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# King Weekly Sentinel

King's Community Newspaper

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Thursday, December 23, 2021

Volume 48, Issue 51

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## Market aids King Food Bank

Stephen Lecce, MPP for King-Vaughan, attended the King City Christmas Market, hosted by Talii Towels, where local artisans and small business had pop-up booths to display their work. This year, the King City Christmas Market held a toy and food drive dedicated to supporting the King Township Food Bank. "Thank you to Talii Towels for hosting the King City Christmas Market to promote local artisans and small businesses," said Lecce. "There was a brilliant display of community generosity for the toy and food drive supporting King Township Food Bank, and a great way to buy local!"

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## Township meetings to remain virtual

By Mark Pavilons  
Editor

All Township meetings will remain virtual, until at least this coming spring.

Councillors voted on staff recommendations recently, to maintain the virtual meeting format through the end of the current term. Depending on provincial guidelines in the spring, council may opt to change the format.

A few councillors longed for the return of in-person council meetings and engaging the public first-hand. Some thought that a hybrid model, combining in-person attendance and virtual streaming, may be an option.

Staff will look at the options and keep an eye on the Province's plan to lift workplace health and safety measures by next March 22.

Staff noted that during the pandemic, the virtual meetings have provided for greater health and safety measures

for all involved – council, staff and the public.

Staff pointed out the vast majority of municipalities have conducted fully electronic meetings since the onset of the pandemic. Even though the meetings were presented this way out of necessity, "council was able to conduct its meetings effectively, and the advantages of allowing electronic participation during council meetings became evident."

Staff also said council continued its regular schedule and actually saw higher public attendance.

Councillor David Boyd said it would be nice to come into the building again and interact with staff. He said it's "healthy" to have a hybrid model.

Councillor Bill Cober said the virtual format works, but he said perhaps they could find a way to accommodate those who wish to make in-person deputations. It wouldn't necessarily involve a major installation of equipment.

See 'Many' on Page 3

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Film marks tragedy of local family.  
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Arts Society King names its board.  
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**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**Monday, January 10, 2022**  
6 pm – Council and Committee of the Whole  
Virtual meeting live streamed at <http://king.ca/meetings>  
**Monday, January 24, 2022**  
6 pm – Council and Committee of the Whole  
Virtual meeting live streamed at <http://king.ca/meetings>  
**Monday, January 31, 2022**  
6 pm – Public Planning Meeting  
Virtual meeting live streamed at <http://king.ca/meetings>

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

**COMMITTEES AND BOARDS**

**Thursday, January 13, 2022**  
6 pm – Heritage Advisory Committee  
Virtual meeting live streamed at <http://king.ca/meetings>  
**Tuesday, January 18**  
6 pm – King Township Public Library Board (virtual meeting)

**BID NOTICES**

For all bid opportunities, please visit <https://king.bidsandtenders.ca/Module/Tenders/en>

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

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

All applications must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on the day they close.

- Manager of Environmental Planning – Deadline Jan. 6
- Planner II – Deadline Jan. 14
- Fitness Instructor (Contract) – Open until positions are filled
- Personal Trainer (Contract) – Open until positions are filled
- Fitness Floor Monitor (Contract) – Open until positions are filled

**REMINDERS**



The municipal offices at 2585 King Road will close for the holidays at 4:30 p.m. Thurs., Dec. 23, 2021 and reopen at 8:30 a.m. Mon., Jan. 3, 2022. If you have an urgent matter requiring attention during the closure, please contact our 24/7 after-hours service at 905-833-5321 and your call will be forwarded to the appropriate personnel. Please visit [www.king.ca](http://www.king.ca) for many services available online.

**PUBLIC NOTICES**



King is geared up and ready to tackle the snow and ice this winter. Our winter maintenance crews are responsible for clearing over 320 kilometres of roads. The Township's fleet includes two graders, 12 plows—complete with sand and salt units—and three contracted sidewalk plows. King will remove snow from roads when severe accumulations affect two-way traffic and the ability for on-street parking. This may take several days after accumulations occur and is performed on a priority basis. First priority is given to commercial areas and areas where safety is a concern. Residents are reminded to avoid parking on the street so that snowplowing and snow removal crews can operate effectively. Some snowstorms last many hours or have initial freezing rain that turns into snow. In these conditions, a re-plowing of priority streets may be required to maintain traffic safety. Re-plowing may occur before road crews can move on to other local streets. The priority of snow clearing is based on Minimum Maintenance Standards Regulations.

Class of Road	Total Snow Accumulation	Time to Clear
Arterial Roads	8 cm	12 hours
Collector	8 cm	16 hours
Local	10 cm	24 hours

Due to varied shapes, sizes and presence of centre islands, cul-de-sacs require specialized snow removal equipment and procedures. The Township road system currently contains many cul-de-sacs and we understand the frustration that can occur for affected residents. Most routes are completed with a 12-hour period. Clearance times may be longer when snowfall is exceptionally heavy, there are complications due to freezing rain, many cars are parked on the street or crews are working during peak traffic times. In accordance with Ministry of Labour Regulations, drivers cannot work more than 13 hours without a rest period. This can impact snow clearance time. For more information on snow removal in King, please visit [www.king.ca/snowremoval](http://www.king.ca/snowremoval).

Please see more King Township notices on page 5

**PUBLIC NOTICES**



*Season's Greetings*

On behalf of Mayor Steve Pellegrini and Members of Council we wish all of our residents and their families warm wishes for this Holiday Season.



**King Township Services**

As part of a cautious approach to maintaining public and staff safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, King continues to gradually reopen in-person services, including at the King Township Municipal Centre.

The following in-person customer services are available at the Township Centre from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., as of Monday, Nov. 22:

- Garbage, bulky item and appliance tags
- Green bin, kitchen catcher and blue box sales
- Yard composters and rain barrels
- Payments for taxes, water bills and recreation programs
- Dog Tags

Passive screening and mandatory masking will be in place.

The following services are available in person each Wednesday and can be booked in advance by contacting [clerks@king.ca](mailto:clerks@king.ca) or calling 905-833-4069:

- Marriage licences
- Commissioning services.

The following services are available in person each Wednesday and can be booked in advance by contacting [serviceking@king.ca](mailto:serviceking@king.ca) or calling 905-833-5321:

- Planning applications and some planning services
- Building permits and some building restrictions.

Most in-person recreation, cultural and library services are in place with ongoing COVID-19 safety guidelines and restrictions. Visit [www.king.ca/recreation-living](http://www.king.ca/recreation-living).

See a full list of services, below. For information about King and COVID-19, visit [www.king.ca/covid19](http://www.king.ca/covid19).

**Christmas tree pickup**

Christmas trees will be picked up on **Mon., Jan. 10 only**. Please remove all decorations, nails, tree stands and plastic tree bags. Crews will not dig out a tree or climb a snowbank to retrieve one and trees over six feet tall in height must be cut into pieces.



**KING FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES**



*Holiday fire Safety*  
Light up your Holidays Safely!  
Always extinguish candles when you leave the room or go to bed.

**Please do your part & recycle!**



# Most are anxious to return to in-person meetings

**From Front Page**

Councillor Debbie Schaefer said the Township has made progress in the virtual arena and she'd like to see the live-streamed meetings kept in an archive for a longer term. She is also anxious to get to a stage where the public can attend council meetings once again.

Kathryn Moyle, Director of Corporate Services, said municipalities are obligated to follow provincial public health protocols for indoor limits and in with respect to its employees. King has a duty to both the public and its staff. The Province recently eased off on its reopening plan in light of the Omicron

variant of COVID-19 so it's very much a wait and see situation.

The public has warmed up to the virtual approach and staff did point out that the hybrid approach would come with some noticeable costs to upgrade equipment. Staff are looking to other municipalities to see how they're handling things.

Councillor Avia Eek said the current method has been quite efficient and engagement has been high.

Mayor Steve Pellegrini said staff recommendations to remain virtual is the best option, unless "we're prepared to spend a lot of money.

"We have to keep the community

safe," he stressed.

From the very start of the pandemic, King has been extremely cautious and prudent.

Schaefer added despite the virtual attendance numbers, she's not convinced public engagement is better.

"Something is lost by not being seen by your council members," she said.

King staff will provide short and long-term meeting considerations and options, aligned with the provincial timetable for lifting remaining public health and workplace safety measures.

In his written submission, King resident J. Bruce Craig said he agreed there have been a number of benefits realized in moving to virtual meetings, such as accessibility to meetings for a wide range of people from different locations. The saving of travel time and reduction in GHG emissions has also been very positive.

He did point out that at times council members have been hard to hear or there have been occasional challenges with powerpoint presentations.

Craig said many recognize the value

of in-person meetings when discussing matters of importance, and my hope is that at an appropriate time the Township will move to "in-person" meetings while maintaining the livestream service. This would then continue to support the goal of accessibility for the wider public, even for those who may be in an office or travelling.

He recommended that all members of council be "consistently visible and present" for virtual meetings which they attend. It is important for the public to see elected representatives during a meeting and to see how council members respond and vote.

"Similar to in-person council meetings I believe it is best practice for all members of council to be consistently visible during the formal part of a virtual council meeting or Committee of the Whole meeting.

Craig pointed out that York Region council meetings and those of many local municipalities are recorded and available for viewing after the meeting. He recommends that King Township also implement this service.

## Council approves new street names

**By Mark Pavilons  
Editor**

Ten new street names were approved by King council, in subdivisions in Nobleton and surrounding area.

The streets are within the TG Nobleton and LP and Crisdan Holdings plans of subdivision; lands located on the west side of Highway 27, between Mactaggart Drive and 15th Sideroad.

King has a street naming policy, which includes a review by York Region to ensure there is no duplication.

The 10 new names have historical significance in the area.

Holden Drive and McFall Street have historic names. Paul Olsen Road is named after a long-time Nobleton resident and founder of BTN Nursery. He was a member of the Nobleton Lions for more than 50 years. Second World War veteran Arthur Cherry will have a street named after him.

Charles Fry Avenue is named after an 1880s landowner. Henry Osler Crescent is named after the first minister of the Nobleton church in 1843-1874.

Old Kirk Drive is named after the Presbyterian Church on the 10th Concession.

Llammore Street has historical significance. In 1856, after the death of Thomas Noble, Mr. Munsie took over the post office and tried to have the name of Nobleton changed to Llammore. The villagers went to Parliament with a petition and the name Nobleton was retained.

Glen Grove Way is named for the Snider farm just south of Nobleton.

Glenarm Cottage Trail is in honour of William McFall, who owned Glenarm's Cottage in 1860 on Lot 9, West Concession 9.



**Lions deliver flowers**

Merry Christmas from the King City Lions! The King City Lions delivered over 80 Poinsettias to local seniors in King City before the holidays. Pictured is Lion Rob Payne making deliveries at 80 Burns Boulevard.

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KING CITY PHARMACY

# Merry Christmas, KING!

Let the light shine bright as we celebrate the season with a message of love, hope, and family.

Let this unifying symbol - and what it represents - overcome the darkness.

Thank you for your sacrifices and for helping to build the best country in the world.

Forever grateful,

*Stephen*



**STEPHEN LECCE**  
MPP FOR KING-VAUGHAN

Constituency Office:  
2220 King Road, Unit 1, King City, ON L7B 1L3  
Tel: 647-560-9700 • [www.StephenLecceMPP.ca](http://www.StephenLecceMPP.ca)

# 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

## Don't forget the past; it's vital to the present

Our family members, and our DNA, are our only link to the past.

Many believe what's past is past, and just leave it alone.

But how can we? The past represents so much, not just for each of our family histories, but for all of humankind. It's so damn interesting.

A lot of people, perhaps more so the Boomers, feel proud of where they came from and the hard work it took to get here. That's part of who we are, and we sure can't forget that.

It seems the older we get, the more we reminisce about the past. I'm not sure why this happens, but I think we're all guilty of it. Maybe the stress brought on by the pandemic has turned our thoughts to simpler times, when our lives were less complicated.

Growing up in rural Caledon in the 1970s and '80s was pretty quiet. Duffy's Lane (formerly the 6th Line Albion) was a dirt road with little traffic. We lived on a four-acre parcel so it was really our small slice of paradise. We had gardens, expansive lawns, tree stands and the Humber River flowed through our back yard.

I had chores and there was always plenty of grass to cut. But at times, it was like a scene from one of those movies about the American mid-west - tall, waving grass, and lying on your back



Mark Pavilons

looking at the clouds.

As a kid, there was nothing like sticking your feet in the river and watching the minnows stop by to stay hello and greet you with some quick nibbles on your toes. There were frogs and skunks and groundhogs.

Sitting on my dad's home-made bench in front of our house is where Kim and I bonded, talked and dreamed. It's where

we fell in love.

Mattie Stepanek urged us to "keep all special thoughts and memories for life-times to come" and to share these keepsakes with others to "inspire hope and build from the past."

Paul Scott once wrote that the past is a "texture, an ambiance to our present."

If you think about it, aren't we all a culmination of our past? Wouldn't there be a huge, gaping hole in our guts without our own personal history?

Humans are definitely fickle. So many tell us to ignore the past and set our sights on the future. But we keep breathing new life in things from the past. We have once again embraced "retro" designs. We devour old books and old movies. We wonder what it would be like to live in the Wild West, and we lose ourselves in stories of medieval knights, kings and fair maidens.

Who doesn't love vinyl and record players? What about jukeboxes and the Walkman? Who hasn't spent a week's allowance in an arcade?

I would love an evening of sitting around the table, with kids "washing up" without being told; with plenty of "please" and "thank yous" being uttered, and a heartfelt grace. There's a lot to be said for such a "Little House on the Prairie" scenario.

And the food! Who doesn't remember a great family meal, or one of mom's favourite recipes? We frequently eat the stuffing passed along by Kim's mom. The Christmas day breakfasts at my in-laws are legendary. We still have my mom's gravy boat, a cherished little dish that emerges during special occasions.

My mom enjoyed the holidays and my dad always went to the back 40 to pick the perfect spruce for our Christmas trees. I can still see it in my mind, in its place of honour in the corner of our living room. And yes, there were plenty of times when dad and I shovelled snow that was up to our waist!

My mom would always tell us of her childhood Christmases. They were never allowed to see the tree until Christmas

Eve, and were awestruck by its beauty when the parlour doors opened. Candles adorned the branches and each child had to recite a poem or sing a carol to mark the occasion. They received only one gift, typically something practical. They went to church.

They genuinely loved their neighbours and their community. There was an air of optimism, even during some very tumultuous times in Europe in the 1930s and '40s.

These were my mom's memories, and so, they are part of me. I can't, and won't let them go. I embrace them.

Leave the past behind? Are you nuts?

As we celebrate this time of year, I'm sure a large part of our gatherings involve traditions that go back a very long time. We just couldn't celebrate without them!

You would think the younger generation would find such tales boring and "old school." But the times we have shared our memories with our children, their eyes grew to the size of saucers and they hung on every sentence. They really are like sponges.

I think it's vitally important to share our family stories with our kids, grandkids and great-grandkids.

The past is where it all began. It's the very definition of "perspective."

They say you are given a brief mental tour of your life when the end is near. Do you think it will be filled with images of Facebook, that new car smell, or purchases on Amazon? No, it will likely contain visions of childhood birthdays, family dinners, honeymoons, our kids' school plays and good night kisses. We will relive first dates, drive-ins and school dances.

Forget the past, indeed. I'll have none of that.

Nor should any of us. I say keep the past burning bright, smile about it, and let it fuel your present.

May your holidays be filled with untold memories and traditions that are merry and bright!

### Letter to the Editor

## COVID-19 and exponential growth

Ongoing reporting of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the resulting COVID-19 infection has introduced many people to the term exponential growth. I've often noticed that mathematics does not appear to be a high priority in journalism schools, and the precise meaning of the term "exponential" has often been at best ignored and at worst equated to "rapid."

Simply put, in the mathematical term  $x^2$  (x squared or x to the power of two), has a "base" x and an "exponent" 2. Exponential growth results from a steady increase in that exponent.

An apocryphal story around the invention of chess serves to illustrate the concept. The story goes that when the newly invented game of chess was introduced to the Raj of India, he was so delighted with the game that he asked the inventor to name his reward. The inventor requested that a grain of rice be placed on the first of the board's 64 squares, two grains on the second, four grains on the third, and so on, doubling the number of grains on each square.

The Raj, astounded that the inventor should request such a modest price as a few grains of rice, immediately agreed, and ordered the treasurer to pay the agreed upon sum. A week later, the treasurer reported back to the Raj that the reward could not be paid - he had calculated that by the time he completed half the chessboard, the amount of rice required was more than the production for the entire country.

In the chess example, the base is 2 and the exponent is increasing by 1 on each square starting from 0 for the first square. (Raising any number to the power of 0 equals 1 by definition.) On the 5th square, the exponent would be 4 and there would be 16 grains of rice ( $2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2$  - the base multiplied by itself by one less than the exponent times).

Note that any of the base, the exponent, or the increase in the exponent may vary, and none of them has to be an integer. On Dec. 20, clinical researcher Dr. Iris Gorfinkel informed listeners to CBC radio that, whereas the Delta variant had a base of two (like the grains of rice on the chessboard), the Omicron variant has a base of 5 meaning that, on average, each infected person infects five more, so the growth is one illness, 5 ill, 25 ill, 125 ill, 625 ill, 1250 ill, etc. She also stated that this is the most infectious virus ever observed. Another doctor has stated that on can expect to be infectious within 2 to 3 hours of becoming infected.

One way to spot exponential growth is to look for a relatively constant doubling time. The daily 7-day rolling average of the number of new COVID cases in Ontario from December 1 to 19 has been 821, 851, 866, 895, 926, 940, 975, 1007, 1055, 1115, 1,194, 1236, 1,328, 1400, 1514, 1676, 1914, 2156, and 2542, roughly doubling every week.

Of course the modelling used by epidemiologists is much more complex than this, taking in a range of confounding factors, but the point of this article is to clarify that "exponential" and "rapid" are not simply synonyms, and the former has a mathematical basis that is at times overlooked.

Bill Patterson



### Quote of the Week

*"Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful."*

— Norman Vincent Peale

### Trivia Tidbits

*"White Christmas" by Bing Crosby, with an estimated 50 million copies sold, is the best selling Christmas song of all time.*

**KingWeeklySentinel WEBPOLL**  
www.kingsentinel.com

Results from last week's poll:

**Do you plan to have a family gathering over the holidays?**

a) Yes  **62.5%**

b) No  **37.5%**

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

**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION**

Are you worried about the spread of the Omicron variant of COVID?

a) Yes  
b) No

Go to our website and cast a vote!

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# MPP is constituents' voice at Queen's Park

By Stephen Lecce  
King-Vaughan MPP

## MPP's Message

This past year was a year of difficulty, no doubt.

Yet the light in this darkness has been our community banding together – rallying behind brave front-line workers, small businesses, seniors, and youth.

And while the government is rightfully focused on fighting – and ending – the COVID-19 pandemic, I have never lost sight of what I was sent to Queen's Park to do.

To be your voice. Your advocate. And to get results for families in our community.

I have worked hard – across all levels of government – to leverage investment that will make a difference for families.

After all, for many years, provincial funding to the Township lagged behind other communities in the region. It seemed our community was taken for granted, with little attention and minuscule funding for local priorities.

That changed when you gave me the privilege to serve our rural and historic

community.

Recent successes include a focus on connecting every home, farm, and small business across the township.

It's almost 2022, and yet too many families cannot connect at all, or cannot afford the exorbitant fees. I got to work to fix this, so that we could end the digital divide, by investing \$600,000 to expand high-speed internet in King. Connecting over 260 more homes, along with parallel investments to connect all schools, small businesses, and communities. All of this is truly vital to building a modern economy.

I also announced that our government is taking action to protect the environment by expanding the Greenbelt with the proposed creation of the East Humber Headwaters Park on the Oak Ridges Moraine. This historic expansion would provide King families with one of the largest near-urban parks in the country, and position King Township as a national leader in conservation. While the province is fulfilling their commitments to deliver this park,

we await feedback from partners to move this project forward.

I am also proud to have delivered the single largest infrastructure investment in King history! Investing over \$17.6 million for the construction of a new state-of-the-art recreation facility in the heart of King City, near Seneca Campus. It will include twin ice pad surfaces, an indoor year-round pool and track, gym equipment and multi-purpose fitness studio space for yoga, aerobics, and spin classes. I fought hard to ensure our community receives this modern, green, and urgently needed community and recreation centre because King families deserve it.

And just a week ago, I was proud to deliver \$1.6 million to King from the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund to support road and bridge improvements and clean water treatment. This funding is more than double the allocation the township received last year and represents 5% of the total annual budget for King.

These initiatives by our government are important. However, what has struck me most during this pandemic

has been the incredible spirit displayed by the many volunteers and community organizations in our diverse community.

Earlier this year, King Township, King Fire, local doctors, and volunteers held a highly success vaccine drive at the Trisan Centre. My office helped hundreds of constituents to book vaccine appointments, and together, our community got access to a clinic that embraced the spirit of Ontario – kind and generous folks stepping up at a critical time to ensure the vaccine got into every arm that wanted one!

We also saw highly successful fundraising campaigns undertaken to raise money for the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital and Southlake Hospital.

More recently, and in keeping with the spirit of the season, we have seen volunteers from Humanity First raise over 100,000 pounds of food through donations and events hosted to support the King Township Food Bank and Vaughan Food Bank.

These are just some of the things we have accomplished together.

See 'Unity' on Page 6



www.king.ca



King Township  
2585 King Road King City,  
ON Canada L7B 1A1

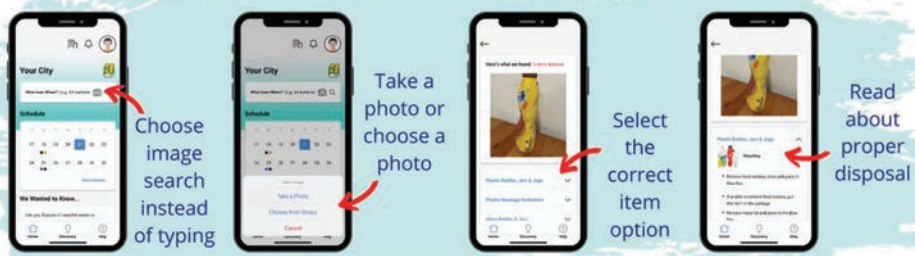
Phone: 905.833.5321 Email: serviceking@king.ca

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### Recycle Coach

Ever wished you could just take a picture of something to see if it's recyclable? Now you can! Use the new image search feature to look up your waste on the Recycle Coach app today at <https://www.king.ca/waste>

#### Check Out Our New Image Search Feature



Download the app to try it out!  
Available on the App Store and Google Play.

#### King Township 2022 Waste Calendar

Look for the 2022 edition of King Township's waste collection calendar in your mailbox delivered by Canada Post by the end of December. It will also be available online at [www.king.ca](http://www.king.ca).

**2022 Waste Collection Calendar**  
Garbage, Green Bin, Recycling & Yard Waste

Contact GFL with waste collection questions  
1-866-421-5625 | [wasteline@gflm.com](mailto:wasteline@gflm.com)

### COMMUNITY SERVICES



#### SNEAK PEEK New Library Catalogue Coming Soon!

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- Create custom lists
- Manage your account
- Share and read recommendations

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**WINTER 2022 PROGRAMS**  
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!  
Visit [king.ca/recreation](http://king.ca/recreation) to learn more & register

**KING TOWNSHIP, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO IS IMPLEMENTING NEW MEASURES TO HELP LIMIT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 AND THE OMICRON VARIANT.**

**EFFECTIVE JANUARY 4, 2022**

The use of the Enhanced Vaccine Certificates with QR codes will be required for all individuals entering municipal facilities where proof of vaccination is mandatory.

The QR code can be used digitally or by printing a paper copy.

Individuals can download their Enhanced Certificate with a QR code by visiting: [covid-19.ontario.ca/get-proof/](http://covid-19.ontario.ca/get-proof/)

For further information on this and other new measures, please visit [ontariohealth.ca/COVID-19](http://ontariohealth.ca/COVID-19)

KING TOWNSHIP PRESENTS  
**ADULT (18+) RECREATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE**

LEAGUE BEGINS SUNDAY, JAN 9TH, 2022

REGISTRATION FROM MON, DEC 6TH - TUES, DEC 28TH  
Register at [townshipofking.perfectmind.com](http://townshipofking.perfectmind.com)

GAMES ON SUNDAYS FROM JAN 9TH - MARCH 27TH (11 GAMES)  
8:30AM AND 9:30AM START TIMES  
LOCATION: KING CITY ARENA  
SEASON FEE: \$275 PER PLAYER + HST (INCLUDES JERSEY)

QUESTIONS?  
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# All adults eligible for booster

To protect Ontario's progress in the fight against COVID-19 and safeguard the province's hospitals and intensive care units (ICUs) in the face of the rapidly-spreading Omicron variant, the Ontario government is rapidly accelerating its booster dose rollout by expanding eligibility to all individuals aged 18 and over, as well as shortening the interval to three months following an individual's second dose.

To provide an additional layer of protection against COVID-19 and variants during the holiday season, Ontario is also launching a holiday testing blitz to offer rapid antigen screening to individuals free of charge at pop-up sites across the province, as well as select LCBO stores across Ontario.

"As we combat the spread of the highly contagious Omicron variant, nothing matters more than getting these booster doses into people's arms" said Premier Doug Ford. "I am issuing a call to arms. We need every member of Team Ontario to stand tall and do their part as we work to protect our hard-fought progress and keep Ontarians safe."

Individuals aged 18 and over will be eligible to schedule their booster dose appointment through the Ontario's booking portal, by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre, through Indigenous-led vaccination clinics, participating pharmacies and primary care settings. Appointments will be booked three months (84 days) after a second dose as the province urgently expands booster eligibility to millions more individuals. Additionally, pharmacies and other channels may provide boosters for 18 and over at the three-month interval.

Individuals aged 50 and over as well as all those currently eligible who have already booked their appointment at an interval of six months (168 days) can call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre to re-book for an earlier date at the three-month interval and can change their appointment through Ontario's booking portal.

"As we continue to learn more about the Omicron variant, we need all hands on deck to help limit transmission and protect our hospital capacity," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "A third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine offers additional protection against the Omicron variant, and I urge everyone to get their booster dose as soon as you can. If you haven't received your first or second dose of the vaccine, now is the time."

To further strengthen its response to Omicron, Ontario intends to introduce a 50 per cent capacity limit to the following indoor areas of venues with a usual capacity of 1,000 or more:

Facilities used for sports and recreational fitness activities; entertainment facilities such as concert venues, theatres and cinemas; racing venues; meeting and event spaces; studio audiences in commercial film and television production; museums, galleries, aquariums, zoos, science centres, landmarks, historic sites, botanical gardens and similar attractions; casinos, bingo halls

and other gaming establishments; and fair, rural exhibitions, and festivals.

This measure is being taken to reduce opportunities for close contact in high-risk indoor settings with large crowds and when face coverings/masks are not always worn.

As part of the government's enhanced testing strategy, up to two million rapid tests will be provided free of charge at pop-up testing sites in high-traffic settings such as malls, retail settings, holiday markets, public libraries and transit hubs.

Pop-up teams will be deployed at nearly 50 locations across the province, including some co-located with GO-VAXX mobile vaccine buses. Most sites will distribute free take-home rapid antigen test kits, subject to supply, and some will offer asymptomatic rapid antigen screening on-site.

The government will also make take-home rapid tests available at select LCBO stores, starting with the busiest stores this week and with more stores being added in the coming days.

Ontarians can visit [Ontario.ca/holidaytesting](http://Ontario.ca/holidaytesting) to find out if pop-up rapid antigen screening sites will be available in their area. Locations and operating hours will be updated weekly, and no appointment will be required.

The latest available data suggests that the Omicron variant is more transmissible than the Delta variant and will become the dominant variant. Early evidence suggests that a third dose or booster can further increase protection against severe illness and hospitalization.

While cases were always expected to rise, the increased transmissibility of the Omicron variant could put additional strain on Ontario's hospital capacity, making it critical that all Ontarians receive their booster dose as soon as possible.

Ontario's cautious approach and high vaccination rates have contributed to keep hospital and intensive care unit capacity stable.

To quickly scale up capacity to administer up to previous peak vaccination capacity, the province has asked public health units, hospitals, pharmacists, primary care providers and other health care providers to ramp up additional vaccinations sites and prioritize the administration of first, second and booster doses across the province. The province is continuing to ramp up to administer 200,000 to 300,000 doses per day based on demand. The province is also partnering with additional health care providers and first responders to support Ontario's vaccination efforts and administer more shots in arms.

Ontario is engaging with large corporations who have the capabilities to implement workplace and community clinics to support the booster dose rollout for employees, their families and the local community.

Ontario continues to work with the federal government to secure sufficient supply to maintain widespread rapid testing across the province in the coming weeks and months.

# Unity overcomes challenges

From Page 5

In what has been a challenging year, I am heartened by the grace and kindness of our community.

Thank you for reminding all of us - including this son of immigrants - that we live in a truly special community, and in the best country on earth.

Please remain vigilant this holiday season - let's continue to look forward with hope and optimism. And remember that when we come together, we can and will overcome any challenge.

Merry Christmas and God Bless!

# X CROSSWORD


**PUZZLE 410**

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85				86			87				88		

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<p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sheet of cotton</li> <li>5. Unit of resistance</li> <li>8. Dull</li> <li>12. Right this minute</li> <li>15. Empty-house sound</li> <li>16. Herbal beverage</li> <li>17. Leaf's angle</li> <li>18. Incense</li> <li>19. Variable resistor</li> <li>21. Stream</li> <li>22. Boorish fellow</li> <li>23. Opal or sapphire</li> <li>24. Column's support</li> <li>26. Called</li> <li>27. "Eyes of Laura ____"</li> <li>28. Hearty</li> <li>29. Verge</li> <li>30. Computer symbol</li> <li>32. Romanov title</li> <li>34. Make lace</li> <li>36. Naughty child</li> <li>37. Gizzard</li> <li>38. Gloat</li> <li>41. Choir gown</li> <li>42. Empty inside</li> <li>45. TV's "____ Buddies"</li> <li>47. "Charro!" star Balin</li> <li>48. Two cups</li> </ol>	<p><b>DOWN</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ice mass</li> <li>2. Feel great pity</li> <li>3. The other guys</li> <li>4. "A Bridge ____ Far"</li> <li>5. Furry swimmer</li> <li>6. Stubborn</li> <li>7. Perth pal</li> <li>8. Mongol</li> <li>9. Along the middle</li> <li>10. Cereal grass</li> <li>11. Building addition</li> <li>12. Battery type</li> <li>13. Short ape?</li> <li>14. Type of golf club</li> <li>20. Cross</li> <li>25. Wrap</li> <li>26. Of an earlier time</li> <li>27. Speck</li> <li>30. Sarcastic</li> <li>31. Bathhouse</li> <li>33. Like anchovies</li> <li>35. French friar</li> <li>36. Derby feature</li> <li>37. Greek letter</li> <li>39. Strive</li> <li>40. Loose talk</li> <li>43. Giraffe's kin</li> <li>44. Rubber-coated</li> </ol>	<p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>46. ____ by a mile</li> <li>48. One's equal</li> <li>50. Dreg</li> <li>53. Inch along</li> <li>55. Arrive at</li> <li>56. Friends</li> <li>61. Assistance</li> <li>62. Scatter refuse</li> <li>63. Eye woe</li> <li>64. Perfume ingredient</li> <li>65. Carry along</li> <li>66. Permitted by law</li> <li>68. Contour feather</li> <li>70. Shoelace end</li> <li>73. Farm measurement</li> <li>74. Ink smudge</li> <li>75. Soften</li> <li>76. Jug</li> <li>78. "CSI" evidence</li> <li>80. Indian title</li> </ol>
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**Solution on page 19**



**From Thursday, December 23 to Wednesday, December 29**

THURS 23RD	FRI 24TH	SAT 25TH	SUN 26TH	MON 27TH	TUES 28TH	WED 29TH
Scattered Flurries High -2C° Low -3C° 1-3cm	Sun/Clouds High 1C° Low 0C° ~1cm	Mainly Cloudy High 3C° Low -2C°	Mainly Sunny High 2C° Low -5C°	Clouds/Sun High 1C° Low -4C°	Clouds/Sun High 1C° Low -4C°	Clouds/Sun High 1C° Low -6C°
Wind S 12k	Wind SE 15k	Wind NW 25k	Wind NW 29k	Wind SE 13k	Wind N 12k	Wind W 20k



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# Documentary showcases local victim of Flight PS752

By Mark Pavilons  
Editor

The new year brings with it a somber anniversary.

A documentary, to be released in January, highlights the lives of the Moghaddam family, tragic victims of the downing of Flight PS752.

Nobleton's Shahin Moghaddam lost his wife Shakiba, and their son Rosstin.

Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 was tragically shot down by two successive surface-to-air missiles of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), shortly after taking off from Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport (IKA) on Jan. 8, 2020. All 177 passengers and crew were killed.

The documentary, filmed by Joseph Akrami, will be shown Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022.

Akrami said he initially followed some of the families of Flight PS752 victims and, especially Shahin, on social media.

"I saw some of the audio files and videos of his wife and son that he shared. After that my daughter Sara Akrami, who is also the movie's producer and has been working with some of the families of Flight PS752 victims for a while, connected me with Shahin. Ultimately, I decided to make a documentary about him. At the same time, I am considering to make movies about more families."

Akrami said the effect of this atrocity committed by the Islamic Republic of Iran is so immense on families of Flight PS752 victims, and especially on Shahin.

"His love for his wife and son is so deep that it affected me. Therefore, I became motivated to show the significant change in his life before and after this terrorist attack."

The making of "Broken by the Wind" was very difficult, Akrami admitted. He said at the outset of the process, and still today, "I still feel Shahin's tremendous suffrage."

Akrami created a framework and initially wanted to take three camera men and the rest of the crew to the movie set. However, he immediately realized that the presence of the crew could make Shahin uncomfortable when it came to expressing his feelings

with the camera.

"In order to overcome this situation, I decided to take no one to the set, except Shahin and me. This decision led to creation of a more relaxed environment for Shahin to express his feelings easily without being intimidated by the presence of the camera."

Akrami said he was motivated by is the fact that Moghaddam strongly believes that Ali Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, is the main person who committed this crime.

"I believe that Khamenei has taken the Iranian people hostage. He even makes decision for basic life aspects of the Iranian people; from choosing vaccination type to buying house appliances and other personal things. I believe someone who has basic understanding of the Islamic Republic of Iran's policies from 1979 until now, he or she shall recognize Khamenei as the primary person who committed this crime."

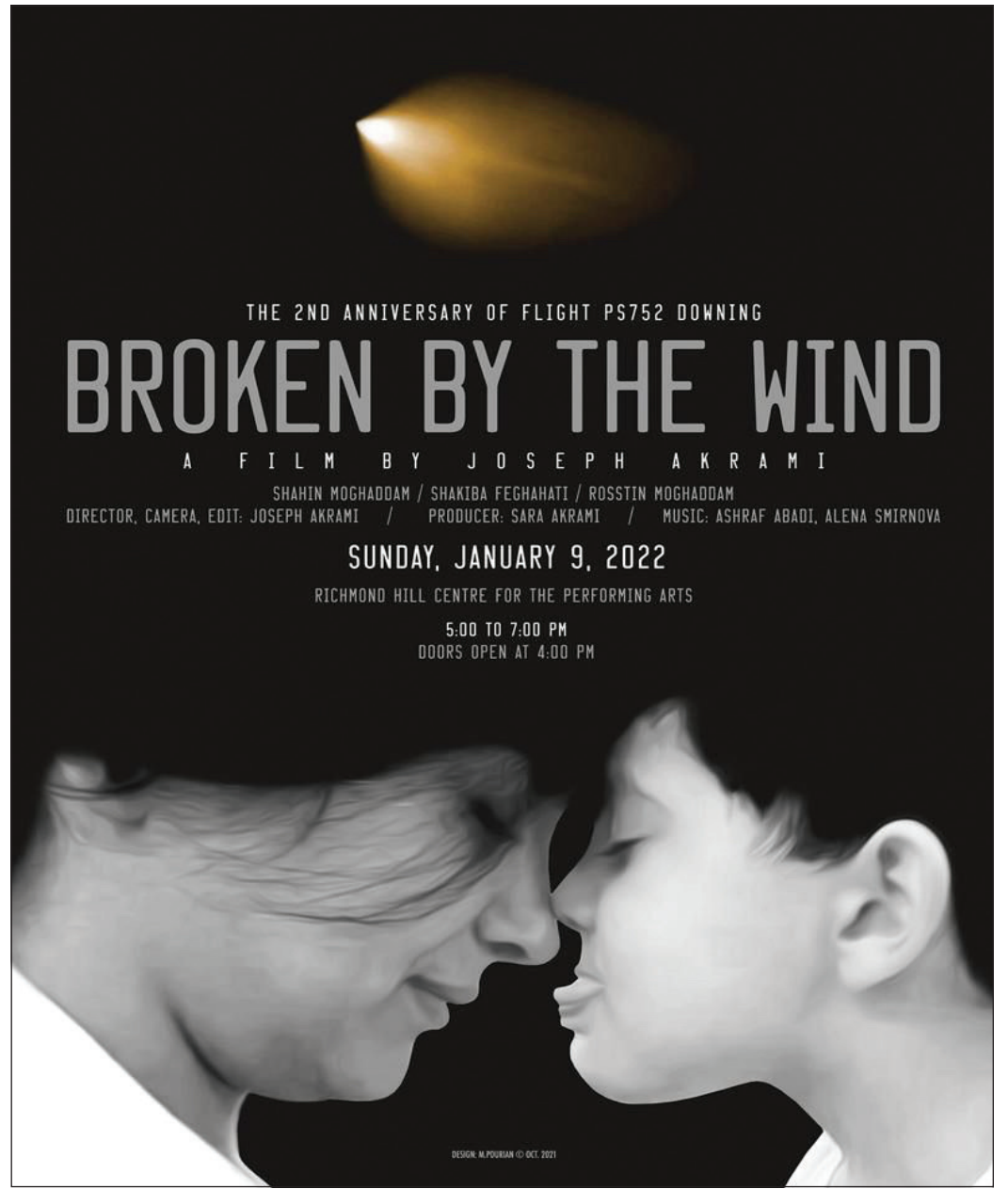
Akrami further said that all passengers of Flight PS752 are victims of the Islamic Republic of Iran and IRGC's terrorism. And, as far as he knows, the majority of the families of the victims believe the same thing. True justice, he said, will be achieved when the perpetrators of this crime are held accountable at the International Criminal Court.

This documentary will be screened for the first time in Toronto with the presence of some of the families of Flight PS752 victims, Canadians and Canadians of Iranian origin. The interesting part is that Shahin himself will watch the movie for the first time as well. Later, it will be screened in other Canadian cities. The voice of America will also broadcast the documentary to Iran on the second anniversary.

It premieres Jan. 9 at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Akrami worked for 5 years in Iran's national television. Later, he left Iran for Germany then came to Canada. He has worked as a director and director of photography in many documentaries as well as Canadian films.

It is free to the public. Visit the link for more, <https://tickets.rhcentre.ca/Online/default.asp>



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## Provincial funding grows to \$1.6 million for King

The Ontario government is providing an additional \$1 billion over the next five years to help build and repair local roads, bridges, water and wastewater infrastructure in small, rural and northern communities. This investment is part of the government's plan to build Ontario by getting shovels in the ground on critical infrastructure projects that support economic recovery, growth and job creation.

"Our small, rural and northern communities will be at the forefront of our efforts to build Ontario for the future," said Premier Doug Ford. "With this investment, we are saying 'yes' to helping these communities build and repair the vital infrastructure they need to keep their communities working for decades

to come."

The multi-year funding is being delivered through the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) and will bring the government's total investment to nearly \$2 billion over the next five years. Funding allocations will be based on a formula that recognizes the different needs and economic conditions of communities across the province. Starting in 2022, the formula will include an increased funding minimum of \$100,000 for all communities per year, up from \$50,000 over previous years.

King Treasurer Peggy Tollett explained The OCIF funding is not new but, in the past, it was never guaranteed. Last year the Township received

\$608,548 for 2021. The allocation for 2022 will be a tidy \$1.622 million.

"I am committed to delivering vital infrastructure improvements – supporting better internet connectivity, roads and bridges, and water quality across our rural community," said Stephen Lecce, MPP for King-Vaughan. "This \$1.6 million in funding builds on historic investments in King, including \$17 million to build the state-of-the-art King Recreation Facility, that will be of benefit to all ages in the community, and keep our families, seniors, and youth active and healthy."

"Communities are the heartbeat of this province and we know they are facing unique infrastructure needs and challenges, especially as we navigate through the pandemic," added Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure. "Our government has been with them every step of the way. When we were told more funding supports were needed, we listened and acted in a meaningful way by providing the largest OCIF increase since the start of the program. By doing so, we're providing stability

and predictability to small, rural and northern communities as they repair, upgrade, and modernize their critical infrastructure so that they are safer, healthier and more reliable for all."

"Our government is building a strong, stable foundation that workers, entrepreneurs, and families will build on for generations to come," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. "By nearly doubling our investment in the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund, our government is supporting public safety, job creation and economic growth."

The Province's investment in OCIF is part of the 2021 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Build Ontario. The plan lays out how the government will build Ontario's future with shovels in the ground for highways, hospitals, long-term care, housing and high-speed internet. To ensure all families, workers and businesses in the province have a better and brighter future, our government's planned infrastructure investments over the next decade total more than \$148 billion.

### Region approves 2022 YRP budget

York Regional Police is pleased to announce that York Regional Council has approved the 2022 police operating and capital budgets, allowing our organization to continue to deliver nationally recognized crime prevention and law enforcement programs as well as investigative leadership to more than 1.2 million citizens living in one of Canada's safest communities.

The approved net operating budget for 2022 is \$376.8 million, representing an increase of 4.5 per cent over 2021. The capital budget is \$32.8 million, with capital spending authority for multiple-year projects of \$32.8 million.

YRP will be adding 27 additional members in 2022 to meet the demands of growth across York Region and workload pressures, while maintaining quality service levels. These additional members will focus on combating serious and violent crimes and advancing learning, member development, organizational effectiveness and transformation. They will be deployed to Districts, Organized Crime and Intelligence Services, Corporate Development, Operational Command, Infrastructure Services, Executive Services and People, Wellness and Talent.

The capital budget will provide funding for the completion of the new #1 District Headquarters, 240 Prospect Street renovation, helicopter replacement, digital evidence management software (DEMS), as well as the annual purchase of vehicles, information technology equipment and other specialized equipment.

## Data portal will improve community engagement

By Mark Pavilons  
Editor

A comprehensive data portal will help local law enforcement engage the public.

Members of York Regional Police walked King councillors through the new, interactive Community Safety Data Portal recently.

By tracking crime data it can help residents be more aware of trends and help them become a bit more proactive. Knowing just what's going on in the municipality, and across the region, helps residents and police take the needed steps to protect everyone.

It's a shared responsibility and Greg Stanisci, YRP's Manager, Business Intelligence & Data Analytics, noted since the online portal went live in November, they've had more than 10,000 visits.

The portal offers a cornucopia of information, maps, FAQs, feedback forms and community safety resources. It's literally a one-stop data nerve centre.

Updates are made daily and visitors to the site can search for incidents, traffic collisions and local "hot spots."

Stanisci said hopes are it enhances YRP's ability to connect with the community.

Paulo da Silva, Deputy Chief of Administrative Branch, said as the portal evolves, more and more information will come online.

Mayor Steve Pellegrini noted it's an "extremely valuable" tool to King residents.

Crime maps on the portal include incidents for which police reports were filed. Addresses are not included to protect people's privacy, so the nearest in-

tersection is pinpointed.

The data includes break-ins, thefts, stolen vehicles, robberies, assaults, homicides, sex offences, arson, weapons offences, traffic enforcement and drug offences.

YRP reported that York is one of the safest communities in Canada.

In the FAQs section, there's advice on starting a Neighbourhood Watch program. Nobleton residents are in the process of launching one of their own. You can contact YRP at neighborhoodwatch@yrp.ca and a local crime prevention officer will be in touch.

Residents can also sign up to receive the YRP e-newsletter.

Community resources are also abundant on the portal. You can register your home security camera with YRP. There's information about Crime Stoppers, crime prevention, along with crisis and victim support services.

To find out more, visit <https://community-safety-portal-datayrp.hub.arcgis.com/>



## Stay safe this holiday season

- Keep gatherings small – under 10 people ✓
- Ensure everyone is fully vaccinated ✓
- Actively screen for COVID-19 symptoms ✓
- Take a Rapid Antigen Test, if accessible ✓
- Mask, distance and gather outdoors, if possible ✓

Let's keep everyone safe this holiday season by spreading cheer, not COVID-19.



[york.ca/covid19](http://york.ca/covid19)



### 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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# York Region funds Christmas Hamper Project at food bank

This Christmas, 1,706 York Region households will go a little less hungry as they begin to receive food support from the Food Bank of York Region (FBYR) who was funded by the Regional Municipality of York to create a Christmas Hamper project.

The FBYR and its team of volunteers will be individually hand-packing 1706 holiday themed food hampers, filled with non-perishable meal items, to be delivered to targeted residents that live in low- and moderate-income areas within the region. The FBYR will be delivering the hampers while the program runs through Dec. 24.

“Investments into the community that provide food assistance support are crucial all year round, but the holidays always have a heavier impact on the number of people who are experiencing hunger,” explains Alex Bilotta, Founder and CEO of the Food Bank of York Region. “Having funding provided to the FBYR, to fulfill a dire need with a project specifically for the holidays is a well-thought-out initiative that will go a long way in fighting food insecurity this Christmas. Thankfully, we have the capacity to reach a large portion of the York Region population, especially

those in need of food assistance this time of year.”

Low- and moderate-income residents of York Region living in high-needs areas have been deemed eligible to receive the Christmas Hampers as additional food support for the holidays through the FBYR.

Thanks to a pre-existing partnership with Wal-Mart, the FBYR was able to purchase all the necessary non-perishable food items in bulk and have them ready in their warehouse to be packed and delivered. Each holiday themed hamper will include 26 non-perishable food products.

From Jan. 1 to Nov. 22, 2021 FBYR has delivered healthy fresh and frozen perishable and non-perishable foods to over 6,501 households, and 18,876 unique individuals throughout its network of community partners and its own Home Delivery Program. The 2021 years demand in food security trends has remained on-par with 2020, seeing last years numbers at 8,052 households and 24,070 unique individuals.

With continued community support and funding, the FBYR can deliver 3 meals with as little a donation as \$1. For

more information about the FBYR or ways to donate, please visit [www.fbyr.ca](http://www.fbyr.ca) and follow us on social media.

The Food Bank of York Region is the official regional food distribution hub serving the nine municipalities of York Region (Vaughan, Richmond Hill, Markham, Whitchurch-Stouffville, Newmarket, Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, and King). They source, col-

lect, warehouse, and deliver surplus fresh, frozen, and non-perishable food donations for the 85+ local front-line direct service agencies within our network, and into the homes of residents in York Region through their COVID-19 Home Delivery Program. For more information about the FBYR or ways to donate, please visit [www.fbyr.ca](http://www.fbyr.ca) and follow us on social media.

## Lexie's Organizing Service

Need a space organized?  
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## Local farm donates to food bank

Plenty of fresh vegetables headed up to Minden to their food bank, thanks to King's Eek Farms, along with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul members. Here, Bill Eek loads up the trailer with skids of vegetables, clementines and Ontario apples.

# Happy Holidays

from

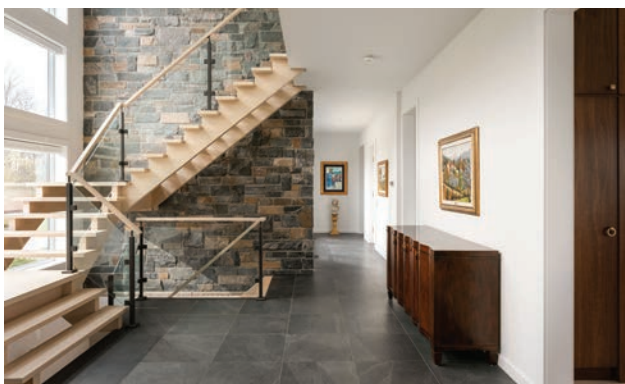
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KingWeeklySentinel

# Arts & Entertainment

## ASK welcomes its new board of directors

By Patti Skrypek

Arts Society King (ASK) is pleased to announce its slate of 2021-22 directors.

Leading the way into the new term are Michele McNally (President), Regina Jensen (Treasurer), Murdene Pozdrowski (Secretary), Kathleen Rodgers (Artist Liaison), Dorita Peer (Director) and Patti Skrypek (Director).

The new team was confirmed at the November Annual General Meeting. ASK would like to thank outgoing Treasurer Len Vernon and Past President Lynda Rogers for their many years of dedication and service.

Arts Society King (ASK) is a not-for-profit volunteer organization established in 2005. ASK's office and gallery space are located in the King Heritage and Cultural Centre in King City. One of Arts Society King's most effective partnerships is with King Township which has recognized the boundless value of arts and culture within our community. King Township has acknowledged ASK as an important contributor of cultural experiences that help maintain and fulfill King's socio-cultural identity.

"Our donors are a diverse mix of private citizens and businesses and members are primarily artists," said Michele. "Citizens choose to support ASK initiatives and artists join to gain valuable exposure and opportunities. Donations and membership both support cultural activities in King Township."

For just \$50 a year, ASK members can enjoy the following benefits:

- Listing on the Arts Society King website directory with biography, photo and link to your website.

- Benefit from ASK's social media promotion of artists throughout the year.

- Inclusion in ASK opportunities with local media, bi-weekly eBlast and quarterly MOSAiC Magazine (10,000 copies).

- Receive "Call to Artists" for opportunities and exhibitions, local and regionally-based.

- Through ASK's partnership with King Township, participate in public art initiatives and public art displays.

- Participate in ASK signature events and exhibitions such as the Studio Tour King (April), Plant & Pop-Up Art Show & Sale (May), Artists in the Garden (July), Schomberg Street Gallery (September), ASK Art Show & Sale (November), Themed Gallery Exhibitions.

- Exhibition and sale at Carrying Place Golf & Country Club.

- Opportunity to promote your personal shows, exhibits and workshops on the ASK website Artist Bulletin Board.

- Voting privileges at the Arts Society King Annual General Meeting (have a voice in our mission and vision).

- Free admission to the King Heritage & Cultural Centre.

- Discount on registration fees for White Hot Shot Photo Contest (January/February), Autumn Reflections En Plein Air (September/October) and other ASK events.

Be a part of a strong, vibrant organization that supports arts and culture in King Township.

ASK is excited to offer new initiatives in 2022 including bi-monthly artist workshops over Zoom and/or in-person and exhibitions with new partners Kingbridge Centre and Eaton Hall. ASK



Arts Society King members (from l to r) Kathleen Rodgers, Michele McNally, Marina Girolamo, Regina Jensen, Patti Skrypek, Joanne Bailey, Murdene Pozdrowski, Rina Trimmeliti and Dorita Peer.

is also partnering with other arts organizations across southern Ontario for exclusive Calls For Artists, workshops, etc., and Calls For Artists for Public Art around King Township.

ASK collaborates with community partners to foster spirit and support of each other's initiatives. In addition to King Township, ASK partners with the King Township Public Library, King

Township Historical Society, Kingcrafts Studio, York Region Arts Council, local schools, McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Olde Mill Art Gallery & Shoppe and Cold Creek Conservation.

If you would like to further explore the many benefits of being an ASK member, check out our website at [artsocietyking.ca](http://artsocietyking.ca) or send an email to [info@artsocietyking.ca](mailto:info@artsocietyking.ca).

## Holiday bird count is on

Bird lovers of all ages and skill levels are invited to celebrate the 122nd anniversary of the Christmas Bird Count by joining one of the many counts happening across Ontario this holiday season. It's a great way to explore nature while helping collect important data on our feathered friends. Consider making the Christmas Bird Count a part of your family holiday tradition this year.

The Christmas Bird Count began in 1900, and today it is North America's longest-running wildlife census. Many local counts are organized by birding and nature clubs, and everyone is welcome to attend free of charge.

This year's Christmas Bird Count will run to Jan. 5, 2022. Ontario Nature member groups are organizing nearly 50 counts in the province this season. Visit the Ontario Nature website ([ontarionature.org/cbc](http://ontarionature.org/cbc)) to find a count near you. For a comprehensive list of counts happening across Canada, visit the Birds Canada website ([bsc-eoc.org/volunteer/cbc](http://bsc-eoc.org/volunteer/cbc)).

Always fun, even when the weather is chilly, every volunteer who braves the elements to take part in a count contributes to the study and conservation of birds. Scientists use the data collected to monitor the health and status of resident and migratory birds over time, and to develop conservation strategies for species in decline and their habitats. The Christmas Bird Count also teaches community scientists about the myriad bird species that live in and migrate through their communities.



"The Christmas Bird Count is a great way for bird lovers of all ages to help Ontario's birds. Novices work alongside experts to collect important data that help guide work on behalf of all birds across the province. And who knows ... maybe you'll see a rare bird that no one has recorded before," said Emma Horigan, Ontario Nature's Conservation Projects and Education Manager.

Last year, the COVID-19 pandemic did little to dampen Ontario bird lovers' enthusiasm for the Christmas Bird Count. In fact, eight more counts were conducted throughout the province than in the previous year. Many of those counts were hosted by Ontario Nature member groups.

What avian rarities and trends will be uncovered this year? Join a Christmas Bird Count to find out.

Ontario Nature protects wild species and wild spaces through conservation, education and public engagement. It connects thousands of individuals and communities with nature through more than 160 conservation groups, and 30,000 members and supporters across the province. For more information, visit [ontarionature.org](http://ontarionature.org).

# 2021 Holiday light tour



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# Auditor General findings underscore bypass concerns

By Margaret Prophet  
& Claire Malcolmson

Bonnie Lysyk, Ontario's Auditor General whose job it is to hold provincial public-sector and broader-public-sector organizations accountable for financial responsibility, well-managed programs and transparency in public reporting, released its annual report. What her conclusions demonstrate is that our overarching concerns about the Bradford Bypass are well founded.

Her key findings are extremely relevant to issues surrounding the Bypass including:

"Decisions about important public infrastructure and services, such as highways ... appeared to be disconnected from, or inconsistent with, other land-use planning processes and policies."

We agree. The bypass is proceeding without consideration of existing land use policies that have been implemented since the 1997 EA including the Greenbelt Plan, Lake Simcoe Protection Act, the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act. Proceeding with this highway without full study and consideration of these policies makes a mockery of the protection these Acts are supposed to afford Ontarians' health and environment.

"In 2014, the medical officers of health of Hamilton, Peel, Simcoe Muskoka, and Toronto released a report, called Improving Health By Design in the Greater Toronto-Hamilton Area, on the health impacts of designing communities that require the use of cars. The report stated that the annual costs of physical inactivity and obesity in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area stood at \$4 billion, including \$1.4 billion in direct medical costs."

We recognize that cars are the only option for many people in the region, however, that is a result of government policy choice which is literally killing our communities. By continuing to focus major investments in highways, we lose the opportunity to invest in other things that allow people to travel in different ways that can be more convenient (e.g. high speed transit, regional transit).

So we can either continue to deprive our communities of real travel choice by sinking billions into highways or we can fix road congestion the way traffic engineers have suggested – providing regional road improvements and giving people options about how to get around.

The Growth Plan overestimates of the population growth in outer Greater Golden Horseshoe suburbs are having adverse financial consequences for those municipalities. We keep hearing the number of people that are coming to the area, but these are just estimates and according to the Auditor General are likely higher than what will be realized.

This forces municipalities to over-build, over-designate land for development, overbuild infrastructure which in the end comes out of taxpayer pockets. If the population does not materialize taxpayers are still on the hook. Before we build a highway that won't solve local traffic issues we should consider whether the massive taxpayer investment will provide a net benefit to our communities. After all, if highway access resolved traffic congestion, then why would most of the GTA be in almost constant gridlock?

"Conservation authorities are losing the independent power to exercise their mandate to ensure that development is directed away from flood and erosion-prone areas."

Putting a highway through flood prone, provincially significant marshlands is a project that the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) should have full autonomy to comment on. Instead the LSRCA has outlined that they will only comment on the bypass if the province requests a voluntary review. The LSRCA should be empowered to stand up for Lake Simcoe's headwaters and the watershed it is legislated to protect without needing provincial permission to fulfill its mandate.

"Permit applications to harm species at risk or their habitats are always approved."

Along the route of the bypass there are at least 11 species at risk, 2 of which are endangered. Despite assurances that these species will be protected, the Auditor General's report confirms what we fear – that based on historical actions, these habitats will be destroyed, these species at risk will be permanently harmed and the province won't uphold its responsibility to protect our beloved green spaces from destruction.

"... policies to achieve the majority of emissions reductions required to meet the 2030 target have not been identified."

It seems that Ontario will not likely meet its 2030 emission reductions targets which is no surprise considering the land use and transportation decisions being made that exacerbate our carbon emissions.

Further, the Auditor General warns that Ontario's emissions could increase if strong action isn't taken.

We are in a critical time where we need to reduce carbon emissions, not increase them. We know that highways increase greenhouse gas emissions and concentrate pollutants in the air we breathe. Based on the 1997 EA data, the bypass could increase GHG emissions by 89 million kilograms per year; that doesn't even include the carbon emissions from the construction of the highway and loss of wetlands, forests and farmland that store carbon.

There have not been any considerations of what this highway will do to the climate nor will there be now that the highway has been exempted from the Environmental Assessment Act. Our region will not escape the impacts

of a changing climate. From reduced water supply and increased flooding to having a climate similar to Mississippi in roughly 50 years, we will see grave consequences of today's inaction. Climate leaders don't build highways and especially not in significant wetlands.

Our region is special for a multitude of reasons, but one of those is Lake Simcoe – a cornerstone of our local economy, recreation, drinking water and lifestyle. Despite calls from several municipalities to ensure that impacts to Lake Simcoe are understood prior to any construction on the Bypass, the province is moving ahead quickly toward construction.

In 35 years, Lake Simcoe could have a salt concentration similar to oceans. This was calculated prior to the additional salt that will be washed down

from the bypass directly into the rivers and streams that flow into Lake Simcoe. Building the Bypass decreases our chance of avoiding that fate for Lake Simcoe.

With the Auditor General's report, it is clear we cannot have confidence that Lake Simcoe will be taken care of. Those of us in the region who understand all of this are very concerned.

The bypass is just the latest egregious example of provincial projects in our area that will make Lake Simcoe more sick. None of us will be the better for it.

*Margaret Prophet is the executive director of the Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition. Claire Malcolmson is executive director of Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition.*

## Horwath opposes Holland Marsh highway

Ontario NDP leader Andrea Horwath is opposed to the construction of the proposed Holland Marsh Highway.

According to her response to Lake Simcoe Watch's questionnaire:

"A Ministry of Transportation report shows that there are much better ways to improve mobility through the region than giving well-connected private interests a costly and wasteful 4-6 lane highway that would ultimately attract heavier car and truck traffic from outside the local area and make congestion worse."

Despite the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan calling for Lake Simcoe's phosphorous pollution to be reduced by 50% to 44 tonnes per year, phosphorous reaching the lake has risen by 30% since 2009 in the absence of any funding or plan for action.

According to Ms. Horwath, an "NDP government will fund and implement a proper plan to reduce Lake Simcoe's phosphorous pollution to 44 tonnes a year by 2030."

The proposed Holland Marsh pollution reduction facility is the single largest action we can take to reduce Lake Simcoe's phosphorous pollution.

According to Ms. Horwath, the NDP also supports the construction of this project.

According to Andrea Horwath, the Development Charges Act should be amended to permit municipalities to levy development charges to recover 100% of their costs of servicing new developments and cleaning-up Lake Simcoe.

As Ms. Horwath noted:

"Municipal taxpayers in York and Simcoe are increasingly on the hook for massive infrastructure costs and debts related to sprawl-oriented development mandated by short-sighted, politically-driven provincial growth policies. As the financial and environmental costs of sprawl-oriented development increase, growth policies and development charges must change, while at the same time encouraging and rewarding sustainable development that makes efficient use of land and infrastructure within existing communities."

Lake Simcoe Watch sent out a questionnaire to the leaders of Ontario's four major political parties on Nov. 2. They asked all of them to reply by Dec. 31.

**Merry Christmas**  
During this holiday season,  
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### Magical Christmas in Schomberg

A "Mini Cake Christmas" was held in Schomberg recently, spreading joy and the spirit of the holidays. The event was sponsored by Cake Realty Brokerage in Schomberg and featured plenty of family friendly activities, music and of course a visit from Santa.

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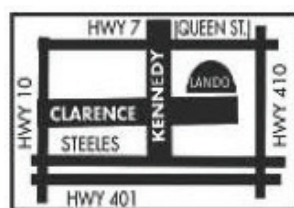
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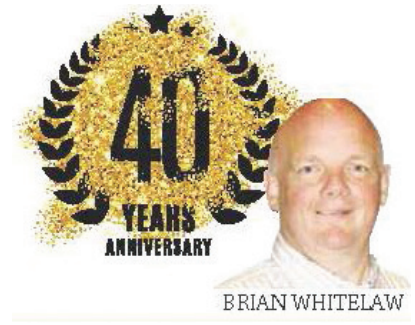
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## Southlake's staff and physicians donate a mountain of toys to York Regional Police's Holiday Heroes

Southlake Regional Health Centre staff and physicians donated a mountain of toys to York Regional Police's Holiday Heroes drive.

Southlake has been participating in Holiday Heroes for many years. Last year during the pandemic, staff donated gift cards instead of toys, and employees came together to donate nearly \$7,000 in gift cards for families in need.

"We are very happy to get back to donating toys again this year. It warms my heart to see our lobby overflowing with toys and to think of our staff and physicians coming together to help families in our community," said Arden Krystal, Southlake's President and CEO. "Even during these tough times, our Southlake team takes the time to give back to our communities."

For the past 25 years, the Holiday Heroes campaign has raised more than \$2.1 million thanks to community partners like Southlake. All of these donations have stayed in York Region, having a direct impact on our community.

Thank you to the York Regional Police for organizing Holiday Heroes and collecting the donated items.

Southlake is building healthy com-

munities through outstanding care, innovative partnerships, and amazing people. We deliver a wide range of healthcare services to the communities of northern York Region and southern Simcoe County.

Their advanced regional programs include Cancer Care and Cardiac Care and serve a broader population across the northern GTA and into Simcoe-Muskoka.

Their team of nearly 6,000 staff, physicians, volunteers, students and patient and family advisors are committed to creating an environment where the best experiences happen. As a recognition of their commitment to quality and patient safety, they have received the highest distinction of Exemplary Standing from Accreditation Canada.

With an annual operating budget of over \$500 million, we care for a rapidly growing and aging population and have developed an exciting plan for new facilities to serve our communities into the future. A member of the Southlake Community Ontario Health Team, they are working with partners to deliver integrated care to northern York Region and southern Simcoe County.

### Elizabeth Crowe elected as board chair

At its annual board meeting Dec. 1, the York Catholic District School Board elected Elizabeth Crowe, Trustee for Aurora/King/Whitchurch-Stouffville, as Chair of the Board and Maria Marchese, Trustee for Vaughan Area 3: Ward 3 (Woodbridge), as Vice-Chair.

Chair Crowe previously held the position of board chair from December 1998 to November 2015, and from December 2017 to November 2018. She has also held the position of vice-chair during her 27 years as a York Catholic trustee.

"I am honoured to have the support of my fellow Trustees," said Chair Crowe. "As we lit the first Advent candle this past Sunday, it reminded us that we are waiting in joyful hope for the coming of our Lord. At the same time, at the board level we too are waiting with joyful hope for a full return to schooling without masks and social distancing."

"In the next year, we will face budgetary pressures due to the ongoing pandemic, the uncertainty of a provincial election, and challenges in the public domain that will question the very existence of Catholic schools. I have no doubt that as a board we will continue to prove that we put the students entrusted into our care foremost in our decision making so our schools continue to be safe, creative, faith-filled learning environments."

Vice-Chair Marchese has previously served as chair from November 2019 to December 2020, and Vice-Chair from November 2018 to December 2019. She has been a trustee for York Catholic since 2014.

The newly elected chairs will serve a one-year term until Nov. 14, 2022.



## CORE launches food drive

Stephen Lecce, MPP for King-Vaughan supported a special Winter Wonderland event organized by King City's CORE Health & Fitness on Nov. 28. Non-perishable foods were collected through the non-profit organization, Food Not Bought, and donated to the local King Township Food Bank.

At CORE's Winter Wonderland, the King City community came out with their families to enjoy food and beverages, as well as to play games and take photos with Santa. The event was free but attendees were asked to donate at least one non-perishable food item to support families in need.

"Well done to CORE Health and Fitness for hosting a fun Winter Wonderland event this weekend, supporting the local King Township Food Bank," said Lecce. "This is a great example of the community coming together ahead of the Christmas season to support families in need."

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# Province providing free rapid COVID testing

To provide an additional layer of protection against COVID-19 and variants including Omicron, the province has launched a holiday testing blitz to offer rapid antigen tests to individuals free of charge at pop-up sites across the province, as well as at select LCBO stores across Ontario. This initiative is part of the government's enhanced COVID-19 testing strategy to mitigate the increased risk of transmission over the holiday season.

"Working with local health partners, community organizations, and businesses, we are bringing free rapid testing directly to Ontarians during the holiday season by deploying pop-up teams in priority areas," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "Rapid antigen screening is an additional layer of protection to proactively identify cases and mitigate community transmission, while we continue to strengthen our vaccine rollout to

protect ourselves and loved ones."

Throughout December to mid-January, two million rapid tests will be provided free of charge at pop-up testing sites in high-traffic settings such as malls, retail settings, holiday markets, public libraries and transit hubs, as well as providing vaccine education.

Pop-up teams will be deployed at locations across the province, some co-located with GO-VAXX mobile vaccine buses. Most sites will distribute free take-home rapid antigen test kits, subject to supply, and some will offer asymptomatic rapid antigen screening on-site. The government will also make take-home rapid tests available at LCBO stores across Ontario.

Ontarians can visit Ontario.ca/holidaytesting to find out if pop-up rapid antigen screening sites will be available in their area. Additional pop-ups, including participating LCBO locations, will be added upon confirmation by individual locations with the website updated weekly. No appointment will be required.

People without symptoms of COVID-19 or people who have not had recent exposure to someone with COVID-19 will be able to pick up a package of free tests from a pop-up site, while supplies last, or get a free test

performed on-site. At sites distributing tests for use at home, there is a limit of one kit per person. Every person that receives a package of tests or gets a test on-site will be provided with information and resources about rapid antigen screening and COVID-19 vaccination.

Anyone who receives a positive result through their rapid test needs to self-isolate and book a lab-based PCR test at a testing site to confirm the result. Ontario continues to look for opportunities to expand access to rapid testing for all Ontarians. With an increased demand for rapid tests and globally constrained supply, the province is continuing to urge the federal government to increase the number of approved rapid tests available for use in Ontario and across the country.

Vaccination against COVID-19 is the most effective way to prevent the spread of the virus. While testing does not prevent someone from getting COVID-19, access to timely and convenient testing is critical in helping to ensure quick detection and isolation of positive cases.

Individuals picking up a box of rapid tests will need to go through the check-out to access the tests from the LCBO service representatives at cash registers. There will be no obligation to buy alcohol in order to pick up tests.

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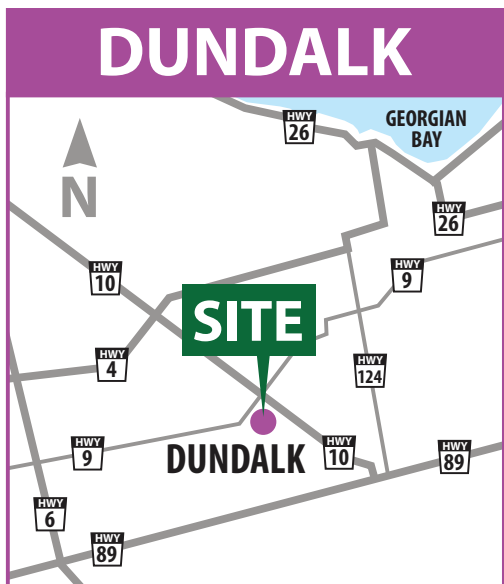


## Christmas drive-by

Coinciding with Schomberg's recent A Main Street Christmas and Parade of Lights, King Fire and local volunteers staged a Christmas "drive-by" with Santa visiting various neighbourhoods, spreading cheer before the holidays.

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### MPP helps mark Hannukah

Over the 8 days of Hannukah from Nov. 28 to Dec. 6, Stephen Lecce, MPP for King-Vaughan, attended various outdoor menorah lighting ceremonies with members of the Jewish community where he shared remarks on behalf of the Government of Ontario.

Local families gathered to light the menorah at the Village of Kleinburg for the first time in Kleinburg's history thanks to the Vaughan Public Library and community member Nat Levy.

"This Hannukah, we celebrated the power of light over darkness that triumphs over all difficulties," said Lecce. "This is the story of the Jewish people who have overcome adversity every step of the way. As we see a rise in Antisemitism, we remain committed to standing together with the Jewish community of King-Vaughan who have contributed so much to our province."

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**Let's Work Together To Make Sure This Holiday Season is a Happy One For All!**

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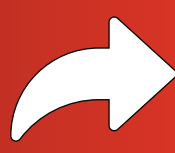
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# King Weekly Sentinel

SECTION B

Sports • News • Community Events  
Classifieds • At Your Service



## Lamaze retires Olympic mount, Fine Lady 5

Fine Lady 5, the horse that carried Canada's Eric Lamaze to an individual bronze medal at the 2016 Olympic Games, was officially retired in a special ceremony held Dec. 10.

Bred by Wilhelm Leymann and born in Germany in 2003, Fine Lady 5 was acquired by Andy and Carlene Ziegler's Artisan Farms LLC as a mount for Lamaze. The Hanoverian mare (Forsyth x Drosselklang II) arrived at Lamaze's Torrey Pines Stable in the spring of 2014 and quickly proved her prowess by earning numerous top finishes at the 1.45m and 1.50m levels in the pair's first few months together.

Showing great form in the 2016 season, Fine Lady 5 was selected as Lamaze's mount for the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. After leading the Canadian team to a fourth-place finish following a jump-off against Germany for the bronze medal, Lamaze and Fine Lady 5 advanced to the individual final where their only rail of the entire games came during the jump-off for the gold medal. That one rail would leave them in bronze medal position, which was still far beyond any expectations ever set for Fine Lady 5.

"She is one of a kind because she was not a horse that anyone thought could reach the level that she did," said Lamaze of his partner of eight years. "With Hickstead, he was favoured to win an Olympic medal and it was up to me to make a mistake. With Fine Lady,

it was the partnership that we developed and the trust we had in each other that earned us the Olympic medal.

"Winning a medal with that horse means a lot to me," continued Lamaze, who holds individual gold and team silver medals from the 2008 Beijing Olympics with Hickstead in addition to the individual bronze earned with Fine Lady 5. "She is a great little mare with a huge heart that believed in any adventure you faced her with. She became the leading horse in my stable, with the ability to win at any height, when she wasn't bought to be that. Winning an Olympic medal and the Rolex Top 10 Final demonstrated her huge heart."

Following their incredible performance at the 2016 Rio Olympics, Lamaze and Fine Lady 5 went on to win the €300,000 Rolex IJRC Top 10 Final later that year at CHI Geneva, Switzerland. In a unique competition that sees the top 10 riders in the world rankings go head-to-head over two rounds, Lamaze and Fine Lady 5 were clear in both rounds and produced the fastest time in the second round to win.

Their victory marked the first time a Canadian athlete had ever claimed the coveted title.

"I would like to give special thanks to the Zieglers for supporting me with Fine Lady, not to mention many other horses over the years," said Lamaze, 53. "She is a horse that I will never forget, and she will be greatly missed from my



Eric Lamaze and Fine Lady 5 claimed the individual bronze medal at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Photo by Arnd Bronkhorst Photography

string. I'm happy we were able to give her the retirement that she deserves, and especially to have the ceremony in Geneva during a very special competition that she won. Hopefully we'll have many Fine Lady babies running around in the future as she continues in the sport as a broodmare."

In their final competitive appearance, Lamaze and Fine Lady 5 were members of Canada's winning team in the \$600,000 BMO Nations' Cup at the CSIO5\* Spruce Meadows 'Masters' tournament in Calgary, AB, on September 11, 2021. Fine Lady 5 will be

retired in Belgium where both Lamaze and the Ziegler family have properties.

"It has been a delight to own Fine Lady 5 for Eric to compete," said Carlene Ziegler. "It meant so much to us to have her do well at the Rio Olympics and to experience great victories all around the world. She loved to win, and she loved Eric in the saddle. We are happy she will now have a restful retirement in Belgium. As a European horse, she's always been happiest there."

To learn more about Lamaze, visit [ericlamaze.com](http://ericlamaze.com).



Eric Lamaze and Fine Lady 5 won the coveted Rolex IJRC Top 10 Final in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2016.

Photo by Rolex / Kit Houghton

## GOJHL penalized five teams due to violation of vaccination policy

By Robert Belardi

The Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League released a statement on Dec. 17, penalizing five clubs in the Golden Horseshoe Conference in violation of the league's vaccination policy.

The GOJHL had permitted each individual team to be responsible for ensuring the vaccination status of players and club personnel. In the league's latest findings, 30 GOJHL regular season games have been impacted. Due to ineligible participants in these games, the statement said all games will be dubbed a 5-0 loss and if both teams were in violation no points were given.

On the list, the Hamilton Kilty Bs were forced to forfeit two victories due to ineligible players against the Thorold Blackhawks on Oct. 2 and against the Niagara Falls Canucks on Oct. 4.

The St. Catherines Falcons forfeited one victory against the Fort Erie Meteors on Sept. 25 and the Welland Jr. Canadiens forfeited one game against

the Pelham Panthers on Sept. 26.

The second most games forfeited on the list saw the Thorold Blackhawks lose out on six games this year all against Niagara Falls, Hamilton, the Caledonia Pro-Fit Corvairs, Pelham and St. Catherines.

The most penalized team was the Niagara Falls Canucks as the club lost out on 24 games this year due to ineligible players. The GOJHL has also announced a member of the organization has been suspended indefinitely.

With these forfeits coming into play, the Canucks now sit at the bottom of the division with only five points on the year. The Blackhawks sit in second last with 14 points.

The league has surely sent out a clear-cut message to the rest of the GOJHL that everyone is being investigated to ensure that the vaccination policy has been met.

If an ineligible player or member of staff is discovered, teams could be paying a hefty price that could ruin their season and their playoff hopes.

## York United, Brennan part ways

By Robert Belardi

Just two days after a 3-1 loss to Forge FC in the semifinals of the Canadian Premier League, York United released a statement they have parted ways with Head Coach/Manager and Technical Director of the club Jimmy Brennan.

Brennan became the first head coach in club history on July 27, 2018 since leaving Aurora FC from League 1 Ontario. The club has decided not to renew his contract which has come to an end.

Since coming to York United, Brennan has led The Nine Stripes to a third-place, fifth-place and fourth-place finish in his three-year tenure.

"I want to thank Jimmy for everything he has done coaching this club over the last three years. Firstly, there has been his impact on the field but it's imperative that I also recognize and applaud the huge contribution he's made off the pitch. Without him, the club is probably not here today," said Angus McNab, CEO, President and GM of York United in the press release.

"Additionally, there is no way our young players like Max Ferrari, Isaiah Johnston and Lowell Wright would be thriving as they are without Jimmy's support and guidance. There is a strong foundation here and we are grateful to Jimmy for having been so crucial in building it."

During his time, Brennan has been known across all of the CPL for giving young players an opportunity to make a name for themselves in the league.

According to the release, U21 players played 9,043 minutes under Brennan this past year. Also, York United defender Diyaeddine Abzi received a call-up and made an appearance for the U-23 Canadian international team.

Throughout his career, Brennan was widely renowned for his contributions in Canada's 2000 Gold Cup victory.

Brennan began his senior career with Bristol City in 1996, and went on to play for Nottingham Forest, Huddersfield Town, Southampton and Toronto FC for three years before retiring in 2010.

He began his coaching career in 2011 with the Toronto FC U17 academy.



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# Nobleton United Church holds Nativity Drive-Thru

By Earle Laycock

Despite another COVID Christmas pandemic lockdown and a strong wind-storm forcing a week's postponement, the spirit of Christmas returned to Nobleton United Church which treated the community to their second Christmas Nativity Drive-Thru Saturday (Dec. 18).

Families could drive their vehicle through the various areas including: 1) the Nativity Scene which featured Mary (Aubrey Winter), Joseph (Joseph Kolb) and Baby Jesus; 2) a visit with Santa, arranged by Gino DiFebo; 3) meeting "Phil the Donkey," who delighted everyone with his gentle nature, shepherded by Ryan Laverty, and 4) hearing angelic carolers, Kara Winter and her daughter Davina.

Rev. Evelyn McLachlan gave everyone a blessing and each family received a gift bag with donations from the church members and local businesses.

Nancy Hopkinson was at the end of the Drive-thru and asked each group what part they enjoyed the most. Answers included "everything, getting the stuffy, Santa, 'Phil the donkey' and "the

Nativity scene."

Phil the Donkey enjoyed his evening so much that he again resisted getting into his uber trailer to go back to Donna Carson's farm in Schomberg.

Special thanks to Lindsay Mahon who provided transportation for Phil.

Lastly, a big thank you to Andrew Winter for organizing this event and his volunteers. Christmas is a little more cheerful because of your efforts.



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# Schomberg Should Know

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

## Schomberg Blood Clinic

Make saving a life your greatest gift! This Blood Donor Clinic is at the Triscent Centre, 24 Dillane Drive, Schomberg on Wednesday, Dec. 29 from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. Book your appointment at blood.ca or on the Give Blood App and please keep your appointment to help save lives.

## Schomberg United Church By Nancy Hopkinson

Schomberg United Church has been open for a few months, but because the COVID counts are rapidly rising, a decision was made that last Sunday's service would be online. Rev. Evelyn McLachlan conducted a Zoom service. We had power point so that we could sing along while Dennis played the various carols.

We expect that for the next while, we will either have Zoom services or videos sent out.

Last Saturday we held our Nativity and Santa Drive-Thru. The greeter (Earle Laycock) let people know that they should take their time as they went from station to station. Everyone enjoyed talking with Santa and the children received a lovely stuffie from him.

The carolers, Kara Winter and her daughter Davina, sang a Christmas carol for each car. The Nativity scene had Joseph (Joseph Kolb) and Mary (Aubrey Winter). Nearby was Phil the donkey being cared for by shepherd Ryan Laverty. Rev. Evelyn McLachlan offered a blessing to each group and gave each group a surprise bag of goodies.

We are thankful to organizer Andrew Winter, for the participants, for the helpers with set-up, for those who donated to the bag of goodies and to those who donated money to the church at the Drive-Thru.

I was at the end, and asked each group what part they enjoyed the most. It was a cold night with snow on the ground, but with all the Christmas lights, the carollers' singing, the video projected on the wall of the church, everyone had a great time.

The Joyful Spirits sang carols outside at several homes in Nobleton on Tuesday, Dec. 14 and outside Kitchen Breedon Manor, a condo building on Church St. in Schomberg and a nearby farmhouse on Friday, Dec. 17. It was fun for everyone.

Tuesday, Dec. 21, from 4 to 8 p.m. Rev. Evelyn was at Nobleton United for those who wanted to come to a quiet place to listen to soft music and light a candle or talk about their sadness. Somehow sharing one's grief helps. If you would like someone to talk to during these difficult times, please call the church, 905-859-3976, and leave a message for Rev. Evelyn to call you.

The Christmas Eve Service, Friday, Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m. will be held on Zoom. This is a musical service with lots of familiar carols and a children's story too, so be sure to have your children be near the computer!

On Sunday, Dec. 26 at 10:30 am, the St. Mary Magdalene Anglican congregation in Schomberg invited Schomberg and Nobleton United Churches to attend. At the time of writing, we are not sure whether this will switch to a Zoom service.

On Sunday, Jan. 2 at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom, the worship will be Lessons and

Carols. Rev. Evelyn invites us to wear our "nice" or "ugly" Christmas sweater, socks, hat!

If you are not on our regular email list, let me know if you would like to have the Zoom links. Everyone is welcome to attend.

We continue to have a Zoom Coffee hour on Thursday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m. Let me know if you want to be included in the email blast or want to join via phone. Our chat topics are wide-ranging.

My contact info is 905-859-0761 or nancy@hopkinson.ca.

## Horticultural Society

The Schomberg Horticultural Society has created a Christmas display at the Centennial Gardens at the "Gates of Schomberg." The Society's intention is to bring joy to the community in these uncertain times. They hope you see their wonderful Christmas display with trendy gnomes and a lush Christmas tree adorned with Cardinals, red berries and bright solar lights. This is a great place for a Christmas Selfie!

The Society wishes the whole community all the best for the upcoming festive season.

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### 708 OBITUARIES

## Andersen, Olav Thorkild



Quietly announcing the passing of Olav Thorkild Andersen, Nov. 28th, 2021 at the age of 91 and 10 months. Cremation has taken place, by the Stoddart Funeral Home, Lindsay, Ontario. Olav was the soul mate of the late Eva Westbrook (2012) for 52 years. They lived on the 16th and 10th concession, R.R. 3 Schomberg for decades where they operated Holly Park Meats. Olav was a proud member of the Nobleton Lions Club for decades and received the Helen Keller plaque for service but being technically blind did not detour him from insisting he be helpful in any way he could. He and his Lion Member (Lion Joe) sold tickets to functions at the Nobleton Plaza wherever they could set up. The Lion Members helped Olav and Eva attend many functions by picking them up and driving them home safely. Olav and Eva enjoyed raising dozens of colourful and melodic canaries that could be heard singing from sunrise to sunset in their special little outside protected enclosure. I was told that it was only the males that sang, though it was the females that made the males so happy and sing they did. A private family graveside inurnment will occur at Laurel Hill Cemetery, Bolton, Ontario.

### 709 IN MEMORIAM

## Hrassnig, Stephanie Lee (Crawley)

November 20, 1981 - December 14, 2020  
*God saw you getting tired when a cure was not to be  
So He wrapped His arms around you,  
And whispered "Come unto me"  
You didn't deserve what you went through,  
And so He gave you rest.  
God's garden must be beautiful, He only takes the best.  
So when I saw you sleeping, So peaceful and free from pain,  
I could not wish you to come back to suffer that all again.*  
You are in our hearts forever  
Lovingly remembered by her mother and father Margaret and Murray Crawley. Lovingly remembered by her two sons Baron and Xavier Hrassnig and partner Mark Hrassnig. Lovingly remembered by her sisters Karrie Angus (Jack), Coleen and Meghan Dean (Brad). Stephanie will also be missed by her nephews and nieces as well as numerous extended family and dear friends.

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**King Weekly Sentinel**

# Nobleton Notes

By Angie Maccarone

**St. Paul's Church**  
By Linda Blydorp

We will worship together on Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. There may still be room for you, so please call 905-859-0843 as soon as you read this. Leave a message with your name and the number in your party, and we will get back to you with regard to seating availability.

On Christmas Day, we have prepared a family experience for all ages for you to watch at your convenience on our Youtube channel.

We welcome you to join us in person for worship this Sunday. Masks still must be worn and households are to be kept two metres apart from each other.

Our Pastor, Jeff Loach, will be leading our worship this week. Jeff has entitled his message, "Where Effective Ministry Leads." 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).

St. Paul's will be coordinating with the King Township Food Bank in the distribution of "St. Paul's Love Bags." These bags will include items that are seldom donated and are in high demand for those less fortunate. If you would like to help by contributing to this mission, please check [www.stpaulsnobleton.ca](http://www.stpaulsnobleton.ca) to find a list of items needed.

## Neighbourhood Watch

We are setting up a Neighbourhood Watch in various areas of Nobleton and surrounding area. If you are interested please send an email to: [amaccarone999@gmail.com](mailto:amaccarone999@gmail.com).

## St. Mary's Church

Please note, the Vigil Mass at St. Mary's Mission on Dec. 24, Christmas Eve - The Solemnity of the Nativity of The Lord will be celebrated at 5 p.m. and not 11 a.m.

We continue to welcome our parishioners back to St. Patrick's and St. Mary's Church for our regular Holy Mass Schedule.

For those unable to attend the Holy

Mass in person, please join us online every Sunday for the livestreamed celebration of the Sunday Holy Mass at 9:30 a.m. from St. Patrick's Church, Schomberg.

Visit us on our Facebook page to join us virtually for the celebration of the Sunday liturgy.

Browse our websites:  
St. Patrick's Parish: <https://stpatrickssc.archtoronto.org/>

St. Mary's Mission: <https://stmarysno.archtoronto.org/>

If there is anything we can do to support you, please call the parish office on 905-859-5522 or email us at: [stpatandstmarysc@archtoronto.org](mailto:stpatandstmarysc@archtoronto.org)

We will be checking emails and phone messages periodically as the parish office will remain by appointment only until further notice.

You may continue to request Mass Intentions, Roses for Our Lady of Guadalupe devotion, as well as weekly Sanctuary Light Offering and intentions. You may contact the parish office with your request.

Please note, the Sacrament of Confession is available at St. Mary's Church on Saturdays after 4 p.m. by appointment. Please call the parish office.

## Nobleton Tennis Club

Nobleton Tennis Club Annual General Meeting will be held by zoom on Jan. 12, 2022, 7 p.m. All members are encouraged to participate, come and get involved. Exciting things are happening for 2022, come out and learn what's new, we value your input. Contact [info@nobletontennisclub.com](mailto:info@nobletontennisclub.com) for the zoom link or contact any of your club executive.

## Nobleton United Church By Nancy Hopkinson

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We expect that for the next while, we will either have Zoom services or videos sent out.

Last Saturday we held our Nativity and Santa Drive-Thru. The greeter (Earle Laycock) let people know that they should take their time as they

went from station to station. Everyone enjoyed talking with Santa and the children received a lovely stuffie from him. The carolers, Kara Winter and her daughter Davina, sang a Christmas carol for each car. The Nativity scene had Joseph (Joseph Kolb) and Mary (Aubrey Winter). Nearby was Phil the donkey being cared for by shepherd Ryan Laverty. Rev. Evelyn McLachlan offered a blessing to each group and gave each group a surprise bag of goodies.

We are thankful to organizer Andrew Winter, for the participants, for the helpers with set-up, for those who donated to the bag of goodies and to those who donated money to the church at the Drive-Thru. I was at the end, and asked each group what part they enjoyed the most. Answers varied: "Everything, getting the stuffie, Santa, Phil the donkey, the Nativity scene."

It was a cold night with snow on the ground, but with all the Christmas lights, the carollers' singing, the video projected on the wall of the church, everyone had a great time.

The Joyful Spirits sang carols outside at several homes in Nobleton on Tuesday, Dec. 14 and outside Kitchen Breendon Manor, a condo building on Church St. in Schomberg and a nearby farmhouse on Friday, Dec. 17. It was fun for everyone.

Tuesday, Dec. 21, from 4 to 8 p.m. Rev. Evelyn was at Nobleton United for those who wanted to come to a quiet place to listen to soft music and light a candle or talk about their sadness. Somehow sharing one's grief helps. If you would like someone to talk to during these difficult times, please call the church, 905-859-3976, and leave a message for Rev. Evelyn to call you.

The Christmas Eve Service, Friday, Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m. will be held on Zoom. This is a musical service with lots of familiar carols and a children's story too, so be sure to have your children be near the computer!

On Sunday, Dec. 26 at 10:30 a.m., the St. Mary Magdalene Anglican congregation in Schomberg invited Schomberg and Nobleton United Churches to attend. At the time of writing, we are not sure whether this will switch to a Zoom service.

On Sunday, Jan. 2 at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom, the worship will be Lessons and Carols. Rev. Evelyn invites us to wear our "nice" or "ugly" Christmas sweater, socks, hat!

If you are not on our regular email list, let me know if you would like to have the Zoom links. Everyone is welcome to attend.

We continue to have a Zoom Coffee hour on Thursday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m. Let me know if you want to be included in the email blast or want to join via phone. Our chat topics are wide-ranging.

My contact info is 905-859-0761 or [nancy@hopkinson.ca](mailto:nancy@hopkinson.ca).

## Nobleton Lions

Your Nobleton Lions Club is up and running for another year. In a few months, we will mark 60 years of service to the community.

The Lions wish to thank the community for a very strong showing of support for the 2 recent projects. First was the Reverse Advent Calendar project, which saw food donations collected by 3 area Lions Clubs and amounting to approximately \$10,000 forwarded to the King Township Food-bank. Your generosity will help make Christmas brighter for some of those in need. Thank you!

The second project was the Nobleton Lions online auction, which raised \$2,000. These funds will be put to good use, going right back to Nobleton area groups. Many thanks to donors and purchasers for helping us to raise funds in these trying times.

Calling all knitters and crocheters! The Club has become aware of a need for cozy, homemade slippers at various Ronald McDonald Houses. It seems that people sometimes find themselves needing to stay in close proximity to hospitals when their children require hospitalization on an unexpected basis. Ronald McDonald Houses provide what they can, and here is a chance for us to help them. If you have the time and wool, patterns are apparently available on the internet, for slippers of any size or colour. The Nobleton Lions will collect them and forward them to various RMHs in south central Ontario. For followup details please contact Rick Evans at 1-905-806-9988.

Do you know a student who has skills in maintaining social media account websites such as Twitter, Facebook and possibly Instagram? The Club is looking for volunteers, and will certify the time spent, to help fulfill the requirements for volunteer hours. Contact Lion Rick as above, or Lion Ek at [ek.heidebrecht@gmail.com](mailto:ek.heidebrecht@gmail.com)

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# King's Corners

## King City United By Sheryl Sinka

Hope, Joy, Peace and Love. They come in many forms and this week we celebrate the arrival of all of these in the birth of a child. In a child born to humble beginnings and humble parents, Jesus brought hope, encouraging us to seek justice and embody generosity and kindness and to do this for all of humankind.

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come!" After careful consideration and in response to rising positive COVID 19 cases, we have decided to restrict our in-person worship on Christmas Eve. We hope you will join with us through the online worship at 7 p.m. which will be live streamed through our YouTube Channel - YorkUnitedMinistries. We will provide all the details on our website at kcuc.net. If we experience any problems with the live stream we apologize in advance and the worship will be uploaded as soon as possible.

Thank you to all of those who supported the drive for the King Township Food Bank and Christmas in King Program. We raised more than \$1,400 to help out those invaluable organizations who support so many in our community.

There will be no worship on Sunday, Dec. 26 and we will resume on Sunday, January 2.

Have a wonderful and safe Christmas everyone, from King City United Church.

## King Bible Church

We will also be streaming the service online at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook and YouTube.

Please visit our website to register for our services (we require everyone to pre-register for the service) at [www.kingbiblechurch.com](http://www.kingbiblechurch.com)

Pastor Mark will be continuing our sermon series Witness of a New Era - the Book of Acts.

We invite you to join us for our traditional Christmas Eve service on December 24 at 6:30 p.m. It will be online. Please register ahead of time on our website if you will be joining us in-person.

Please visit our website for links and further information. [www.kingbi-](http://www.kingbi-)

blechurch.com

We also have virtual Bible studies over Zoom. Further information is on our website under "Small Groups."

If you have any questions please email Lisa Lethangue at [lisa@kingbiblechurch.com](mailto:lisa@kingbiblechurch.com).

## Garden Club's Gift Certificates

This season the Nobleton/King City Garden Club is offering 2022 Membership Gift Certificates as stocking stuffers! Each certificate entitles the recipient to learn from a series of 7 speakers about a wide range of gardening topics - a perfect way to meet new folks (ZOOM or in person) and get outside! There are also flower shows, a plant sale, discounts and member events. Email us at [nkcgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:nkcgardenclub@gmail.com) for more information. Shop local! Merry Christmas!

## St. Andrew's By Kathy Patterson

St. Andrew's welcomes you to join us ONLINE this Christmas Eve for our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m. Due to the pandemic situation at present, all in-person church use events and services were cancelled until further notice, except for the King Township Food Bank's Distribution once monthly. If you need more information contact [ktfb.ca](mailto:ktfb.ca)

Our worship Service is at 10:30 a.m. online on our website: [standrews-king-city.ca](http://standrews-king-city.ca)

Last Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Advent, Alison Agnew spoke to us about the love of God for us ending with the familiar verse from John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son..." Our best gift ever!

Philippians 4:6,7 says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." We are happy to pray with you or for you, in confidence.

St. Andrew's is taking part in the Christmas in King Light Tour fundraiser again this year! Coming soon, an enhanced Christmas Story mural on our outside south wall of the church, by Lynn Vissers and her youthful, creative

friends!

Pastor Niyazi or Irada Bilgen of the Greater Grace Fellowship may be reached at 416-878-8499 regarding their Sunday Bible Study. Please check re their change of time to the afternoon.

For pastoral care please call Lynn Vissers: 416-998-4652, or our new Interim Moderator, the Rev. Jonathan Dennis: 1-905-724-1979.

If there are questions re St. Andrew's in person or virtual services, please contact us.

## All Saints Anglican Church By Patrick Gossage

Joyful Christmas Worship at All Saints - We invite you to our Dec. 24 Christmas eve service with lots of singing starting at 7 p.m. All are welcome but please pre-register by calling 905-833-5432. Our Christmas day service will be via Zoom at 10:30. Call as above to get details. There will be a regular Sunday service at 10:30.

On the last Sunday in Advent, Fr. Michael spoke from the Gospel text in Luke 1: "Then Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.'"

"The meeting between Mary and her relative Elizabeth brings together the very ordinary and the utterly extraordinary. It's a simple visit, two expectant mothers getting together. In that 'Judean town in the hill country,' we imagine Elizabeth bustling around a very ordinary kitchen. Maybe Elizabeth clutches her swelling belly in joy and surprise as she hears Mary's voice and the child 'leaped in her womb.'

"Elizabeth is 'filled with the Holy Spirit.' The Holy Spirit is mentioned several times in the first chapter. It's like Pentecost takes over the Christmas story!

"First, the angel tells Zechariah that his son John 'will be filled with the Holy Spirit' and 'will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God' (Lk 1.15-16). Then, the same angel, Gabriel, tells Mary that 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' (Lk 1:35) and she will conceive Jesus. Then, after John is born, Zechariah is 'filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy', which we know as the Benedictus (Lk 1.67), in which Zechariah describes how these two boys will respectively be messen-

ger and bringer of salvation. How is this relevant as we approach Christmas? Three things are worth noting.

"The first thing is that God chooses ordinary people to work God's plan. God chooses two ordinary women to be the mothers, one of the man who will bring knowledge of salvation, the other to the man who brings salvation. As Mary says, God has 'looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.' (Lk 1.48).

"The second is that it shows how God's kingdom works by who it chooses to work with. We see this clearly in Mary's song of praise, the Magnificat which tells us that God's love and concern is for the 'lowly,' for the poor, for those who have no power. Mary's song tells us that God's heart and care is for those on the streets, for those struggling to feed their children, for those on reserves without decent drinking water.

"The third thing we can say is that the Holy Spirit is not something we wait for. Luke tells us that the Holy Spirit has already acted. The verbs Mary uses in are in the past tense. God 'has done great things,' God has 'lifted the lowly,' God 'has filled the hungry,' God has 'helped his servant' and has 'remembered his promises' (Lk 1.49-55). This means Christmas, in a very real sense, has already happened.

"The child was born. He lived, died, and rose again. We are saved. The Holy Spirit is given to God's church.

"The miraculous and the ordinary are mixed together in Christmas. Here in two women touched by God, we see something of the pattern of our own lives. We too have been chosen to fulfil God's purposes and equipped by the same Holy Spirit.

"In Mary's song of praise, we hear our own calling to God's justice and kingdom. In the joy of these two women, we see our own freedom as disciples and followers of Mary's son, our Saviour."



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