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## VC by the Numbers

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**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**Monday, January 23**  
6 p.m. – Council and Committee of the Whole  
Virtual meeting live streamed at [king.ca/meetings](http://king.ca/meetings)

**Monday, January 30**  
6 p.m. – Council Public Planning meeting  
Virtual meeting live streamed at <http://king.ca/meetings>

- Zoning By-law Amendment Re: 12991 Keele St. and 2239 King Rd. File No. Z-2022-11
- Zoning By-law Amendment Re: 13290 Keele St. File No. Z-2022-09
- Zoning By-law Amendment Re: 860 – 19th Sideroad File No. Z-2022-15
- Zoning By-law Amendments Re: Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan File No. Z-2022-17

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

**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.

• **Fitness Instructor (Part-time, Seasonal) – Community Services - Deadline January 25**

**REMINDERS**



**Parking Restrictions**

Please be advised there is no vehicle parking on any roadway between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m., from November 1 to April 15 of each year to allow for the expedient clearing of snow and the safe passage of emergency vehicles.

To learn more about parking in King such as how to pay or dispute a parking ticket, you can visit our parking enforcement page at [www.king.ca](http://www.king.ca) or by calling ServiceKing at 905-833-5321.

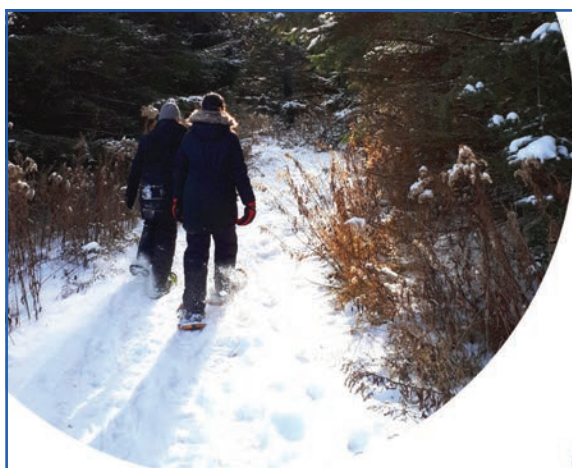
**COMMUNITY SERVICES**



Saturday, January 28 | 10 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

**SNOWSHOE SCAVENGER HUNT**

[king.ca/communitycalendar](http://king.ca/communitycalendar)



**Cold Creek Conservation Area**  
Multiple Dates and Locations

**INTRODUCTION TO SNOWSHOEING**

[king.ca/recreation](http://king.ca/recreation)



**PUBLIC NOTICES**



MAYOR STEVE PELLEGRINI AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL INVITE ALL RESIDENTS TO THE TOWNSHIP OF KING'S

**Annual Pancake Breakfast**



**Saturday, January 28th, 2023**  
**Dr. William Lacey Nobleton Community Centre & Arena**  
**15 Old King Road, Nobleton**  
**9:00am - 11:00am**

FOLLOWED BY A FREE SKATE WITH THE MAYOR

**NOTICE OF UPCOMING BUDGET MEETINGS**



**2023 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS AND 2023 FEES AND CHARGES**

The 2023 Operating and Capital Budget Book will be available at [www.king.ca/budget](http://www.king.ca/budget) as of Wednesday, January 4, 2023.

**Virtual Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting**  
**Monday, January 23, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.**

Draft – 2023 Operating and Capital Budgets  
(Consideration of Budget By-law for Adoption, Monday, February 6, 2023)

The Township of King's Draft 2023 Operating and Capital Budgets will be tabled for consideration at the January 23, 2023, Committee of the Whole Meeting and will be considered by Council for adoption at the Monday, February 6, 2023, Council Meeting. Interested parties are invited to participate virtually to ask questions and comment.

**Virtual Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting**  
**Monday, February 6, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.**

2023 Operating and Capital Budgets and 2023 Fees & Charges  
(Consideration of Budget By-law for Adoption, Monday, February 6, 2023)

The Township of King's 2023 Operating and Capital Budgets and 2023 Fees & Charges will be tabled for consideration and adoption at the February 6, 2023, Committee of the Whole and Council Meetings. The Budget staff report will be available for review on the Township website at [www.king.ca](http://www.king.ca) as of Thursday, February 2, 2023.

Interested parties are invited to participate virtually to ask questions and comment.

(Note: Budget adoption may be deferred to the February 27, 2023, Council meeting at the discretion of Council if required)

Please visit [www.king.ca/budget](http://www.king.ca/budget) or contact Peggy Tollett, Director of Finance and Treasurer by email at [ptollett@king.ca](mailto:ptollett@king.ca) for further information regarding the 2023 Operating and Capital Budgets.

**HAVE YOUR SAY**

To VIEW the above COUNCIL and COMMITTEE meetings live virtually go to <https://king.ca/meetings> on the day of the meeting. NO pre-registration is required to view the meeting. To participate and speak at the meetings remotely (by audio-telephone), pre-register by contacting the Clerks Division at 905-833-4068 or email [clerks@king.ca](mailto:clerks@king.ca) no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the day of the meeting.

Denny Timm  
Township Clerk

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**



January 2, 2023 - March 31, 2023

**WINTER SESSION REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

[king.ca/recreation](http://king.ca/recreation)



Saturday, February 4 | 10 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

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King's Community Newspaper

Weekly Circulation: 10,200

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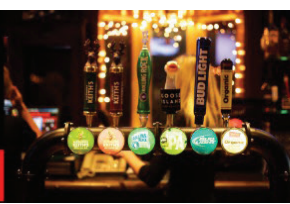

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York Regional Police, along with other jurisdictions in the GTA, are concerned about the growing problem of auto thefts. Organized groups of thieves are stealing record numbers of vehicles, put law enforcement is making some inroads.

## Auto theft a huge problem in York, GTA

By Mark Pavilons  
Editor

Auto theft is the number one crime in York Region. And a small but persistent group of officers is doing their best to combat the problem.

York Regional Police officers informed King councillors recently about the issue, and the measures taken to mitigate the losses.

Local thefts feed regional and international theft rings, according to Detective Scott Cresswell. More affluent areas like King Township mean more valuable targets for thieves.

And there's an "appetite" overseas for such high-end vehicles, Cresswell pointed out.

There are several organized crime groups targeting York and the majority of vehicles are destined for overseas markets such as Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and even South America.

The detective said sought-after vehicles such as Range Rovers and Mercedes typically head to Lebanon, Turkey and Dubai.

Police did repatriate more than 50 vehicles recently, discovered at a port in Malta. However, bringing them back to their owners here in Canada is an expensive process.

Det. Cresswell noted automobile theft in much more than an insurance problem – "it's an expensive social menace."

This costs Canadians roughly \$1 billion annually, including \$542 million for insurers to repair or replace stolen vehicles. Other related costs include policing, health care, court costs and correctional services.

But "the sky isn't falling," he said, noting many police agencies work together to curb thefts. Joining the efforts of law enforcement are trucking associations, vehicle manufacturers, the Insurance Bureau of Canada and even local businesses.

"We are working diligently and achieving a level of success," Det. Cresswell said.

There are many reasons why vehicles are stolen, including exportation, insurance fraud, dismantling for parts and for the commission of other crimes.

See 'Residents' on Page 3

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**INSIDE**

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Hollywood Pizza opens in Schomberg.  
See Page 9

Art show smashes stereotypes in King.  
See Page 10

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## Township of King receives Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from GFOA

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada has presented the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to the Township of King for the presentation of its 2022 budget.

According to the GFOA, the award reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. To receive the budget award, King had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well the budget serves as:

A policy document; a financial plan; an operations guide, and a communications device.

Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and in the 14 mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

As part of receiving the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, King's Finance Department also received a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation.

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources and practical research for more than 21,000 members and the communities it serves.

The GFOA established the Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program (Budget Awards Program) in 1984 to encourage and assist state and local governments to prepare budget documents of the very highest quality that reflect both the guidelines established by the National Advisory Council on State and Local Budgeting and the GFOA's best practices on budgeting, and then to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal.

Approximately 1,800 governments, including states, cities, counties, spe-

cial districts, school districts, and more have been recognized for transparency in budgeting. To earn recognition, budget documents must meet program criteria and excel as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide, and communication tool.

The most recent Budget Award recipients, along with their corresponding budget documents, are posted quarterly on GFOA's website at [gfoa.org](http://gfoa.org). According to the GFOA, award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

"This budget presentation award from the Government Finance Officers Association reflects the high-quality work in creating and delivering a budget document that clearly identifies how taxpayers' dollars are being invested in our community, contributing to the quality of life we enjoy in King," said CAO Daniel Kostopoulos.

"My sincere gratitude for all King employees who contributed to keeping the tax increase low for 2022, as well as to the Finance Department and the talented design staff in King for capturing that information in a document that meets and exceeds the standards set for municipalities across North America."

"King Township Council has worked hard to keep the annual property tax increase as close as possible to zero per cent during these challenging economic times. It is important that we are also able to share King's stories, including the direction the Township is taking and the exciting future this Council has planned, in consultation with our residents," added Mayor Steve Pellegrini.

"The award from the Government Financial Officers Association confirms King has met and exceeded the important criteria needed to present King's budget to our residents in a way that is open and understandable."

## Residents can take measures to help prevent auto thefts

From Front Page

Det. Cresswell said the groups are mainly made up of young males in the GTA and from Montreal, expressly for stealing cars. They are armed with the latest technology to break into vehicles and even reprogram new key fobs right on the spot. Push-button-start vehicles are the top victims.

The most-stolen vehicles include Toyota and Lexus SUVs and trucks, Ford 150s, Dodge Rams, Jeep Cherokees and Range Rovers.

"It's very challenging for us," he said, noting the trend is taking vehicles right from residents' driveways. It only takes perhaps 30 seconds for the thieves to snatch a car.

Investigators have identified an increasing trend where suspects place small tracking devices on high-end vehicles, so they can later locate and steal them. Brand name "air tags" are placed in out-of-sight areas when they are parked in public places. Thieves then track the vehicles to the victims' residences.

Thieves will then typically use tools like screwdrivers to enter the vehicles, ensuring not to set off the alarms. Once inside, a device used by mechanics to reprogram factory settings is connected to the onboard diagnostics port below the dashboard. They program the vehicle to accept a new key the thieves brought with them.

Police note the thefts tend to occur between midnight and 4 a.m. every day of the week.

Det. Cresswell said they're trying to raise awareness and help citizens protect their assets.

He pointed to some recent police projects that recovered vehicles and led to many arrests. The most recent, Project Touchdown, was a six-month investigation led by YRP and included Halton, Peel, Dirham and CBSA partners.

It resulted in 215 vehicles being recovered and 51 people charged with literally hundreds of offences.

Despite these wins, Cresswell noted the legal system's tendency for "catch and release" of offenders isn't helping matters.

There are ways residents can protect their vehicles and be more vigilant. Det. Constable Al Henson urged residents not to leave their cars unattended while warming up. We should also put our valuables out of sight. People can also purchase kill switches, air tags and steering wheel locks.

If residents don't already have one, it's recommended they buy a video surveillance system.

Mayor Steve Pellegrini wants to set up public forums, to inform residents of the issue and ways to prevent further thefts.

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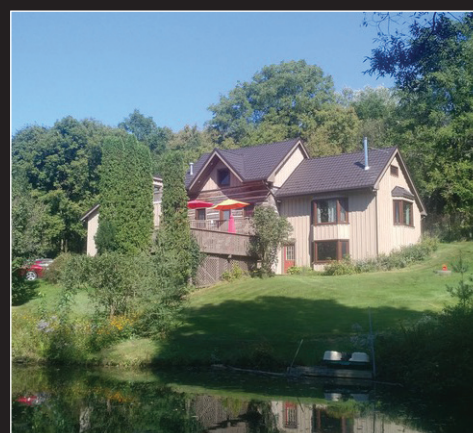
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# Editorial, Letters & Opinion

*“A newspaper is the center of a community, it’s one of the tent poles of the community, and that’s not going to be replaced by websites and blogs.”*

~ Michael Connelly

## Are we just making do, or making progress?

*“Problems are not stop signs, they are guidelines.”*

~ Robert H. Schuller

Okay Robert, but what if the sign says “Bridge Out?”

There are more than seven billion human beings sharing our planet.

Of course there are bound to be problems – conflicts, disease, suffering of all shapes and sizes.

It’s just math, really, and the odds.

While many of these “problems” are due to external, uncontrollable circumstances, many are of our own making.

Here in comfortable North America, arguably the best place in the world, we still have our fair share of issues.

The Dalai Lama said everyone has a responsibility to develop a happier world:

“We need, ultimately, to have a greater concern for others’ well-being. In other words, kindness or compassion, which is lacking now. We must pay more attention to our inner values. We must look inside.”

I would add that we should all make peace with ourselves and our past.

Forgive yourself first and then you can move on, move forward. The world is waiting.

We may be insignificant specks in the infinite universe, but we are very much significant to our loved ones, friends, and acquaintances.

There are many people out there – front line emergency personnel, health care workers, surgeons, pastors and just good samaritans – who have literally saved lives.

You and I, leading rather “normal” lives, may not have directly saved



Mark Pavilons

anyone, but we have helped make countless cloudy days a bit brighter for some. We may have lifted spirits when they were at their lowest.

That, my friends, is far from insignificant.

As strong and potentially magnificent as we are, we tend to dwell, ponder, sulk and even sink.

There are times when I find my life a little boring, perhaps even lackluster. Maybe that’s my fault for not finding beauty and joy in every little thing.

I think at one point in our lives, likely after “middle age,” we settle in to our roles and situations. It’s like sinking into our comfy couch, preferring to chill and take a load off, rather than springing to our feet, peppy and ready

for action.

Yes, we “first worlders” have created a society, a system that slots us into various positions. We go to school, get a job, get married, have children and then what?

Average Canadians, with bills and mortgages to pay, often don’t have the luxury of travel, eating out and spoiling themselves.

So, we make do.

But does “making do,” mean giving in and becoming lazy? I know that life and circumstances can take their toll, suck the energy from our very minds and bodies. We’re susceptible to many things that slow our progress, and curb our giant leaps into simple baby steps.

But we can always spice things up, experience new wonders, take a drive, hike, play, and enjoy the simple things – movie night or a home-cooked meal.

As we age, our bodies no longer respond the way we want them to.

Jumping off the garage roof and crashing my bike used to hurt my back when I was much younger. Now, putting on my shoes and sneezing have the same effect!

I avoid looking in the mirror so I can’t tell just how much I’ve aged. I still feel relatively okay inside, but I know I have limitations. And I hate that.

We were meant to forever play road hockey, build unstable tree forts and eat way too many Pop Rocks. In my youth, in rural Caledon, I used to think those long summer days, filled with gentle breezes, would never end.

But they have.

I recently found out that my former family homestead on Duffy’s Lane is up for sale, for a little over \$2 million! While you can’t put a price tag on memories, I would have to win the lottery to get this place back in the family. Looking at the realtor photos, my heart glowed, then sank. I quietly wept from the emo-

tions the images created in my mind.

I can still picture the many amazing moments spent there in my life. I still like the quiet times Canadian summers provide.

But this coming summer will likely present some obstacles for me. And yet I must make time to stop and smell the flowers.

Like almost everyone out there, I am hoping that 2023 is a remarkable, memorable, amazing year. Whether by chance, luck or tremendous effort, we have to make it so.

Sometimes, when your boots are stuck in the mud so long, they become cemented, rooted.

Our mental health has taken it on the chin in recent years.

But recently, I’ve tried to catch those great feelings, reeling them in like the catch of the day. Sure, sometimes I feel like Daniel-san trying to snatch a fly out of the air with chopsticks, but alas, my aim is getting better.

Robert Schuller said the “hardest struggle of all is to be something different from what the average man is.”

Some cycles, like stationery bikes, we need to ride. Others, like the cycle of depression and anxiety, we need to recognize and break.

We’ve been dealing with our issues alone for so long, we are like that boot left behind in the quagmire.

But the lifesaver is there, all around us. Grab it and pull yourself out and up.

Call or text your family members each and every day and tell them you love them. Recognize the beauty in their souls.

Tell them they are beautiful.

We were given finely crafted hearts, souls, emotions and memories. They are so unique, so extraordinarily powerful, that we can overcome almost any problem.

Are you in?

### Comment

## Ontario has the highest provincial debt as share of economy

Combined federal and provincial debt in Canada has nearly doubled from \$1.1 trillion in 2007/08 (the year before the last recession) to a projected \$2.1 trillion this year.

And Ontario is the most indebted province relative to the size of its economy, according to a new study by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian public policy think-tank.

“Government debt – federally and in most provinces – has grown substantially over the past 13 years, creating serious fiscal challenges for Ottawa and provincial governments in the years ahead,” said Jake Fuss, associate director of fiscal studies at the Fraser Institute and co-author of *The Growing Debt Burden for Canadians: 2023 Edition*.

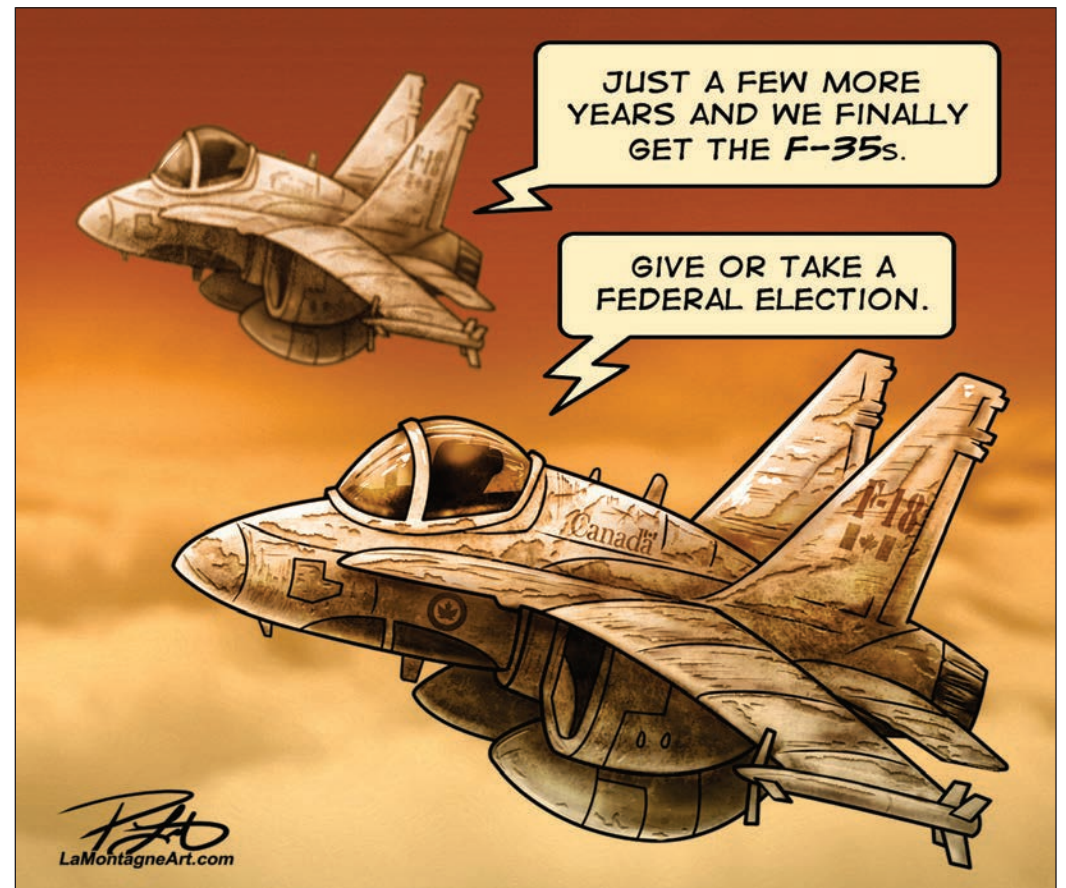
The study specifically measures net debt, which is a measure of the total debt of the federal and provincial government minus financial assets held by the government. It is a common measure of indebtedness.

The study finds that not only has Canada’s projected combined government debt (the federal debt and the provincial debt of all 10 provinces) nearly doubled since 2007/08, the year before the last recession, but the combined debt now equals 74.6 per cent of the Canadian economy.

Ontario has the highest debt-to-GDP ratio among the provinces at 38.7 per cent in 2022/23 and recorded a substantial increase in its debt-to-GDP ratio between 2007/08 (26.6 per cent) and 2022/23. Consider that Alberta’s provincial debt-to-GDP in 2022/23 stood at just 10.3 per cent, the lowest in the country and Quebec, which was the longstanding most indebted province now has a debt-to-GDP ratio of 35.9 per cent.

Ontarians have the second-highest combined debt per person (\$59,773), behind only Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

“It’s important for Canadians to understand the magnitude of the country’s combined government debt because deficits and debt today result in higher taxes in the future,” said Fuss.



### Quote of the Week

*“Teaching a child not to step on a caterpillar is as valuable to the child as it is to the caterpillar.”*

### Trivia Tidbits

*Volkswagen means “people’s car” in English.*

**KingWeeklySentinel** **WEBPOLL**  
www.kingsentinel.com

**THIS WEEK’S QUESTION**

Results from last week’s poll:

**Are you expecting good things in 2023?**

a) Yes  **75%**

b) No  **25%**

Has the recent mild weather put a damper on your outdoor activities?

a) Yes  
b) No

Go to our website and cast a vote!

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

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# Justin Trudeau binges on alcohol tax hikes in 2023

By Franco Terrazzano

Comment

With sky-high inflation, climbing interest rates and carbon tax hikes, you could be forgiven for drinking. But Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is rubbing margarita salt in the wound by using high inflation to binge on higher alcohol taxes.

In 2023, the Trudeau government is increasing the taxes you pay every time you buy a bottle of wine, a case of beer or a mickey of rum by 6.3 per cent.

But even a 6.3 per cent tax hike downplays the total tax burden you pay every time you visit the liquor store. Taxes already account for about half of the price of beer, 65 per cent of the price of wine and more than three-quarters of the price of spirits.

You could spend about \$125 if you pick up two bottles of wine, a 24-pack of beer and a 26-ounce bottle of whisky. You're paying more than \$76 of that tab just in taxes.

In fact, Canadians pay so much tax that picking up a case of beer on the way to a party in Prince Edward Island would cost you more in taxes than the total retail price of a case of beer in 25 American states.

While Canadians are paying higher taxes, Americans are enjoying tax cuts. From 2017 to 2019, federal beer taxes went up \$34 million for large brewers in Canada while going down \$31 million south of the border.

The feds have been bingeing on alcohol tax hikes since the 2017 budget. That year, the Trudeau government introduced an automatic tax hike escalator. That means the federal excise tax automatically increases with inflation every year on April 1. With inflation reaching a nearly 40-year high, Canadians are facing a sky-high tax hike of 6.3 per cent in 2023.

When the escalator tax was first introduced in 2017, there wasn't much of a fuss because inflation was lower. But even small tax hikes can become big bills over time. After the 2023 tax hike, the federal government's alcohol excise taxes will have increased by 18.4 per cent because of the automatic annual tax hike that was first imposed in 2017.

That's what is so pernicious about Trudeau's alcohol escalator tax. At first, you don't really notice it, but every year the tax burden goes up just a little bit. And in less than a decade, the tax hike is already more than 18 per cent.

Jean-Baptiste Colbert was France's finance minister in the 17th century.

Colbert said the job of the tax man is "plucking the goose as to obtain the largest possible amount of feathers with the smallest possible amount of hissing." You're the goose. And politicians are using the alcohol escalator tax hoping you don't notice all the plucking and hiss back.

Trudeau's alcohol escalator tax is fundamentally undemocratic. If politicians think Canadians aren't paying enough tax, then they should have the spine to at least vote on the tax hike. But your member of Parliament doesn't vote on this tax hike. Through the escalator tax, the Trudeau government uses inflation to covertly increase its tax take every year on April 1.

There's one thing that will stop the Trudeau government from using the undemocratic alcohol escalator tax to take more money from you: people noticing. The feds have binged enough on alcohol taxes. It's time for Canadians to tell the government that it's cut off.

*Franco Terrazzano is the Federal Director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.*

Letter to the Editor

## Premiers urge Prime Minister to tighten bail restrictions

The following letter, from all of Canada's premiers, to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, was submitted to the Sentinel.

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

We write to urge that the federal government take immediate action to strengthen Canada's bail system to better protect the public and Canada's heroic first responders.

There have been a growing number of calls for changes to prevent accused persons, who are out on bail, from committing further criminal acts. The justice system fundamentally needs to keep anyone who poses a threat to public safety off the streets. And this starts with meaningful changes to the Criminal Code, an area solely within the federal government's jurisdiction.

As you know, this was the subject of an intense discussion at the October 2022 meeting of Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers of Justice and Public Safety in Dartmouth. This meeting led to a clear and unified call to action for the federal government to reform Canada's bail system.

A reverse onus on bail must be created for the offence of possession of a loaded prohibited or restricted firearm in s. 95 of the Code. A person accused of a s. 95 offence should have to demonstrate why their detention is not justified when they were alleged to have committed an offence where there was imminent risk to the public, as is already the case with several offences involving firearms. A review of other firearms-related offences is also warranted to determine whether they should also attract a reverse onus on bail.

This is just one proposal for much-needed reform, and we would welcome the opportunity to work with you and your government on this pressing and important issue. As premiers, we will continue to do everything in our power to keep the public safe, and it is our hope the federal government will do the same. With that in mind, we are once again calling on the federal government to make this change and commit to a thorough review of the bail system in Canada. The public safety of Canadians and our heroic first responders cannot wait. The time for action is now.

## Be prepared this winter season

Having a plan and emergency supplies for your home and car will help keep you safe this winter.

The government is reminding Ontarians to have an emergency plan and supplies on hand to keep themselves and their loved ones safe.

Whether shovelling snow or clearing ice from our sidewalks, we must do our part to keep ourselves and others safe every winter. When it comes to winter emergencies like heavy snow, ice storms and power outages, there are simple ways to ensure everyone is ready.

"Safety starts with having a plan and being prepared," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for Emergency Management in Ontario. "From developing an emergency plan for your household, to ensuring your family has what it needs to be self-sufficient for up to three days, there are simple things we can do now to keep ourselves and loved ones safe when it matters most."

Steps you can take to ensure you are prepared this winter season include: Keeping a winter survival kit in your car. Kits should include a charged phone, water, non-perishable food, flashlight, blanket and warm clothes, jumper cables, shovel, traction mats or sand, candles and a lighter or matches.

"The winter months can pose significant challenges for drivers. Before heading out, I encourage everyone to check Ontario 511. It has many winter safety features and provides drivers with near real-time highway and traffic information so they can plan ahead," said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. "Remember to slow down and drive according to weather and road conditions. Together, we can keep Ontario's highways safe for everyone this winter."

During an emergency, it may take time to get to your household while first responders are assisting those in immediate danger. Having a 72-hour kit will allow your family to be self-sufficient and supported in an emergency.

Visit [Ontario.ca/BePrepared](https://ontario.ca/BePrepared) for a comprehensive list of what can be part of your household's kit.

Advertorial

## Western Financial Group spreads some cheer to local hospices

During the holiday season, Western Financial Group branches in Schomberg and King City chose to give back \$5,000 to two vital local charities, Matthews House and Doane House Hospice. The donations were made possible through Western Financial Group Communities Foundation, which invests in the communities its employees and customers live in.

"We chose to give back to Matthews House as they provide many important services and programs for youth,

grieving children, widowed partners, and the list goes on," says Nicole Gray, Western Financial Group, Branch Manager. "I love that this is just in our backyard, and even though I have never had to watch a loved one pass personally, I know others that have, and they speak very highly of this hospice. We also have a long-standing client of ours in this facility, which makes this donation so much more special."

Margaret Bachle, CEO of Matthews House, says the



From left to right: Chrissie Flynn, Doane House; Natasha Vanden-Bergh, Insurance Advisor; Camile Garzon, Doane House; Stephanie Li, Assistant Branch Manager.



From left to right: Nicole Gray, Branch Manager; Margaret Bachle, CEO of Matthews House; Michelle Middleton, Administrative Associate

\$5,000 donation is much needed to upgrade their security system. "Once this upgrade is complete, Matthews House can accept those living with dementia into our residence for caregiver relief. We will be able to implement a day program for people with dementia, which will allow relief for their caregivers and opportunities for those with dementia to socialize with others and participate in programs developed specifically for them."

Stephanie Li, Assistant Branch Manager, presented the \$5,000 donation to Doane House Hospice, which has been helping and supporting those undergoing treatment for a life-limiting illness and

their loved ones. Doane House Hospice offers programs for bereavement, caregiver support, art therapy and more free of charge for the last 33 years in the York Region area. They rely on donations and volunteers to continue their work.

"We are so pleased and honoured that Western Financial Group's King City branch chose us to donate to," says Chrissie Flynn, Administrative Assistant for Doane House Hospice. "We cannot tell you how much we appreciate the wonderful donation, which will go a long way in helping us provide several kinds of support for people in Newmarket and surrounding areas."

# Ontario reducing wait times for surgeries and procedures

The Ontario government is making it easier and faster for people to access the publicly-funded surgeries and procedures they need by further leveraging community surgical and diagnostic centres to eliminate surgical backlogs and reduce wait times.

As the government significantly expands the number of surgeries being done through community surgical and diagnostic centres, it will do so with measures in place to protect the stability of health human resources at public hospitals, including requiring new facilities to provide detailed staffing plans as part of their application and requiring a number of physicians at these centres to have active privileges at their local hospital.

“When it comes to your health, the status quo is no longer acceptable,” said Premier Doug Ford. “Our government is taking bold action to reduce wait times for surgeries, all while ensuring Ontarians use their OHIP card to get the care they need, never their credit card.”

Community surgical and diagnostic centres have been valuable partners in responding to the pandemic and addressing the pandemic-related backlog in surgeries. Increasing community delivery of surgeries has proven to increase patient and provider satisfaction and reduces the risk of a rescheduled appointment. Surgeries performed at these centres will be publicly-funded.

Ontario has a three-step plan that better integrates and uses these state-of-the-art facilities to speed up how quickly people are able to get surgeries and procedures using their health card.

**Step One:** Ontario is urgently tackling the existing backlog for cataract surgeries, which has one of the longest waits for procedures. New partnerships with community surgical and diagnostic centres in Windsor, Kitchener-Waterloo and Ottawa will add 14,000 additional cataract surgeries that will be performed each year. This number represents up to 25% of the province’s current cataract wait list, and accounts for the estimated COVID-related backlog of cataract surgeries. These centres will perform the 14,000 additional surgeries with existing health human resources.

Ontario is also investing more than \$18 million in existing centres to cover care for thousands of patients, including more than 49,000 hours of MRI and CT scans, 4,800 cataract surgeries, 900

other ophthalmic surgeries, 1,000 minimally invasive gynecological surgeries and 2,845 plastic surgeries such as hand soft tissue repair. Surgical wait lists are anticipated to return to pre-pandemic levels by March 2023, barring operational issues.

**Step Two:** To further reduce wait times, Ontario is expanding the scope of community surgical and diagnostic centres to address regional needs with a continued focus on cataracts, as well as MRI and CT imaging and colonoscopy and endoscopy procedures. To start as early as 2023, these procedures will be non-urgent, low-risk and minimally invasive and, in addition to shortening wait times, will allow hospitals to focus their efforts and resources on more complex and high-risk surgeries.

**Step Three:** Early detection and diagnosis of a health issue has an immense benefit on a patient’s quality of life, prognosis and treatment path. As a next step, the government will introduce legislation in February that will, if passed, allow existing community diagnostic centres to conduct more MRI and CT scanning so that people can access publicly funded diagnostic services faster and closer to home. Starting in 2024, this next step will also expand surgeries for hip and knee replacements.

Legislative changes will also, if passed, strengthen oversight of community surgical settings so that patients can continue to expect to receive the world class care they know and deserve and provide the province with more flexibility to continue to expand access to more surgeries and further reduce wait times. As the province expands the role of community surgical and diagnostic centres, Ontario Health and the Ministry of Health will continue to work with system partners and clinical experts to put in place the highest standards for quality and safety.

“Timely and convenient access to surgery and diagnostic imaging is critical to keeping people healthy,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “This plan will boost the availability of publicly funded health services in Ontario, ensuring that Ontarians currently waiting for specialized surgeries will have greater access to the world class care they need, where and when they need it.”

As the government shortens wait times using community surgical and diagnostic centres, Ontario Health will

ensure that these centres are included in regional health system planning. Funding agreements with new community surgical and diagnostic centres will require these facilities to work with local public hospitals to ensure health system integration and linkages, including connection and reporting into the province’s wait times information system and participation in regional central intakes, where available. Community surgical and diagnostic centres will also coordinate with local public hospitals to accept patients that are being referred, ensuring people get the surgery they need as quickly as possible.

There are currently 206,000 people estimated to be waiting for surgical procedures. For reference, last fall, there were approximately 209,000 patients waiting for a hospital operating room-based surgical procedure in Ontario, and about 200,000 before the pandemic. Further information on surgical wait times is available here.

Community surgical and diagnostic centres licensed under the Independent Health Facilities Act currently perform approximately 26,000 OHIP-insured surgeries and procedures annually.

Ontario is investing \$300 million in 2022/23 as part of the surgical recovery strategy to increase scheduled surgeries and procedures, as well as appropriate diagnostic imaging services with a focus on areas with the greatest reduction in services due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ontario’s surgical recovery strategy prioritizes patients waiting longer than recommended in clinical guidelines. In 2022/23, the government continues to offer premiums to hospitals to support completion of over 200,000 surgeries and procedures.

The government is also investing in digital tools to enhance coordination of surgical services between hospitals and enable better patient flow through the implementation of the Centralized Waitlist Management (CWM) program.

Investments in the CWM program are providing funding for regionally

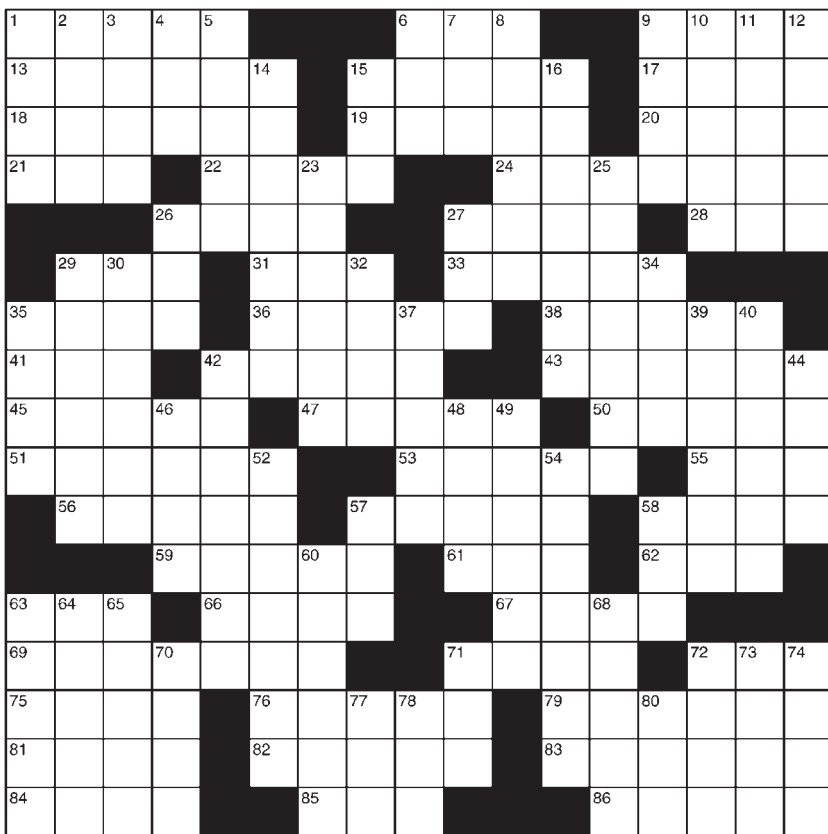
led projects across the province that support a more equitable distribution of surgical cases and reductions in patient wait times, as well as for Ontario Health’s development of the technical infrastructure required to support centralized waitlist management at the provincial level.

“Ontario’s hospitals have a long history of leadership in clinical innovation and working collaboratively to implement new ways to reduce wait times and deliver exceptional patient-centred care in a safe and timely manner. The Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) welcomes the opportunity to work together with government and system partners to integrate Community Surgical Centres into Ontario’s health care system and establish new partnerships between hospitals and community-based surgical clinics to help ensure access to care for patients. Given the hugely disruptive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on hospitals, health human resources and wait times for services, it is essential that the expanded use of Community Surgical Centres into new areas of clinical activity take place in a planned manner with appropriate change management and risk management measures in place. As always, by working together as Team Ontario, we can overcome any challenge and deliver on our shared commitment to strengthening our public healthcare system in service of the people of Ontario,” said Anthony Dale, President and CEO, Ontario Hospital Association.

“Experience elsewhere has shown that providing outpatient surgeries and procedures in the community greatly improves the patient experience. Patients get their surgeries sooner, have lower rates of infection and get to go home the same day. We look forward to working with the government to develop a strategy to make sure these new centres do not take resources away from hospitals or exacerbate existing health human resources challenges,” added Dr. Rose Zacharias, President, Ontario Medical Association.

## X CROSSWORD

PUZZLE 469



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**ACROSS**

- 1. Omens
- 6. LummoX
- 9. Carried
- 13. Exotic pet
- 15. Inflexible
- 17. Quiz
- 18. Tenant’s residence
- 19. Without company
- 20. Camp helper
- 21. Sandra \_\_\_\_\_
- 22. Muslim leader
- 24. Desert
- 26. Strategy
- 27. Lamenting cry
- 28. “Howards \_\_\_\_\_”
- 29. Before, to Shelley
- 31. Remind constantly
- 33. Command to Fido
- 35. Actor Dixon
- 36. Tilting
- 38. Serrated
- 41. Archeological site
- 42. Oak’s nut
- 43. Without sound
- 45. Key in, as data
- 47. Drinking vessel
- 50. Tanning locale
- 51. Locust shrub

**DOWN**

- 1. Sparrow, e.g.
- 2. Molding curve

- 3. Kind of buggy
- 4. Stop for lunch
- 5. Shell dweller
- 6. Canola or motor
- 7. Gettysburg Address word
- 8. Conclusion
- 9. Lima or string
- 10. Zinc \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. Colorless gas
- 12. Correct
- 14. Annual data book
- 15. Battering \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. Argues
- 23. Not digital
- 25. Attribute
- 26. Mighty tool
- 27. Nautical rear
- 29. Make clear
- 30. Shabby
- 32. “That \_\_\_\_\_”
- 34. Hollow
- 35. Theory
- 37. Confusion
- 39. Ocean floor
- 40. Theater cry
- 42. Short operatic piece
- 44. Trumpeter Jones
- 46. Eggshell
- 48. Vaccines
- 49. Light bites
- 52. Embassy official
- 54. Scrub
- 57. Noah’s vessel
- 58. Work on the garden
- 60. Regard
- 63. Skinny one
- 64. Australian animal
- 65. Embed
- 68. Slightest
- 70. Quaker word
- 71. Catch someone’s \_\_\_\_\_
- 72. Zest
- 73. Easy pace
- 74. Worry
- 77. Be
- 78. Loud uproar
- 80. Rink material

**Solution on page 14**

## King for Refugees [www.kingforrefugees.org](http://www.kingforrefugees.org)



**King for Refugees** sponsors and settles newcomers in King. We connect people to people and help build stronger communities.

**Let's Connect**

Phone: 647-292-3059  
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- a grassroots organization that is 100% volunteer based.
- diverse and inclusive.
- actively strengthens the community and connects people.
- fosters friendships and fun.
- builds strong relationships and partners with local community groups to assist newcomers.
- is about hope.

**About**

King For Refugees formed in 2015 at the height of the Syrian crisis, which saw the largest mass movement of people since the Second World War.

To date, King for Refugees has helped 25 newcomers from different parts of the world resettle in King, Canada.

Many residents of King Township and beyond, along with civic groups, faith groups, schools, organizations and businesses have come together to help with the sponsorship of refugees.

There is continued interest and support in King to resettle newcomers here.

King for Refugees is an incorporated registered charity.



**What our volunteers do**

- Raise the funds necessary to sponsor a family
- Secure accommodations and furnish; stock fridge and pantry
- Meet the newcomer family at the airport
- Actively assist the family with their settlement needs including registration in school and/or english classes and medical care
- Provide social, emotional and language support
- Tutor newcomer students where needed
- Guide and support the family towards financial independence
- Introduce the newcomers to Canadian traditions and life in King

**Together we make a difference**

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Charity Registration No. 750225310 RR 0001



King
7-Day  
Weather Outlook

**From Thursday, January 19 to Wednesday, January 25**

THURS 19TH	FRI 20TH	SAT 21ST	SUN 22ND	MON 23RD	TUES 24TH	WED 25TH
<b>Snow</b> High 0C° Low 0C° 5-10cm Wind E 27k	<b>Flurries</b> High 0C° Low -4C° ~1cm Wind NW 14k	<b>Mainly Cloudy</b> High -1C° Low -4C° - Wind SW 9k	<b>Mainly Cloudy</b> High -1C° Low -6C° - Wind W 17k	<b>Sun/Clouds</b> High 0C° Low -3C° 1-3cm Wind SE 13k	<b>Scattered Flurries</b> High 0C° Low -4C° <1cm Wind S 13k	<b>Light Snow</b> High -1C° Low -8C° ~5cm Wind S 10k



## The King Weekly Sentinel

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# Muslim youth group visits the Nobleton Library

By Mark Pavilons  
Editor

Residents got a chance to learn about Islam, thanks to an effort by a Muslim youth group.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association – Canada’s Largest Muslim Youth Group – is presenting an interactive nationwide tour titled “Explore Islam.” It visited Nobleton Library recently.

With the increasing number of Canadians identifying as non-religious, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association has launched the tour titled Explore Islam. This campaign includes visiting over 1,000 cities, remote towns, and villages, where residents will have the opportunity to ask questions about Islam directly from Muslims.

The local event held Jan 7, was well-received by the residents who were happy to learn more about Islam and have dialogue with members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association.

Through this interactive tour, Muslim youth will participate in two way dialogue to experience the cultures, point of views, and perspectives of Canadians from all walks of life.

“As Muslims who believe in the Messiah, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, we aim to showcase the true and peaceful teachings of Islam,” said Tahir Ahmed, president of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association. “Through this national campaign, we want to provide Canadians an opportunity to meet with Muslims and explore the true teachings of Islam.”



## Collisions on Regional roads decreased by 7% in 2021

While collisions in York are down, distracted driving remains a significant problem.

York Regional Council received an update on the key trends on Regional roads in the Annual Traveller Safety Report, including a decrease of collisions by 7% in 2021 when compared to 2020.

Collision data is gathered from across the Regional road network to better understand traveller behaviours, trends and collision patterns to inform decisions on implementation of traveller safety programs and initiatives.

“Transportation remains a key area of focus and York Regional Council has invested millions of dollars into road and transit infrastructure and improvements to enhance traffic operations and traveller safety,” said York Region Chairman and CEO Wayne Emmerson. “Over the next 10 years, we plan to invest an additional \$3.1 billion across the Regional transportation network. This includes implementing industry best practices, enhanced transit facilities and more safety initiatives and designs.”

Highlights from the 2021 Traveller Safety Report include:

- 31% decrease of motorist collisions when compared to 2017-2020 average collision rates.
- 10% to 35% reduction in annual traffic volume in 2021 on Regional roads, likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 87% of all motor vehicle collisions are caused by improper driving behaviours, with following too close at 28% and inattentive behaviour while

driving at 17%.

- 37% decrease in pedestrian collisions when compared to 2017-2020 average collision rates.

- 16% decrease in cyclist collisions when compared to 2017-2020 average collision rates.

“Traveller safety remains a priority and we continue to look for ways to implement measures to ensure the road network and those using it are safe,” King Mayor Steve Pellegrini, Chair of the Region’s Transportation Services. “Safety measures are put in place to prevent the most severe collisions resulting in injury or fatality. This includes continued efforts to change driver behaviour and improve safety, especially for pedestrians and cyclists who are most at risk of injury or fatality in collisions.”

Traveller safety programs, such as automated speed enforcement, red light cameras, school zone speed limit reduction and additional pedestrian and cyclist safety measures, are all aimed at improving driver behaviour and increasing safety.

In collaboration with road safety partners, York Region is also developing a Traveller Safety Plan to further understand human behaviour and the prevention of collisions and their severity. Community engagement, including a public opinion survey and online open house, is being planned for early 2023.

For more information on Regional road safety measures or to see the Annual Traffic Reports, please visit [york.ca/traffic](http://york.ca/traffic)



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#KingFacts

The Schomberg Trinity United Church was built in 1881

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Your Voice for Business in King



## ASK receives grant from Central Counties Tourism

The tourism sector is vital to the economy and jobs in King Township. The Township has acknowledged Arts Society King (ASK) as an important contributor of cultural experiences that help maintain and fulfill King's socio-cultural identity.

ASK organizes a variety of events each year within the community, including arts shows, a studio tour, theatre, dance performances and live music, which support artists, artisans, local businesses and attract visitors to King.

Arts Society King (ASK) received a non-repayable contribution of \$12,000 from Central Counties Tourism, which helped ASK put on the Schomberg Street Gallery this past September after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. These funds covered many new Street Gallery expenses, including paid-duty officers and outreach advertising.

This is part of the Government of Canada's Tourism Relief Fund, delivered by the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario). Central Counties Tourism received \$8.65 million from FedDev Ontario to help local tourism organizations and businesses safely welcome back visitors, recover from the impacts of the pandemic and prepare for future growth.

Many of King's businesses were negatively impacted by the effects of COVID-19, and most community events and programs were cancelled. This investment in the Schomberg Street Gallery ensured that this signature Arts Society King event could take place once again, drawing visitors to the Township and enticing them to visit often. Local business and the community

as a whole, benefited.

Arts Society King also used this funding to set up a new Youth Arts Tent, hiring strolling musicians and advertising in local and national newspapers—resulting in a feature article. King is fortunate to be part of the Greater Toronto Area and wants to invite day-trippers to experience the best that the community has to offer.

This investment has helped the Arts Society King and the Schomberg Street Gallery adapt and recover to attract new visitors and drive economic growth in King.

"ASK is excited to receive this funding from FedDev Ontario and Central Counties Tourism to help our artists, artisans, businesses and community really come to life during the Schomberg Street Gallery. We are delighted to have this well-known signature event back on Main Street, Schomberg, welcoming tourists and locals alike," said Michele McNally, President, Arts Society King.

"Our government is happy to invest \$78 million through the Tourism Relief Fund to help communities across southern Ontario rejuvenate local tourist attractions. With this funding, southern Ontario's Regional Tourism Organizations and Indigenous Tourism Ontario are providing hundreds of local businesses and organizations with the support they need to create jobs, attract more visitors and grow local economies, now and into the future," added Filomena Tassi, Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario.

"The visitor economy creates thriving, vibrant communities across Ontario. Visitors bring new money into a community and for many business-



Mona Berg, artist, painting on Main Street in Schomberg during the Schomberg Street Gallery, September 18, 2022.

es in York, Durham and Headwaters, these additional revenues can mean the difference between staying solvent and having to shutter their doors forever. Central Counties Tourism applauds the Government of Canada for recognizing the importance of growing our collective capacity to welcome and entertain visitors. Its investment in tourism is helping municipalities and individual businesses build compelling destinations that will attract visitors and residents alike. The economic impact from the Tourism Relief Fund will be felt for years," said Chuck Thibeault, Executive Director, Industry Development, Central Counties Tourism (RTO 6).

Arts Society King is a not-for-profit volunteer organization that was established in 2005 with gallery space located in the King Heritage and Cultural Centre in King City, Ontario. Arts Society King promotes, supports, celebrates and advocates for arts and culture through effective partnerships and innovative events and programs. Their vision is to enrich King Township through arts and culture for all. ASK is utilizing the funding received through the Tourism Relief Fund to improve and enhance the Schomberg Street Gallery's impact

for tourists and residents.

Entering its 18th year as King Township's premiere arts society, Arts Society King's vision is to enrich King Township through arts and culture for all. Some of our innovative events and programs include MOSAiC, their They partner with the Township of King on several events including Studio Tour King, Schomberg Street Gallery, Deck the Walls Art Show & Sale, the Mayor's Celebration of Youth Arts, International Women's Day Exhibit, Timeless Tales All Ages Writing Contest, Spring Blooms Pop-Up Art Show & Sale, Autumn Reflections En Plein Air competition, Across the Rainbow's Arc Exhibit, as well as several garden club collaborations. For more information visit [www.ArtsSocietyKing.ca](http://www.ArtsSocietyKing.ca).

Central Counties Tourism is the provincially-funded not-for-profit dedicated to developing, supporting and promoting tourism in Durham Region, York Region and the Headwaters Tourism Region. Since its inception, Central Counties Tourism has assisted dozens of municipalities through destination development and hundreds of tourism-related businesses to grow their capacity, strengthening the visitor economy in the region.

## York accepting applications for summer students

Applications for the 2023 Summer Student Program in York Region are now open.

Student applications will be accepted until Jan. 31. You're asked to visit York's job portal and apply directly.

As a student at York Region, you will not only gain exposure in the public sector, but also have the opportunity to contribute to meaningful initiatives, connect with leaders and peers and explore your career path to find your passion! Join us this summer and get up close to the world of government, find out what excites and inspires you, and where it could take you.

At York Region, they are passionate about fostering an ideal learning environment where student contributions are valued and innovation is highly encouraged. Did you know they hire close to 300 students annually? Whether you are seeking a co-op placement or a summer student role (post-secondary or high school), we may have the perfect role for you within one of our seven diverse departments.

York Region supports an environment where students can:

Do what they love; collaborate; provide value; grow and develop.

In 2020, York Region was also named a Top Employer for Young People in Canada!

York Region is an equal opportunity employer and will accommodate individuals with disabilities through each stage of the recruitment and selection process based on the Ontario Human Rights Code. Please advise your recruiter if you require accommodations at any point in the recruitment process.

If you have questions regarding the student recruitment process, please contact [careers@york.ca](mailto:careers@york.ca). Due to the high volume of emails received, please allow at least 48 hours for a response to your inquiry.

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## Hollywood Pizza marks grand opening

Hollywood Pizza in Schomberg held its ribbon cutting on the weekend, with support from the community.

Dignitaries attended the event to officially welcome the shop to town.

Hollywood Pizza, located on Main Street, offers specialty pizzas with fresh ingredients and handmade dough.

This is their second location, with the first open in Angus. The owners promise that "you'll be back" once you sample their dishes.

It's family owned and offers delivery to Schomberg, Lloydtown, Nobleton, Pottsville and more.

Shown are Councillor Mary Asselstine, owners Kielee and Jon Belisle and Michelle Frauley, VP of the King Chamber of Commerce.



## Society names new board

The Schomberg Horticultural Society held its AGM recently, where it announced its new Board of Directors for the coming term. Co-Presidents are Kathleen Gorsline and Eleonora Schmied. Our first Vice-President is Angela Rose, Second-Vice Beth Egan. Other board members include Jill Watts-Hayward, Judy Henderson, Pat Janse, Chris Somerville, Mary Tzarik, Barb Niemeyer, Susan Zweep, Sheila Kelly, Ruby Stoffregen, Linda Jessop and Maria Ruksa. Our Financial Advisors are Pat McKinley and Maureen Richardson.





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KingWeeklySentinel

# Arts & Entertainment

## Art smashes stereotypes at annual exhibit in King

Stereotype Smash, the 2nd annual art show in recognition of International Women's Day, is now open at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre. Displaying the art of 39 established and emerging artists, the exhibit contains entries from King Township, the GTA and as far away as the Maritimes.

This exhibit confronts societal beliefs that have outlasted their usefulness, are dated, inappropriate or are just plain untrue. Themes include gender roles, equality, ideal bodies, aging and more. Artists were challenged to take a stereotype and address it in both their art and artist statement. The result is over three dozen diverse pieces of art that take a stand against stereotypes.

Artist forums that are open to the public will be held on Feb. 4 and March 4 from 1-3 p.m. The forums give artists the opportunity to speak about their work and answer visitor questions. An evening event is also being planned for International Women's Day on March 8 with further details coming soon.

Stereotype Smash runs through March 18 at the KHCC, 2920 King Rd. Admission is by donation.



## Spotting the rare appearance of comet C/2022 E3

By Gary Boyle

What better way to open the new year than by spotting a hopefully bright comet?

It is referred to as comet C/2022 E3 (ZTF) and it could be putting on a decent show in northern skies throughout January. This will be a great chance to test that new set of binoculars or telescope you may have received for Christmas.

This ice mountain was discovered in March of 2022 by the wide-survey camera operating at the Zwicky Transient Facility. At first, astronomers believed the tiny, distant object was an asteroid. However, it quickly brightened as it passed the planet Jupiter on its way to the inner solar system to round the sun.

At this distance, the sun's influence begins to react with the comet's frozen elements, compounds and water ice causing it to sublimate from a solid to a

gas. The comet now begins to glow and in most cases forms an ion (gas) and sometimes even a dust tail. Now it was classified as a comet.

The comet appears green in colour and is the result of the breakdown of a reactive molecule called dicarbon and is sporting a faint ion tail only. C/2022 is well placed in northern skies and be seen all night long.

It will be close to Polaris (the North Star) at the end of January. Unlike a meteor that streaks for a fraction of a second as it vaporizes in our atmosphere, comets are interstellar visitors that slowly move against the background stars from night to night and are located millions of kilometres away.

Over the next few weeks, the comet will approach our planet (not directly). Its closest approach to the earth will occur on Feb. 2 at a safe distance of 42 million kilometres. There is a finder chart on my website: [www.wondersofastronomy.com](http://www.wondersofastronomy.com).

In general, comets are unpredictable. Even though calculations suggest it will be visible in the dark countryside on a clear moonless night, it could easily fizzle away like Comet Kohoutek back in 1973. Expectations of being the brightest comet of the 20th century and given the name "Comet of the Century," Kohoutek was bright but much dimmer than predicted. As my long-time friend and comet hunter David Levy says, "Comets are like cats: they have tails, and do precisely what they want."

Throughout any given year, amateur astronomers can observe a handful of comets but only through telescopes as they are too faint to be seen just by looking up. Hopefully, C/2022 E3 (ZTF) will not disappoint and allow you to see this particular visitor that is estimated to have last returned to our neck of the cosmic woods some 50,000 years ago. This was the period of the early homo-

sapiens. Unfortunately, the Neanderthals became extinct some 10,000 years after the last approach of this comet.

As the weeks go by, the moon will rise later and later and show less of its illuminated phase meaning less sky glow. The new moon occurs on January 21. This comet is not expected to be as great as Comet Neowise back in July 2020. However, you still have a chance to see a somewhat bright space tourist that will return 50,000 years from now.

*Known as "The Backyard Astronomer," Gary Boyle is an astronomy educator, guest speaker, monthly columnist for the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada as well as a STEM educator. He has been interviewed on more than 55 Canadian radio stations as well as television across Canada and the U.S. Follow him on Twitter: @astroeducator, Facebook and his website: [www.wondersofastronomy.com](http://www.wondersofastronomy.com)*

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## King ladies sweep to victory in Montebello event

By Shellee Morning  
King Curling Club

Team Gorsline of the King Ladies League recently travelled to Montebello, Quebec for the 88th Sewell Ladies Spiel Jan 8-11. The Fairmont Le Chateau Montebello is 4 Sheet Log Curling Club built in 1931 that encompasses a full body of history of curling.

And as history would have it, Skip Kathleen Gorsline and her team of Marnie Deathe, Beth Egan and Christine Warner returned after winning the event in 2019 and losing the C event finals in 2020 the playoffs in.

With 14 teams participating, Gorsline handily won their first 2 contests

on some very challenging ice conditions.

Their next opponent was an 87-year-old, 34-year veteran from Nappanee; Susie Reinink, a proven daunting adversary who is not to be underestimated. Skip Gorsline placed her final stone of the game in a very difficult spot for the veteran after her attempt to hit and stay for the point missed the target. The winning last rock by Kathleen moved the King Ladies to the top of the field for the A Finals.

The finals that was anticipated to be a back and forth contest soon proved to be a King domination. Playing against the Spear team from Gananoque team Gorsline was solid and in control from the first push from the hack. The op-



King curling's Skip Kathleen Gorsline, Vice Marnie Death, Second Beth Egan and Lead Christine Warner were undefeated at the 88th Sewell Ladies Bonspiel in Montebello Quebec. This is the second time the team has been crowned Champions after winning the event in 2019.

Photo submitted



## Writing for your community was an honour and a privilege I will hold dear

By Robert Belardi

I will never forget the day I received the phone call.

It was at my grandfather's funeral viewing no less. A suggested name "Zach Shoub" was displayed on my phone screen as the phone rang. My girlfriend – now fiancée – pointed out to me that it was for the sports and general interest reporter job I had so desperately desired.

I walked out of the room and answered the call. I received the position, to be the next guy at the helm of everything sport, for The Auroran, the King Weekly Sentinel and Caledon Citizen.

I wasn't sure where to begin to process it. I was consumed by grief and mourning, all fused together with happiness and jubilation. Emotions churned inside of me like butter and I couldn't believe that I had finally found something in my field and my dream job to boot.

I was always a lover of sport since I was young and I always dreamed of being on television one day. I wanted to be a morning anchor on TSN. So, in my youth, while playing video games, I would turn off the commentary and do it myself. I attempted to mimic the announcers and would point to in-game statistics and make sure I was saying everything right. I had to be credible you know, even to myself in the moment.

After spending two years at Wilfrid Laurier University studying journalism, I returned home and transferred to Humber College. That is where my experience truly lifted off. I joined Rogers TV and commented soccer games. I became a co-editor of a magazine called "SWEAT." I studied sports journalism in Cheltenham, UK on exchange at the University of Gloucestershire and I joined Sportsnet 590 The Fan as an intern.

Everything I had strived for finally led to this. The start of what I had always wanted. But now, this chapter is coming to an end, after three years of serving your community.

I have had the pleasure of interviewing professional athletes from a wide range of leagues throughout my time. From the OJHL, NHL, AHL, MLS,

CPL, NCAA, Olympics, different Formula divisions and other pro leagues around the planet, I have spoken to many players that have come from your community in an effort to showcase to these professionals, on what it means to come from a town that cherishes and loves them.

And of course, it isn't just about them. I have had the pleasure of interviewing young up and coming athletes trying to make a name for themselves. Young high schoolers aspiring to be something great. Young children who have won tournaments donning their town's colours. Former volunteers that dedicated years of free service to ensure that local leagues run smoothly.

I take pride in also being a part of that process and being a part of sharing these people's stories with your town. Because they are all deserving of having that exposure and recognition even if they might not see it that way. That was my job. It was about making other people great and I had the honour and the privilege of doing that.

Every single week, these articles would be published and distributed to 49,500 readers across all three townships. To me, this is something I will always cherish in my life. It is something I will never let go of.

But as I now move on – to a completely different career in fact – as your sports and general interest reporter for one final time, I'd like to take a moment to thank each and every one of you. Thank you, to you, the citizens, who have supported this local newspaper and continue to do so. Without you, this newspaper would not be anywhere.

Thank you goes out to each and every one of you who have supported me, believed in me over and trusted me these last three years. You have helped me in this journey and many of you from this journey, I can now call my friends.

And thank you, to my editors Mark Pavilons, Brock Weir and former editor Mike Baker, and to everyone at London Publishing Corporation for taking a chance on me and for believing in me from the very beginning.

Although my name might pop up in the near future in some freelance work, of course that is not nearly the same.

Robert Belardi, sounding off. Ciao.

position Skip bailed her team out a few times to cut the King team down in points, but Gorsline and her squad skilfully contained the each frame throughout the 7 ends when Gananoque conceded.

Team Gorsline made it a clean sweep going undefeated and declared the 2023 Sewell Ladies Champion!

### The Scots are coming

With the profound success of the Ontario Wheelchair Provincial Championships now in the history books for the King Curling Club, the members now look forward to their next big event.

An International event that is only held every 5 years (last being held in Scotland 2018) between Canada and Scotland is taking place at the curling club. Yes, The Scots are coming! On Jan. 21, KCC will host 4 Scottish teams who will be strategically matched up with 4 teams of King Curlers. A game, that will be played with pride for their country but also for the camaraderie, the memories and the friendships that

will surely be made.

This year three tours of 20 Scottish curlers each will play 33 games during the month of play, contributing points toward the final presentation of the Cup on Feb. 2, in Ottawa. King Curlers have the home advantage, but the Scots will have played 15 games together against other Ontario clubs. Historically, the visiting team has had the advantage, but our "Lads" are ready.

The greeting, pageantry and circumstance of the opening ceremonies will feature Mayor Pellegrini and local councillors. One difference in this event from other prominent competitions is the "Broomstacking" that takes place during the 'half time' of the game. It is a display of camaraderie unique to Strathcona Cup games. You must be there to understand. For a \$5 fee spectators can participate by watching from 2 different limited viewing areas during the play at the Trisan Centre in Schomberg. Games start at 9:30 and last until noon. Stay tuned for the results of what is pegged to be a very exciting day of curling at King.

## Cougars pounce on Otters and Terriers for two wins

By Robert Belardi

The Schomberg Cougars totalled 14 goals last week en-route to dismantling the Huntsville Otters and the Midland Flyers.

Kicking things off at home in the Trisan Centre last Thursday, the Cougars hosted the visiting Huntsville Otters in a snowy evening in southern Ontario.

The Cougars completely derailed their opponents with a dominating 6-1 victory, having outshot the Otters 42-18 in the process.

Cameron Kokelj led the way with three points on the night. Wesley Rees scored his second goal of the season. Carlo Lioni added his 10th and 11th goal of the year.

On the road in Midland against the Flyers Saturday night, the Cougars had a small scare.

Up 5-2 heading into the third, the Flyers scored three unanswered goals in the beginning of the frame to tie things up.

"Very shortly right after that we pot one, then another one and then we got an empty netter. They pulled the goalie quite early. It was nice to see them seal the deal," head coach Stan Kondrotas said.

"On Thursday night, Wesley Rees was a beast out there. Exactly what we needed and exactly what we were looking for. He didn't play on Saturday but it was nice to see him contributing out there and Kokelj and Luke (Miehm), had big point weekends. And then, we had a few other guys step up. We're going to get some of the weaker sisters in the next little while so we just gotta keep doing it."

Against the Flyers, Kokelj added two goals and two assists. Miehm had two goals and one assist.

In the PJHL's scoring standings, Kokelj is the third-ranked forward in all of the league with 54 points in 24 games. Miehm is 16th in the league with 44 points in total.

The Cougars host the Terriers tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Trisan Centre. The boys will head out on the road tomorrow to take on the Penetang Kings at 8 p.m.

## King United holds AGM

The King United Soccer Club will be holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Friday, Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. at the Township of King Municipal Office located at 2585 King Road, King City. All members of the club are invited to attend this meeting.

# King's Corners

**King City United**  
By Sheryl Sinka

We thank Sandra Kirby for participating and leading our worship as guest minister last Sunday.

Our next worship will be Jan. 22 at 10 a.m. when Rev. Andrew Lee will be presiding. We hope to see you there.

For the PDF of past messages and recordings please visit our website at [kcuc.net](http://kcuc.net)

We encourage all to help out with the King Township Food Bank who is experiencing ever growing needs and we encourage you to continue to help with donations of food or financial donations at this time of year which can be most difficult for many needing assistance.

If you have any questions please contact the church office at 905-833-5181.

**King Bible Church**

Join us on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. as we're in-person for our services. We will also be streaming the service online at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook and You-

Tube.

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

**King City Seniors**  
By Carolyn Kanitz

Our next potluck lunch will take place at 12:30 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, Jan. 20. Each attendee is asked to bring either a main dish or a dessert.

Our schedule is as follows:  
Monday: 9:30 a.m. Mobility Matters (level 2/3); 11 a.m. Mobility Matters (level 1).  
Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing; 1 p.m. Bid Euchre.  
Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. Mobility Matters (level 2/3); 11 a.m. Mobility Matters (level 1); 1 p.m. Bridge.  
Thursday: 9:30 a.m. Gentle Motion; 1 p.m. Carpet Bowling.  
Friday: 9:30 a.m. Art Class (2nd and 4th of the month); 1 p.m. Euchre.

Mark your calendar for the following

presentations at 10 a.m.: February 3 – Elder Abuse and March 3 Alzheimers. Please indicate your interest by calling the Centre at 905-833-6565.

**Community Singing Group**

Do you enjoy singing? Have you ever wanted to sing but felt you were not good enough? Well, here is your opportunity. With our singing group, you don't have to be good enough or audition. We are also open to all ages. If you prefer to play an instrument rather than sing, please bring your instrument and join in.

We practice on Fridays at 2 p.m. at Nobleton United Church, 6076 King Rd., Nobleton.

For more information, please contact Dennis Kowal at 416-550-5083 (cell) or 905-857-4033 (home). You can email him at [dennis5k@hotmail.com](mailto:dennis5k@hotmail.com)

We could sing for seniors' groups, or at seniors' residences or anywhere that people might enjoy hearing an amateur group. We are looking forward to bringing joy to others, while having fun ourselves.

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

St. Andrew's, Presbyterian Church welcomes you to our Sunday Worship Services in person at 10:30 a.m. The Rev. Dr. John Vissers led us in worship and Lynn Vissers delivered the sermon based on Ephesians 2:11-19 about being reconciled to God through Christ, finding peace and being part of God's family. If you can't join us in person, our services are recorded and posted later in the afternoon at [standrews-kingcity.ca](http://standrews-kingcity.ca)

The virtual Bible Study and Art for the Soul will be resuming this week. Contact Lynn for information and the ZOOM link. (416-998-4652).

Contact Lynn or Kathy (905-833-0391) regarding prayer requests or to share in thankfulness to God. We'll be happy to pray with you or for you in confidence. Philippians 4:6,7 reads: "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."

*More on Page 14*

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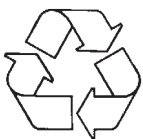
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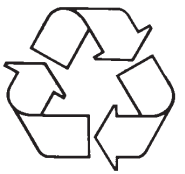
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# King's Corners

From Page 13

Contact Pastor Niyazi and/or Irada Bilgen at (416) 878-8499 about The Greater Grace Fellowship.

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

May your New Year be filled with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

## All Saints Anglican Church By Patrick Gossage

Lent is coming and so is Shove or Pancake Tuesday and our famous drive-by Pancake Supper. Tuesday, Feb. 21 5 to 6:30 p.m. Reserve at 905 833 5432. We can deliver.

Tell Me the Story of Jesus – Sermon by Rev. Erin Martin on the second Sunday after Epiphany from John 1.

"I am a C.S. Lewis fan and read all of the Chronicles of Narnia series and saw all of the movies. I just watched The Voyage of the Dawn Treader again, Given Lewis's strong Christian faith, it isn't surprising that the Gospel comes

through. His books and films are tools to share the story of Jesus with others who might be resistant to hearing about the Gospel.

"One of my favourite parts of the Dawn Treader book and movie comes at the end, when Lucy and Edmund, (children who were transported to the land of Narnia) found out that they would never be able to return again. Crying, Lucy turned to Aslan (the great Lion, who many say represents the figure of Jesus) and said, 'It isn't Narnia, you know, it's you. We shan't meet you there. (Meaning their home world) And how can we live, never meeting you?' Aslan replied, 'But you shall meet me, dear one. But there I have another name. You must learn to know me by that name. This was the very reason why you were brought to Narnia, that by knowing me here for a little, you may know me better there.'

"When the movie came out, I remember walking out of the theatre, and heard a little boy asking his Father – 'What's Aslan's name here? I want to know him too!' I thought, 'The kid's got it!' He needed someone to tell him the name of the one who would love and guide him now. I thought, he's ready to meet Jesus and know him in this world.

"In today's Gospel reading Andrew met Jesus, He was listening to John the Baptist who yelled out 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' Andrew and a friend followed Jesus who invited them to spend time in his company. They got to know him.

"After that, Andrew got his brother, Simon and told him that they'd found the Messiah. Simon went to see Jesus who said, 'You are Simon, son of John. You are to be called Cephas,' which means Peter. The rest is history.

"Peter told the stories of Jesus all over the world As modern followers of Christ, this task has been passed on

to us; to tell the stories of Jesus to our children, our grandchildren, our nieces, nephews, our neighbours and our friends.

"Like the boy at the theatre, so many long to know the One who loves us, who will guide and keep us through all of life's adventures. Many people are trying to put a name to that longing. That's the work we're being called to do, to make Christ known. Share your stories of faith, of Jesus.

"As C.S. Lewis said, stories can steal past the inhibitions of the world and find a place in people's hearts. God will take it from there."

## Food Bank distribution

This Saturday, all three distribution centres are open to those registered with the King Township Food Bank. As usual, distancing measures are in place, and many are receiving "porch deliveries" during these months. Those needing help and not registered should do so immediately by email: [ktfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:ktfoodbank@gmail.com) or by phone, leaving a message at 905-806-1125. Registration is readily available to all residents of King Township.

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**The Bond Head Olde Tyme Fiddle Club** will be reopening January 24, 2023 in the afternoon, 1 – 4 pm at the Bond Head Community Hall. HWY 27. All are welcome, acoustic instruments only.

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### Janette Karen Carrick

October 29, 1957 ~ December 22, 2022

It is with overwhelming sadness that we announce the loss of Janette Karen (McClain) Carrick of Ennismore, Ontario, born in Alliston, Ontario, who passed away after a brief illness on December 22, 2022, at the age of 65.

Janette leaves behind her husband and best friend Stuart of 43 years; her 3 children, Mark (Megan), Heather (Colin) and Adam; her 6 grandchildren: Brody, Kohl, Avery, Adleigh, Brynlee, Ivy and her 7th grandchild, a girl, due in May. Janette also leaves behind her brother John and sister Shirley.

After being diagnosed and surviving breast cancer in 2005, Janette became an active member of the local Peterborough Survivors Abreast Dragonboat team. Paddling in events and competitions all over the world, Janette raised thousands of dollars for cancer research and local cancer care.

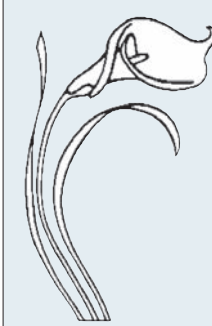
Janette's infectious laugh, as well as her love for greeting cards and snowmen, will be missed by all those she has left behind.

In keeping with Janette's wishes, cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Life will be held at Highland Park Funeral Centre, 2510 Bensfort Road on Saturday, January 21st, from 12 noon to 4pm.

In memory of Janette, donations to the PRHC Cancer Fund or The Peterborough Dragon Boat Festival would be greatly appreciated by her family.

The family would like to thank Dr. Webster and the Palliative Care nurses at PRHC.

Online condolences may be made by visiting [www.highlandparkfuneralcentre.com](http://www.highlandparkfuneralcentre.com)



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**King Weekly Sentinel**





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## Nobleton Notes

By Angie Maccarone

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

We invite you to join us in person for worship this Sunday at 10 a.m.

Our Pastor, Jeff Loach, will be sharing a message entitled "The Great Prostitute" based on Revelation 17. We will also welcome some new elders to our leadership that day! Following the service, we will enjoy refreshments.

We hope you can come! If you can't make it in person, our live-streamed broadcasts are available directly on [stpaulsnobleton.ca](http://stpaulsnobleton.ca) or on our YouTube channel each Sunday at 10 a.m., or on demand at [youtube.com/stpaulschurchnobleton](http://youtube.com/stpaulschurchnobleton).

Our "Junction" children's ministry is meeting in person for all children up to Grade 6 during worship. We continue to offer St. Paul's "At Home" boxes each month to facilitate God-focused family learning. If you would like to engage with this resource, tick the appropriate box on the connection card at [stpaulsnobleton.ca/connect](http://stpaulsnobleton.ca/connect).

Our Tuesday morning LifeConnect Group for women is meeting with a mix of Zoom and in person meetings every Tuesday morning at 9:30. A LifeConnect Group, open to anyone, also meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m., and will begin again on Jan. 11. Meetings are a mix of online and in person. These groups go deeper with questions related to the previous Sunday's message. It is a good way to do life together with other followers of Jesus, and inquirers, in a more intimate setting than you can get on a Sunday morning. For details of our LifeConnect groups, be in touch with us via our online connection card, [stpaulsnobleton.ca/connect](http://stpaulsnobleton.ca/connect).

Quilting and/or Knitting continues meeting Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in the lower hall of the church. We will be sewing and tying quilts for people who could really benefit from them. We would love to have you join us, if this might be of interest to you.

St. Paul's is coordinating with the King Township Food Bank in the distribution of "St. Paul's Love Bags." These bags 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.

### St. Mary's Church

We hope and pray that you and your families are doing well as we look forward to celebrating the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Join us this weekend at St. Patrick's or St. Mary's for the Sunday Holy Mass celebrations to pray for each other, give thanks as a parish community, and begin the New Year by receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist "the source and summit of the Christian life" (CCC 1324).

LifeTeen Parish Youth Group: We invite all teens (grades 8-12) for our Life Nights to share in faith, fun, food and friendship.

Kindly contact our Youth Minister Zephania: 905-830-2644 or [zgangl@archtoronto.org](mailto:zgangl@archtoronto.org) to join our events. Hope to see you there!

Save the Date – January 28 – Launch Night for EDGE Ministry for teens Grades 6-8 is nearly here!

Join us for "The Search," our upcoming Parish Adult Formation Program.

Friday Nights beginning on Friday, Jan. 27. Highly recommended for parents and guardians of students prepar-

ing for the Sacraments this year.

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)

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

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

The Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession is also available on the first Friday of the month at St. Patrick's Church after the 9 a.m. Mass and St. Mary's Church after the 7 p.m. at Mass (during Eucharistic Adoration).

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our parish family.

You will continue to be in our prayers, Rosary and Holy Mass Intentions, especially those in our community who are sick or homebound.

### Community Singing Group

Do you enjoy singing? Have you ever wanted to sing but felt you were not good enough? Well, here is your opportunity. With our singing group, you don't have to be good enough or audition. We are also open to all ages. If you prefer to play an instrument rather than sing, please bring your instrument and join in.

We practice on Fridays at 2 p.m. at Nobleton United Church, 6076 King Rd., Nobleton.

For more information, please contact Dennis Kowal at 416-550-5083 (cell) or 905-857-4033 (home). You can email him at [dennis5k@hotmail.com](mailto:dennis5k@hotmail.com)

We could sing for seniors' groups, or at seniors' residences or anywhere that people might enjoy hearing an amateur group. We are looking forward to bringing joy to others, while having fun ourselves.

### Nobleton United Church By Nancy Hopkinson

Next Sunday, Jan. 22 at 11:15 am, our guest speaker is Jackie Whiston; on Jan. 29, Phil Mannell and on Feb. 5 we have student minister Richard Gardner.

"Messy Baptism" is the theme of the next Messy Church on Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 5 p.m. Messy Church is a fun way to learn about Bible stories. The activities are aimed at children from 2 years to young teenagers, accompanied by a responsible adult.

There are optional crafts (5 to 6 p.m.) set up on different tables (you do the activities at your own pace and in any order) and at 6 p.m. there is an interactive Bible story (to 6:15 p.m.) and then a meal. One of the activities is always cookie decorating. Please let me know if you are interested in bringing your children, as I need to have enough crafts and food for all. For more info, please contact me.

The next Seniors' lunch and entertainment is on Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 11:30 a.m. at St. Mary Magdalene Church, lower level, 116 Church St., Schomberg. Please arrive at 11:15 a.m. Wear a mask when not eating. The entertainment will be Mary Asselstine, speaking about the Schomberg Community Farm, where people of all ages can gather, learn, grow, dig, plant and eat. The meal will be hamburger soup, Caesar salad, crusty roll, with a chocolate dessert and ice cream. Please let Sheila Kelly (905-939-2315) if you are interested in attending. Space is limited. If you prefer, the meal can be delivered in the afternoon in time for dinner.

The date of the famous DiFebo Pasta Dinner is Friday, Feb. 24. Book your calendar. More details next week.

Our Zoom Coffee hour is Wednesday mornings 10 to 11 a.m. Let me know if you want to be included in the email

blast or want to join via phone. We would love to have you drop in and say hello.

Nobleton United Church is at 6076 King Rd., Nobleton, about 6 buildings west of Hwy 27, north side of the King Rd. There is a large parking lot in the back. My contact info is 905-859-0761 or [nancykhopkinson@gmail.com](mailto:nancykhopkinson@gmail.com).

### Horticulture By John Arnott

And there they were potted and everything – amaryllis at my own local supermarket on sale for just over \$6 each, a third of the price they generally fetch especially around Christmas when they are most popular. So I bought all 4.

One of them had two thick but hollow stems about a foot/30 cm. high holding two large pointed buds each tightly wrapped in green leaflike sepal coverings. Pot #2 held only one foot high stem topped by 2 similarly wrapped buds. In the remaining 2 pots stems with buds were just pushing up through the soil. At this writing I have 3 stems carrying several big beautiful blood red blooms – one pot has so many that I've had to use two small sturdy foot high wooden stakes (actually shrub branches – to keep the scapes (the leafless stems of bulbs) upright.

Although amaryllis are referred to as lilies they are in a genus with just 2 members all their own and really only very distant cousins of the lily family.

I've read that smaller amaryllis plants are native to the rocky coasts of southern Africa but their larger cousins-, the ones we find for sale in our area and known as hippeastrum, originated along the Atlantic coast of South America (Argentina to the Caribbean).

Because amaryllis seeds are large and tough it's entirely possible that birds and/or ocean currents carried seeds across the Atlantic over thou-

sands of years. That being said another article my research turned up stated both types of amaryllis are native to southern Africa particularly along the coast South Africa's Cape Province where they are found in great numbers.

Belladonna (Latin for beautiful lady) is sometimes added after the common name amaryllis comes which comes from the Greek amarysso meaning to sparkle. And for sure the amaryllis is both beautiful and sparkling!

### Nobleton Lions

Your Nobleton Lions Club is back and in full swing. Watch for some new initiatives early in the new year.

Calling all knitters and crocheters! There is a continuing 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 Lion Carol at her office number, 905-951-0503.

We invite you to follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@nobletonlionclub), on Twitter (@NobletonLions), and on our website, by simply Googling "Nobleton Lions," which will bring up the link to the site.

In the meantime, we still welcome prospective new members. You may join us as a guest at an upcoming meeting by contacting Lion Andrew at [andrew.bevil@sanofi.com](mailto:andrew.bevil@sanofi.com) We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month from Sept to June at the Community Hall, just north of the arena.

## Hazardous conditions on and around bodies of water

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) is reminding residents how to be prepared for winter hazards, particularly around bodies of water.

Frequent freeze-thaw cycles can create hazardous conditions by increasing runoff and contributing to higher water levels and faster flows in local watercourses. Accumulated snow and ice will also melt and refreeze, causing slippery and unstable areas around water. Slippery banks, high water levels, and fast flowing, extremely cold water can lead to very hazardous and dangerous conditions.

Winter hazards are not limited to natural shorelines and riverbanks. Stormwater ponds, while seemingly inviting for skating, are dangerous. These ponds are designed to collect stormwater runoff from the surrounding neighbourhood and have water flowing in and out of them year-round. Road salt and other pollutants also collect in these ponds, further weakening any ice that forms. Because of these functions, the ice formed on the surface is extremely unstable and should never be used for recreational purposes.

Despite these hazards, there's one easy way to enjoy the outdoors this time of the year – avoid waterways altogether. At Conservation Areas and municipal parks, official trails have been created with your safety in mind. Use these trails and still get some fresh air safely.

Be safe by following these tips:

Stay on the official trails at Ontario's Conservation Areas to enjoy the outdoors safely.

Keep family members and pets away from riverbanks and edges of all water bodies.

Do not attempt to drive or walk on iced-covered water bodies. Always obey any posted safety signs.

Avoid all recreational activities in or around water, especially near ice jams or ice-covered water bodies, unless at an officially designated municipal facility.

Never use stormwater ponds for ice skating or any other activity. Water levels on these ponds can change due to road salt, snow melt and changing temperatures causing cracks and dangerously thin ice.

Rescuing another person or a pet from ice is dangerous. If you see anyone that has fallen through the ice, call 9-1-1 for help immediately.

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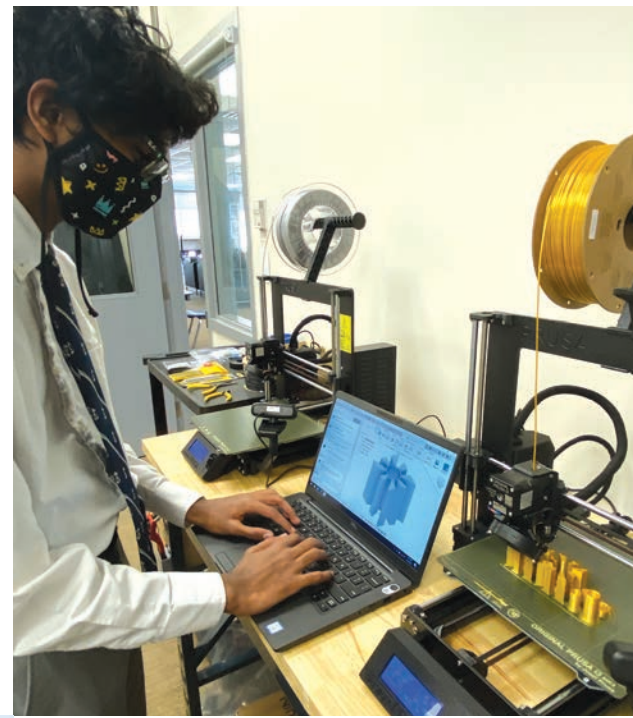
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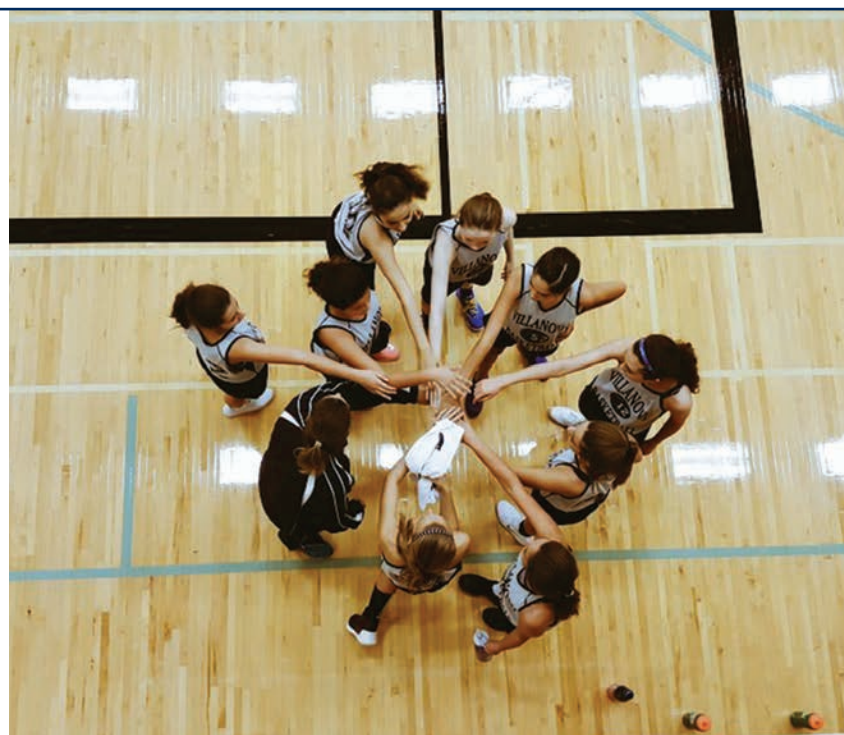
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