcreek@king.ca for more information
Visit townshipofking.perfectmind.com to check the status of upcoming time slots

HIKE TO THE SUGAR BUSH
SELF-GUIDED MAPLE SYRUP HIKE
MARCH 13 - MARCH 31
COLD CREEK CONSERVATION AREA
VISIT KING.CA/SUGARBUSH FOR MORE INFO & TO DOWNLOAD/PRINT THE ACTIVITY SHEET!

KING DIY EARTH HOUR LANTERN CRAFT KIT
REGISTRATION OPEN FROM MARCH 8-19
PICK-UP SAT. MARCH 20 FROM 9AM-12PM
COLD CREEK CONSERVATION AREA - VISITOR CENTRE
\$10 PER KIT
VISIT TOWNSHIOFKING.PERFECTMIND.COM TO ORDER USING CODE 11471
VISIT KING.CA/EARTHOURKIT FOR MORE INFORMATION
EMAIL ENVIRONMENTALSTEWARDSHIP@KING.CA FOR MORE INFORMATION

Arts Society KING White hot shot WINTER PHOTO CONTEST
Capturing winter's glory in York Region
Coldest ← Warmest Most Mystic Funniest
Photography Exhibit
Winning photos are on display at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre
Sponsored by Rob Payne of Edward Jones MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

READ Woke
READING CHALLENGE JOIN VIA BEANSTACK
kinglibrary.ca

Resident questions King City expropriation

The following letter, to King-Vaughan MPP Stephen Lecce was submitted to the Sentinel.

As a member of King City community, I would like to notify you of this issue and the highly questionable behavior by the Ontario Government agency Metrolinx. I am referring to this report aired on the CBC - <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1863477315648>

I know that Metrolinx is an arm's length government agency but as you are our local MPP I believe you have a responsibility to support a local business from this type of bureaucratic abuse.

For some background, my wife and I have been dealing with King Auto Sales and Service for the full 31 years we have been living in King City. We were very disappointed when the operator told us about 2 years ago that Metrolinx was expropriating the property and hence the business would have to move to a new location. King City Auto Sales and Service has provided us with excellent service for 31 years and in addition they are within walking distance of our house so it is easy to drop off my car for

Letters to the Editor

their excellent service.

I understand that the property is contaminated as there has been a gas station and car services centre there for probably over 40 years. According to the news report, I understand the property is valued at over \$2 million. I would guess that as parking was at a premium at the station before COVID that Metrolinx has plans to use the property as a multi-level parking garage. One might wonder when this will be needed as it is a question when the public will start using public transit again due to the impact COVID and its effect on our behavior regarding social distancing.

I don't understand why the property has to be remediated as it is not like someone will be living there or growing food on the land. I know there are rules to protect the public but I think in this case it is really another example of bureaucratic abuse where laws are used to the advantage of some bureaucrat potentially trying to get a performance bonus whilst disadvantaging the community as a whole.

If the cost is so great why not leave the business alone as it's been there for 40 years with no problem and as they no longer sell gasoline, the risk of further contamination is removed?

In the interim wait to see if the parking picks up as the current three lots are mostly empty and in fact one is closed. There is ample space already to build a multi level lot if it is required although I am not sure the neighbours who will be able to see it and live nearby will be thrilled.

I recommend that even if Metrolinx

can afford to pay the going rate for the property and must, by the environmental laws, decontaminate the property, please leave it as an ongoing business for the foreseeable future. This is a prosperous business meeting a vital need in the community and there is no need to force the owner to relocate the business to another community and deprive the King City community of the services of a successful business.

Phil Thomson
King City

Government crosses the line

The ruling Ontario government is crossing the line.

As I sit here, legislation is being considered that would allow the government to ignore their own policy statement as it relates to the application of Minister's Zoning Orders.

And as is typical of this government, this bit of legislation has been inserted into a bill on expanding broadband networks in rural areas; a bill that has nothing to do with Minister's Zoning Orders or the Provincial Policy Statement.

I was listening to the radio this morning and heard Tim Gray from Environmental Defence state that with this legislation no bit of wetland, forest or environmentally sensitive area would be safe from developers. This is largely true, but is not the whole picture.

This government is using its power to do anything it wants. The Provincial Policy Statement as it exists today

has been built over successive governments, with broad public consultation, and forms the set of values under which each government should make decisions. In fact every regional and municipal government is required to abide by its guidance. This is clearly a do as I say and not as I do situation.

So many questions emerge from the actions of the government. What are their values? Why are they putting aside their own policies? When will this kind of decision making end? Where are the checks and balances? Who is benefitting?

To me this is another in a series of violations on our democracy, and I would say the worst one yet.

This government is going down a dark road and I know I will be working my hardest to make sure they never have this kind of power again.

Mary Asselstine

Politicians should remember where their power comes from

I thought Mayor Steve and King councillors would be very interested to read Mississauga's resolution, which passed unanimously.

(They are opposed to the 413 corridor.)

King could consider the same issues, prepare its own resolution to oppose the GTA West Corridor (in accordance with residents' concerns) and support the Federal Impact EAs for the GTA West AND the Bradford Bypass, which Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of the Department of Environment and Climate Change, is now considering.

I don't know about you, but I am sick and tired of the provincial government "streamlining" various pieces of legislation, including the down-grading of the EA process AND the science-based mandate of the now greatly-reduced Conservation Authorities. Then, the government rams its costly ill-considered programs down our throats, while rejecting public consultations, and hi-jacking the municipal planning process ... as with its MZOs.

Enough, I say!

Doug Ford is listening to developers only. Period. Full stop.

If he, and other MPPs of his ilk, want to quit and go work directly for developers, I have no objection. Developers have enough lawyers and lobbyists - now, they seem to own the provincial government. While Doug Ford used to blather about stopping the Gravy Train when he was a Toronto city councillor, as Premier, he seems to have devised a "Gravy Train Express" for developers with one stop at the Premier's Office, which includes a short direct side-spur to the Office of the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, the better to serve developers.

It is time for politicians to recognize their power comes from the VOTERS - that includes all of us ordinary residents/citizens/taxpayers. Please, speak for us.

While political campaign donations from developers may grease the wheels of far too many election campaigns for politicians within the GTA and the Greater Golden Horseshoe, let's remember that those "donations" are tax-deductible to a large degree, and what's not covered by a deduction can be considered a business expense. When those deductions are taken out of general revenues, all taxpayers must make up the difference between what is deducted and what is needed to operate various levels of government.

Yes indeed, in the end, citizens/taxpayers are paying the entire freight!

Vicki Hotte
King

Two King residents taken by COVID

Two King residents have died from COVID recently.

A elderly man from King is the latest COVID fatality.

The 88-year-old man died March 1 at Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket. He showed symptoms on Feb. 18. The exposure was put down as close contact.

On Feb. 26, an 89-year-old woman died at Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital. Her symptoms first appeared Feb. 14.

The exposure was close contact.

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



Contact me for an auto insurance quote today.

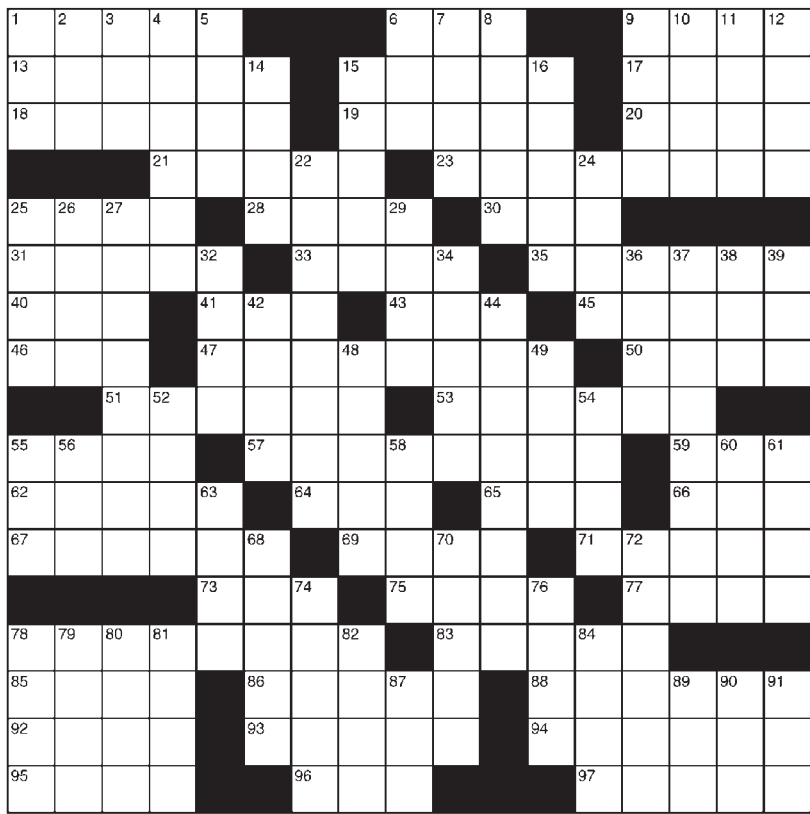


Richard Gong, Agent
905-727-6333



X CROSSWORD

PUZZLE 435



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ACROSS

- 1. Cow catcher
- 6. Tippler
- 9. Phonograph record
- 13. Unmitigated
- 15. Chocolate's sub
- 17. Road for Cato
- 18. Immediately
- 19. Happen
- 20. Short note
- 21. Rope-making material
- 23. Of college
- 25. Cathedral section
- 28. Stevedores do it
- 30. Scurry
- 31. Wry
- 33. Move like a pony
- 35. More tidy
- 40. Positive particle
- 41. Long time
- 43. Reel's partner
- 45. Lap
- 46. Zwei or dos
- 47. Tomato sauce
- 50. Decorate, as a Christmas tree
- 51. Spring chirpers
- 53. Church official
- 55. "Rich Man, ___ Man"
- 57. Tattler
- 59. WWII agency
- 62. Avoid adroitly
- 64. Vote in favor
- 65. Animal's lair
- 66. Rug cleaner, for short
- 67. Hold superficially
- 69. Minor falling-out
- 71. Not our
- 73. Indian title
- 75. Defile
- 77. Ocean eagle
- 78. Source of annoyance
- 83. Impaired vision
- 85. Engine cover
- 86. Grassy hill
- 88. Flexible
- 92. Wheels
- 93. Uncanny
- 94. Medical priority
- 95. Pact
- 96. Steep
- 97. Hone a razor
- 2. Foul up
- 3. Is, pluralized
- 4. Loafer ornament
- 5. One opposed
- 6. Fluid-filled pouch
- 7. Humpback's kin
- 8. A sense
- 9. Certain coin
- 10. List member
- 11. Highway hauler
- 12. Gator's cousin
- 14. Fling gently
- 15. Use crayons
- 16. Intellect
- 22. Mason, e.g.
- 24. Passing grades
- 25. Door to ore
- 26. Bowsprit site
- 27. Resonant
- 29. Eroded
- 32. Ewe's young
- 34. Brown bread
- 36. Lowest female voice
- 37. Flaky dessert
- 38. Type of silkworm
- 39. Tach reading
- 42. Way of walking
- 44. Horrible
- 48. Small landmass
- 49. Pivot
- 52. Mass calendar
- 54. Campground home
- 55. Pod dweller
- 56. Secondhand
- 58. Put down
- 60. Distress
- 61. 43,560 square feet
- 63. Previously, of yore
- 68. Stop
- 70. Aesop's specialty
- 72. Recluse
- 74. Tube or city start
- 76. Waistband
- 78. "If ___ a Million"
- 79. Scoundrel
- 80. Roster
- 81. Religious figurine
- 82. Rushed
- 84. Pretension
- 87. Ignited
- 89. Tavern feature
- 90. Kind of trip
- 91. Twilled fabric

Solution on page 17



The best thing about King is its people!

King

7-Day Weather Outlook

From Thursday, March 11 to Wednesday, March 17

THURS 11TH	FRI 12TH	SAT 13TH	SUN 14TH	MON 15TH	TUES 16TH	WED 17TH
 Light Rain High 15°C Low -2°C ~5mm Wind SW 30k	 Wet Flurries High 9°C Low -8°C <1cm Wind W 26k	 Sunny High 1°C Low -4°C - Wind NW 26k	 Sunny High 4°C Low -5°C - Wind W 15k	 A Few Flurries High 1°C Low -3°C ~5cm Wind E 16k	 Snow High 2°C Low -3°C ~5cm Wind E 20k	 Cloudy High 2°C Low -3°C - Wind SE 8k

The King Weekly Sentinel

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New electric vehicle chargers coming to King

By Mark Pavilons
Editor

Local Journalism Initiative

King Township will be getting a boost from the federal government, to install electric vehicle chargers across the municipality.

Along with funding from the municipality, this will allow for the installation of between 10 and 12 electric vehicle charging stations, amounting to over 20 charging connectors.

Federal funding is provided through Natural Resources Canada's Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program, which is supporting the government's ambitious target to have all new passenger vehicles sold in Canada be zero-emission vehicles by 2040.

The Township of King also provided funding, bringing the total cost of the project to over \$536,000.

"The funding from NRCan will help us continue to build on King Township's green legacy. We know EVs are the future of personal transportation. That's why we've started to put the infrastructure in place now that will give our residents convenient access to charging stations," said King Mayor Steve Pellegrini.

King Township currently has three electric vehicle charging stations at the

Municipal Centre at 2585 King Road in King City which are compatible with most current EV models.

The new chargers will be a combination of Level 3 fast chargers and Level 2 chargers that will be able to charge most electric vehicle models. The new stations will also generate data on usage and EV uptake in specific locations to better understand how to plan for growth. The plan is to place them at municipal facilities in King City, Nobleton and Schomberg.

The installation of the charging stations is planned for this year.

"This improved network is just the latest action we're taking on improving our community's overall sustainability," said Mayor Pellegrini.

King is also drafting a Climate Action Plan with hopes to be implemented in Q1 2021. It's a community-wide plan to best mitigate, adapt and improve resilience to the effects and impacts of climate change on a local level both in the near and far term. This plan aims to provide a framework of future priorities, actions, studies and pilots.

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

The government has invested over \$600 million to make EVs more afford-

able and charging infrastructure readily available. This includes creating a coast-to-coast network of fast chargers and charging in more localized areas where Canadians live, work and play. This infrastructure will ensure that Canadians can drive and charge their vehicles across Canada. It will support the demonstration of next-generation charging technologies as well as the development of enabling codes and standards. The government is providing incentives of up to \$5,000 for Canadian consumers to buy EVs to increase affordability and full tax write-offs for businesses purchasing them.

"Investments in green infrastructure are bringing us closer to a zero-emission future by helping Ontarians make greener choices, improving air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions," said King-Vaughan MP Deb Schulte.

"Canadians want greener options to get to where they need to go. We're giving these to them. This is how we get to net zero by 2050," stated O'Regan Jr.



**WORKING HARD TO
DELIVER POSITIVE RESULTS
FOR KING-VAUGHAN**

BROADBAND TOWNHALL

I invite you to join me on
Thursday March 25th at 7p.m.
to hear about what we are doing to connect
high speed internet in King Township

To register, email
deb.schulte@parl.gc.ca
or call
905 303-5000

Watch for a live announcement on
March 18th at 2:00 pm on
[facebook.com/DebSchulte82](https://www.facebook.com/DebSchulte82)



**Hon. Deb Schulte
MP King-Vaughan**

9401 Jane Street, Suite 115
Vaughan, ON L6A 4H7
Toll Free: 1.844.586.8999 • Tel: 905.303.5000
Email: Deb.Schulte@parl.gc.ca



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King Township launches feature-packed recycling app

King Township has partnered with Recycle Coach to launch a mobile app to help residents become expert recyclers and reduce the amount of waste going to landfills.

By using the Recycle Coach app, residents will have instant access to their area's collection schedule, personalized reminders, key event dates (such as bulky item pickup) as well as a powerful search engine that provides information on the proper sorting of waste and recycling.

The app will also allow King Township to communicate directly with the community about waste management program or scheduling changes.

With Recycle Coach, residents can:

- Receive instant answers to recycling questions.
- Become recycling experts with a comprehensive "What Goes Where?" search tool, including local disposal information, disposal costs and recycling event dates.
- Help reduce the amount of waste in local landfills by learning how to make mindful and informed recycling decisions.

"Recycle Coach empowers residents to make smarter disposal decisions and take an active approach to reducing household waste," said King Township Public Works Director Samantha Fraser. "It provides simple and accurate information for anyone interested in becoming a better recycler."

Citizens are encouraged to visit www.king.ca/waste to learn more. Recycle Coach is available on desktop and mobile. The free app is available for download on iOS and Android devices.

Find more information on King Township's online services at www.king.ca.



Providing Families with Peace of Mind

By providing quality, personalized private care our trained staff will ensure a level of professionalism that allows for healthy, safe and positive interactions. We provide a variety of services to suit the needs of you and your loved ones.



Private Homecare

We specialize in, but are not limited to, providing live-out support including short-term postoperative care. We also organize and assist clients with daily activities to help stimulate their mind and enrich their interests. We are flexible in building a care plan that is best suited for our clients.



Respite Care

Caring for loved ones can be a full-time job – we recognize it can be exhausting at times. When you need a rest, our team is here to relieve you. Our staff is able to provide 24-hour care in the comfort of our client's own home.



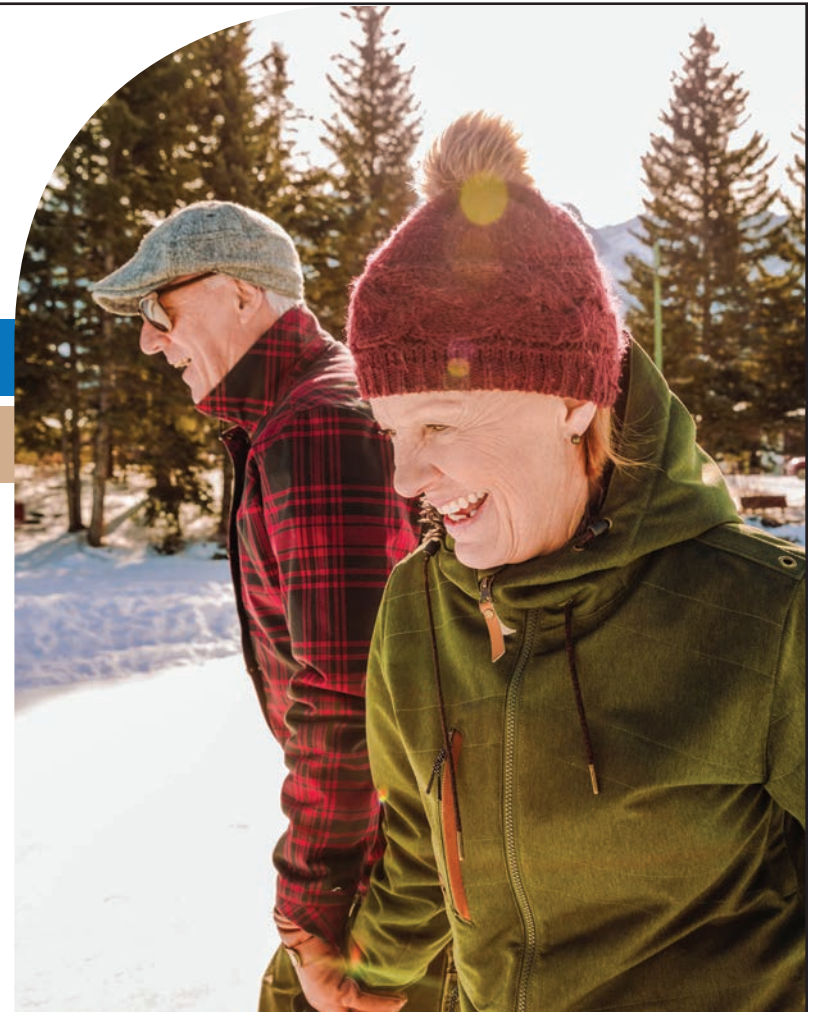
Home Medical Services

Our team of skilled professionals provides both medical and personal home care services. In addition to helping maintain personal hygiene, we also regulate and provide medical services such as bloodwork, medication administration, and accompanying clients to appointments.



For more information:

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Business, Finance & Real Estate



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Ontario expanding access to reliable broadband

The Ontario government is introducing the Supporting Broadband and Infrastructure Expansion Act, 2021 which, if passed, would help connect more communities to reliable, high-speed internet sooner. This legislation proposes to reduce costs to broadband providers associated with attaching broadband wire lines to hydro utility poles, and would provide timely access to poles and to municipal rights of way to install broadband on municipal land.

“By taking this step, our government is proposing to speed up Ontario’s broadband expansion, increasing

our competitiveness, connecting our unserved and underserved communities, and making life more convenient for individuals, families and workers,” said Laurie Scott, Minister of Infrastructure. “Through the initiatives proposed in this legislation we would get our infrastructure working better for Ontario.”

As many as 700,000 households and businesses in Ontario lack access to adequate broadband speeds, or have no internet connection at all. These proposed measures would help communities connect to reliable broadband sooner, so people can work from home,

learn online, connect with family and friends, and access vital services.

These proposed measures build on the province’s Up to Speed: Ontario’s Broadband and Cellular Action Plan. As part of the 2020 Budget, the Ontario government announced a historic investment of almost \$1 billion to improve broadband and cellular services, which is an additional \$680 million on top of its previous commitment.

“All Ontarians deserve access to reliable high-speed broadband and equal opportunity to engage in our ever-growing digital economy and lifestyle,” said Greg Rickford, Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines. “By reducing barriers and costs for internet providers to use existing electricity infrastructure, we are creating a path forward to deliver cost-effective and timely broadband service to communities across our vast province.”

Internet and telecommunications service providers based in Ontario face the highest hydro utility pole attachment rates in Canada.

This legislation builds on the Ontario

Rebuilding and Recovery Act and the Building Transit Faster Act to help accelerate the building of key infrastructure projects to create jobs and lay the foundation for a strong economic recovery.

Last year, the Province launched the Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) program, a multi-year program that aims to support approved broadband and cellular projects as early as Spring 2021. Ontario announced in November 2020 it was doubling funding in the program to \$300 million.

The Province has invested in initiatives to improve connectivity across Eastern and Southwestern Ontario. It has also invested in broadband projects through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation and the Next Generation Network Program.

Expanding access to broadband is part of Ontario Onwards: Ontario’s COVID-19 Action Plan for a People-Focused Government, which includes more than 30 projects that will change the way people and businesses interact with government.

MP tables fiscal estimates for 2021-22

The Government of Canada is committed to working in a manner that is open, transparent, and accountable to Canadians and Parliament.

King-Vaughan MP Deb Schulte, Minister of Seniors, tabled in the House of Commons the annual Departmental Plans and Main Estimates for fiscal year 2021-22, for Government of Canada departments and agencies, on behalf of the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, president of the Treasury Board.

In the coming year, we will see ongoing challenges and confront new ones as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Both the Departmental Plans and the Main Estimates reflect the government’s commitment to meeting those challenges while continuing its work on ongoing commitments and priorities. With these submissions to Parliament, the government is making clear how it plans to allocate taxpayer money.

Through tools such as GC InfoBase, the government is further strengthening its reporting processes allowing Parliament and Canadians to monitor the government’s plans and progress on results.

“In these times of rapid change, Canadians need assurance that their government is committed to the principles of openness, transparency and accountability. The government’s Departmental Plans and Estimates ensure that Parliamentarians and Canadians can easily track our priorities and planned spending to see how we are achieving results,” said Schulte.

The 2021-22 Main Estimates present information on \$141.9 billion in voted expenditures and \$200.3 billion in statutory spending, already authorized through existing legislation, for a total of \$342.2 billion in planned budgetary spending for 123 organizations to deliver programs and services to Canadians.

Groups say Bill 257 allows MZOs

By Mark Pavilons
Editor

Local Journalism Initiative

A provincial act supporting broadband across Ontario contains a potentially destructive policy.

Environmental Defence, Ontario Nature and Ecojustice say Bill 257 exempts Ministerial Zoning Orders (MZOs) from planning laws and policy. This new law, they stress, would allow environmentally destructive projects to go forward even if they contravene basic planning rules.

The groups go as far as saying this move is “yet another sneak legislative attack on environmental protection and public participation rules.”

Within the bill, entitled “Supporting Broadband and Infrastructure Expansion Act, Bill 257,” are proposed changes to the Planning Act that will allow Minister’s Zoning Orders (MZOs) to override key provisions of the Planning Act. If this legislation becomes law, when a MZO is used to permit development, it will no longer have to be consistent with Ontario’s fundamental planning principles – set out in the Provincial Policy Statement (the PPS).

Aside from the Greenbelt, lands currently protected under the PPS will become vulnerable to development at the “whim of the Province, as the law will allow MZOs to be issued to fast-track development projects that destroy protected farmland, wetlands and natural features.”

The environmental groups contend some provisions of the bill appear “designed to retroactively legitimize

the unlawful decision by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to allow the destruction of a large part of the provincially significant Lower Duffins Creek coastal wetland complex in Pickering.”

This 50-acre wetland is slated to be bulldozed to accommodate a proposed warehouse, authorized through a MZO. Environmental Defence and Ontario Nature, represented by Ecojustice, are challenging this MZO in Divisional Court. The parties assert the Minister unlawfully issued the MZO, which ignores protections for provincially significant wetlands under the PPS and the Planning Act. Faced with this lawsuit, the government is changing the law retroactively to override our right to seek redress in the Courts.

“Bill 257 illustrates the Ontario government’s willingness to go to great lengths to ensure developers can destroy even the most environmentally sensitive lands and do so without public consultation or comment. It represents an attack on the public’s constitutional right to seek judicial review of unlawful decisions. Moreover, the government is using the pandemic as a cover for its environmentally destructive actions, hiding this legislative amendment in a bill unrelated to the environment or land use planning, and without announcing it on the Environmental Registry or any other mechanism as required.

“(This) attack on Ontario’s most fundamental planning principles is the latest in a broader drive by the government to pave over large swathes of Ontario’s countryside and protected lands.”

Calling small business owners

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Ontario increases transit support for York Region

Ontario is providing \$16,719,831 in funding to help York Region address the financial impacts on its transit system from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This funding is in addition to the \$2 billion previously committed by Ontario and the federal government through the Safe Restart Agreement to help municipalities continue to deliver critical transit services.

During the peak of the pandemic, ridership dropped up to 90% of normal levels for some of Ontario's transit systems, which resulted in significant financial impacts for municipalities.

"Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, I have been hearing from individuals and families here in Vaughan-Woodbridge about the need for affordable, safer and more reliable public transit," said Michael Tibollo, MPP for Vaughan-Woodbridge. "This investment will help us in getting more people back to work, and access to a transit system for the future that all of us can depend on for generations to come."

The additional \$150 million in pro-

vincial funding means that there is a total of \$650 million in funding still available to municipalities up to Dec. 31, with extensions to December 2022 granted on a case-by-case basis. In addition, Ontario is calling on the federal government to match the additional funding announced today to help ensure municipal financial needs continue to be met.

"We heard from municipalities and we are responding to their need for more support as COVID-19 continues to result in lost revenue and additional costs for transit systems," said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. "Transit operators have done an incredible job keeping transit operating during this challenging time, and this support will help ensure there is reliable transportation for people can get to work or pick up essential items."

As part of the Safe Restart Agreement funding, municipalities need to work with the province to explore options to ensure local transit is safe, sustainable, affordable and integrated,

both during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

To support this work, Ontario is allowing municipalities to use Safe Restart Agreement funding towards new initiatives to make it easier and more affordable to travel between different transit systems, like adding capacity for on-demand microtransit and increasing fare and service integration across the region.

"We are committed to supporting our municipal partners in their mission to build back transit ridership when we come out of this pandemic," said Associate Minister Kinga Surma. "We recognize there's an opportunity now to work with our partners to ensure transit is safe, sustainable and affordable, both during COVID-19 and as we begin to recover."

"Public transit is critical in helping ensure members of the community can get to where they need to go and in supporting York Region's economic recovery. This additional funding of over \$16 million will help York Region continue

to provide safe and reliable public transit to members of our community now and in the future," added Christine Elliott, MPP for Newmarket-Aurora

"We are committed to investing in transit to ensure it remains safe and services our community during the pandemic and beyond. This funding will help ensure our residents can continue to have safe and reliable transit," noted Stephen Lecce, MPP for King-Vaughan.

"On behalf of York Regional Council and The Regional Municipality of York I thank the provincial government for their sustained support of residents and communities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. As more businesses and public spaces begin to open across York Region, more residents will be turning to transit to safely travel to-and-from work and other destinations. This funding will ensure safe and reliable transit options that support the economic vitality of our communities," said Wayne Emmerson, York chairman and CEO.

Investment tips

Are you still planning to retire early?

By Rob Payne

Have your retirement plans changed because of COVID-19? If so, you have plenty of company.

Nearly eight million Canadians say that COVID-19 has caused them to reconsider their retirement timing, according to the Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. You might have been thinking about retiring early – can you still do so?

Even without a crisis, it's not a bad idea to review your important life goals from time to time. So, in thinking about the possibility of early retirement, consider these factors:

- Your retirement lifestyle.
- Your ability to retire early depends somewhat on what sort of lifestyle you're anticipating during your retirement years. If you think you'll be traveling extensively or pursuing expensive activities, you might not be able to afford to retire as early as someone with more modest ambitions. Of course, there's no "right" or "wrong" way of living in retirement – we all have our own dreams and preferences. But be aware that different lifestyles do carry different price tags – and have different effects on when you can retire securely.

- Sources of retirement income.

Obviously, a key factor in knowing whether you can retire early is the amount of retirement income you can rely on. So, you'll have to assess all your sources: including government pension plans (CPP/QPP and OAS) as well as your own investments and an employer sponsored plan if you have one. The amounts you receive from these sources will depend on a variety of factors.

For government pension plans, the longer you wait until collecting, the larger your monthly payments (although they will "top out" when you reach 70, excluding cost-of-living adjustments). In regard to your investments and retirement accounts, you'll need to establish a withdrawal rate that's appropriate for the length of time you expect to be retired. So, by adjusting these variables – taking these benefits earlier or later, taking more or less money from your retirement accounts – you can help determine if the retirement date you had in mind is viable.

- Your feelings about work.

Your goals are not static – they can change in response to any number of reasons, both external and personal. When you first decided you wanted to retire early, you might have been motivated by, among other things, a weariness of your current job. But has that changed over time? Have you found new challenges that interest you at work? Or, if you were forced by the pandemic to work remotely, did you actually enjoy the arrangement and want to continue it?

After all, many employers have found that their workers can be just as productive working at home, so, even when we've gotten past COVID-19, we might see a sizable shift in the geography of the workplace. In any case, if your feelings about work have changed in some way, leading you to think you could work longer than originally planned, you'd likely gain some financial advantages.

You'd make more money, for starters, but you'd also keep building your Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) and Tax Free Savings Account (TFSA), and you could even possibly delay taking government pension benefits.

The pandemic may lead to a reevaluation of many financial goals – and taking early retirement might be one of them. By thinking carefully about your situation and your options, you can come up with a course of action that's right for you.

Rob Payne is a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones.

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KingWeeklySentinel

Arts & Entertainment

Arts Society King Studio Tour 2021 goes virtual

By Kathleen Rodgers

Visiting the country is a wonderful way to spend a weekend. It offers the opportunity to explore quaint villages and the studios of the local artists and artisans whose artwork often reflects the landscape around them.

In King Township, each spring brings the Studio Tour King, typically held at the end of April. Unfortunately due to the pandemic and public health restrictions, the studio tour cannot be

in person but will be held virtually.

The 16th Studio Tour King has been extended and will take place from April 12 to 25 with the preview from April 5 to 11. The studio tour will include fine paintings (in acrylic, oil, and watercolour), wood working, photography, fibre arts, metal works, mixed media, etc.

Studio Tour King will feature many artists and artisans in studios around King, including King City, Nobleton and Schomberg.

Their information can be found on

the Arts Society King (ASK) website at www.ArtsSocietyKing.ca as of April 5. Go to the ASK website, click on EVENTS then VIRTUAL STUDIO TOUR 2021 to see the participating artists, their biographies and up to 12 photos of their artwork for sale. There will be a link to his/her website and social media accounts for additional artwork available. If you are interested in purchasing any item, please contact the artist directly for their payment options and to arrange for delivery of the item.

Here are a few of the artists who will be participating this year:

Michelle Zikovitz has been weaving functional baskets for over 20 years and teaching for the past 15 years, throughout southern Ontario. Her early weaving years were spent at her 2 floor looms focusing on woven tapestries, rugs, placemats and runners.

A basketry workshop taught by a fellow guild member, a love of baskets and the ability to weave baskets almost anywhere all led to a new found passion of basket weaving. Reed is her personal material of choice for teaching, incorporating her own hand dyed reed whenever possible. Michelle enjoys experimenting with random dyed or "space dyed" skeins of reed, creating many unique colour combinations and resulting in truly one of a kind baskets.

When not basket weaving or working, Michelle dabbles in photography, sewing, fibre arts and various painting mediums. She loves to explore and find local basket weavers, artists, shops and galleries on her travels. Her website is www.michellezikovitz.ca.

Catharine Somerville was born in Toronto. She works in the UK and Canada. After completing her diploma at Georgian College, Catharine studied

printmaking at York University and later realized a BA Arts and Humanities (Art History) at the Open University. In 2009 she completed her postgraduate studies at West Dean College /University of Sussex, UK

Somerville is a recognized award-winning artist. Her work can be found internationally in public, private and corporate collections in Mexico, the U.S.A, Canada and England. Her website is www.catharinesomerville.com.

As a life-long photography enthusiast, Stephen Sloan hopes his work brings you some of the joy he has found in creating it. He enjoys the entire process of creating a photographic print, from the press of the shutter all the way through to the translation to the print media. He has worked with both film and digital, in the dark room and in front of my computer.

He likes to work with various print media and his interest in subjects and techniques varies greatly as he enjoys constantly learning and challenging himself. While Stephen strives to satisfy his need to express himself with every image that reaches the printed stage, to deliver an image that also evokes an emotional response, prompts a memory or even inspires a viewer is an even greater reward.

Website: <https://considerthis.com>

A native of Toronto, Steve Silverman is an award-winning, fine art photographer with a keen and unique artistic vision. His love and passion for black and white photography are reflected in his dramatic landscapes and engaging cityscapes from across Canada and abroad.

See 'Talented' on Page 11





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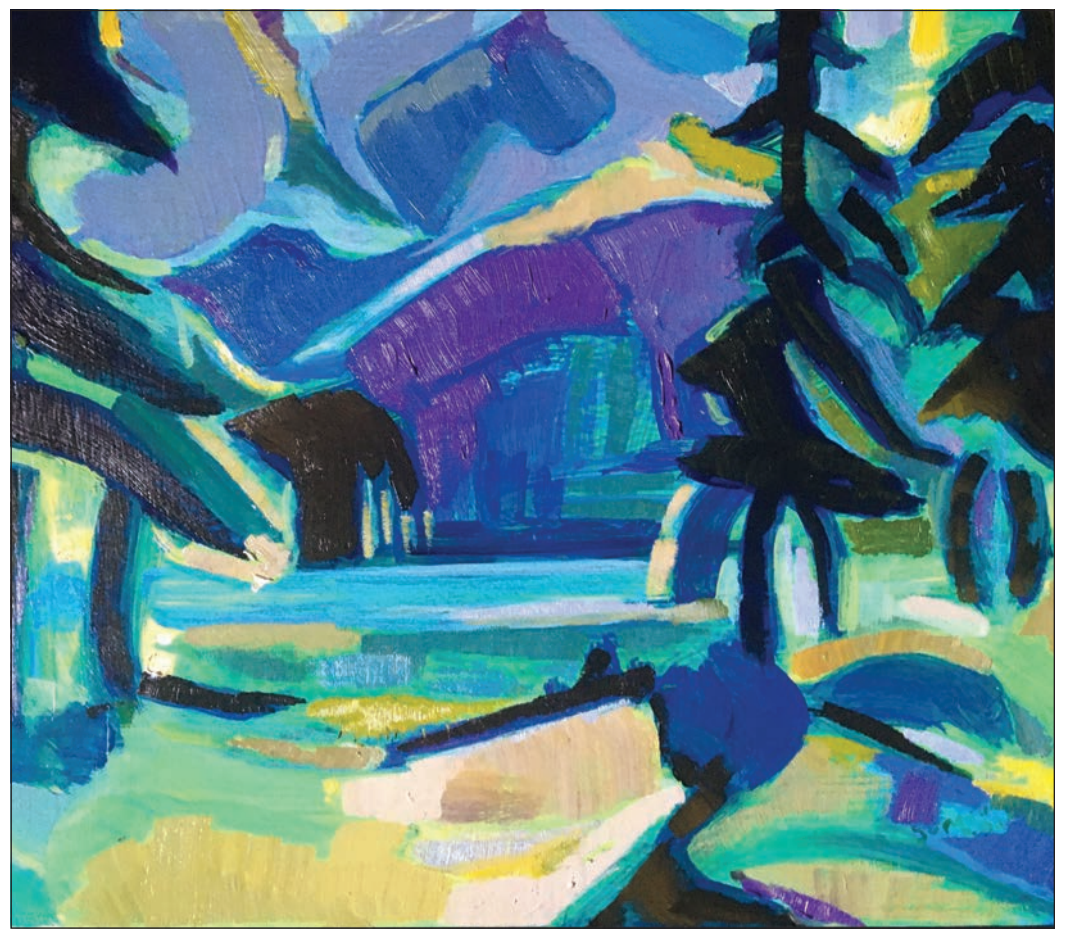
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Talented photographers involved in studio tour

From Page 10

Steve's photos are visual metaphors – intimate, interpretive views of the world around him. An implied comparison creating a link between the mundane and the sublime.

He uses strong tonal contrast, texture and mood to express his artistic vision. His photos are easily recognizable by his use of strong leading lines combined

with the interplay of light and shadows to create depth, giving a two-dimensional image the illusion of three dimensions. Simply put, he can transform a simple, mundane scene into a compelling black & white fine art photograph. Steve's photos have been published in many international books and magazines. He is also a guest speaker at local camera clubs. Steve works with several Canadian art galleries and publishers

on a variety of corporate and home decor fine art projects. His website is www.monochromevision.com.

If you are looking for something to do in April after a long winter, visit some art studios virtually to support the local artists and artisans. Some artists of-

fer classes so it may be an opportunity to try something new! Who knows maybe one day you will be participating in a studio tour!

The artists look forward to “seeing” you and sharing their work with you on this year's Studio Tour King 2021.



Olde Mill gallery open for business

The Olde Mill Art Gallery & Shoppe in Schomberg has opened its doors again. They are a co-op art gallery that supports local artists and they pride themselves on their unique and beautiful items, and the fact that all items are Canadian made.

Artists have had the time and the energy to tune into their creative spirits for the past couple of months, so the public is invited to come in and visit the gallery to see the many new creations on our wall and in the displays.

When you are looking for that special gift of jewellery or scarves, a painting for that empty space on your wall, handcrafted paddles, furniture, wooden bowls and vases, and decorations and greeting cards, stop in.

In keeping with all safety protocols, they ask that you wear a mask at all times when visiting the gallery.

It's located at 357 Main Street, Schomberg. It's open Thursdays to Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can also visit [Facebook@oldemillartgalleryandshoppe](https://www.facebook.com/oldemillartgalleryandshoppe)

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Positive reaction to blueprint to expand the Greenbelt

By Mark Pavilons
Editor

Local Journalism Initiative

Members of the public and special interest groups welcome the opportunity to help grow Ontario's Greenbelt.

In fact, such input and consultations could result in the largest expansion of the Greenbelt since 2005.

The Ontario government launched a 60-day consultation to grow the Greenbelt and help protect more of the province's natural environment – including farmlands, forests, wetlands and watersheds – from future development. The consultations could result in the largest expansion of the greenbelt since its creation in 2005.

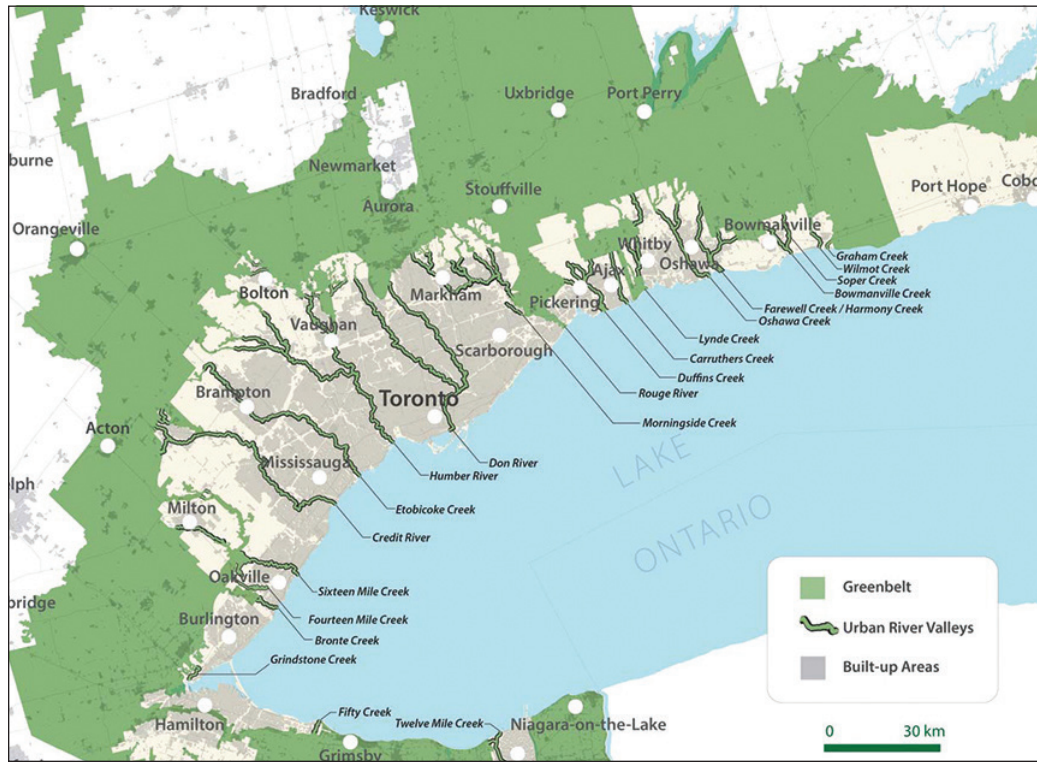
"This is truly a unique opportunity to grow the Greenbelt and protect Ontario's environmental, groundwater and agricultural resources for future generations," said Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "The Premier has been steadfast in his commitment to protect the Greenbelt and our government will not consider any proposals to remove or develop any part of it."

The government is seeking public input on how best to grow the size and quality of the Greenbelt, including adding, expanding and further protecting urban river valleys, and increasing the Greenbelt's footprint into high density urban areas including the areas around the Don River in Toronto and land around Duffins Creek in Ajax and Pickering.

Comments are welcome by email: greenbeltconsultation@ontario.ca or through the Environmental Registry of Ontario by April 19.

"Protecting the Greenbelt for future generations is essential. Our government is committed to protecting our natural environment and will look to expand our natural protected spaces going forward," said Stephen Lecce, MPP for King-Vaughan. "That is why the government has announced this new consultation to hear from residents of King-Vaughan on how best to grow the size and quality of the Greenbelt, and look forward to hearing from them on how we can further protect the natural environment."

More than 90 groups and prominent individuals, including former members of the Greenbelt Council, released



a new report "Expanding Ontario's Greenbelt: Getting It Right." The report provides a blueprint for how the Province can grow Ontario's world-renowned 1.8 million acre Greenbelt, to increase the amount of farmland and natural spaces that are protected from urban sprawl.

Concerned Citizens of King Township (CCKT) notes the Ontario Greenbelt Plan is the largest of its kind in the world. It is the result of forward thinking, collaboration and considerable study and vision. The Greenbelt Plan recognizes the high value of conserving prime agricultural land and key natural heritage systems and features in south central Ontario close to large urban centres.

CCKT welcomes the news that the Ontario government is seeking public input on growing the Greenbelt. There are several regions with prime farmland and key natural features beyond the present Greenbelt boundaries which require protection and a high level of long term stewardship.

"We think of Simcoe Region which is under considerable pressure to develop on Class 1, 2 and 3 agricultural land and adjacent to sensitive natural heritage lands. Simcoe is one of several regions which require the protective visionary policies of the Greenbelt Plan. There would be benefits to including Waterloo Region, Wellington County and Northumberland in a Greenbelt expansion.

This would provide consistency in policies intended to protect Agricultural Systems and Natural Heritage Systems," according to the group. "Specifically, CCKT supports the inclusion of the Paris-Galt Moraine in the Greenbelt which stretches across the western part of the GTA."

However, if the Ontario government is serious about protecting and growing the Greenbelt, it needs to repeal plans for large highways such as the proposed GTA West Expressway crossing through the heart of the Greenbelt and spurring on additional urban sprawl while impacting rivers, streams, wetlands and forests in Halton, Caledon and Vaughan. There are several positive cost-effective alternatives and solutions to major highway expansion.

Nobleton resident and former King councillor Susan Swail is not convinced by the government's latest olive branch.

"Can we trust a government that continually undermines the environment and smart growth by planning two highways through the Greenbelt; eliminates the expertise of Conservation Authorities to comment on land use and infrastructure projects; weakens the Environmental Assessment process and grants approval to build warehouses on provincially significant wetlands?"

She said the Greenbelt and the Growth Plan work together. The Green-

belt is where not to grow, the serviced urban centres in the region is where growth should occur. Recent changes to the provincial Growth Plan reversed course, moving away from transit supportive densities in urban areas to encourage more land intensive housing. Low density housing drives up congestion and taxes and is not affordable.

"If the province truly wants to grow the Greenbelt they need to step up to prioritize infrastructure and growth in our cities that preserves the Greenbelt as a critical resource," she said.

"Expanding Ontario's Greenbelt will help improve the sustainability of farming in the region, will help protect drinking water resources and assist in the fight against climate change. I was pleased when, in December, the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, stated that he wanted advice on how to expand the Greenbelt. This report responds to that request and sets out a path for success," said David Crombie, former chair of the Greenbelt Council.

The report outlines five requirements the provincial government must follow to ensure that Greenbelt expansion improves the environmental and financial health of Ontarians:

- Retain all lands currently protected within the Greenbelt.
- Build on the science and public consultation carried out during the recent boundary expansion review.
- Simultaneously address public health, local food security, water security, climate resilience, biodiversity conservation and economic prosperity.
- Acknowledge that there is more than enough land available to both expand the Greenbelt and build complete communities in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.
- Consult meaningfully with Indigenous communities.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear how crucial the forests, wetlands, river valleys and farmland all around us are to our continued well-being and to maintaining our health," said Anne Golden, former chair, Ryerson City Building Institute. "Bringing more land under the legal protection of the Greenbelt is the best tool to protect these precious spaces."

See 'Moves' on Page 13



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Moves will protect lands

From Page 12

“Our report outlines the steps the provincial government needs to take to protect the lands and waters that sustain us and create an equitable, prosperous future for people living in the most heavily populated region of the province,” said Dr. Anne Bell of Ontario Nature.

“This report responds to Minister Clark’s request for advice on how to grow the Greenbelt. We now look forward to meeting with, and working with, the Minister to turn this report into action,” said Tim Gray, executive director, Environmental Defence.

“In addition to the land in the Paris Galt Moraine and urban river valleys lands that the Minister is asking the public to consider adding to the Greenbelt, there are various lands under development threat that should also be considered, such as the headwaters of Carruther’s Creek north of Ajax/Pickering, all of the wetlands associated with Duffins Creek and some Whitebelt lands adjacent to the Greenbelt that are in danger of being fast-tracked for development.

“Adding such lands to the Greenbelt will increase farmland and nature protection and reduce land speculation in these areas. Greenbelt expansion should also be accompanied by the Ontario government re-examining the legal and policy changes that it has made to weaken the Growth Plan, Planning Act and Conservation Authorities Act. These laws and policies should work in tandem to ensure the development of sustainable communities in the Greater Golden Horseshoe,” Gray said.

At present, Ontario’s Greenbelt protects two crucial headwaters: those found in the Niagara Escarpment and the Oak Ridges Moraine. The Greenbelt also protects 21 urban river valleys – including the Humber, Credit, and Rouge. These valley systems intersect our growing communities, providing important greenspace, documented cooling effects, and increased protection from flooding for residents and businesses.

According to the Greenbelt Foundation, by protecting new headwaters, including the Paris-Galt Moraine, which is home to unique water resources, and urban river valleys, which pass through our densely populated areas, we have an opportunity to extend the Greenbelt’s important benefits.

Maintaining the integrity of the

current Greenbelt area during any expansion, including preserving important agricultural lands, is critical to its long-term vitality and the success of our near-urban food economy. The Government of Ontario has been clear that it will refuse any requests to change the current Greenbelt boundary, which provides certainty for municipal planning and ensures the Greenbelt can continue delivering its economic and job benefits, notably in the agriculture and food and tourism sectors.

“By announcing its intention to expand the Greenbelt’s protection of critical water systems in Ontario, the Province has indicated an important path forward for extending and enhancing the unique benefits of the Greenbelt,” said Edward McDonnell, CEO, Greenbelt Foundation. “We welcome this discussion and look forward to finding ways to build on the Greenbelt’s history of success.”

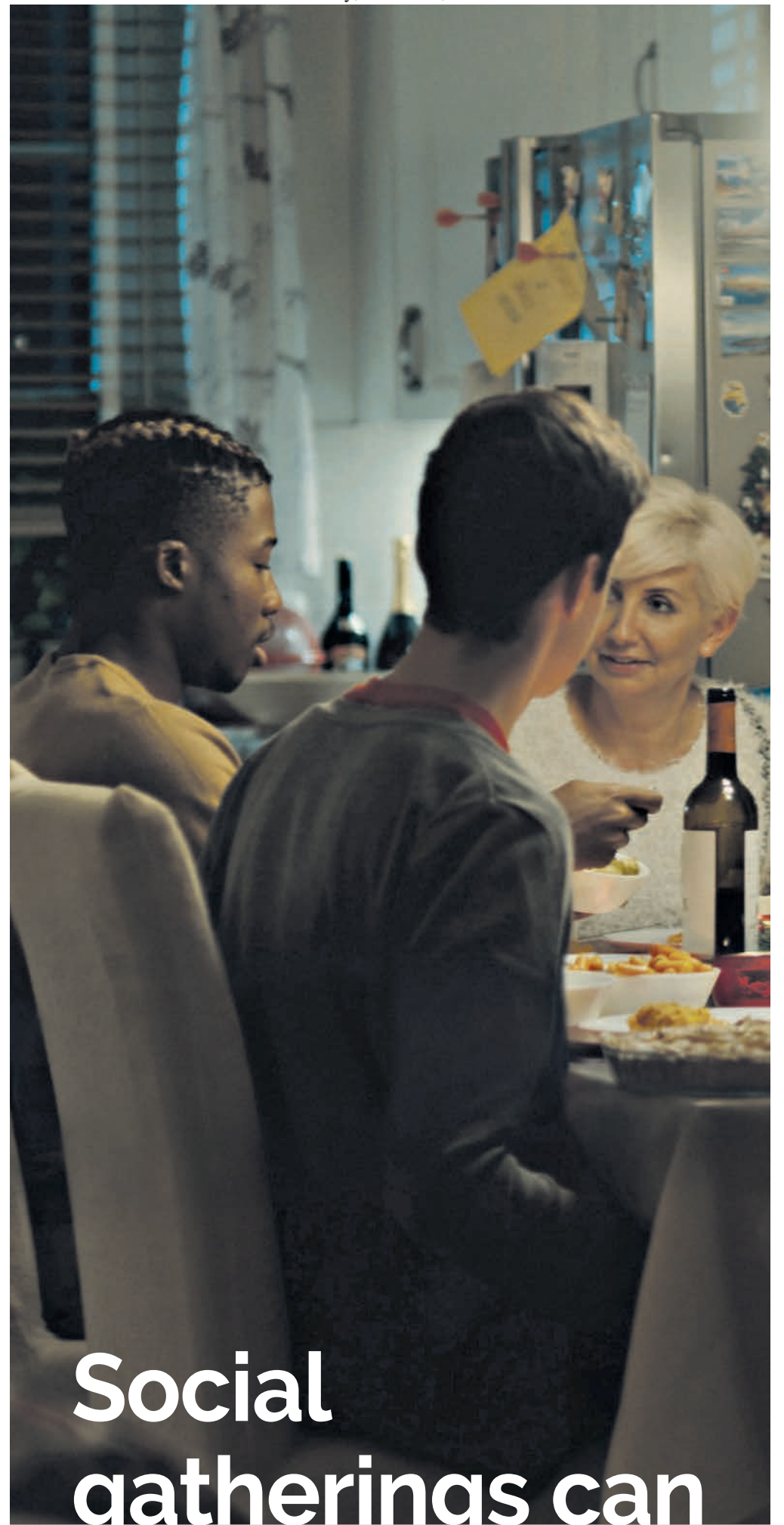
At present, the Greenbelt contributes \$9.6 billion in GDP and supports more than 177,700 full-time jobs. By further investing in headwaters, urban river valleys, and our other near-urban landscapes, we can create more jobs and further reduce costs to communities related to the impacts of extreme weather, such as flooding and water contamination – both of which healthy, natural systems help prevent.

Together with government, conservation authorities, and partners in the public and private sectors, the Greenbelt Foundation has an important role to play in engaging communities and convening stakeholders to support a strategic and thoughtful expansion of Ontario’s Greenbelt. The Foundation is committed to building on our legacy of success by developing research projects and grant programs that further strengthen the Greenbelt’s key sectors and steward its critically important landscapes.

Established under the Greenbelt Act, 2005, the Greenbelt is a broad band of protected land that currently includes over 800,000 hectares of land in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

The Paris Galt Moraine is a glacial deposit of loose sediment and rock extending from Caledon to north of Paris and Brantford and is home to critical groundwater resources.

The Greenbelt currently contains 21 urban river valleys and associated wetlands. These are the valleys of rivers that pass through cities or towns and act as urban gateways to the Greenbelt.



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THE King Weekly Sentinel

King man seeks Health Canada approval for anti-virus mask

By Mark Pavilons
Editor

Local Journalism Initiative

A Schomberg man has developed a mask that is designed to kill almost every virus, and he wants one in the hands of every Canadian. He'd even love to see one on the face of every person around the globe.

Andre Milne, of Unicorn Aerospace, just released his prototype CuRVE mask, with patented respiratory virus elimination filtration. Tweaking commonplace parts, Milne has a product that he hopes can kill almost any virus, from Ebola to COVID.

The office of King-Vaughan MP Deb Schulte helped steer Milne to Health Canada, in order to get approval for the mask.

The flexible silicone mask uses rigid copper screening to rid the air of contaminants. It's comfortable and waterproof. When a person breathes in, viruses in the air are drawn through rigid copper mesh screens layered over a BSL4 Hazard graphene oxide filter that then traps and eliminates the viruses in a silent kill zone before they are inhaled into the lungs of the person wearing the #CuRVE mask.

When a person breathes out, even if he has the virus, it will be eliminated shortly after exhalation in the same kill zone.

Milne is confident his design will protect against viruses including SARS, MRSA, MERS, N1H1, along with COVID-19 and all of its variants.

"You're purifying the air just by using it," he stated.

Researchers have found that while viruses can live on hard surfaces for days, they last only hours when in contact with copper. It's durable, and its anti-microbial qualities last forever.

Professor Schmidt, from the Medical University of South Carolina, called copper at "molecular oxygen grenade." American researchers are conducting antimicrobial research using the very same grade of copper Milne has used in his #CuRVE mask prototype.

The surprisingly soft and comfortable mask is worth every penny. The real hard cost, Milne says, is less than \$4 per mask. If you do the math, everyone in Canada can get one for roughly \$150 million, much less than the federal government has spent on typical PPE

and other measures.

"I want to get it in the hands of every Canadian," he said.

He stressed that his mask is vital, almost necessary today. What happens if we experience a 4th or even 5th wave of COVID? Will the economy be strong enough to survive?

The government, Milne said, can use the The Defence Production Act, which sets out measures and powers for the government to procure products and manufacturing related to defence supplies.

He pointed out that even if COVID has a lifespan of two weeks, if everyone in the country is using the CuRVE for 14 days, the airborne virus could be completely eliminated.

"It's over, it's done," he said of the nasty pandemic.

He likens the mask to an airborne military defence system neutralizing the threat.

He estimated the cost of "curing" the entire planet would be roughly \$21 billion.

Milne has no desire to profit from this device.

"Let's get it done, and get it moving," he said. "I don't want a dime."

He explained that the potential applications are huge. If you outfit your home heating, cooling and purification system with copper mesh, you'd be completely protected from deadly viruses.

Milne's confidence is based on over 20 years of scientific research conducted by Professor Keevil at the University of Southampton in England, who has stockpiled a comprehensive database of laboratory testing that confirms copper triggers an irreversible self-destruction on deadly viruses immediately upon contact.

Keevil said copper's specific atomic makeup gives it "extra killing power." Papers published on this effect by Keevil explain that when a microbe lands on copper, ions blast the pathogen like an onslaught of missiles, preventing cell respiration while punching holes in the membrane or viral coating while creating free radicals that accelerate the kill. The ions seek and destroy the DNA and the RNA inside a bacteria or virus preventing the mutations that create drug-resistant superbugs.

He said he would be willing to extend the free patent to all government agencies and buildings. When it comes



to commercial and residential HVAC companies, he would licence out the design, but insists that profits be used to help supply third world countries, who simply don't have the financial means to produce or acquire the masks.

"We need to stop and hit pause, and stop profiting on this (COVID)," he said. "It's not a game."

Further, Milne would offer the technology to all countries around the world, if they also invoke legislative orders, similar to the Defence Production Act.

"We have to stand by our brothers and sisters who are in extreme or desperate need," he said. "We can't turn our backs on them."

This, he said, is the core foundation of humanitarianism.

Milne also said there should be a government, even global standard of masks and filters, something along the lines of CSA approved ratings.

His only wish is that health and government leaders take the reins and run with it.

Milne developed this game-changing

solution to the global pandemic during his engineering of a high altitude life support method for fighter pilots of an emergency ejection system Unicorn Aerospace is currently developing.

"I was incorporating the design principles of the U.S. Navy SEAL Draeger Rebreather system into the ejection system, and it struck me that the exact same principles of controlled chemical reactions in creating fresh air could be reversed to kill COVID-19."

Milne's engineering prowess just recently set a new world record for the U.S. Navy Special Forces 9mm bullet.

Milne will be issuing his free CuRVE patent licences to all the world's governments through the Unicorn Aerospace social media account of @aeromilitarytec

Milne has filed the Health Canada Accreditation application material sent to Milne by Minister Schulte's office. Having secured an investor who's willing to support manufacturing the product, Milne is only waiting for Health Canada Accreditation to get started.

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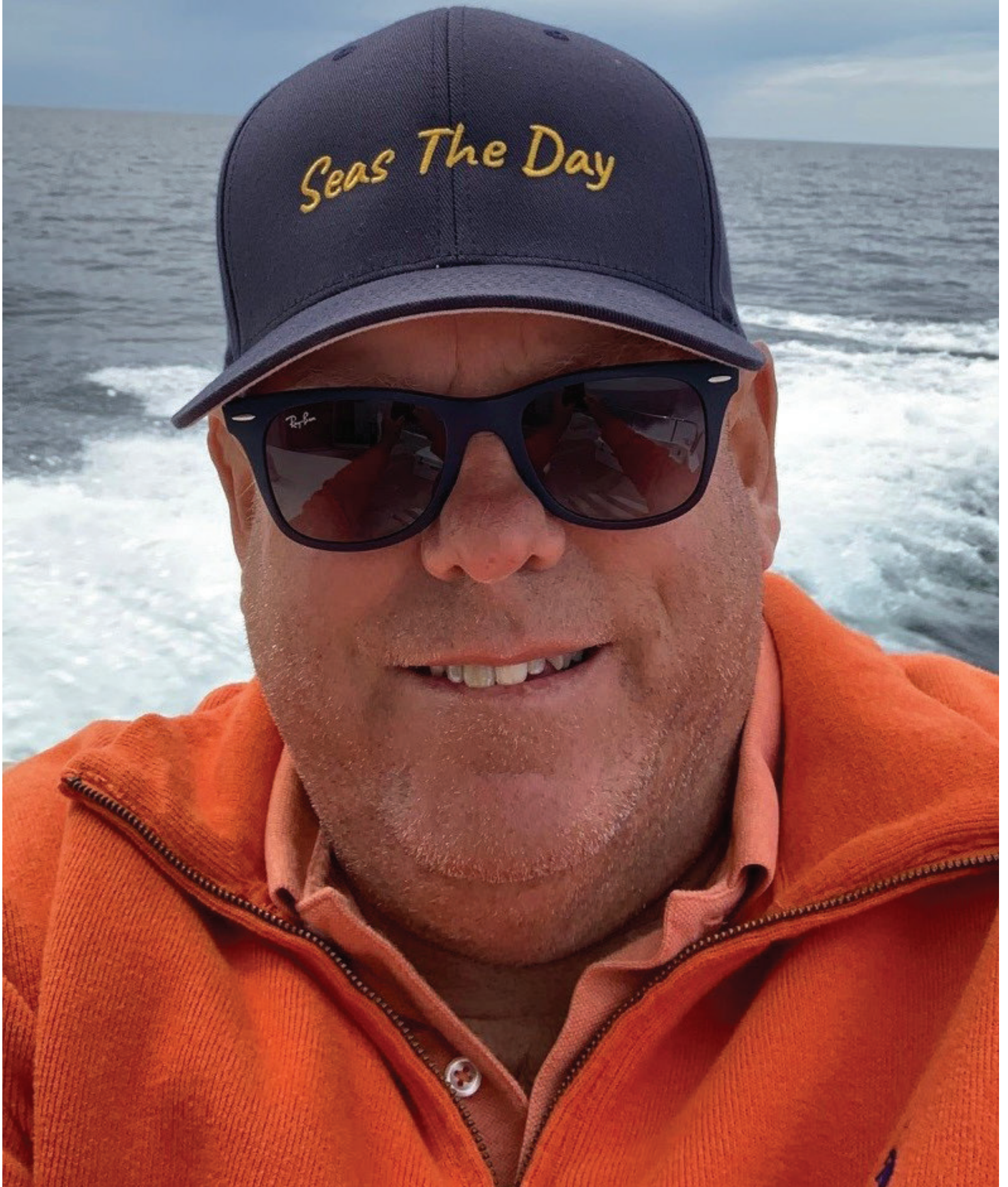
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Eric Lamaze places third in Grand Prix of Doha

Canadian Olympic champion, and former Schomberg resident Eric Lamaze closed out two weeks of competition in Doha, Qatar, with a third-place finish in the €375,000 CSI5 Grand Prix of Doha on March 6. The event was part of the Global Champions Tour which opened its 2021 season in Doha.

Riding Dieu Merci van T&L, Lamaze was one of seven riders to qualify for the jump-off in the state-of-the-art Al Shaqab Equestrian Center stadium. Niels Bruynseels of Belgium had the winning time of 39.93 seconds riding Delux van T&L while Italy's Lorenzo de Luca was second in a time of 40.20 seconds with Nuance Bleue VDM Z. Lamaze was close behind with a time of 40.35 seconds to join the top three on the podium.

Lamaze had been competing at the Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington, FL, prior to flying two of his top horses, Dieu Merci van T&L and his 2016 Olympic bronze medal partner, Fine Lady 5, to Doha for two back-to-back weeks of five-star competition. While Fine Lady 5, owned by Artisan Farms LLC, has been a mainstay in Eric's competition string for the past eight seasons, Dieu Merci van T&L joined the line-up last summer when Lamaze's Torrey Pines Stable Inc. purchased the horse in partnership with Mark Rein and his wife, Tara Dow-Rein.

"I chose to go to Doha to give Dieu Merci some experience in a different venue," explained Lamaze of the 12-year-old bay Belgian Sport Horse stallion (Toulon x Corrado I). "It's a horse that has some experience at the two and three-star level, mostly gained

at the same competitions in Europe. My strategy in coming to Doha was to bring him into a new venue with a championship feeling to it.

"He proved he is more than capable of competing with the best in the world," continued Lamaze, 52, who is a gold, silver, and bronze Olympic medalist. "I love the horse. He's careful and he's scopey. If Tokyo goes ahead and I'm chosen as the Canadian representative, I will definitely go with this horse."

The opening event of the Global Champions Tour also marked the first Global Champions League team event of the season. This year, Lamaze is riding as part of the Cascais Charms alongside Carlos and René Lopez, both of Colombia; Ahmad Hamcho of Syria; Under 25 rider Jodie Hall-McAteer of Great Britain; and team owner Sadri Fegaier of France.

"We were one rail away from being on the podium this week," said Lamaze of his Cascais Charms debut. "It was a great opportunity to be on the team with Carlos, Rene, and team owner Sadri Fegaier. Given the COVID situation, this is still a bit of an unknown year for competition but I feel like the Global Champions Tour team will do everything it can to make sure the events happen. Competing for the Cascais Charms will be my main focus this year along with preparing for Tokyo if I am chosen to go."

With competition concluded in Doha, Lamaze, as well as Dieu Merci and Fine Lady 5, will return to his European base in Écaussinnes, Belgium. After spending a week checking on operations and working with the younger



Lamaze and Dieu Merci van T&L, owned by The Rein Family LLC and Torrey Pines Stable Inc., placed third in the €375,000 CSI5* Grand Prix of Doha on March 6 in Doha, Qatar.

Photo by Stefano Grasso for LGCT

horses in his training and sales program, Lamaze will return to Wellington, FL. He plans to compete during weeks 10 and 11 of the Winter Equestrian Festival with the horses that are still in Florida, including Chacco Kid. He is especially looking forward to contesting the \$500,000 CSI5* Rolex Grand Prix, scheduled for Saturday, March 27, before returning to Europe.

Lamaze has steadily been building a large sales and training program and recently began establishing a breeding program with three top stallions, including Dieu Merci van T&L. With bases in Europe and the U.S., Torrey Pines Stable is recognized as an international leader in horse sport sales. For more information, visit www.ericlamaze.com and www.torrey-pines-stables.com.

York Curling Club awaits return to the ice

By Robert Belardi

York Curling Club planned to return to the sheets in February, but a board decision ultimately closed the club until next year, Manager Jack Inouye says.

"As a result, initially the board decided to delay start up from September to November, then from November to February, but eventually decided to remain closed for the season as did many clubs in Ontario. Most clubs in Ontario that did install ice, have either been shut down or have had very limited league curling this year," Inouye said.

Depending on the situation revolving around COVID-19, Inouye plans to bring curling back in the fall with restrictions in place.

And, with some improvements to the facility as well.

"We have received a Trillium Grant to install touchless door openers on all the high traffic doors and Hepa air cleaners in the lounge and locker rooms. Also, additional sanitizing protocols throughout the facility."

The club has six sheets of ice that would permit 48 curlers for a full draw. Inouye says, in most cases, 48 curlers would be competing at one time.

Inouye is hoping membership returns to pre-pandemic levels. He feels the longer the club is closed the less incentive members have to return.

"We will be doing a lot of promotions in social media once our schedule for the season is set. The board is looking at promotional pricing for new members. This should be finalized over the summer," Inouye said.

For now, curlers have had the chance to enjoy Kerri Einarson win the Scotties Tournament of Hearts last week. The Tim Hortons Brier will begin this Saturday and then the men's and women's Curling World Championships will begin on March 20.

No shortage of Paralympic inspiration for singer DeRosa

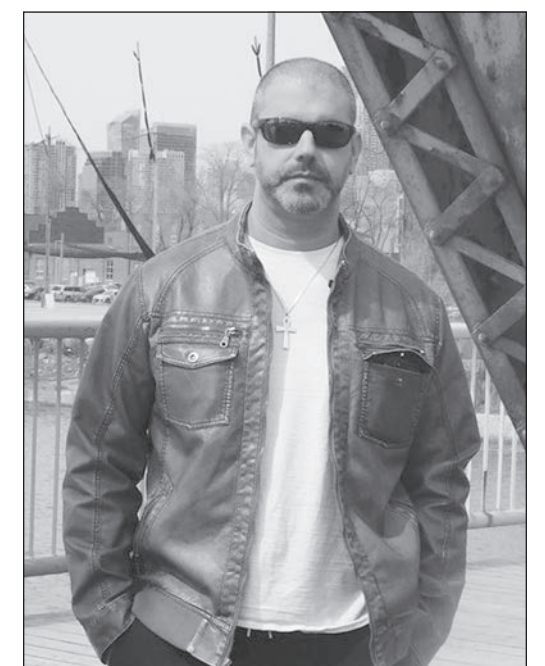
For Canadian singer-songwriter Paul DeRosa, there's no shortage of inspirations when it comes to writing songs for Canada's Paralympic athletes.

In 2019, DeRosa paired up with the Canadian Paralympic Committee and the CBC to record "Shine," an emotionally driven song set to become the soundtrack for the Paralympic Games broadcast set for the summer of 2020.

With the Games postponed to 2021 due to the Global pandemic, "Shine" and the athletes themselves are eagerly waiting on next summer to inspire the world once again.

As many would agree, the world needs a bit of hope right now. This has been the driver for DeRosa to continue to put his creative artistry to work. With all the setbacks that many have had to face in 2020, including our Canadian Paralympic athletes, DeRosa wanted to shed some optimism and is now in the process of recording a new track for the 2022 Winter Paralympic Games set to take place in Beijing, China, 6 months after the Summer Games in Tokyo.

According to DeRosa, the song titled "Champion," is a broader reflection of every individual's victories we, as humans can achieve. There is no better example of this than our Paralympic



athletes. Being a Champion is not just about winning the race, it's about beating the odds and achieving that goal.

Despite the limitations with gatherings during the pandemic, DeRosa has been virtually collaborating and recording with vocalist Eva Avila, who is featured on the English and French recording of Shine.

The new track is set to be released September 2021. "Shine" is currently available on iTunes and Spotify. All proceeds will go to supporting Canada's Paralympic Athletes.

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Nobleton Notes

St. Paul's Church By Linda Blydorp

The province has now moved us into the Red Zone, and although numbers are limited, you are welcome to join us in person for worship.

This Sunday, March 14, our Pastor, Jeff, will lead us in worship. His message is entitled, "God Calling" based on Ephesians 4.1-16. Our live-streamed broadcasts are available directly on stpaulsnobleton.ca or on our YouTube channel each Sunday at 10 a.m. You can watch previous services or messages anytime, also on our YouTube channel (youtube.com/stpaulschurchnobleton).

A Bible Study for Youth continues via Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Our current Bible study is aimed toward teen girls. If you are interested in joining, or know of someone that might be, please contact Jenna at jkddvm@gmail.com for more information.

Our women's Life Connect Group meets every Tuesday morning on Zoom at 9:30 a.m. Please contact the church using the connection card found on St.

Paul's web page or contact Kim Newediuk at knewediuk@gmail.com.

On Thursday at noon the Women's Good News Fellowship meets every week via zoom. Please contact the church using the connection card found on St. Paul's web page or give Marti Cross a call at 416-399-4536 for the Zoom link. These are safe groups where we can just dig a little deeper into the Word, as well as encourage each other.

We are looking for people to participate in a COVID-friendly presentation of the Easter story which will be done on video from our homes and put together in post-production for showing on our YouTube channel around Easter. If you enjoy being on camera, or would like to help with some off-camera activities that will help bring the story of Jesus's resurrection to people in a new way, go to stpaulsnobleton.ca/connect and let us know.

St. Mary's Church

Please join us in-person on a first come-first Serve basis for the celebration of the Holy Mass as per Mass schedule in bulletin. For those who cannot join us, the celebration of the Sunday Holy Mass for this weekend will be

livestreamed at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 14, from St. Patrick's Church, Schomberg.

Please go to our Facebook page to join us for this virtual celebration of the Sunday liturgy.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: You may also invite your children to join the Children's Liturgy of the Word on Zoom hosted by Rose and Merilena.

For more information on how to join, please call Rose: 416-605-6843 or email: rosepallotto@gmail.com

Life Teen Parish Youth Group: Calling all Teens grades 7-12 to join our Life Teen - Life Night next Saturday at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. For Zoom link please contact our Youth Minister Zephania: 905-830-2644 or zephaniagangl315@gmail.com. Perfect for teens registered for the Sacrament of Confirmation!

Holy Rosary Group: Don't forget to join us every Monday at 7 p.m. to pray the Holy Rosary on Zoom - details on how to join in the bulletin.

Kindly share this bulletin with your families, friends, fellow parishioners, and councils, especially those who do not receive the bulletin via email.

If there is anything we can do to support you in these uncertain times, please call the parish office on 905-859-

5522 or email us at stp_stm_church@hotmail.com.

We will be checking emails and phone messages periodically as the Parish Office has been closed.

For those who are preparing for the Sacraments in 2021, we will continue to keep you updated by email.

Check out our Facebook page for parish updates, prayers and Saturday Vigil or Sunday Holy Mass livestream. Kindly see the parish bulletin Mass schedule for private and Livestream Masses. You may continue to request Mass Intentions for the private Masses as well as the offering and intention for the weekly Sanctuary Light. Please contact the parish office with your request.

Garden Club's AGM

The Nobleton & King City Garden Club will hold their Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The meeting will take place Monday, March 22 at 7 p.m. in the comfort of your own home as it will be a ZOOM call. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Please RSVP to nobletonkingcitygardenclub@gmail.com and a link will be forwarded to you. Spring is coming. Happy gardening!

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DEADLINES

Unfortunately deadlines do not allow us to take ads after 5:00 p.m. on Monday. When there is a holiday Monday, the deadlines will be Friday at 5:00 p.m. All ads must be paid in advance by deadline or the ad will not run. WE ACCEPT VISA, MASTERCARD, AND AMERICAN EXPRESS PAYMENTS OVER THE PHONE

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**King City United
By Sheryl Sinka**

Last week Robert Murdock presented a thoughtful message, "Justice For All" on the third Sunday in Lent. He examined the behaviours of those in the distant past and our attitudes in modern times, prodding us to reflect on our treatment and attitudes towards the marginalized and learn from the examples of our great teacher, Jesus.

The recorded worship is available on our YouTube Channel at York United Ministries and all on our website. Online worship on Sundays is available at 10 and this Sunday Rev. Andrew Lee is presiding.

Throughout Lent, there is a weekly Lenten reflection offered by Rev Andrew that is broadcast on Thursdays on the York United Ministries YouTube Channel. These are short sessions using music scripture and prayer to help centre us during Lent.

We have also begun a series that addresses questions posed by the youth and young adults to Rev. Andrew. This Q-Box series also airs on Thursday evenings.

If you would like emails with the link to the worship please contact the church at kcuca@bellnet.ca to be put on the list for the Sunday morning worship link.

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.

King Bible Church

Now that York Region is in the Red Zone we are able to open our doors for 30% capacity on a Sunday morning for our services! We will meet every other week in person.

Join us for our next in-person service on March 21 at 10:30 a.m. Pastor Mark will be continuing our series "The Church Defined" - who we are versus

who we should be.

When we are not worshipping in person we are worshipping online! Join us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. March 14 is an online service.

We have ensured that we can provide a safe place for you and your family to worship. Like the world around us, things are going to look different. You can read about the specifics in our Re-Opening Plan which you will on our website (www.kingbiblechurch.com).

As well, during the weeks we are not gathering in person, we will continue to meet online Sundays at 10:30 a.m. either on Facebook for our "Sunday Conversations" or a pre-recorded message available through our Facebook page or our You Tube channel. Details will be on our website.

Finally, in order to open safely we need your help.

1) We need you to please be gracious and commit to following the various guidelines that we have had to put in place to ensure everyone's health and safety.

2) We need you to sign-up each week that you plan to attend our in-person services. A link is available on our website for you to reserve seats for you and your family.

Thank-you and we look forward to seeing everyone soon! Please visit our website for further information! www.kingbiblechurch.com

Garden Club's AGM

The Nobleton & King City Garden Club will hold their Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The meeting will take place Monday, March 22 at 7 p.m. in the comfort of your own home as it will be a ZOOM call. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Please RSVP to nobletonkingcitygardenclub@gmail.com and a link will be forwarded to you. Spring is coming. Happy gardening!

St. Andrew's By Kathy Patterson

St. Andrew's invites you to join us online at standrews-kingcity.ca as we journey through Lent, leading to Easter.

Our Sunday service starts at 10:15 a.m. however, the service is available for most of the week. Last Sunday, the Rev. Dr. John Vissers took the service for our Communion Sunday.

More on Page 19

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Brooks, Doug

It is with great sadness that the family of Doug Brooks announce his peaceful passing on February 15, 2021. He was predeceased by Barb, the love of his life and married partner for 63 years. His 5 children are eternally grateful for the ahead-of-his-time family man that he was. He is predeceased by his daughter Vicky, and survived by Diane (Jerry), Lynda (Scott), Doug (Christine) and Steve (Barb), along with his 8 grandchildren (Lena, Kyle, Nicole, Scott, Claire, Davis, Austyn, Cooper) and his 6 great-grandchildren (Cameron, Madison, Ava, Arlo, Hunter, Evvie). Doug found the time and energy to work in the city, yet get back to Tottenham to coach his girls' baseball teams, coach his boys' hockey teams, and then take on the hockey league role as Convenor for many years. As per his wishes, there will be only a small celebration of life for him with his immediate family.

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened". ~ Dr. Seuss



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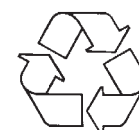
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King Weekly Sentinel

From Page 18

John delivered his message based on John 6, Jesus, the Bread of Life.

“Coffee Fellowship” is held after Sunday morning worship. Get in touch with Lynn or Kathy at 905-833-0391 if you need the link or have any questions.

Virtual Bible Study on the book of James takes place Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. Other virtual Bible Studies are being planned for people who are available during the day using rightnowmedia.org’s library to which St. Andrew’s has subscribed.

Virtual Art for the Soul is on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. Contact Lynn for the Zoom link.

The Greater Grace Fellowship has been able to resume their Bible Study now on Sundays at 5 p.m. in the Lounge, keeping to the Public Health measures. Should you need to contact Pastor Niyazi or Irada Bilgen of the Greater Grace Fellowship, call 416-878-8499.

For pastoral care, call or text Lynn

Visser, Director of Congregational Ministries at 416-998-4652 or the Rev. Paul Johnston, our Interim Moderator at 705-341-7738.

Should you need to contact Pastor Niyazi or Irada Bilgen of the Greater Grace Fellowship, call 416-878-8499.

**All Saints Anglican Church
By Patrick Gossage**

Renewing devotional practices at the dinner table – excerpts from a letter to the Diocese from the Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil, Bishop of Toronto.

“The origins of the Eucharist come from ancient rituals of the dining table. The Last Supper was an established rite that would have been familiar from the banqueting traditions of their time. Our Eucharist is an evolution of those traditions. We would do well to recollect that what happens at our dining room tables can and should be a gathering of the people of God, and its own foretaste of the heavenly banquet.

He points out that the family dining

together and prayers before this important meal have become rarer.

“How can we renew our rituals of the dinner table to become again for us an opportunity for faith formation? Praying together, especially taking the time to give thanks for and bless the food we share, can become a chance to recollect the actions of the Last Supper. If you have fallen out of the practice of saying grace before meals, why not start again? Recollect God’s presence in your midst and the saving acts of Christ as you give thanks for your blessings of food and drink. A renewal of dinner table prayer would still not be the Eucharist, but it could nevertheless be a meal of remembrance. I encourage you this Lent to review your devotional practices around dining.”

Words to live by – Fr. Peterson gave his sermon on the centrality of the cross in our belief as Paul argues in 1 Corinthians 1.

Paul’s letter to the church in Corinth he doesn’t open with clever arguments. Paul says that everything he’s said and

done since he met these people has been about the cross. Paul says bluntly that the cross at the heart of his message doesn’t make a lot of sense. The cross, he says repeatedly, is ‘foolishness.’

The cross is also ‘foolishness’ to Greeks who prize philosophy and reason.

If anyone would have asked him, ‘Is that all you got?’ doubtless Paul would have said “yes.” Just this message that ‘Jesus voluntarily died on the cross to save us from our sins.’ As foolish as it is, as hard to believe as it may be to accept in our scientific age, the cross is the place where God chooses suffering over power for no other reason than for love for us.

“I think the Christian message boils down to this one powerful truth, that the God of love is thoroughly committed to all human flourishing, even to the point of demonstrating that love on the cross. If we live as a people who know that the cross shows us God’s love and salvation, then we will make others curious.”



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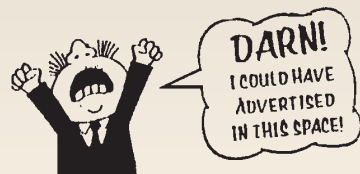
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RESALE HOMES COLLECTIONS

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Senior Account Executive
ZACH SHOUB
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Senior Account Executive
DOUG SHERRITT
doug@ipmedia.ca

Senior Account Executive
DIANE BUCHANAN
diane@auroran.com

Art Director
SARAH DIDYCYZ

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Are you hoping for the market to crash?



By Julien Laurion
The Big Tuna of Real Estate

WELL... we continue to proceed in unprecedented times. We are in a global pandemic, and the market is beyond crazy hot right now. If you are a seller, this is a great time to list your home!

There is very minimal supply, and there is an extremely high demand for detached homes.

For the foreseeable future, this pandemic has shown us that we will be working, living and spending much more time at home. Having had to endure lockdown in small spaces, many of these city dwellers are looking to move to the suburbs for more space.

As a result, for those looking to buy and get into this market, you may be thinking, I am going to wait until the market dips, and then I will buy. While that may happen and it may benefit your particular situation, a cheaper home doesn't

necessarily mean cheaper monthly payments.

Interest rates have never been so low, which makes the cost of borrowing money very reasonable. As soon as interest rates increase, even if the purchase price of the home is slightly lower, the cost of carrying the loan may actually be higher.

For example, at the current approximately 2% interest rate, a home listed in Aurora for \$500k with a 20% down payment will cost approximately \$1,694 a month. Now, if that same home is listed for 450k and you have a 20% down payment, BUT the interest rate is now 3.99%, your approximate monthly payment would be \$1,892 a month. For some, that extra \$200 a month on top of all the other household expenses could be a deal-breaker.

Right now, we are in uncharted waters, and it's very critical that you take the time to work with a

professional who understands this market. It could be very easy to get swept up in the drama of a bidding war and put yourself in a tough position financially. I am happy to discuss and answer any questions you might have! Spring market here we come!!!

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 or by alternatively visiting my website www.bigtunarealty.com or Facebook page @bigtunarealty

SPRING CLEANING Tips for safe use of household chemical products

(NC) As the days get noticeably longer and milder, we emerge from winter hibernation and giving our home a good spring cleaning suddenly appears on the to-do list.

Household cleaning chemicals can have an important role in keeping kitchens and bathrooms clean. However, if they're not used safely, they can find their way beyond the kitchen or bathroom walls, posing a risk to your health and those around you.

By following these tips, you can keep you and your family safe when you tackle household chores.

- 1. CAREFULLY READ THE PRODUCT LABEL.** Is there a hazard symbol on the label? If there is, be sure you understand what it means and carefully follow the warnings.
- 2. USE CHEMICALS CAREFULLY.** All that fine print under "directions for use" in household chemical products is there for a good reason. It explains how to use the product safely.
- 3. LET THE FRESH AIR IN.** Ensure proper ventilation by opening windows or doors and running exhaust fans during and after cleaning.
- 4. DON'T MIX CHEMICAL PRODUCTS.** Never mix household chemical products together. Some mixtures can produce harmful gases. Bleach products should never be mixed with other cleaning products.
- 5. STORE HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS SAFELY.** Keep all household chemical products in their original containers, safely stored where children cannot see or reach them. Try not to store products that may release harmful fumes or catch fire inside your home. These items include solvents, gasoline, fuels or varnishes. Store them according to the instructions on the product's label in a separate building if you can, or in an area that is well vented to the outside.
- 6. DISPOSE PRODUCTS PROPERLY.** Check your city or town's guidelines for instructions on how to dispose of hazardous household waste. As well, check the label for disposal directions. Don't pour unused chemical products down the drain or burn or bury them.

Find more information on keeping a healthy home at canada.ca/healthy-home.

www.newscanada.com

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We're thinking of widening our home location search to see what else might be available.

Do you think we will get more home for our money?

As home sales continued to rise in February, pushing pricing to double-digit growth compared to last year, interest rates remain extremely low; some Buyers are feeling anxious to purchase, fatigued from multiple offer scenarios on homes for sale and outpriced from their target locations.

Competition in the Greater Toronto Area and beyond continues. Affordability improves the further the commute, typically away from Toronto. People who may not have considered the GTA suburbs have changed their minds since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared across Ontario a year ago. Buyers have been able to consider areas further from their ideal location, feeling there's less demand for employees and entrepreneurs to commute. Instead, many work from home more than ever. A longer commute to a workplace may be forgiven if the hours are flexible; the days commuting are reduced which saves on commuting expense, time and size of home for money spent is increased.

The best thing a Buyer can do is have an open conversation with their workplace as to whether these changes may be here to stay. Home pricing seems to be increasing by the week, and competition for the low inventory of homes for sale remains high, driving pricing to new normals across the GTA and surrounding regions. Being priced out of an area may not be a permanent situation. But, many Buyers are feeling too anxious to wait and see when the housing market will correct to a more balanced market. When there are more homes for sale to choose from and fewer Buyers, typically means average home pricing decrease. The rise in home prices is affecting all sorts of conditions of homes as well. To be competitive many are opting not to have licensed inspections conducted beforehand. Those wanting an investment property to flip may find it tougher to find the low-cost gems to build quick equity in. As prices increase, many Buyers additionally need to widen their area home search, which drives demand further geographically.

Widening a geographic search for a home may open new possibilities of value and how life will work once the Buyers relocate. With population growth expansion continuing across the Greater Toronto Area, there is more convenience being added to manage the population increases and small towns that may have had limited amenities and infrastructures have certainly been experiencing growth. It's a great exercise to view the planning department expansion plans for towns in question to understand future growth plans. Competition may still be stiff as the search widens, depending on the price range the buyer is pre-approved for.

Call a REALTOR® today to discuss competitive buyer strategies and complete a comprehensive home buyer analysis to set the course towards a successful home purchase.

— Written by Connie Power
 Connie Power is Manager, Real Estate Sales Representative CNE®
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Is your internet too slow? It's probably not you

(NC) We all know the aggravation of a school lesson that just won't stop freezing or the family video call that looks more like a photo montage. And, as we adjust to the impact of COVID-19 on our day-to-day, that slow connection can have frustrating consequences.

Working from home and learning remotely, both need fast, stable internet, something not enough Canadians have yet. Even if you have fast devices in your home, if the infrastructure in your area is not optimal, your connection won't be either.

Right now, cities have the infrastructure needed to ensure access. But rural and remote communities are hugely underserved, with fewer than half having high-speed internet, and fewer than a third of households on reservations have high-speed connections.

Fortunately, change is coming. The Universal Broadband Fund is backing projects across Canada right now to ensure the reliable, high-speed internet connections families need to work, study, access services online, and safely stay in touch with each other.

The fund existed before COVID, but as a response to the pandemic, its timetable has been moved up by four years to a target of 98 per cent of Canadians with high-speed internet access by 2026. With the faster pace, at least 90 per cent of us should be connected by the end of 2021.

The fund is focused on improvements in rural and remote communities across Canada to fix the disconnect between internet access for urban and rural households. This means more remote work opportunities, better access to remote learning and safer access to health-care, no matter where you live.

It's not just for good connections at home, either. The improvements mean much better access to mobile networks on highways between remote communities. The result is better, safer navigation and access to emergency services for your family, even on the road in the middle of nowhere. Mobile projects will be focused on serving Indigenous communities and the roads leading to them.

The shape these improvements will take in your area will depend on where you live. Canada is huge, and its communities are hugely diverse, with diverse needs. Keep an eye out for local projects — they're a small part of something much bigger.

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Helping support the community

With the current restrictions within York Region and to keep the community safe, the Key Advantage Team was unable to host their annual Client Appreciation Event this year. In lieu of the event, they still wanted to show their sincere appreciation by donating to the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation on behalf of their clients and referral partners to help those who do not have a safe place to call home. In addition to this donation, a portion of every commission the team makes is donated to the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation on their client's behalf. Together, we can make a difference.

Tips to improve WiFi around the house

Speedy, reliable internet is something people have quickly grown accustomed to. That's no doubt why dropped WiFi signals can be so frustrating.

Various things can contribute to slow or interrupted Wi-Fi. As a result, there's no one-size-fits-all solution to address underperforming Wi-Fi. But that's good news, as it means there's an assortment of strategies that consumers can try to improve the Wi-Fi in their homes.

Upgrade your router. Many people rent their routers from their internet service providers, but it may surprise some to learn that they can buy their own. Buying your own router can be beneficial in various ways, not the least of which is it can save money. Router rental fees vary, but they typically cost between \$10 and \$15 per month. Consumers will save money in the long run by buying their own router rather than renting one from their ISP. When buying their own routers, consumers also can pick from a host of options, including routers with strong performance ratings that may contribute to better WiFi performance.

Set up automatic firmware updates. It's easy to forget a router after it's been plugged in, and internet service starts working. However, manufacturers routinely issue firmware updates to improve router performance. Turning on automatic updates may improve WiFi performance, and such updates also can provide a host of additional benefits, including added security measures.

Relocate the router. PCMag.com notes that the location of the router can affect WiFi performance. If possible, locate the router in the center of the home so it can easily reach all parts of the house. Locating wireless routers away from walls and other obstructions also may improve performance.

Switch frequencies. Switching frequencies can help wireless consumers whose service might be adversely affected by congestion. Consumer Reports notes that wireless congestion can affect WiFi performance in apartment buildings and densely populated neighbourhoods. In such instances, consumers can check their routers to see if they're running on the 2.4 GHz frequency band. If so, switching them to the 5 GHz band, which has more channels and is likely to be less congested, may improve WiFi performance.

Slow and/or interrupted WiFi signals can be very frustrating. Thankfully, various strategies can help consumers quickly remedy such issues.



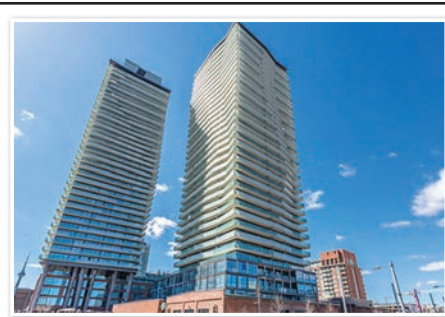
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How to choose the right lighting inside your home

Lighting in a home serves both practical and aesthetic purposes. It's easy to maneuver around a well-lit home, reducing the risk of slips and falls, and the right lighting can help homeowners create their desired ambiance, which typically changes depending on which room you're in.

When choosing lighting for their homes, homeowners must walk a fine line between appearance and functionality. A fixture in the foyer that instantly impresses visitors likely won't prove as awe-inspiring if it's installed in the living room. When choosing lighting for a home, some general rules about what works in each room can help homeowners make the most informed decision.

KITCHEN

Kitchens are often the busiest room in a home, so lighting here can be especially important. A kitchen often benefits, both practically and aesthetically, from different types of lighting. For example, pendant lighting above kitchen islands can make meal preparation easier and safer, but such lighting likely

won't work in breakfast nooks and informal dining areas in the kitchen. Recessed lighting works best in such areas. In kitchens with no island, under-cabinet lighting can be used to illuminate countertops and simplify meal preparation.

FORMAL DINING ROOM

Many people enjoy the look of chandeliers in formal dining rooms, and such fixtures can be installed directly above the dinner table. The interior design experts at Better Homes & Gardens advise hanging chandeliers roughly 33 inches above the table in dining rooms with eight-foot ceilings, adding three inches for each additional foot above eight feet. Darkened dining areas may be ideal in restaurants, but homeowners may want to split the difference at home and choose dimmable chandeliers for their

...A professional consultation with a lighting expert or interior decorator can help homeowners...

dining rooms. This allows homeowners to dim the lights for romantic dinners but turn them up for family gatherings with lots of people around the table.

LIVING ROOM

Adaptability is important in the living room, where homeowners may host anything from movie nights to book clubs to parties for the big game. It can be a tall order to accommodate such a wide range of activities, and many homeowners come down to deciding between recessed lighting and track lighting. If the living room currently has neither style, homeowners should recognize that it will cost considerably less to install track lighting than recessed lighting. Better Homes & Gardens notes that flexible track lighting provides ambient, task or accent lighting. Track lights can even be moved to change lighting schemes at any time, making them a budget-friendly option for homeowners whose living rooms are multi-purpose spaces. Recessed lighting also works well in living rooms, especially ones with low ceilings. That's because recessed lighting is installed into the ceiling, meaning it does not take up any visual space in the room. That can help living rooms feel bigger.

BEDROOM

The home improvement experts at BobVila.com note that bedroom lighting should provide enough light when getting dressed, but also be able to be toned down as residents prepare for their bedtime routines. Both portable and installed lighting can be used in bedrooms to serve these various functions. Recessed fixtures that dim can ensure there's ample light to get dressed in the morning, but they also can be dimmed at night as residents try to get ready to sleep. Portable nightstand lights can make it easier for couples sharing a bedroom, allowing one person to stay up and read while the other goes to sleep.

Homeowners have many options and many needs when choosing lighting for their homes. A professional consultation with a lighting expert or interior decorator can help homeowners find lights that provide both practical and aesthetic appeal.

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5 tips to create an at-home spa experience

(NC) A visit to the spa might not be an option for many of us, so here are five quick tips to create a spa-like experience in the comfort and safety of your own home.

Atmosphere Lighting, scent and calming music are all key elements associated with a visit to the spa. Candles are quick and easy mood-enhancing items that not only add softness to lighting, but can also be used to introduce aromatherapy. Lavender is a great aromatherapy option because it promotes a sense of wellness and calm.

GET STEAMY While a warm bath is a go-to ritual for many, you can also dial up your in-home spa game by converting your shower into a mini steam room. Turn your shower on with high heat to steam up your bathroom, grab an exfoliating scrub or loofah to remove dead skin cells and finish with a shower.

DIY FACIAL Consider turning your bedroom into a treatment room. When trying a new or trusted facial mask, remember to choose one that targets your skin-care concerns — such as dry skin, clogged pores, or anti aging. You can also add a foot mask, hand mask, under-eye mask or lip mask for an extra-targeted boost of hydration.

TRY NEW TOOLS Explore adding a new and affordable skin tool to your at-home spa. Depending on your skin's needs, choose from a variety of devices such as sonic cleansers to remove impurities and minimize pores, or microdermabrasion tools to reduce the appearance of acne scars and age spots.

You can also try an online skin analysis tool, which uses new technology to provide a customized summary of your skin health. "The virtual skin tool from Shoppers Drug Mart is the next step in learning more about your skin and having personalized products recommended," said Chanel Cruz, a Shoppers beauty pro.

MANI/PEDI TIME Complete your spa experience with a manicure or pedicure. After your skin is prepped and hydrated, finish by trimming and shaping your nails and pushing down your cuticles. Top with nail colour and topcoat if desired.

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Embracing the Japanese art of imperfection at home

(NC) The unexpected challenges and changes of 2020 have taught us that not everything can be perfect or go as planned all the time.

Wabi-sabi is a Japanese term, meaning to find beauty in imperfection. But it isn't just a philosophy for life, it's also a design philosophy that you can incorporate into any space.

Embrace beautiful imperfection at home and check out these tips from Sharon Grech, Benjamin Moore colour and design expert.

BE INSPIRED BY NATURE

To get comfortable with wabi-sabi, take your cue from nature. Choose a palette inspired by natural spaces, textures and materials like surf, sky and sand to create spaces that welcome and comfort.

Enhance your neutral palette by inviting organic materials and handmade pieces. "From live-edge wood furniture, to hand-thrown pottery and lush greenery, natural textures will help create a sense of calm, space and lightness in any home," says Grech.

SEEK INSPIRATION FROM THE IMPERFECT

As we look to the year ahead, now is the time to reflect use of wabi-sabi in colour and design. Find inspiration in beautiful, imperfect natural materials such as linen and terracotta.

"Paint colours like Potters Clay CC-30 and Muslin OC-12 take their names and inspiration from craftsmanship and lend laid-back elegance to any room."

CHOOSE AUTHENTICITY OVER PERFECTION

Instead of obsessing over making every detail perfect, opt for authenticity and imperfection. Choose furniture in organic, rounded shapes, instead of more angular, streamlined styles to instantly make your space more welcoming.

Adding rounded mirrors, or painting an arched colour block on a wall will add interest and a free-form touch to even the most modern spaces.

"With Regal Select interior paint you can easily achieve beautiful results for a DIY colour block that adds visual interest and wabi-sabi style to any room, even if you make a couple mistakes."

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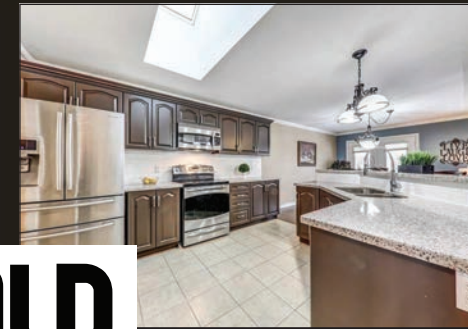
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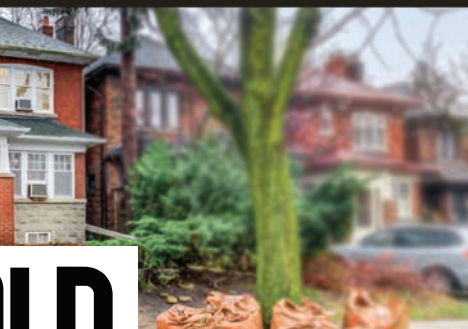
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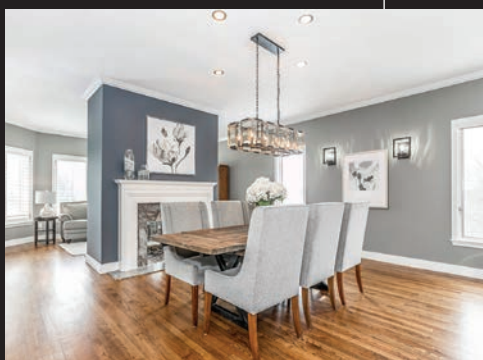
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Differences in dishwasher loading styles may cause household tension

(NC) Have you ever come home from a long day and opened the dishwasher to tidy up only to see it's loaded in the worst way possible and your dishes are still dirty?

Everyone has experienced that moment where their partner, roommate or kid has loaded the dishwasher like a poorly played game of Tetris. In fact, 33 per cent of Canadians surveyed with a dishwasher say they are dissatisfied with how some or all others in the household load the appliance.

To help you avoid disagreements, finding the right dishwasher that gives you flexibility is essential. Here are some tips for what to look for and how to load:

- Remove excess food before loading.
- Make sure all dishes are facing downward.
- Follow the grooves and inserts.
- Load silverware in mixed patterns to avoid cutlery sticking together.
- Be careful not to overload.
- Look for features like three racks for added space and/or adjustable racks that help you customize each load. For example, KitchenAid offers dishwashers with features like a third rack that have dedicated wash systems and an adjustable middle rack to fit larger items.
- Consider a dual-power filtration system that filters out, chops up, then drains food from the dishwasher in extra small pieces, helping prevent clogs so you can skip the soaking, scrubbing, and pre-rinsing altogether. Maytag offers a reliable option which also has a third rack.

Try these simple loading tricks and consider a dishwasher with a third rack and you will be sure to avoid any future dish-loading disagreements.

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The average timelines for popular **RENOVATION PROJECTS**

HOME RENOVATION PROJECTS are significant undertakings. Working with skilled and experienced contractors can ensure projects go smoothly and are completed promptly. Timing is a big consideration for homeowners as they begin renovating their homes, and the home improvement experts at HomeAdvisor note that the following are some general timelines for popular renovation projects.

HOME ADDITION
Short of a full-scale demolition and rebuild, home additions are the most time-consuming projects homeowners can undertake. HomeAdvisor notes that its survey of customers who recently completed home addition projects reported that the average time from start to finish was between three and four months. Certain variables, including the scale of the project and the local permit process, can extend the time it takes to complete a home addition.

KITCHEN REMODEL
Scale is a big factor to consider when estimating the time it takes to complete various home improvement projects, and kitchen remodels are no exception. Some HomeAdvisor users reported projects taking as long as four months, though the average time

reported was roughly six weeks. Projects that require major overhauls like rearranging the plumbing and moving walls will likely take longer than more cosmetic projects that are limited to replacing cabinets and countertops.

BATHROOM REMODEL
More than 1,000 homeowners surveyed by HomeAdvisor reported that bathroom remodels took about 4.5 weeks from start to finish. Small-scale remodels that focus on painting the walls a fresh colour and replacing existing tiles can be completed in less than two weeks. But like with kitchen remodels, bathroom remodels that involve replacing plumbing fixtures and removing walls figure to take much longer than that.

SIDING INSTALLATION
HomeAdvisor users report that new siding projects take roughly two weeks from start to finish. That estimate is the same regardless of which materials homeowners are replacing and installing.

REPLACEMENT WINDOWS
Homeowners who want to replace all the windows in their home can expect such a project to take

roughly three weeks. HomeAdvisor notes that such a timeline need not concern homeowners worried that they will be forced to brave the elements during the length of the project. Much of a contractor's time during a window replacement project will be spent on upfront measuring and then ensuring a tight fit once the windows have been installed.

...Timing is a big consideration for homeowners as they begin renovating...



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Renovation trends

that figure to be popular in the year ahead

HOME RENOVATION TRENDS are ever-changing. Renovations that might have been de rigueur 20 years ago may seem dated now. Recognizing the potentially popular trends of tomorrow is a great way for homeowners to give their homes a fresh new look and put themselves in a position to capitalize on popular trends when they put their homes on the market. That's especially so after 2020, a year when millions of people spent more time at home than ever before. All that time working from home and relaxing at home gave millions of homeowners ideas about what they like about their home and what they hope to change. The following are some renovation trends that various experts suspect could emerge in 2021.

ECO-FRIENDLY LIVING

Web magazine, urdesignmag.com, that showcases creative trends in design, architecture, art, technology, and fashion, predicts that eco-friendly living solutions figure to be hot commodities in 2021. Eco-friendly appliances, furniture and designs can help to conserve energy and reduce waste. Environmentalists and government agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency note are two critical components in the fight against climate change.

LARGE WINDOWS

Large windows can provide stunning views of the outdoors and allow ample natural light into a home. It may not be a coincidence if large windows prove to be a hot trend in 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic that dominated much of 2020 forced many people to spend considerably more time at home. Darker homes without much natural light can adversely affect mood,

...potentially popular trends of tomorrow is a great way for homeowners to give their homes a fresh new look...

especially when people are spending more time at home. HGTV predicts that homeowners will seek ways to bring more natural light into their homes in 2021, and large windows naturally brighten homes while making rooms appear bigger, helping people feel less cramped. That's an especially beneficial characteristic when spending more time indoors at home.

MINIMALISM

The anticipated popularity of minimalism in 2021 may also be connected to the pandemic. As professionals, we're forced to work from home and many families spent more time together inside their homes than ever before, they may have recognized a need to cut back on clutter, including extra furniture. A minimalist approach is both simple and clean, which can make homes feel less claustrophobic.

MULTI-FUNCTIONAL SPACES

Homeowners asked a lot of their homes in 2020, as rooms were transformed into multi-functional spaces seemingly overnight. HGTV notes that spending more time at home showed homeowners that it may not make sense to dedicate entire rooms of a home to a single purpose. Renovations that can help homeowners transform rooms into multi-functional spaces figure to be hot commodities in the years ahead.

Real Estate Market Update – Aurora



Buyers Pushing into Aurora

The cold didn't deter home Buyers in the month of February from snapping up 118 homes of all descriptions across Aurora's ten neighbourhoods which was 47.5 percent more sales than in the prior month. The average home price for all types of homes rose to \$1,238, 894 and upon further examination by eliminating the highest and lowest sale the median average price in February was \$1,109,056.

The trend of competing offers continued and homes sold swiftly within 14 days on the market for about 107 percent of the asking price in this strong Seller's market. There were 196 homes placed for sale, and by March 1st, 2021, only 124 remained for sale, meaning at the current demand, it would take 1.8 months to deplete the inventory currently available for sale.

Upon closer examination of the sales in February, 66 percent of the homes purchased were detached homes at an average median price of \$1.4 Million; that's a \$380,000 price increase year over year. Townhomes rose to an average of \$1,048,000 from \$785,000; Semi-detached homes rose to \$990,000 from \$800,000,

condo townhomes rose to \$745,000 from \$446,750. Condo apartments that sold had an average price of \$540,000 with just a \$30,000 increase in value compared to the remaining home types.

Low-interest rates persist, however with rising home values some buyers may be temporarily priced out of the town of Aurora depending on their buying criteria, opting for the area further out of the Greater Toronto Area. Contact a REALTOR® today to discuss your motivation to buy or sell real estate.

– Written by Connie Power

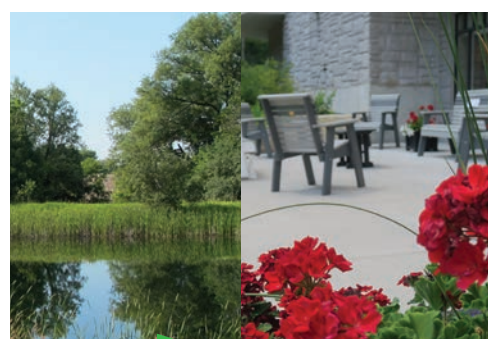
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*The statistics provided herein were obtained from the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board; Regional Housing Market Tables; York Region, Aurora for January, February 2021 and market Watch Summary of Existing Home Transactions, All Home Types, for February 2021.

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