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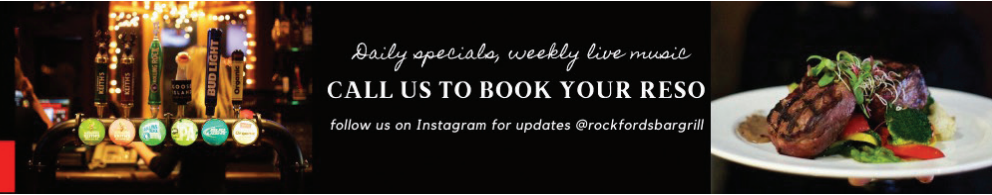
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Outstanding support for golf tournament

Mayor Steve Pellegrini and the hard-working staff and volunteers made this year's Mayor's Golf Tournament a huge success. The Western-themed event drew more than 200 golfers to Nobleton Lakes last week. Turn to Page 12 for the full details.

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King's reserve funds top \$50 million

By Mark Pavilons
Editor

King Township has the use of some pretty healthy reserve funds.

In a report to council recently staff noted the current balance of all the reserve funds (including library) is \$50.1 million and the encumbrances/commitments are \$18.7 million, with an uncommitted balance of \$32.2 million.

The reserve funds were reviewed in 2021 to consolidate them and provide clarity on the use and purpose of each reserve fund while giving updates each year as part of the audit.

A financial reserve fund is a provision for an amount that is designated for a future purpose that extends beyond the current year. Reserve funds are established for a variety of purposes:

- To ensure the financial stability of the Corporation.
- To protect against financial impacts of risks and un-

foreseen events.

- To provide a funding source for future life cycle replacement of capital assets.
- To assist with the fluctuations of the operating and capital budget.
- To provide an internal financing source.
- To provide for expenditures.

Reserve funds for existing infrastructure are funds set aside by council to provide funding for future major repairs, rehabilitation, or replacement of the Town's infrastructure. This includes all roads, street lighting, underground water and sewer pipes, pumping stations, sidewalks, trails, parks and park amenities, buildings and facilities, fleet and equipment, furniture and fixtures, as well as computer equipment, business systems and software. All assets must be replaced at end of life to maintain reliable services and are managed through the Town's Asset Management Plan.

See 'Reserves' on Page 3

INSIDE	REGULAR FEATURES		
	Editorial	Page 4	 <p>High-tech robots work the fields. See Page 9</p>
	Business	Page 8	
	Sports	Page 14	
Classifieds	Page 16		
		 <p>Burt is named as Portraits of Giving recipient. See Page 10</p>	

WHO WILL THEY BECOME?



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UPCOMING MEETINGS

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Wednesday, August 16
6 p.m. - Committee of Adjustment
Hybrid Meeting (in-person/virtual participation, and live-streamed)
Visit king.ca/cofameetings for more information.

To view full Council and Committee agendas, visit 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 for employment opportunities. All applications must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on the day they close.

REMINDERS

WATER BILLS

Due Date: August 24, 2023



WATER BILLS will be mailed to homes on July 20, 2023. Please contact ServiceKING at serviceking@king.ca or call 905-833-5321 immediately if you do not receive your bill.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- Pre-Authorized Debit bank withdrawal (PAD)
- Online with your financial institution
- By Credit Card- Visit the Township Online Services Portal at king.ca
- By Mail (must be stamped and mailed before the due date and received on time)
- At the Drop-off Box at the King Township Municipal Centre, 2585 King Rd, King City

If paying in person at a financial institution, please present the entire water bill.

In the case of a proven water leak or meter malfunction, an adjustment to the most recent bill may be applied, provided the property owner has proof of repair to the equipment in the household that was the direct cause of the leak and there is a notable reduction in consumption. Please see the Township's website for more details.

When making payments electronically, search for "King" and select **Water** and enter your 10-digit account number with no decimal (i.e. 1234567800).

Pre-Authorized Debit Program (PAD): The PAD program is available for **Water and Sewer** accounts. The enrolment form is available at king.ca (search for "PAD").

Please visit our website for details.

PUBLIC NOTICES



ThinKING Green: Sustainable Development Program available for review

King is pleased to announce that the draft for the new **ThinKING Green Sustainable Development Program** is now available to review at speaking.king.ca.

ThinKING Green has been developed to expand upon and replace the Township's current Sustainable King: Green Development Standards Program.

ThinKING Green encourages all new development to protect and enhance the natural environment while utilizing efficient, innovative and sustainable measures.

The Project Team appreciates all feedback on the new program. If you have any questions, comments or thoughts, please contact Aloma Dreher, Senior Policy Planner at adreher@king.ca or at 905-833-5321, ext. 1004 by July 31, 2023.

Be a good neighbour

Clean Yards By-law 2016-68 sets out minimum standards for properties in the Township including some rules on litter, waste and property maintenance to help ensure that properties are safe, clean and attractive in relation to adjacent properties.

Reminder to Owners and Tenants:

- All properties must be kept free and clear of long grass and weeds.
- All properties are to be free of garbage, litter, yard waste, standing water, storage bins and demolition project material, and construction equipment.
- All properties need to be clear of derelict vehicles, including vehicles that are not currently licensed for operation.

The Clean Yards By-law is the Township's tool for addressing and responding to concerns about property maintenance. Bylaw Enforcement Officers work with property owners and tenants through education to achieve voluntary compliance, but alternatively orders may be issued to obtain compliance with the by-law standards.

For more information on Clean Yards please visit our website at www.king.ca.



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Sunday, August 6 | 1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.

APIARY TOUR

king.ca/recreation
code: 18636

Sunday, July 23 | 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.

BEGINNER BEEKEEPING WORKSHOP

king.ca/recreation
code:18635

Sunday, July 23 | 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.

DROP-IN ARCHERY

THURSDAYS | 5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M. | \$5
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Schomberg to benefit from high-speed internet access

By Mark Pavilons
Editor

A commitment by both the federal and provincial governments will bring high-speed internet access to Schomberg.

The governments have pledged \$54 million to bring high-speed internet access to more than 20,000 homes and 83 communities.

Residents in Schomberg will be connected as part of the plan.

The Canada-Ontario broadband partnership to support large-scale, fibre-based projects that will provide high-speed internet access to more than 280,000 homes across the province. This historic agreement was made possible by a joint federal-provincial investment totalling more than \$1.2 billion.

The recent announcement builds on the Government of Canada's progress toward ensuring that 98 per cent of Ca-

nadians have access to high-speed internet by 2026, and 100 per cent by 2030. The announcement also brings the Government of Ontario closer to achieving its goal of bringing reliable high-speed internet access to every community by the end of 2025.

This commitment is in addition to federal and provincial funding announced in March 2023 of over \$48 million to connect over 3,800 homes in 31 communities in the Regional Municipality of York to reliable high-speed internet access.

Canada's Connectivity Strategy aims to provide all Canadians with access to internet speeds of at least 50 megabits per second (Mbps) download / 10 Mbps upload.

The Universal Broadband Fund is a \$3.225 billion investment by the Government of Canada designed to help provide high-speed internet access to 98 per cent of Canadians by 2026 and

achieve the national target of 100 per cent access by 2030.

Today, 93.5 per cent of Canadian households have access to high-speed internet, compared to just 79 per cent in 2014.

The Ontario government is investing nearly \$4 billion to bring access to reliable high-speed internet to every community across the province by the end of 2025. This is the largest single investment in high-speed internet in any province, by any government in Canadian history.

As of July 2023, Ontario has finalized agreements totalling more than \$2.3 billion for nearly 200 high-speed internet and cellular projects across the province.

Ontario launched a new interactive online map that shows where provincially funded high-speed internet projects are planned, are currently under way or have been recently completed in communities across the province. Ontarians can use the map to search by address, community or municipality to learn about projects happening in their area and find out where high-speed internet service is currently available.

In 2021, Ontario passed the Supporting Broadband and Infrastructure Expansion Act, 2021 to help speed up construction of high-speed internet projects. To build upon this legislation, the Ontario government passed the Getting Ontario Connected Act, 2022, which further reduces barriers, duplication and delays.

"We all know that internet is no longer a luxury — it's a necessity. Today's

announcement is a significant milestone for internet connectivity in rural Ontario. Working with Rogers, we will help connect more than 20,000 underserved homes in 83 rural and remote communities in Ontario. Our government will continue to work side by side with our partners to achieve our connectivity targets and ensure that every Canadian, no matter where they live, has access to high-speed internet by 2030," said Gudie Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development.

"High-speed internet service is essential to the success of everyone, especially those living and working in rural communities in Ontario. The project announced today will help improve access to health care and online learning services; create jobs in our community; and keep people connected to their family, friends and loved ones. Our government will continue to make investments like these to help connect every Ontarian to the high-speed internet they need," added Helena Jaczek, Minister of Public Services and Procurement.

"Reliable, high-speed internet is critical for Ontario residents to connect with friends and family and access health and education services, and for businesses to grow and serve their customers. We are proud to work alongside the Government of Canada to address connectivity gaps and bring high-speed fibre internet to more than 20,000 homes and businesses in Ontario," noted Robert Dépatie, President and Chief Operating Officer, Residential and Business, Rogers Communications.

Reserves buffer tax hikes

From Front Page

These reserve funds help protect the annual tax rate or utility rates from significant shocks due to periodic, but expensive replacement projects.

Staff noted that some reserve funds are tax rate sourced, while others are sourced from the water and wastewater utility rates. Most development activity requires the payment of development charges, as well as dedication of parklands. In some circumstances, the Township will accept payment in lieu of the parkland dedication. While most growth-related Township infrastructure is funded by development charges, not all of it is.

This requires some allocation of tax dollars to these New Infrastructure reserve funds to fund the portions that are not covered by the development charges.

Development Charge reserve funds are included in the Reserve Funds for New Infrastructure grouping and are specifically established as required and controlled by the Development Charges Act. They serve to fund community growth and development related expansion of municipal infrastructure and

services. These reserve funds, and the projects to which they are allocated, are closely monitored by the development community to ensure compliance with the requirements and restrictions of the Act.

These funds may not be used for repair, rehabilitation or replacement of existing infrastructure and may not be used for any other purpose by council.

Stabilization Reserve Funds are funds set aside by Council to be used to reduce the sudden impact to tax or utility rates from unexpected costs in budgets, or unexpected costs arising mid-year. These can be used over a couple of years if necessary to soften the otherwise large pressures on the rates.

For example, staff said that a significant successful lawsuit against the municipality would be funded from the Insurance Reserve Fund, with the Reserve fund then slowly replenished over several years.

Special Purpose reserve funds are set aside by council or by legislation to provide financial resources for specific purposes or programs. These include required funds to settle future debt payments of the municipality.

Murder charges laid in teen's death

Investigators with the York Regional Police Homicide Unit have arrested and charged two people with First Degree Murder in connection with the death of an 18-year-old man in the Township of King.

On Sunday, April 23, at 7:50 a.m., York Regional Police received a call from a citizen who reported finding a deceased person while walking their dog along a trail northwest of a college campus in the area of Dufferin Street and 15th Sideroad. The death was deemed suspicious and members of the Homicide Unit took carriage of the investigation.

A post-mortem examination took place on April 24 and the victim was identified as Zackhry Ramnath, 18, of Montreal, Quebec.

Through the investigation, officers identified the two suspects. A 15-year old female was arrested on June 5, and a 19-year-old man was arrested on July 5.

Lyjah Griffiths, 19, of Cambridge, and the 15-year-old were both charged with first degree murder.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the York Regional Police Homicide Unit at 1-866-876-5423, extension 7865, or email the Homicide Unit at homicide@yrp.ca. Anyone wanting to provide information anonymously can call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS or provide a tip online at www.1800222tips.com.

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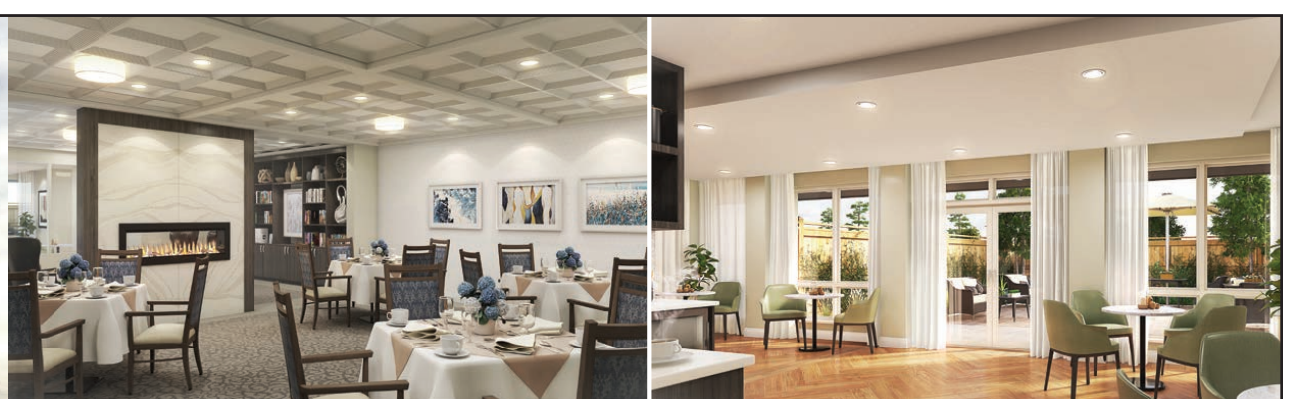


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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

"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

Humans have the itch to travel and explore

"Oh the things you can find, if you don't stay behind!"

Dr. Seuss

Theo was spot on with many of his tidbits that he shared with generations of readers.

"We wander for distraction, but we travel for fulfillment," read a mural at Hamilton International Airport. I saw the quote when I picked up my eldest from a short trip to Alberta to visit her cousin.

Lexie is the world traveller of our family and "oh the things she has seen." She's been to Europe, New York and LA. She did humanitarian work in Rwanda and Kenya. She's done work in Guatemala and spent time in a small fishing village in ?

We encouraged her of course for the very simple reason that travelling is something you may or may not have the opportunity to do later on in your adult life. Carpe diem is good advice for anyone, don't you think?

"Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, so ... get on your way!" Seuss recommended.

The pandemic kept most of the world house-bound for far too long. Many are itching to break free and get out of Dodge.

According to an article in the National Geographic, travel is wishful thinking, an activity where we never know what's going to happen. Travel may not be a rational activity, squeezing into a seat aboard a contraption flying above the clouds. The long lines at airports is also one of those irrational necessities.

From sustainable tourism, eco-tourism, bucket-list tourism, we long for an escape.

I remember my mom telling me that I simply had to take Kim on a Caribbean



Mark Pavilons

vacation - there's nothing like it, she would say. She knew, deep down, that visiting strange new places opens up our mind, heart and soul.

She was right, of course.

Kim convinced me to travel with my Mom to Mexico for one last hurrah, before my Mom got too old. She often told me this was the best trip of her life and I was happy it brought her joy.

Kim and I were lucky to have sprinted off several times during our "courtship" days. Each destination was more unique than the last. From the casinos in Vegas to "booze cruises" in the Bahamas, we made great memories.

I wouldn't trade those adventures for anything in the world.

Lexie always makes it a point to immerse herself in the culture and cuisine of every land she steps foot on. She's lived with host families and visited

street vendors in Guatemala - some of the best home-made dishes ever!

Of all the places I've seen, my advice is to be curious, venture off the beaten path (if it's safe), talk to locals and don't rush. Try something on the menu you're unfamiliar with. Watch a local artisan actually make their crafts.

Look and listen. You will see and hear some magnificent things.

Our ancestors were nomadic, chasing food and more hospitable climates.

Our ancestors were storytellers - relaying tales of far away places and people. Like a good book, who hasn't been mesmerized by a passionate tale of action, adventure and strange creatures big and small?

With limited travel experience myself, I'm glued to the TV watching travel shows and anything National Geographic. Of course, armchair adventurers live vicariously through these amazing images and footage of far-away mountains, valleys, rivers and forests.

I give one big nod of approval for technology and TV programming for beaming such beauty into our lives.

In our closed-circuit world of social media, we can see things we've never imagined. But we can't touch and taste. They say our technology is a trap, has isolated us more than ever before in our history.

With 195 countries across the world, that's a huge amount of real estate to visit.

While we don't all travel regularly, I'm sure most of us have a "bucket list" of places to visit.

Mine includes Japan, Greece, Italy, Belize, New Zealand, to name a few. And yes, bring on the heat!

Lexie, who just finished her Yoga

certification, wanted to enjoy a yoga retreat in Bali this fall, but her plans fell through. Machu Picchu is also on her must-visit list.

I am also a big fan of ancient archaeological sites and I would love to visit many ancient wonders like the pyramids in Egypt; Easter Island; Stonehenge; Gobekli Tepe, and Anasazi, to name just a few.

There's so little in our modern society that could be considered chin-droppingly awesome. I want to experience that with such ancient wonders.

But travel isn't cheap and requires a lot of time and planning. The advice that has always stuck with me while on vacation was to bring half as many clothes and twice as much money!

Of course, there are more destinations than time allows. Perhaps we all should have paid more attention to that in our younger years, and set out an exploration time table. One special trip every few years in our 20s, 30s and 40s would definitely set the stage for our twilight years.

While many can enjoy a bright, beach-filled retirement, others can't. I don't know what those years will bring, but I really don't want to wait to find out.

I have joked with Kim about selling it all, getting an RV and travelling the wide open roads across North America. Being stuck in a vehicle with me is not really her idea of a perfect road trip.

My son recently mentioned that his goal is to own an island and be one with Nature. People aren't his thing.

I think everyone has an idea of the best place to be. Maybe if we start by finding the best place "inside," we can travel to the best location "outside."

Letter to the Editor

Smoke: A sign of our times

I woke up recently to another smoke advisory in southern Ontario. Wildfires continue to burn in northeastern Ontario and Quebec, as they have for the past few weeks. Canada is experiencing a record-breaking year for coast-to-coast forest fires. Millions of Canadians are affected.

Alberta and B.C. know all about widespread wildfires that threaten lives, homes and whole communities, as we have witnessed in the past 10 years. I think of Fort McMurray in 2016, and Lytton, BC in 2021. This is the first year I've seen wildfires affecting Canadians in virtually every part of the country south of the High Arctic. Environment Canada has been issuing countless Advisories and Warnings throughout this spring and now into the summer from Yukon to Newfoundland.

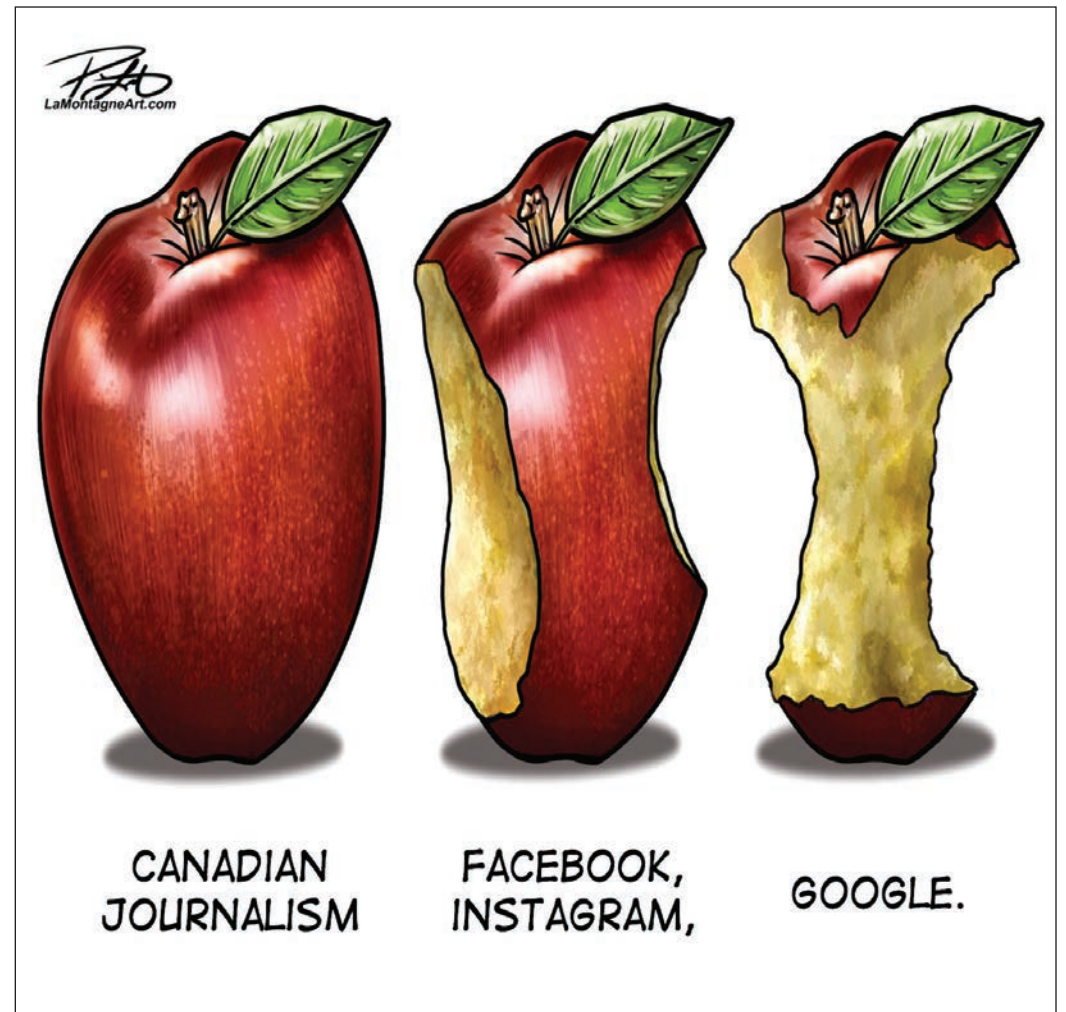
There are 1000s and 1000s of courageous and compassionate women and men responding in a variety of ways - fighting the fires, evacuating residents, treating people for a variety of smoke-related health issues, and providing emergency supplies and shelter to those who have been forced to flee.

However, as a nation what are we doing to truly and effectively address the source of the problem? Are governments and communities across this vast country taking bold action to tackle the causes of the climate crisis?

We know that increasing levels of CO2 and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere directly contribute to the warming of climate and in turn to greater extremes in weather events. Droughts have become more frequent and often more intense with higher temperatures.

In the backdrop to all of this, I understand the oil and gas sector continues to expand. Governments subsidize the oil and gas industry, and approve new pipelines and exploration initiatives. And yet, there are a number of well-established alternative sources of much cleaner, renewable energy, advancing technology and approaches to transportation and building construction that reduce energy demand and dramatically reduce GHG emissions.

See 'We' on Page 5



Quote of the Week

"If there's even a slight chance of getting something that will make you happy, risk it."

- A.R. Lucas

Trivia Tidbits

Octopuses actually have six arms and two legs

KingWeeklySentinel WEBPOLL
www.kingsentinel.com

Results from last week's poll:

Do you find it hard to keep up with your yard work?

a) Yes 63%

b) No 37%

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

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Are you concerned about air quality in Ontario?

a) Yes

b) No

Go to our website and cast a vote!

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

People want climate action so we need to speak up

By David Suzuki

Comment

If you understand that the climate crisis is a serious challenge and believe governments, industry and society should be doing everything possible to address it, you're not alone. You're part of a growing majority. After all, who doesn't want to ensure Earth remains a healthy place to live for generations to come?

People are also becoming more aware of the many benefits that energy efficiency, clean power and nature protection bring – from improving human health to saving money to avoiding volatile coal, oil and gas supplies and prices.

In Canada, a recent poll shows 75 per cent are concerned about climate change, and more than half think governments must do more to address it. But what about the U.S., where many politicians and media outlets attack progressive climate and energy policies as “woke?” Florida governor and presidential candidate Ron DeSantis has even spurned hundreds of millions of dollars in federal grants and tax rebates for residents to make energy efficiency upgrades, and passed a law making it illegal for local governments to ban fossil fuels in favour of clean energy.

With the massive amount of attention paid to those who reject climate science and push fossil fuels, one would think most Americans are on board

with policies like these. That's not the case, according to a study published in Nature Communications. It found that 66 to 80 per cent of people in the U.S. are worried about global heating and support policies to address it, but many don't realize their numbers are so high: 80 to 90 per cent “in every state and every assessed demographic underestimate support across all policies tested,” believing only 37 to 43 per cent favour them.

The study found one factor in the misperception was “consuming conservative news.”

This matters because, as an article in Yale Climate Connections reports, “When people feel alone in their views, they are less likely to take action.” Boston College psychology and neuroscience professor Gregg Sparkman said that's why it's important “to voice your concerns about climate change to others, to talk about climate policies that you think are exciting: These kinds of conversations, when done en masse, will help correct this misperception.”

One useful conversation to bring even more people into the majority is about how much money policies that encourage energy efficiency and clean energy will save. The European Union offers a good example.

When Russia invaded Ukraine, many

feared Russian gas would be replaced with even dirtier coal. Instead, EU countries fast-tracked wind and solar installations, displacing “an estimated 230 TWh of expensive fossil fuel generation,” according to the International Energy Agency. That reduced wholesale electricity prices by at least eight per cent, saving electricity consumers about €100 billion, or Cdn. \$145 billion.

The IEA also reports, “Between January 2021 and August 2022, the average monthly natural gas price increased 10-fold and the price of hard coal quintupled,” whereas, “Long-term contracts secured through policy mechanisms and regulations provide stable prices for most wind and solar PV power generators in Europe, limiting their exposure to volatile electricity prices. They can also help shelter consumers from rising electricity prices.”

Politicians who reject sound climate and energy policies are not only accelerating destruction of Earth's life-support systems but are also putting wealthy fossil fuel industry donors' short-term, selfish interests above those of the people they were elected to represent.

Policies and regulations are crucial.

A study by the International Institute for Sustainable Development found that “unprecedented volatility and high oil and gas prices” in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and Russian invasion brought “windfall profits for global oil and gas producers, including those in Canada.” This has led to a push to expand the industry here.

But, the IISD reports, “Given demand projections, business as usual in the sector is no longer an option. To minimize the risks to dependent workers, communities, and regions, governments must take an active role in overseeing a predicted phase-down of oil and gas production and diversifying the economy.”

Those who profit from the climate crisis and reject sound policies to address it – policies that would benefit most people – are speaking loudly, but their numbers are dwindling.

We're in the majority. It's up to us to speak louder.

David Suzuki is a scientist, broadcaster, author and co-founder of the David Suzuki Foundation. Written with David Suzuki Foundation Senior Writer and Editor Ian Hanington. Learn more at david Suzuki.org.

We have to work together to reduce oil and gas emissions

From Page 4

Government funds and resources need to be poured into growing the renewable energy sector; transportation with greatly-reduced emissions, implementing advanced “Net Zero” building codes, and transitioning jobs to growing the new “clean, green” economy that has already taken root. The status-quo with high dependence on oil and gas will not secure the future we aspire to see for our children and grand-children.

As I reflect, I recognize I'm very much a part of the society that relies largely on oil and gas, and consumes great amounts of natural resources. I invite all of us to work together in continuing to make helpful lifestyle changes and to call on government leaders to prioritize the dramatic reduction of oil and gas emissions needed, and advance a secure, clean and healthy future.

May future generations not wake up every morning to ongoing advisories of poor air quality due to wildfire smoke, but rather to a bright, healthy and much more sustainable world.

J. Bruce Craig
King City

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Province appoints five-person board to oversee dissolution

By Mark Pavilons
Editor

The Province has appointed five members to a transition board that will make recommendations to the government on a range of restructuring matters related to the dissolution of the Regional Municipality of Peel in order to make Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon independent municipalities by January 1, 2025.

The five members who have been appointed to the board bring a range of experience across the public and private sectors, including municipal government and administration, policing, business law and business management, infrastructure delivery and the provincial and federal governments.

Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, appointed the following individuals to the transition board:

John Livey, Chair, along with Tracey Cook, Eric Jolliffe, Sean Morley and Peter Weltman.

John Livey has over 40 years of municipal and provincial experience, having previously served as a Deputy City Manager for the City of Toronto, CAO for the Town of Markham and Planning Commissioner for the Region of York. Livey was also the executive director for the Greater Toronto Task Force, the Director of Policy Development for the Metropolitan Toronto Planning Department and spent 13 years prior to that in various capacities at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Tracey Cook has been with the City of Toronto since 2012, having served as the Interim City Manager, Deputy City Manager (Infrastructure & Development Services) and Executive Director of the Municipal Licensing & Standards division. Prior to her work at the city, Cook held senior and executive positions in the private sector, where she led organization wide business system and process transformations and organizational restructuring. Ms. Cook began her professional career with the Toronto Police Service and ended her 18 years of service as a Detective in the Fraud Squad.

Sean Morley is a partner in the business law section at Fasken Martineau LLP and a member of the firm's Global Infrastructure and Projects practice

group with a focus on advising on all aspects of public-private partnership infrastructure projects. Mr. Morley is a member of the Institute of Corporate Directors, serves as the Chair of the Pollution Probe Foundation and is a former director of the Toronto Port Authority.

Eric Jolliffe has more than 40 years of experience in policing at the regional and municipal levels, including 18 years as a senior executive. Jolliffe is best known for his contributions as Chief of York Regional Police.

Peter Weltman was, until recently, Ontario's Financial Accountability Officer, a position he held from 2018-2023. Weltman previously served as Director of Executive Services, Communication and Parliamentary Relations and as Senior Director, Costing and Expenditure Management to the Parliamentary Budget Officer in Ottawa. Before working at the PBO, Weltman served in different capacities federally for Industry Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Service Canada and the Treasury Board Secretariat, and has private sector experience in both financial services and food retail.

"Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon are poised for significant growth over the next decade, and our government is making sure they have the tools required to prepare," said Minister Clark. "The five members that have agreed to serve on the transition board bring an impressive range of experience that will help ensure the dissolution process is carried out with minimal disruption for residents and employees and in a manner that leaves all three municipalities well-positioned for future growth."

The transition board is tasked with helping to ensure that all affected municipalities, their residents and employees are respected and treated in a fair and equitable manner. The advice of the board will help ensure the continuation of high-quality local services without interruption during the transition period and into the future. The board will help ensure financial sustainability throughout the dissolution process and its recommendations will help inform government decisions that may be required to implement the restructuring.

The dissolution of Peel Region and

the establishment of a transition board was announced as part of the Hazel McCallion Act, which received Royal Assent on June 8.

Approximately 1.5 million residents currently live in the municipalities that make up the Region of Peel and this is ex-

pected to grow to over two million by 2041.

The Ontario government is expanding strong mayor powers to the mayors of 26 municipalities – including Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon – as part of the province's work to build 1.5 million homes by 2031.

Ford's transition team threatens public services in Peel, union says

The union that represents 4,000 workers who deliver vital public services to Peel-area residents expressed deep dismay and misgivings that the best qualified advocates for public services have not been given a seat on the transition board overseeing the dissolution of the Regional Municipality of Peel.

The Conservative government released the names of five members that will steer the dissolution of Peel to make Mississauga, Brampton, and Caledon independent municipalities by early 2025.

Under the management of the named board, CUPE Ontario fears that the dissolution of the region will lead to a drastic reduction in the quality and number of services to residents of Mississauga, Brampton, and Caledon, as well as the loss of good jobs in those communities. When the transition board was announced earlier this year, CUPE Ontario sent an official correspondence to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing asking for a seat.

"Having union representation throughout the process of dissolution is paramount," says Fred Hahn, president of CUPE Ontario. "The people of Peel should be very worried about their services. This transition team, that will cost the people of Peel \$800,000 for 19 months, is made of folks – none of whom are from the region of Peel, lawyers who advocate for privatization, and a retired police chief – it just shows how deeply out of touch the Ford Conservatives really are. Regardless of this very troubling challenge, CUPE Ontario will work with others to stand with our members who work and live in the Peel Region."

The dissolution of Peel is unprecedented in Ontario and the exact de-

tails of how Bill 112 will impact CUPE members in the region are currently unknown.

Salil Arya, the president of CUPE 966, which represents 2,000 members employed by Peel Region, says that the provincial government could have included union representation on the dissolution board to ensure that services are maintained.

"There should not be any services and supports lost to the people of Peel – not one job loss," Arya says. "Members of CUPE Local 966 are walking a fine line, and the government has not been transparent about how this process will work. We cannot let them steamroll through the vital services people depend on everyday – nor union rights and the rights of workers."

In a region where almost 70 per cent of the population identifies as racialized people, CUPE Ontario is astonished that the transition board in no way reflects the reality of these communities. "This is just another reminder of what systemic racism looks like under the Ford Conservatives," said Hahn.

"The union will continue to work with our allies to ensure that Peel residents and members will have access to quality public services. And it's not too late – this Conservative government still has the power to include CUPE and community representatives. And no matter what they do, we will fight to preserve and build more public services for this growing and important part of our province."

CUPE represents about 4,000 members employed by the Region of Peel and the lower-tier municipalities who provide a broad range of services including long-term care, accessible transit, public health, human services, public works and infrastructure.



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Historic government investments in wetlands

The Ontario government is investing up to \$6.9 million in approximately 100 local conservation projects to restore and enhance wetlands across the province. This funding will help 14 conservation partners restore more than 2,400 acres of wetlands in Ontario, which combined is larger than Presqu'île Provincial Park, near Brighton.

The projects will improve water quality, help prevent flooding and build climate change resiliency.

"I am proud of our government's commitment to restoring wetlands, as this new funding represents one of the largest investments in wetland restoration in Ontario's history, said Stephen Lecce, MPP for King-Vaughan. "Our plan will restore more than 2,400 acres of wetlands in the province, improving water quality, helping prevent flooding and building climate change resiliency."

"We're very proud of these historic investments and to be working with conservation organizations and municipalities to restore and enhance the health of wetlands in Ontario," said David Piccini, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. "We will continue to support more wetlands

projects to ensure vital ecosystems in the province are protected, now and in the future."

The Wetlands Conservation Partner Program represents one of the largest investments in wetland restoration in Ontario's history. The five-year, \$30-million program supports a wide range of projects, restoring and enhancing large-scale wetlands, smaller wetlands on marginal agricultural lands, and wetlands in more urban areas as part of municipal stormwater management.

In this third year of the program, the province is working in partnership with a number of Ontario-based conservation organizations and municipalities, including the program's first partner Ducks Unlimited Canada, which is celebrating 85 years of conservation leadership.

The wetland restoration and enhancement projects include:

Another 40 wetland restoration projects, covering approximately 838 acres, will be delivered by Ducks Unlimited Canada in southern Ontario. All will improve water quality, provide habitat for at-risk species and increase climate change resiliency in communities

across the province.

13 wetlands restoration and enhancement projects are being implemented by the Nature Conservancy of Canada across southern Ontario, covering approximately 153 acres of wetlands. Projects include managing invasive species, expanding and restoring wetlands to mitigate flooding and planting native species to enhance biodiversity. Projects support coastal wetlands along Lake Huron, Lake St. Clair, Turkey Point in Lake Erie and Eastern Lake Ontario.

In the Lake Ontario watershed, three wetland enhancement projects led by the Royal Botanical Gardens, including Rock Chapel and two coastal wetlands, one in Cootes Paradise and the second in Grindstone Marsh, will enhance wetland habitats and connectivity, help manage invasive species and improve resiliency impacts such as extreme water levels in the lake.

Ontario will also support new projects with the remaining funding under the Wetlands Conservation Partner Program with a new call for applications this year. The government will begin accepting applications starting Aug. 8.

Municipalities, conservation organizations and Indigenous communities are encouraged to apply for the remaining funding under the program from Aug. 8 to Sept. 12.

Since the program was launched in 2020, \$20 million has been invested in over 330 wetland projects, restoring and enhancing approximately 7,200 acres of wetlands across the province. That's about eight times the size of the Toron-

to Islands.

"Wetlands are essential resources that improve water quality, provide habitat for at-risk species and increase climate change resiliency. Ducks Unlimited Canada believes that ongoing investments and strong partnerships are critical to restoring and enhancing these valuable ecosystems. We look forward to building on the success of the Wetlands Conservation Partner Program and adding another 40 projects to the 105 already delivered by Ducks Unlimited Canada during the first two years of the program. With the support of the Province of Ontario and our many conservation partners and landowners, we can contribute to the health, sustainability and prosperity of communities throughout southern Ontario," said Michael Nadler, CEO, Ducks Unlimited Canada.

"The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is grateful for the continued support through Ontario's Wetlands Conservation Partner Program. This investment will support 13 habitat restoration and enhancement projects aimed at removing harmful invasive species, connecting fragmented wetlands, and creating more wetland habitat across Ontario. When we restore nature, we restore the benefits that nature provides to wildlife and people. Habitat restoration is our opportunity to reverse the trend of biodiversity decline and conserve nature's many benefits including water quality, carbon storage and flood mitigation," added Mark Stabb, Program Director for Central Ontario East, Nature Conservancy of Canada.

York Region diverts 94% of waste from landfill, top diversion rates achieved

York Region achieved 94% waste diversion from landfill in 2022, exceeding Regional Council's goal of 90% for the sixth consecutive year. York Region's diversion rate includes all waste collected through local municipal curbside programs, waste depot diversion programs and energy-from-waste.

The 2022 Annual Waste Management Report outlines York Region's waste reductions and diversion initiatives and highlights progress on the Integrated Waste Management Master Plan (SM4RT Living Plan) including:

Waste generation rates have decreased sharply following two years of increases due to COVID-19; green bin and garbage rates are now close to 2019 levels.

York Region and local cities and towns continue making progress on all objectives in the SM4RT Living Plan, including advancing procurement of long-term organics processing, continued advocacy on single-use plastics and extended producer responsibility.

York Region Waste depots scored 4.5 out of 5 in customer satisfaction.

Through the SM4RT Living Plan, York Region continues to advance reduction, diversion and circular economy actions. In 2022, reuse programming such as Repair Cafes and Lenderies restarted and the first round of Circular Economy Initiatives Fund projects were completed.

York Region will recognize Plastics-Free July, an international effort to raise awareness and drive action to reduce negative impacts of single-use plastics on the environment. Learn more at york.ca/waste

Free training for electricians

The Ontario government is investing \$2.7 million to support an innovative project to help 65 electrical workers upgrade their skills and meet the demand for qualified electricians in eastern Ontario.

Led by KE Electrical, the free program will provide participants with the training needed to progress from labourer to apprentice, apprentice to journeyman, and journeyman to foreman. This will help electrical workers earn more take-home pay for themselves and their families, while tackling the critical shortage of skilled trades workers the province faces.

"Right across the province, we're facing historic labour shortages with thousands of jobs going unfilled in skilled trades each and every day," said Premier Doug Ford. "Programs like these are helping to ensure we have the skilled workforce to build the homes, schools, hospitals and infrastructure projects our growing province needs."

Across Ontario, at least 1,600 more electricians are needed - a number projected to grow in the coming years, with one-in-three skilled trades workers aged 55 or over and nearing retirement. This project will provide new and existing KE Electrical workers with the chance to participate in 8,500 hours of hands-on training focused on learning technical skills and abilities, health and safety, professional development and other critical industry skills.

"When you have a career as an electrician, you have a career for life," said Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. "That is why our government will continue to invest in ground breaking training programs that help

people gain the skills they need to advance their careers and build Ontario."

In addition to helping 65 men and women take the next step in their careers in an in-demand industry, the program will help the province find the electricians needed to help build its historic infrastructure plans. Training will be delivered at sites throughout eastern Ontario and will be free to all employees, while mileage and other travel expenses will be reimbursed.

"KE Electrical Ltd. wishes to thank Premier Ford and Minister McNaughton for this critical investment," said Gordon Kemp, President at KE Electrical Ltd. "This funding will allow us to upskill, retrain, and develop our workforce so we can continue to deliver our crucial services to underserved communities. Together, we are breaking down barriers and stereotypes to ensure that Ontario becomes a leader in training the next generation of skilled tradespeople."

The project is funded through the government's Skills Development Fund, an over \$700 million initiative, which supports innovative programs that connect jobseekers with the skills and training they need to find well-paying careers close to home.

Through its first three funding rounds, the Skills Development Fund has supported 596 projects, to help almost 522,000 people around the province take the next step in their careers.

In March 2023, there were roughly 300,000 jobs vacant in Ontario.

Ontario's Skills Development Fund is supported through labour market transfer agreements between the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

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Impressive agriculture robots work the fields

Local farmers got a glimpse of new technology at the Ontario Crops Research Station July 12. The AgRobotics Working group, comprised of more than 120 people, provided a demonstration of both available and future technologies that will revolutionize the Ontario production systems. Sponsors for the day included the University of Guelph, Fresh Vegetable Growers of Ontario, the provincial government, Haggery AgRobotics, Picketa Systems, Bradford Co-op Storage and FarmDroid, Naio Technologies.

FarmDroid FD20 is an innovative field robot that helps farmers and plant breeders reduce their costs of sowing and weeding in a CO2-neutral and ecological way.



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Arts & Entertainment

George Burt honoured at Portraits of Giving reception

By Jim Stewart

The poignant inscription on George Burt's recognition board succinctly distilled why residents and dignitaries were gathered to honor the master wood turner, teacher, book shop owner, craft show circuit artisan, and philanthropist at the King Township Municipal Centre recently.

The congenial 90-year-old's charitable contributions over decades of service to municipalities in King and Simcoe Region were evident to all attendees. Burt's philosophy – printed on a stylized poster that provided context to the proceedings – captured his spirit of community: "We are all dependent on each other and can't live and enjoy life without each other. Being involved and setting an example is an opportunity to motivate others to be givers."

By all accounts delivered on that special afternoon, George Burt has been a significant giver over the nine decades he has graced us with his presence and

presents. When asked about the best part of the reception in his honor, Burt replied jokingly, "When you get to be 90 years old, it's great to be anywhere."

Burt was generous in his praise of the volunteers that he has worked with for the last seven decades and appreciated the public forum to thank so many: "It was nice to be able to thank the people who made this possible. All the great charitable organizations I've belonged to – every one of them has made a contribution through their actions and fundraising. Charity goes beyond reaching into your pocket."

George Burt also thanked all the dignitaries gathered for their kind words and noted "the social importance of the fraternal brotherhoods – specifically, the Masons and Shriners – who raise \$1 million daily worldwide for charitable causes."

One of the many highlights of the town hall reception was the performance of teenage vocalist Vanessa Wang, who also sang at the 28th annu-



al Police Appreciation Night in Concord in May. Wang's dulcet tones were on display in her delivery of "You are the Light" – a tribute to George Burt that was so moving that the honoree "wanted an encore." Burt's wish for a second song was granted by the soulful songstress. The Grade 12 graduate from Richmond Hill delivered a brilliant rendition of John Lennon's fifty-two-year-old classic "Imagine" to close the reception in a meaningful manner. Vanessa knew her audience – as all great performers do.

Significant among the attendees were Mayor Steve Pellegrini and King-Vaughan MP Anna Roberts who lauded Burt's works of charity and his volunteer spirit. Mayor Pellegrini, an ardent advocate of volunteerism in King, spoke from the heart about Burt's significant contributions to community: "It's people like George Burt that make King beautiful." The mayor extolled the virtues of volunteers like George Burt and praised the incredible charitable acts of the Schomberg Masonic Hall Union Lodge – the brotherhood to which Burt has actively belonged for over 50 years.

Member of Parliament Anna Roberts congratulated Burt for contributing so significantly to "the collective well-being" and was "honored to acknowledge citizens like George."

Mike Foley, a neighbor and friend whose children were taught by Burt in his woodworking class, explained that "George has lived his life every day according to Benjamin Franklin's axiom 'What good shall I do today?'" He also shared one of his Burt's favourite remarks that "Any deed is a good deed."

Foley praised Burt's active role in the Masonic Order and offered a meaningful anecdote to capture the Lodge's spirit of giving: "The brotherhood once raised \$50,000 for a 14-year old deaf teenager at Sick Kids Hospital." As a result of the brotherhood's charity drive spearheaded by George, "the teenager heard for the first time because of the local Masons' fundraising."

Numerous charming stories were delivered during the afternoon reception to encapsulate a life that has clearly been well-lived. Representatives from the Township, the Art Society King, and St. Paul's United Church offered complimentary and complementary stories about the nonagenarian's positive impact on their respective organizations.

The 14th annual "Portraits of Giving" reception honored what one notable King Editor described as "a local legend." King Township's appreciation of George Burt's legendary talents and generosity was evident.



King-Vaughan MP Anna Roberts was on hand to honour George Burt at the Portraits of Giving event.

Explore many York Forest trails

Visitors to the York Regional Forest can now enjoy almost two kilometres of accessible trail at the Nobleton Tract in the Township of King.

Accessible trails are wider, clear of large obstructions and graded to ensure ease of movement for everyone.

The York Regional Forest is open to the public 365 days per year with no cost to enter. The Forest is over 2,500 hectares and is made up of 24 Forest Tracts (22 of which are publicly accessible) located in different parts of the Region.

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Poets feature haikus at ASK event at Kingbridge

By Dorita Peer

The Kingbridge Centre hosted “A Picnic with Poets,” featuring The Haiku Hunt event organized by Arts Society King.

Overlooking one of the fountain-graced ponds, 25 participants were treated to the works of six local poets, who had explored the grounds earlier that day in search of inspiration for their haiku compositions done on site. The tradition of these three-line, 17-syllable poems seeks to capture a moment in time and season in Nature.

Impressions of a fair sky and sparkling water made a fine backdrop for

the stars of the show: a painted turtle, toadstools, fishes and no surprise a large family of Canada geese. Background music courtesy of operatic bullfrogs, insects and birds. Some unexpected guests dropped in and lingered: a kingbird, a cedar waxwing and a white-tailed skimmer dragonfly.

Poets Debbie Fox, Lavinia Maria, Diliny De Alwis, Brian Boake, Brian Burns and yours truly, Dorita Peer, also brought poems from our own collections of work to entertain, startle and amaze the visitors over lunch.

Afterwards, the audience were invited to ramble the beautiful grounds in search of their own inspiring moments.



McMichael announces the first Thomson retrospective in more than 20 years

Tom Thomson (1877–1917) was Canada’s preeminent modern painter, an artist whose unprecedented brilliance blazed the trail for the formation of the Group of Seven in the wake of his tragic death in 1917 at Canoe Lake in Algonquin Park.

Indisputably, his catalytic achievement changed the face of Canadian painting forever. “Tom Thomson: North Star” offers a close look at his legacy, focussing on the small oil paintings, also known as oil sketches, of which he is the supreme master.

“With Thomson, because the career is so brief – really less than four years – it is less of an arc and more of an explosion,” says exhibition curator Ian A.C. DeJardin, Executive Director of the McMichael. “What will be key is to learn more about the sparks that set it off.”

The subject of many catalogues, books, plays, musical compositions, films and exhibitions, Thomson has a canonical place in Canadian culture, and each generation must reckon with his legacy anew, bringing to bear the fresh perspectives of their time. North Star is first major Thomson retrospective in more than 20 years and will bring together more than 130 oil sketches from the McMichael’s permanent collection, the National Gallery of Canada, the Art Gallery of Ontario, and other national museums and private collections.

Organized both by chronology and by theme, DeJardin and Michael Chief Curator Sarah Milroy (CM) will pare away the inessential to get at the essence of Thomson’s vision and iso-

late particular moments of artistic experimentation. A handful of larger scale studio works will also be included, demonstrating the transition from sketch to canvas.

The exhibition will further consider Thomson within the framework of the international art of its time. “I tend to see the influence of Post-Impressionism as a liberation, rather than a prescribed stylistic approach,” added DeJardin. “The way that the ripples of Post-Impressionism spread out across the world, charging the creativity of artists like Tom Thomson and Emily Carr, is fascinating.”

Finally, the exhibition and accompanying publication will consider Thomson’s distinctive public persona as the quintessential woodsman at home in the rugged northland—a persona crafted by both his contemporaries and post-humously.

“A national obsession with the mystery of Tom Thomson’s death by drowning in Canoe Lake, and a myth-making propensity to focus on his ‘lonely woodsman’ persona have often distracted attention from where his genius truly lies – in the hundreds of dazzling small oil sketches that he produced in his short career,” said DeJardin. “This show looks for Thomson, not in the mythology and conspiracy theories, but in these small masterpieces.”

The exhibition is on view at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection through Jan. 14, 2024 and will travel to the Art Gallery of Alberta in February 2024.

For more information, please visit mcmichael.com.



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Golfers support Annual Mayor's Tournament

By Jim Stewart

A Western-themed fundraiser attracted 236 Stetson-donning, Cowboy-booted golfers to Nobleton Lakes GC last week.

The Mayor's Annual Golf Tournament, which has been running in King for over 20 years, was a roaring success with more than 59 foursomes dotting the verdant landscape of the north Nobleton course. Fortuitously, the stormy weather stayed away and the golfers were largely unimpeded by what was an ominous forecast.

All 27 holes were deployed for the King-sized tourney as more than 200 golfers descended on Nobleton Lakes' three pristine nine-hole layouts – aptly named “The Woods, The Lakes” and “The View,” respectively.

Mayor Pellegrini was pleased by both the turnout and the range of residents participating in his fundraiser: “It’s a community event. We have service organizations at the tournament including the Knights of Columbus and the Lions Club. We have so many local business leaders in attendance. The Chamber of Commerce is here.

“Over twenty-five businesses are on the course providing the golfers with great food and drink as well as prizes for skill contests. So many residents are here today giving to a great cause. Their greens fees will be donated in large part to support initiatives in the Township of King Parks, Recreation,

and Culture.”

The mayor, who started his career of municipal service in Parks and Recreation, delineated many worthy projects that have been supported by the tournament over the past decade, including “minor sports facilities, training harnesses for the figure skating club, new soccer fields, improvements to the museum and library, new recreation centres, and support for underprivileged kids to access both minor sports registration and the equipment they need to participate.”

The Nobleton Lakes putting green area was transformed for opening ceremonies into a visually appealing Wild West “Whiskey Sour Saloon” and Trading Post, thanks to the stellar work of Teresa Barresi (Executive Assistant to the Mayor) and her dedicated team of organizers who clearly put in hours of diligent work to create the motif of the day and organize 236 golfers.

Organizing team spokesperson Tania Sciotto expressed her gratitude under overcast skies for the “comfortable weather conditions” that greeted the participants when the shotgun start launched at 11:30 a.m. sharp last Thursday. Sciotto addressed the substantial changes to the event, notably a strategic switch from a dinner to breakfast “to shorten the day for the golfers. We’ve gone to lots of on-course samplings and more events and contests for our 236 golfers.”

The cornucopia of delights – assem-



bled for the golfers at eighteen hospitality stations across the Lakes, Woods, and View nine-hole layouts that comprise Nobleton Lakes – was compelling. Beer sampling from Craft Kitchen and Beer Beer, Beer sampling from Hockley Valley Brewing Company, Beer and Cider Sampling from Thornbury Cidery and Brewery, wine sampling from Holland Marsh Wineries, Tequila Margarita sampling from Corby Spirit and Wine Limited, Whiskey Sampling from Corby Spirit and Wine Limited, coffee and cookies from Tim Hortons, coffee and cannoli from Motorino, Ice Cream Truck from Olympic Softee, and cookies from Molly’s Market were available at registration.

In addition to these delightful on-course delicacies, golfers were also treated to a pasta sampling from Vivo Pizza and Pasta (Nobleton), a pasta sampling from Cappuccino Bakery, a Hollywood Pizza station, a Motorino Pizza Truck at the Halfway House, a pulled pork Sampling or a ball park hotdog (courtesy of the host Nobleton Lakes GC), a corn and fries sampling from Mr. Corn Ltd., and a brisket slider from Leonardo’s Pizzeria and Smokehouse.

In addition to these tasty treats that appealed to a wide range of palates, the golfing acumen of participants was challenged through 14 on-course contests including Beat the Golf Pro on Lakes #6 and Woods #5, sponsored by the Host Club; Longest Drive on Woods

#1 and Lakes #4, sponsored by McDonald’s (Schomberg); Closest to the Keg on View #4 and Woods #6 (Thornbury Cidery and Brewery and Hockley Valley Brewing Company, respectively); Chamber Chipping Contest, sponsored by the King Chamber of Commerce, at Woods #7; Bean Bag Toss, sponsored by Vianet Inc. at View #9; a Closest to the Pin on View #6, sponsored by Chilly Moose Ltd; Straightest Drive on Woods #9, sponsored by the host club; and, amazingly, three Hole-in-One contests on Lakes #2, Woods #8, and View #3, sponsored by Lexus of Richmond Hill, Serpa Automotive Boutique, and Vaughan Chrysler, respectively. Finally, the host club ran a putting contest on their Best Ball skills. Drive for show, but putt for dough as the old golf adage goes.

See ‘Sponsors’ on Page 13



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Sponsors treat golfers around course

From Page 12

To augment the on-course contests, organizers also included four activities for the golfers including a Stretching Station on Woods #2, sponsored by Physiomed Nobleton; a Photo Op on the Halfway House Hill, sponsored by Francesco Vennare Photography; and a Mechanical Bull and a Wild West Shootout rounded out the Western motif on Woods #1 and Lakes #1, respectively.

With these samplings, contests, and activities planned and delivered to 236 golfers, Tania Sciotto looked out from the putting green, gave thanks for the sun breaking through the clouds, and was pleased to note that “the funds from this big event stay within King and are put into recreational initiatives.”

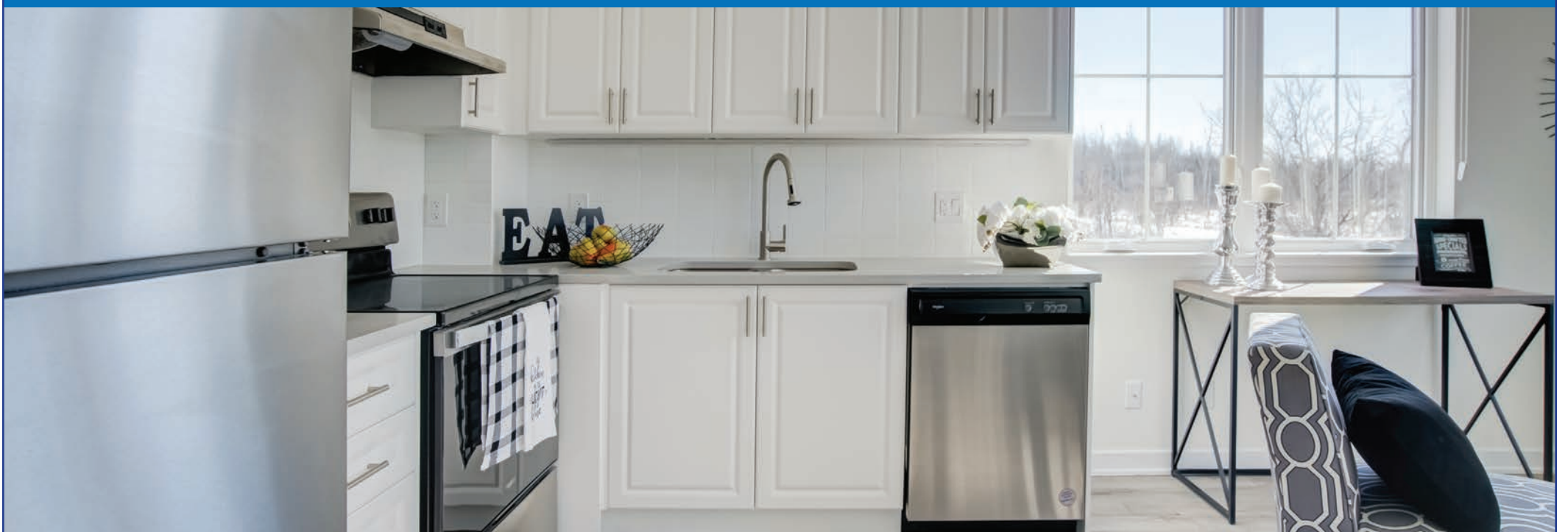
The impressive initiative of the organizing committee, spearheaded by Barresi, Sciotto, and their steering committee, made King a better place for residents through the imminent improvements to parks, recreational, and cultural facilities across the Township that will be provided via the profits of the Mayor’s Annual Golf Tournament.



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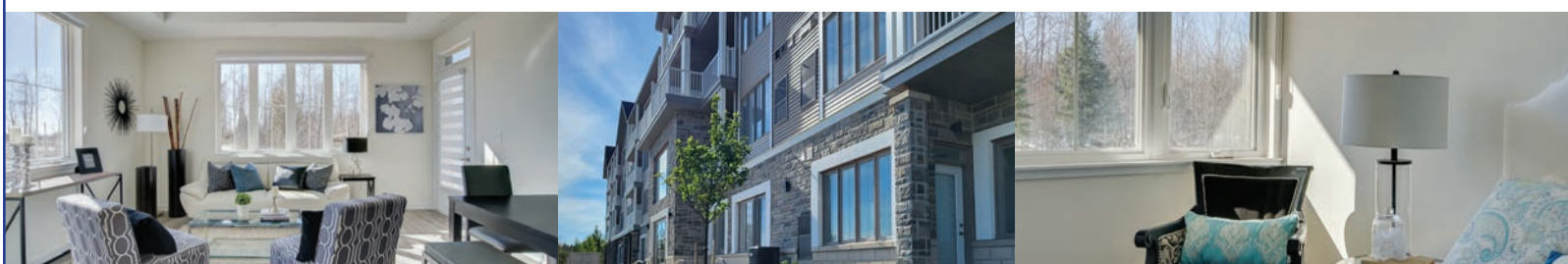


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August training camp looms for Schomberg Cougars

Catching up with
the Cougars

By Jim Stewart

The Schomberg Cougars' Training Camp opens in less than four weeks and the PJHL's management team is busy preparing for the 2023-24 season.

Co-Head Coaches Mark Hrinco and Cerrone Natale, Co-General Managers Sandy Bell and Murray Taylor, Athletic Therapist Drew Laskoski, and Assistant Coach/Head of Player Personnel and Recruiting Stan Kondrotas were immersed in a Zoom call to review their roster and make plans for training camp, exhibition games, a possible preseason tournament in Midland, and opening night festivities.

Coach Kondrotas, who is taking on a broader managerial role with the club after two very successful seasons as the Cougars' bench boss, was suffering from "cabin fever on a 13-degree day in a cottage at The Lake of the Woods in a different time zone" when I contacted him. He interrupted his cold, rainy vacation in Northwestern Ontario to chat warmly about the Cougars' recent history and offered an enthusiastic vision for the upcoming season: "Schomberg has risen up from the bottom of the standings three seasons ago to second

place last year. We've got such great ownership – great people running the hockey club. With their support, we were able to rebuild quickly in Year 1 despite having 15 first-year players on the roster and many of those players matured so quickly we were able to make it to the divisional finals, our Captain (Cameron Kokelj) was named Division MVP and finished second in scoring in a 60-team league, and we had some of the top scorers in the PJHL. We had a very good year but lost a Game 7 in the divisional semifinals; we're going to rebuild this year around a solid core of players – Lioni, Nascimento, O'Hara, Palazzo, Lychek, and Gallow – who will have opportunities to fill the spots of two terrific departing, graduating players in Cam (Kokelj) and Luke (Miehm)."

Coach Kondrotas, who will also be serving as the Head Coach of the 16U North Central Predators, will be helping the Cougars with their transition year as he evolves in his respective roles in Orillia and Schomberg: "The Predators are a Draft Year team operating out of Orillia so I am looking forward to this different kind of coaching opportunity. However, I like to be involved in Schomberg and help out in as many ways as possible with the Cougars and will also serve as Assistant Coach this year."



Wesley O'Hara (22) and Jordyn Palazzo (9) will be key returning players for the Schomberg Cougars in the 2023-24 PJHL season.

He had nothing but praise for his Assistant Coaches Mark Hrinco and Cerrone Natale, who were promoted during the off-season to Co-Head Coaches: "Both Mark and Cerrone are skilled guys with huge hockey experiences and knowledge. Mark is an amazing Defense Coach who is passionate about that aspect of hockey and made our team so much better in the defensive end last season."

Kondrotas discussed the number of personnel changes with teams in the Cougars' division, including Stayner losing its top scorer to Uxbridge and a flurry of player movements affecting Orillia, Midland, and Alliston. He mentioned that there has been a "fair amount of speculation and preseason jockeying going on" as teams prepare for training camp to round out their rosters "especially after each of the teams lost their four overage kids from last year."

The veteran coach, who was the bench boss in Caledon before assuming the reins of leadership in Schomberg, feels that the Cougars are in a state of becoming and there is currently a carousel at the goaltending position "with a number of moves still pending regarding incumbents and prospects." The art of roster-building is a fine balancing act: "We can't just build for today – you always need to look down the road. Planning for the future is a

key consideration in working a rebuild. We're all building hockey teams in July and August."

An essential part of building the 2023-24 version of the Schomberg Cougars will take place during their main training camp on August 11, 14, 19, and 20 at the Trisan Centre. In addition to this four-day camp, the team is tentatively scheduled to participate in a preseason tournament in Midland where the Cougars coaching staff's "objective will be to look at players that could be APs as well as key players that will fill out our roster for the upcoming season. These kinds of games provide a better level of competition than a standard red and white game. These guys will have more skin in the game as opposed to veteran players going lightly at one another in a red-white game."

As pre-season training and exhibition games in baseball often invoke the famous phrase "Hope Springs Eternal" for all participating teams in Florida and Arizona, the dog days of August evoke similar feelings of hope for a great hockey season ahead.

The Schomberg Cougars are no exception to this kind of infectious enthusiasm and the management team of Mark Hrinco, Cerrone Natale, Stan Kondrotas, Sandy Bell, Murray Taylor, and Drew Laskowski are ready to skate into the 2023-24 season.



Canadian Olympian Mac Cone took third riding Con Couleur in the \$50,000 Brookstreet Grand Prix.

Photo by Ben Radvanyi Photography

King's Mac Cone takes two tops spots

By Mark Pavilons
Editor

King's Mac Cone took two of the top six placings the \$50,000 Brookstreet Grand Prix July 15 in Ottawa.

And, for the second week in a row, Canadian Olympian Amy Millar of Perth, ON, led the victory gallop at Wesley Clover Parks.

Hot off her victory riding GCS Athena one week earlier in the \$50,000 RBC Grand Prix, Millar once again came out on top in the \$50,000 Brookstreet Grand Prix, this time partnered with Christiano. Millar also won the \$15,000 Open Welcome both weeks of competition riding GCS Athena, owned by Brookstreet Stables, and Don't Worry Farmer, owned by Millar Brooke Farm, respectively, setting a record as the only competitor to ever win all four major Open Jumper events at the back-to-back Ottawa Summer Tournaments.

"It's been a pretty special two weeks," said Millar, who trains out of her family's Millar Brooke Farm in nearby Perth. "My horses have been super and it's always fun to win at home. Each of my horses won something so that's very special and makes me feel good about my string and the management of them. It's been great."

With three horses entered in the \$50,000 Brookstreet Grand Prix, Millar qualified two for the jump-off over the course set by course designer Ana Catalina "Catsy" Cruz of Mexico. She was joined by Susan Horn of Bolton,



ON, who qualified both of her horses for the jump-off, as did Canadian Olympian Mac Cone of King City. François Lamontagne of Saint-Eustache, QC, made it seven for the jump-off riding Chanel du Calvaire.

While five of the seven jump-off contenders again jumped clear, none were faster than Millar and Christiano, a 13-year-old Brandenburg gelding (Canoso x Compliment) owned by Future Adventures.



Susan Horn of Bolton, finished runner-up in the event, riding KS Coradina for owner Kingsfield Farm.



With a jump-off time of 34.34 seconds, Millar took the win over Horn, who had stopped the clock in 35.39 seconds riding KS Coradina, a 16-year-old Latvian Warmblood mare (Corlensky G x Cardento 933). Horn, who trains with Millar Brooke, also jumped clear in a time of 36.32 seconds to take fifth place with Kirlo van den Bosrand, a 13-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding (Cardento 993 x Utrillo Z). Both horses are owned by her family's Kingsfield Farm.

Having finished runner-up in the \$50,000 RBC Grand Prix one week earlier, Cone and Con Couleur, a 12-year-old Mecklenburg gelding (Conthargos x Couleur Rubin), settled for third with a time of 35.90 seconds. Cone also took sixth place after incurring four faults in the jump-off aboard the eight-year-old Oldenburg gelding, Ogandros PS. Both of his mounts are owned by Mark Samuel's Chadburn Holdings Inc.

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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, "Creeping Compromise" from Hosea 7. 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 or on our YouTube channel each Sunday at 10 a.m., or on demand at youtube.com/stpaulschurchnobleton.

Beginning next Monday, St. Paul's will be transformed into a theme park. Waterworks Park Vacation Bible School will be held from Monday, July 24 to 28, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. each day. Through the "rides, shows, and attractions" at this fun-tastic water park, kids ride the wave of God's love, learning how much God loves them and how exciting it is to be loved by God. Children ages 4 to 12 are invited to splash-splash into God's Word and join the thrills and spills of this summer's Bible Fun Camp. If you haven't yet registered and are thinking of doing so, please contact kidmin@stpaulsnobleton.ca as soon as possible.

St. Paul's continues to look for God's choice for our part-time Pastoral Musician position. If you love Jesus, play piano and can lead a praise team and a congregation in worship, we'd like to hear from you! Send your résumé to jeff@stpaulsnobleton.ca.

Is there something we could pray about for you? Our "Drive-Thru" prayer event is up and running again. Just drive on in and you will be directed to someone whose honour it would be to pray for you. You don't even get out of your car for this one. Our next "Drive-Thru" prayer event will take place Wednesday, July 26 from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

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

St. Mary's Church

We are only 1 week away from the complimentary KofC Family BBQ and Picnic taking place on July 23 at Cold Creek Conservation Area in Nobleton. Sign-up sheets are available in the foyer of both churches.

Bring your family and join us for fun games, delicious BBQ lunch, and fellowship.

If you are away from our parish during the summer months, there are over 200 parishes in the GTA ready to welcome you for the celebration of the Holy Mass. Click the following link for a parish nearest you:

<https://www.archtoronto.org/en/contact-us/find-a-parish/>

The Parish Office will remain open from Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Parish Office will remain open from Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Browse our websites:

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

St. Mary's Mission: <https://stmarys-no.archtoronto.org/>

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

Please note, the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession is available from Tuesday to Friday before the 9 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Patrick's Parish and on Saturdays between 4 and 4:45 p.m. at St. Mary's Mission Church.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession is also available on the First Friday of the month at St. Patrick's Parish after the 9 a.m. Holy Mass and at St. Mary's Mission after the 7 p.m. Holy Mass (Sept. - June) during Holy Hour - Eucharistic Adoration.

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

Nobleton Seniors By Joanne Bailey

We welcome all seniors to the Nobleton Arena to participate in meaningful activities, create new friendships and to share ideas. We are located at 15 Old King Rd.

Please note there are some location changes for the summer.

Our current summer schedule for July to August 2023 is as follows:

Monday: Outdoor Bocce, 10 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (weather permitting).

Tuesday: Mobility Matters, 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church (5750 King Rd.).

Wednesday: Walking Group at Tasca Park at 10 a.m.

Friday: Mobility Matters, 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.

We are currently seeking more volunteers for our Nobleton group. If interested please contact Joanne Bailey at 416-706-9375 or email Erin Burford, Coordinator of Recreation Programs at: eburford@king.ca

Be sure to visit the website king.ca for seniors for more information on programs, workshops, and senior memberships.

Horticulture By John Arnott

Splashes of blue some vivid, others more subtle in open fields, roadside banks and even in country road ditches greet us on sunny days or rainy ones as summer deepens. Blueweed (echium vulgare) and chicory (cicorium intybus) are the denizens of summer responsible for this wash of azure that seems to be just everywhere. Both are immigrants to the Americas and my favourite summer wild flowers.

Chicory, originally from the Mediterranean region, is easy to recognize by its daisy like flowers in delicate blue which are formed by 2 rows of toothed petals surrounding deeper blue stamens with white tipped anthers. They're carried on an almost leafless stem that can rise a metre high above a ground level whorl of (round cluster) deeply lobed dandelion like leaves. These flowers close by mid afternoon and on rainy days. There are pink and white flowering chicories but these are rare finds. The mature chicory plant has a long baby finger thick taproot and like all plants with taproots makes it difficult to transplant. It does self seed and can be invasive if left to its own devices but I have found it fairly easy to curb its enthusiasm to spread and I have 3 plants growing happily in my garden June to November.

Chicory has a long history to which its botanical name attests - cicorium, from the Greek kichore for endive - is the name the Romans gave endive and intybus is Latin for the ancient Egyptian month Tibi (January) when it was harvested in this country. Its bitter-tasting leaves were used raw in salads but were also boiled to reduce the bitterness and eaten as we do spinach. Chicory root was dried and ground for use to treat liver complaints.

This sun-loving hardy perennial is a close relative of not only the dandelion but also endives in fact many Americans call endive chicory. Radicchio and Belgium endive are cultivated hybrids of common chicory. Dried ground chicory roots in modern times is caffeine free substitute for coffee. And during the depression years in the 1930s and World II "coffee," especially in Europe actually came from chicory. Even today most prisons in the USA use chicory as coffee.

Now, blueweed or vipers bugloss, a native to southern Europe and temperate western Asia, is making a spectacular show in my garden this summer. It gets its rather alarming botanical name echium from echis Greek for viper a poisonous snake found throughout Europe including Britain, and vulgare Latin for common, as covering that holds its seeds resembled to the naming botanists a viper's head and it was long thought to be an antidote for snake bites.

Blueweed also a sun lover is biennial whose seed produces a white taproot and ground level set of grey-green long pointed narrow leaves the first year and a stem up to a metre or more/3 ft. Plus high carrying an abundance of bright blue flowers the second year then having completed its life cycle dies. But this being said, sometimes blueweed will live 3 or 4 years and be thought of by horticulturists as a short lived perennial. A passing look at this plant's beautiful tiny trumpet shaped flowers will catch a touch of pink and purple. And a closer look will reveal that the buds are indeed pink and the several stamens that protrude from each flower are purple-red. The whole above ground plant is covered in fine almost prickly hairs.

Both these summer beauties, once established, are easy care plants for the meadow or wild sun drenched garden or even my small patch.



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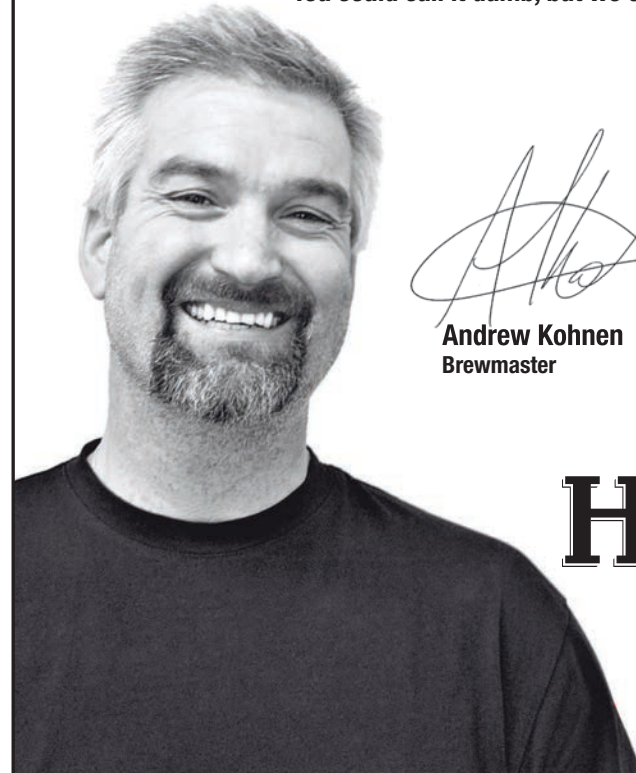


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He took what he could from there and ventured to Scotland, Cornwall, and ultimately to Krefeld, Germany, working in the same brewery that had belonged to his ancestors. He came home to Canada for Hockley.

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Andrew Kohlen
Andrew Kohlen
Brewmaster

Hockley
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From Page 16

St. Andrew's
By Kathy Patterson

Our Sunday morning worship is at 10:30 a.m. Thank you to Erik deRoos, our Pulpit Supply last Sunday, speaking about forgiveness. God extends His forgiveness and mercy to us and by His help, we need to extend true forgiveness to others. Alison Agnew will be with us this Sunday and then Pastor Brian Robinson from Tottenham will be with us July 30.

Our website is standrews-kingcity.ca where previous services are posted.

We invite you to join us on Sundays and for the planned summer events. Tuesdays at Two Prayer Time runs 2-3 p.m. at the church. Join us as we pray for our families, congregation, and community. Then, this Friday, 2-3 p.m. Freezie Friday will take place in St. Andrew's Park. There also will be two Freezie Fridays in August: August 4 and 18. Come and meet the neighbours and enjoy a free freezie! For folks who will be away on Sundays, two summer gatherings are planned for mid-week. Dessert Night at the Pattersons is Wednesday, July 26 at 7 p.m. and A

Backyard BBQ at the Manse is Wednesday, August 23 at 5:30 p.m. Contact Alison at the church (905-833-2325) to find out more. Need someone to pray with, in confidence? Give us a call.

For pastoral care, please leave a message at the church at 905-833-2325 for Alison Agnew, call one of the Elders or call our Interim Moderator, the Rev. Jonathan Dennis (1-905-724-1979).

All Saints Anglican Church
By Patrick Gossage

Worship services continue in the chapel Sundays at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. All Are welcome to receive the Eucharist at either service.

Sower of Seeds – A sermon by Rev. Erin Martin on the parable of the sower in the Gospel of Matthew 13.

"This was the first piece of scripture I ever preached on. I was invited by my home church of Trinity Bradford. I'd gone into that first year confident that I'd learn everything I needed to know to do effective ministry. But after I left first year, I was in a bit of a panic because I had more questions than answers. I reflected on what it meant to make good soil and what it means to get ourselves ready to receive whatever

God throws at us.

"At that moment in my life, I thought it meant taking extra classes – anything to make me better equipped for ministry. In that sermon I talked about how many of the seeds God throws perish and are lost because they require the good soil of faith and love and openness to receiving God's word because without those things, God's seeds can't grow properly in us.

"But, when we've prepared the soil of our hearts; when we've opened ourselves to hear God, see God and feel God working and when we're prepared to join in what God's doing in the world, then and only then will those seeds produce a bumper crop.

"When I'd finished preaching that sermon, I realized that God wasn't asking me to take extra classes, or read more books, or practice my liturgical hand gestures ... God just wanted to work in me, with me, and through me. And if God was with me – I would be ready for whatever came my way in ministry and in life.

"Twenty years later I've learned that it's important to prepare ourselves to receive God's love. Because while this parable does talk about different kinds of soil, it also describes a prolific sower

who is ridiculously generous with the amount of seed he scatters.

"He casts the seed everywhere, even on thorny soil, rocky soil To those in Jesus's day, that kind of farming practice seemed foolish. But that's kind of on brand for Jesus. He generously showers us with abundant grace. The incredible, extravagant, abundant love shown to us on the cross seemed then like utter foolishness.

"So while it's a very good thing to prepare our hearts, quite frankly if there wasn't a sower who sowed generously, abundantly and even wastefully, it really wouldn't matter what kind of condition the soil of our hearts is in. I think that's why this story is so important. We need to know that God doesn't hold back. God may want our hearts to be good soil but no matter what will hurl a ridiculous amount of seed at us even when our hearts seem more like rocky, or thorny.

"God wants us to strive for the equality and dignity of all people. Because God loves us, God wants us to share what we have generously so that all people will have enough food and shelter. We can know that there is enough. We are enough. You are enough. God will never give up on us."

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Christine Edwards

Our hearts are breaking as we announce the passing of Christine Edwards (née Cullmann) on July 14, 2023, after a short illness. Best friend, true love, and high school sweetheart of David with whom she shared 45 years of marriage. Loving and proud mother to sons Jeff (Lindsay), Mike, and Tim and devoted Oma to Alex, Stella, Logan, and Jackson. Greatly missed by her parents Hans and Ursula Cullmann and mother-in-law Joan Edwards, sisters Pat Cumming and Debby Glavin, brothers-in-law Paul Edwards and Terry Cumming, sisters-in-law Janie Boulton and Debbie Edwards, and her many nieces and nephews.

Christine grew up in King City, Ontario where she was an alumnus of King City Secondary School. She graduated from University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy in 1978 and embarked on a career as a physiotherapist and healthcare administrator, beginning at St. John's Rehab Hospital in Toronto and Greater Niagara General Hospital in Niagara Falls before moving to Windsor Regional Hospital where she provided patient care and administrative leadership in a variety of roles for ~ 30 years. Christine loved gardening, hiking or any activity that took her outdoors, and she was in her happy place walking on the shores of Lake Erie at her home outside Rondeau Provincial Park with her dogs Foster and Yuko. She was proud of her German heritage and enjoyed many trips to Germany to visit family as well as travels throughout Europe, Scotland, Ireland, and the southwestern United States. Although she traveled extensively outside Canada, she also experienced and enjoyed the beauty of our great country from St. John's, Newfoundland to Tofino, British Columbia.

Christine was first and foremost a caregiver in both her professional and personal life. Her kindness and optimistic approach to life were appreciated by her patients and her friends and family. She valued the opportunity that she had in retirement to spend more time caring for her parents, mother-in-law, and grandkids and she took immense pleasure in her volunteer work helping newcomers to Canada with their English communication skills.

We are grateful to the staff at Windsor Regional Hospital, Metropolitan Campus for their exceptional professionalism and compassion in caring for Christine throughout her illness. Those who wish to honour her memory with a charitable donation may wish to support the Windsor Regional Hospital Foundation, Canadian Cancer Society, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada, or other healthcare-related cause that you are passionate about.

Cremation has taken place and interment will occur in a private family ceremony at Schomberg Union Cemetery. Christine's favourite season was autumn, and we look forward to celebrating her life and sharing memories with friends and family at that time at events to take place in York region and in the Windsor area. Online condolences for the family and memorial donations may be left at the Blenheim Community Funeral Home website: www.blenheimcommunityfuneralhome.com

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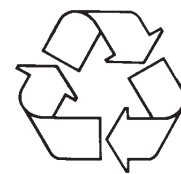
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The Scoop from Schomberg

By Susan Heslop

Well, let's just say I mixed up my "societies" a couple of weeks ago and I'd like to take the opportunity to apologize to Schomberg Horticultural society for referring to them after the garden tour, as the agricultural society. The wonderful garden tour is organized by the Horticultural society, but I mistakenly referred to them as the Agricultural society in the thank you from the Horticultural society. Are you still with me? Yes? Good.

Sorry for the "Society" mix up, it just proves you can read something a thousand times over, and have your Husband read it and still screw up your "societies" here in Schomberg. Again, my apologies.

Speaking of the Agricultural society, here is the list of Champions for the 2023 Schomberg Agricultural Fair Homecraft competition,

The Schomberg Agricultural Society wishes to extend their appreciation to all participants in the 2023 Homecraft Competitions. They had a great turnout

of competitors, both from residents and visitors. They rely on the displays of entries to make the Fair a success, and the entries this year were outstanding.

Don't forget it's this Saturday, July 22, that the Main Street will be closed, and it's requested you don't park on the street that day, to allow for "Sidewalkable Saturday" with a "twist." Main Street has partnered with the "Four Seasons Market" to host a pop-up market. There will also be sidewalks sales, live music by "Mainstreet" Band and more. They'll even be having our very own Elvis Tribute artist performing, you don't want to miss it. See you there!

Schomberg Library is hosting a "Make it Snappy" program for ages 8+ on Thursday, July 27, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. They invite you to come out to play with their Make Makey Boards and Snap Circuits and you can "Make it Snappy" there are limited spots so please register at the library or by email to info@king-library.ca

Last weekend "Cold Creek Disc Golf Course" opened so go check out the 18-hole disc golf course and give it a try, it's free for all. Cold Creek is open from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. For more information check out coldcreek.ca

The 55+ Group is taking a break for

the summer so the next meeting will be at the Schomberg Community Hall, September 7th at 10:30. Cost to join for King residents is \$15 single or a couple (two people residing at the same address) \$20, Non-residents \$20 single and \$30 for a couple. These fees are annual not monthly.

Euchre night is Thursday nights from 7 to 9 p.m. pm in the Curling Club at Trisan. It's \$10 per night or \$20 a month. Everyone is welcome to join but be prepared to laugh a lot and meet some great people.

King Township is organizing a new Volleyball league starting on July 19, in Osin Lions Park on Wednesday night 7 to 9 p.m. The cost is \$ 63.00 per player or if you'd like to join as a team, it's \$378 per team (minimum of 6, maximum of 8). This will run for 7 weeks. Check out king.ca/leagues for more info.

King has partnered with Pioneer Brand Honey in Nobleton to feature a local apiary at Cold Creek Conservation Area. King is also offering a Beginner Beekeeping Workshop on July 23 and an Apiary Guided Tour on August 6th. For more information, please visit King.ca/environmentalevents.

That's it for now, hope to see you out and about.

This quote spoke to me this week...

"Self-care is also not arguing with people who are committed to misunderstanding you" ~ Ayishat A. Akanbi

Again, if you find a lost dog or cat, please secure it and call Vaughan Animal Control at 905-832-2281, they are responsible for this area.

Please reach out with your events, stories of happenings or anything you'd love to see here spporter5952@gmail.com or 416-460-5952.

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Nobleton and Schomberg United Churches

By Nancy Hopkinson

Need a break? Join us for Schomberg United Church's next FREE senior's lunch and entertainment on Tuesday, August 15 at 11:30 a.m. (arrive by 11:15 a.m.) at St. Mary Magdalene Church, lower level, 116 Church St., Schomberg.

Back by popular demand, our entertainment will be the 4-string Uke Band. We will be taking advantage of local produce and having zucchini lasagna, corn on the cob (if available), caesar salad, Italian bread and butter, peach crisp and ice cream for dessert. Please let Sheila Kelly (905-939-2315) know if you are interested in attending. Space is limited. If you prefer, the meal can be delivered in the afternoon in time for dinner. Although the meal and entertainment are free, we do appreciate any donations you are able to make.

We wish Pastor Richard Gardner, our worship leader, safe travels as he drives out to Nova Scotia to continue his studies at the Atlantic School of

Theology. Richard will be completing several courses and attending lectures while there. Richard's wife, Joanna, will be joining him for a little respite during this time away.

There are no Sunday services until September at either Schomberg or Nobleton United Churches.

We invite you to our Wednesday hymn sing-alongs with supper on Wednesdays, which will resume after Pastor Richard returns in August. Until then, we encourage you to worship with other churches in our area. Dates for the next Wednesday sing-along and supper are: August 16, 23, and 30 at 5:30 p.m. at Nobleton United, 6076 King Rd. Nobleton. Let me know if you need a ride. We would be happy to pick you up. (Contact information: Earle 905-859-9077 or ve3xel@yahoo.ca).

The main course will be supplied. Please bring a salad or a dessert if you are able.

There is still time to show your talent! Do you know someone who plays the keyboard and who would either like to play occasionally or regularly starting in September? This is a paid position. We have two identical services each Sunday: Schomberg United at 9:30 a.m. and Nobleton United at 11:15 a.m.

If interested, please contact Linda Olsen at 437-552-0442.

Keep safe and may God hold you in

his caring arms until we gather again.

My contact info is 905-859-0761 or nancykhopkinson@gmail.com.

#King Facts

When the Township was first formed, it was made up of many different hamlets, like New Scotland and Strange, which have faded into obscurity. Other communities like Nobleton and Schomberg have prospered.

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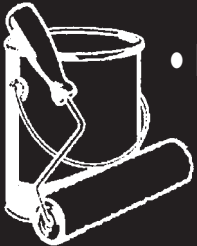


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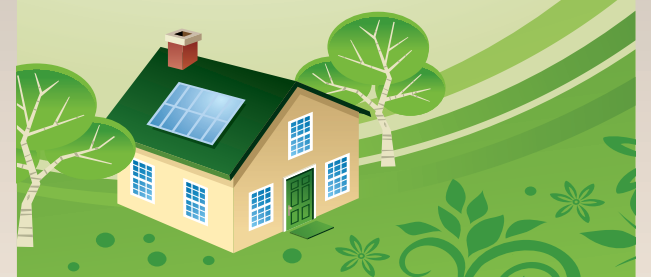
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Ann Duncan, with Sutton Group-Admiral Realty Inc. Brokerage, is an experienced Sales Broker whose knowledge spans two continents.

While Ann had her start in real estate in Europe, she now focuses on King Township and the surrounding area, as well as in Toronto and the GTA. She has been working in the real estate industry for 28 successful years.

"I started working in real estate in Europe," Ann said of her start in the industry. "I started when I was 18 years old. My mom at the time was selling homes, and I was working with her in her brokerage."

After immigrating to Canada, it was an easy transition for her to continue selling real estate. The industry, Ann explained, works pretty much the same in Europe as it does here.

Much of the profession relies on a sales representative's ability to deal with the public.

"You have to know how to treat people and how to solve problems," Ann explained. "You have to be very patient, and you really must have good social skills. It requires building your own clientele, which of course takes time."

Ann's linguistic skills, in many ways, distinguish her from many local realtors. She is fluent in English, Arabic, Farsi, and Russian. This allows her to not only serve her local clients – but also those from outside of the country who are interested in investing in the region.

When selling a home, Ann starts with a comparable market analysis of your home to determine the proper current market value. From there, she uses several strategies to market the home to potential buyers.

This includes home staging, repair and renovation, cleaning, advertising the property to local and international communities, and extensively marketing the property on social media. Marketing may include professional videography including the use of aerial drones, photography, and print media to reach many potential buyers and get your home sold.

Ann's extensive client base means that quite often she is able to sell a home by introducing new listings to clients who are actively seeking property before it is even necessary to place the property on a listing for the public.

Many of her clients are people who have used her services previously and were so impressed by her professionalism and skill they have come back to her when they are ready to make another transaction. Others have been referred to Ann by satisfied clients who have recommended her to family and friends.

Ann's professionalism includes treating her customers with respect and striving to help them meet their needs and home-buying goals. She enjoys the social aspect of her work and the fact that working as a real estate broker allows her to be involved in the community.

"This is why it is so important to have a good reputation, especially in a small place like King Township," Ann explained. "In real estate, you are always out there and meeting new people. This is what I really like about the industry – and it's fun for me. I enjoy seeing new homes and new designs. I studied interior design in university – this has really helped me a lot when I stage homes for my clients. Seeing new homes all the time really gives you new ideas of what can be done."

Ann is naturally a 'people person' who enjoys meeting with clients and helping them meet their goals.

If you are looking for a home or considering selling your property, Ann Duncan can be reached at 647-895-6355 or via e-mail at annduncanteam@gmail.com.

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MARKET UPDATE – JUNE 2023

AURORA	KING
AVERAGE SALES PRICE	AVERAGE SALES PRICE
\$1,399,231	\$2,312,339
AVERAGE 12 DAYS ON MARKET	AVERAGE 22 DAYS ON MARKET
NUMBER OF SALES	NUMBER OF SALES
85	32
152 NEW LISTINGS	84 NEW LISTINGS
SALE TO LIST RATIO	SALE TO LIST RATIO
106%	98%
YEAR OVER YEAR % CHANGE	YEAR OVER YEAR % CHANGE
-1.77%	-2.01%

*The statistics provided were obtained from the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board's Market Watch JUNE 2023. Summary of Existing Home Transactions for All Home Types JUNE 2023 + Focus on the MLS Home Price Index for Composite for York Region's Aurora and King

Things are slowing in the market with the time of year and the two most recent rate announcements. Our overnight rate is now the highest it has been since 2001. The number of Offers trickling in on offer nights are slowing, if any, and Sellers are going to have to be realistic about a potential softening in the market over the summer months. For Buyers, now is a great opportunity, after a slight resurgence of price increases and inventory moving more quickly. Make sure your approvals are updated and you are working closely with your trusted real estate advisor to capitalize on this opportune time in the market. We are returning to a normal trading landscape, where days on market may increase.

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BANK OF CANADA STRIKES AGAIN: Interest Rates & GTA Real Estate

AS YOU MAY HAVE HEARD, the Bank of Canada raised its interest rate again on July 12th 2023, increasing the cost of borrowing for the 10th time since March 2022. The 25 basis point hike leaves the Bank's overnight rate at 5 percent – the highest it has been since 2001. According to the Bank of Canada, the interest rate increases are necessary in order to slow economic growth and reduce inflation.

Interest rates are essential in steering the real estate industry and local housing markets. We understand that the sizeable amount of terms used in real estate, such as interest rates and mortgages, can be a lot to understand for new homeowners. That is why we are unpacking interest rates plainly and highlighting why they may matter to you, as a Buyer, Seller or someone looking to enter the market for the very first time. With twenty-plus years of collective real estate experience in the King and surrounding regions, The Michele Denniston Real Estate Group will use our expertise to make the real estate world as straightforward and digestible as possible for you; read below!

WHAT ARE INTEREST RATES?

To make it as simple as possible, interest rates are the different prices you pay a lender to borrow money. When there is a strong return on a purchase, government interest rates are likely to increase to 'level the playing ground'. When interest rates are lower, you pay less, but the market may be a little faster paced. The two different prices you can pay relate to buyers' two mortgage rate options.

FIXED RATE

This option means the interest rate will stay the same over the period you are 'locked in' to your mortgage. The price you pay in your first year will be the same in your fifth year, there are no surprises, and you can budget accordingly. This is increasingly advantageous for homeowners who "lock-in" their rate when they hear that interest rate hikes are imminent.

VARIABLE RATE

Adjustable rates change as per the prime lender's interest rate. The appealing side is that the initial interest rate is often lower than a fixed-rate mortgage (depending on the market) which may help buyers qualify for larger loans and properties.

HOW ARE RATES DETERMINED?

In short, the Bank of Canada determines the overnight rate, which leads to an increase in the prime rate you, as a borrower, receive from a major financial institution, such as TD Bank, CIBC, BMO, etc.

OVERNIGHT RATE

The overnight rate, determined by the Bank of Canada, is the interest rate at which major financial institutions can lend and borrow funds from one another. This is the rate which has been subject to the increases since March 2022.

PRIME RATE

The prime rate represents the minimum interest rate at which a bank will lend money, which encompasses the overnight rate and their operating costs.

WHY DO THEY MATTER TO US, YOUR REALTORS?

Interest rates are a critical deciding factor for buyers considering entering the market, purchasing an investment property, or sellers looking to line their homes up to list.

If interest rates increase, it may push potential buyers to take a step back as the increase means it will cost more to afford a home under a mortgage, especially for first-time home buyers or those looking to stick within a strict budget. In real estate, we often see that the market slows with each interest rate hike as the Buyer pool is reduced. The market then shifts towards Buyer's market, giving the buyers more negotiating power & often correlates with lower ratios of sale price to list price.

When interest rates are low, this often brings a flood of new buyers into the market, thereby increasing sale prices. The increase in demand often correlates with a lack of supply, producing a Seller's market.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU?

Interest rates rise and fall with the country's economic state flow. Looking back at the market through COVID, we saw home prices soar with interest rates to follow. Still, today we see fluctuating and changing interest rates. We suggest giving you and your family strong confidence in understanding the different interest rates, mortgage options and which decisions best serve your current financial position. Once familiar with these industry terms,

you can have confidence navigating the existing markets and making fantastic financial decisions when buying or selling!

OUR ADVICE TO YOU

By choosing to work with an experienced real estate team who knows the ins and outs of interest rates, mortgages and best-decision making, you will succeed in whatever your real estate goals may be! The Michele Denniston Real Estate Group also offers expert in-house mortgage financing and consultations on top of our five-star buying and selling services. Visit us at Kay Dr. Unit 22 in Schomberg, or call Michele directly at (416) 433-8316 to learn more! We are committed to providing you with honest, reputable and top-tier real estate service; we look forward to working with you soon!



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What home renovation customers need to know about smart home technology

(NC) Homeowners are increasingly looking for ways they can conserve energy and lower their utility bills. And, according to one recent survey, four in five Canadians recognize that smart home technology can help them manage their energy consumption. But, only one in five is actually using these systems. Here are three key benefits of smart home technology.

HOME AUTOMATION

A smart home is one where Wi-Fi-connected lights and appliances can be controlled via apps on your phone no matter where you are. On the way to the airport and worried you forgot to turn off the curling iron? You can check on your app – and turn off the appliance remotely if you did. Your kid forgot to bring their key? Unlock the door remotely to let them in. There are even refrigerators with internal cameras so you can see what you already have inside while you're standing in an aisle at the grocery store.

HOME AND PERSONAL SECURITY

With smart systems, you can program lights to go on and off to give the appearance that your home is occupied while you're away. Inside, you can use an app or voice controls to turn on lighting before you enter a room or approach a stairway to avoid a tripping hazard. Camera-equipped doorbells let you see who is at the door before you open it, or you can speak directly to a courier to give them instructions on where to hide a package if you're not home.



Smart appliances can also send notifications if there are any problems, whether you're out for the day or on holiday. You can set up your HVAC system, for example, to send you a message if the heating or cooling doesn't kick in within a specific period of time. There are also water detectors that will notify you of a potential leak.

One of the most important smart home tools for this is a home energy monitor. These tools, such as Schneider Electric's Wiser Energy, can be paired with Wi-Fi enabled switches like Square D to turn your home devices on and off from your phone. Homeowners also receive real-time home energy usage so they can make adjustments to reduce their energy load, such as unplugging appliances that draw power even while idle.

Finally, security sensors and cameras can send you alerts if there's unexpected activity in or around the property.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Of course, the biggest benefit of utilizing smart home technology is the power it gives homeowners to reduce their energy consumption and help lower their household carbon footprint.

Find more customer-friendly information about home energy monitors at se.com/ca/en.

www.newscanada.com

How automation can keep your home secure

(NC) Whether you're planning a sunny getaway to escape the cold or are back in the office on a regular basis for the first time in years, it's reasonable to be worried about your home when it's empty. The good news is, there are easy ways to keep a watchful eye.

KEEP IT BRIGHT

While the days are getting longer, illuminating your walkway and entryways after dark can deter people from approaching your property. Set your lights up on timers or install motion-sensitive models.

GET SMART WITH SECURITY

While you shouldn't live in fear, theft and break-and-entering do occur. For an easy and effective way to monitor your home, consider an all-in-one smart security system that includes 24/7 monitoring and real-time alerts. That way, you're immediately notified of activity around your home such as someone walking up your driveway or if a door or window has been opened.

AUTOMATE FROM ANYWHERE

Whether you're out shopping at the mall or visiting relatives out of town, take advantage of the ability to secure and control your home from anywhere with an all-in-one smart security system such as Telus SmartHome Security. Schedule or manually turn your lights on and off to give the illusion someone is home, or lock and unlock your doors when your children get home from school. True automation can provide added peace of mind and security from near or far.

www.newscanada.com



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3 myths every custom home buyer needs to be aware of

(NC) A new construction home can be an exciting but also scary undertaking for many of us. When you choose a builder, you'll want someone who plays by the rules.

In Ontario, this means they are licensed and that they enrol your home into the provincial new home warranty program.

New home builders who operate outside of these rules are working illegally, and ultimately putting you at significant risk.

New home buyers are entitled to consumer protection from the new home warranty, but illegal builders may say many things to get out of their responsibilities. Here are a few myths to keep in mind as you shop around for the builder of your dream home:

MYTH 1: Applying for the building permit makes you the builder. You may decide to apply for the building permit yourself instead of having your builder do it. If so, it does not mean that your builder

is "off the hook" as a result. As the one responsible for the construction of your new home, they are still required to be licensed and provide the warranty.

MYTH 2: Paying tradespeople directly voids your warranty. Paying tradespeople yourself instead of relying on your builder to compensate them is a good practice to follow. It ensures that construction stays on track and prevents potential situations that could end up costing you more. Contrary to what some builders might say, it does not void your home warranty coverage.

MYTH 3: Calling it a seasonal home makes it different. Just as a rose is still a rose by any other name, so is a new home a new home regardless of what you call it. Your builder may lead you to believe that if you say you're building a seasonal home or cottage, you'll end up saving money because you won't need to enrol it into the warranty program. The rule of thumb is that if a new home is built to specific building code standards that make it capable of year-round living, it needs to have a warranty.

For more information about buying a new home or if you're ever in doubt contact the organization that oversees new home warranties at tarion.com.

www.newscanada.com

5 AFFORDABLE WAYS TO GET A GREENER HOME

(NC) Many of us would love to save on our home water and energy use. Whether your motivation is to cut your costs or help the planet – or both – here are a few things you can do that won't break the bank.

CUT BACK

Of the three r's of reduce, reuse and recycle, the first is the most powerful – and the cheapest – way to go green. It's the simple stuff you've heard of forever, but the steps can be effective. Put on a sweater instead of raising the heat as fall temperatures arrive. Cut back on long showers. Only do your laundry at off-peak hours. They may not be convenient but they're certainly cheap and effective.

INSTALL A RAIN BARREL

Rather than using fresh water to tend your garden, set up a rain barrel and take advantage of wet weather. Although

you won't want to drink it, rainwater is perfect for your plants. You can create a makeshift rain container yourself or buy one at a local hardware store or online. Either way it should have a tap to connect a hose or fill up a watering can. Being mindful of how often you water your garden and choosing native plants that require less water can also help you cut back on water usage outdoors.

GO LOW FLOW

Low-flow faucets and showerheads are a simple do-it-yourself swap from the hardware store. While newer homes may be fairly efficient, older systems can really guzzle water. Adding a small low-flow attachment or replacement head slows the rate at which the water flows out of your pipes. Don't worry about losing water pressure with this fix – it works by mixing air into the water, which maintains or even improves the pressure you feel.

UPDATE YOUR THERMOSTAT

At a basic level, a programmable thermostat allows you to set your heating and cooling in advance so you can use less when you don't need it. You might cut down on air conditioning costs since you won't have to run the system while you're out all day to still arrive home to a cooled space. Lower-end models will cost about \$50 to \$100. More advanced, "smart" models with more bells and whistles can run you roughly \$100 to \$400.

MAKE USE OF GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS

Benefits and credits might add a little extra cash to your wallet that you can put towards energy-efficient updates. You may be eligible for the Climate Action Incentive payment if you live in a province with federal pollution pricing: Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Prince



Edward Island. And in October 2023, eligible residents of New Brunswick will receive their first payment. The exact amount of the quarterly payments varies by region – you'll get more if you live outside a major urban centre. You don't need to apply; you just need to file your taxes every year.

Find more information about how this benefit works at canada.ca/cai-payment.

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First time offered for sale, 58.8 farm with 1344 sq. Ft. Bungalow with 4 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, walk-out basement and single car garage. Renovate or build a new dream home and grow your own food on your own farm. Ideal to start your own self-sustaining lifestyle. Approximately 30 acres of prime rich black loam, specialty crop farmland with 28 acres of bush that has potential to be cleared to create more farmland or used for recreational use. Vegetables, root crops, garlic, onions, potatoes grow well in this soil. Farm is tiled for drainage. Old homestead site allows for house to be built. Zoned Agricultural Special Crops. (ASC) allows for a broad spectrum of potential. Ideal for starting your own market farm. Home base business, vertical-farming, greenhouses, accessory building or dwelling, Bunkhouse. Paved highway access and is very close to highway 400 corridor and the new Bradford Highway Bypass junction. Highway 11 for easy transportation and shipping. Tanger Outlet Mall is meters away. Proximity to the new concept Innisfil transportation Hub site. Minutes to GTA, Newmarket, Bradford and Barrie. Can be purchased with "0" County Rd. 89, Innisfil, 28.8-acre farm which is also listed.

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THE TRANSFORMATIVE DANCE: How renovations and real estate coalesce for an expert's eye



By **Julien Laurion**
The Big Tuna of Real Estate

In the vast world of real estate, where location, aesthetics, and value converge, renovations stand as a transformative force.

AS AN EXPERT IN THE FIELD, I have witnessed the enchanting dance between renovations and real estate, where dreams take shape and properties become works of art.

Join me as we unravel the symbiotic relationship between these two realms and explore how they interweave to create captivating living spaces.

Renovations possess an inherent power to rejuvenate and elevate a property's allure. They offer a platform for home owners and investors to breathe new life into their living spaces, infusing them with personal touches and modern comforts. Beyond their aesthetic appeal, renovations also serve as catalysts for increasing a property's value, as they enhance functionality and address contemporary needs.

In the realm of real estate, renovations act as a conduit for capitalizing on opportunities.

An expert understands the pulse of the market and identifies properties with untapped potential. By envisioning the possibilities and conducting a thorough cost-benefit analysis, they strategically leverage renovations to transform diamonds in the rough into highly desirable properties.

Expertise lies in identifying key areas where renovations can significantly impact a property's value.

Whether it's updating a dated kitchen or revamping an outdated bathroom, strategic renovations enhance a property's appeal to potential buyers or tenants. The expert knows how to strike a balance between cost and impact, choosing renovations that provide the highest return on investment while aligning with market demand.

In the competitive real estate market, renovations allow properties to stand out from the crowd.

An expert possesses a keen eye for design trends,

marrying contemporary aesthetics with timeless elegance. By transforming a property into a haven of sophistication, they create a unique selling proposition that captures the hearts and minds of discerning buyers or tenants. Renovations serve as the tool to craft an immersive experience, connecting potential residents to their future homes on a visceral level.

Real estate is a dynamic industry, subject to evolving trends and shifting demands. Renovations serve as an adaptive strategy to stay ahead of the curve. As an expert, I understand the ebb and flow of market preferences, enabling me to guide clients toward renovations that align with current and future trends. By staying attuned to the evolving needs of buyers or tenants, we can adapt properties to meet those demands, ensuring sustained value and relevance.

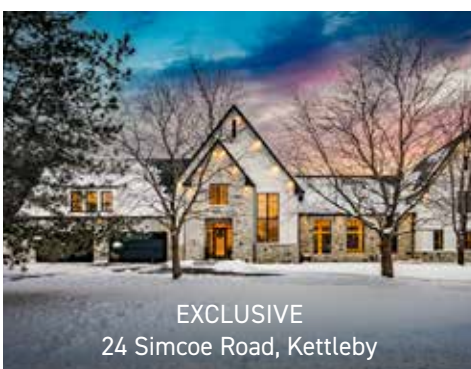
Beyond their immediate impact, renovations can also function as investment vehicles. An expert evaluates properties with a discerning eye, identifying those with the greatest potential for transformation. By strategically investing in renovations, individuals can not only increase the value of their properties but also generate a higher return on investment when it's time to sell or rent. Renovations act as a means to unlock hidden value and create lucrative opportunities within the real estate market.

The synergy between renovations and real estate is an exquisite dance, orchestrated by experts who possess a deep understanding of both realms. It is important to note that I am an expert in both fields. Renovations breathe life into properties, adding value, allure, and character. Meanwhile, real estate acts as a canvas for these transformations, providing a stage where dreams become reality. As an expert, I invite you to embrace the transformative power of renovations and witness the magic they bring to the world of real estate by giving me a call.

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



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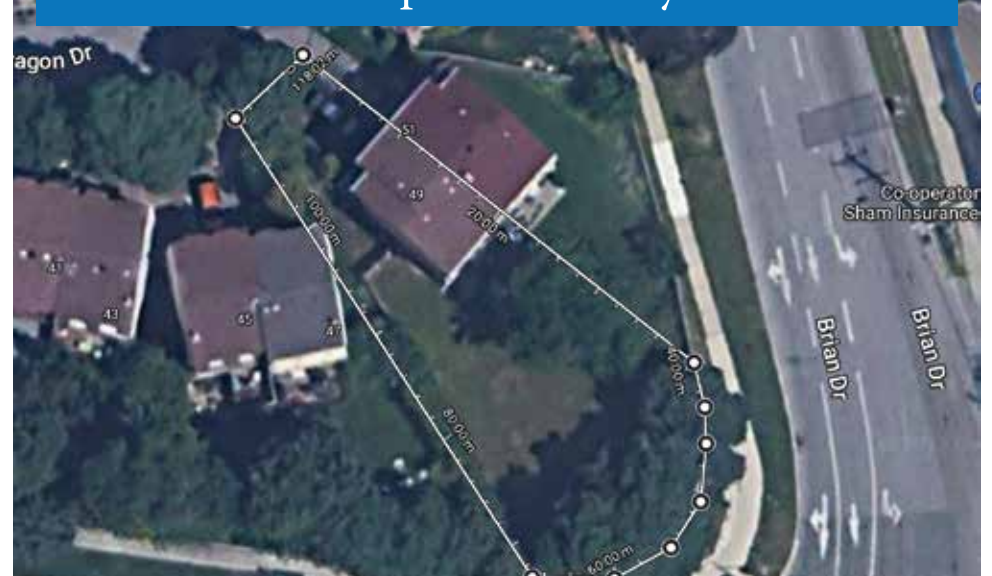
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Money-saving tips to weatherproof your home

(NC) Every year, Canadians spend hundreds of dollars on air conditioning to keep their homes cool throughout the summer months. Between routine maintenance and monthly usage fees, these costs can add up faster than you think.

Weather proofing your home shouldn't have to be expensive or complicated. Save money with these budget-friendly tips to stay cool this summer.

INSPECT THE GAPS: If you have older doors and windows that need some extra TLC, redo the caulking or install weather stripping to block any drafts to reduce cooling costs.

DRESS UP YOUR WINDOWS: Upgrade your windows with blackout curtains or install plastic window film to get some extra shade on those sunny summer days.

SWAP OUT YOUR AIR FILTER: Before turning on your central air conditioning unit, be sure to replace your air filter. Clogged air filters can cause your HVAC

system to fail. Replacing them every couple of months creates proper air flow and ensures your AC unit is working when you need it.

HAVE YOUR GUTTERS CLEANED: Cleaning your gutters may not be glamorous but not checking them could potentially wreak havoc on your home. Clogged gutters, caused by old leaves and other debris, can prevent rainwater from flowing properly which can cause long-term damage. Consult a maintenance professional in your area to make sure your gutters are as good as new this season.

INSPECT YOUR ROOF AND EXTERIOR WALLS: Summer is the best time to replace any shingles on your roof that are broken or loose to avoid water leaks. Have a maintenance professional inspect all walls for developing cracks that need to be sealed to keep water out and avoid major damage. To ensure you have the best water protection, be sure to consult an insurance provider such as Belairdirect to find coverage that suits your needs.

This summer, try out these budget-friendly tips so you don't have to choose between protecting your home and spending money on the things you love. Find more ways to protect your home at belairdirect.com.

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4 ways to reduce energy costs at home

(NC) With rising inflation impacting the cost of pretty much everything we need and use in our daily lives, it's no wonder that homeowners are increasingly looking for ways to lower the amount of energy they use to heat and cool their homes.

Plus, conserving energy helps reduce a household's carbon footprint in the battle against climate change. Here are four ways you can reduce energy consumption in your home.

SEAL THE GAPS

When windows and exterior doors are installed, they're sealed in place with caulking. Over time, that caulking dries out and shrinks, exposing gaps around the frames where air can leak into or out of your home. Inspect ground-level windows from outside and upper-level ones from the inside to see if you spot any gaps. A reasonably skilled DIYer can remove the old caulking and reseal with new. Or hire a pro to do the job for you.

INVEST IN EFFICIENT LIGHTING

If you haven't already made the switch, you should consider swapping out old incandescent lightbulbs

for LEDs, CFLs or halogen bulbs. LEDs are the most energy efficient option, using only a fraction of the energy of incandescent lights. Incandescent bulbs also give off heat. Replacing them will help lower your cooling costs in the summer.

INSTALL A SMART THERMOSTAT

Heating and cooling are the largest consumers of energy in the home. So, it makes sense to focus on ways to reduce the amount of energy your HVAC system consumes. With a programmable thermostat you can set the cooling (or heating) to decrease while you're asleep or while the house is empty during the day, and then kick in to your comfort level just before you wake up or arrive back home.

MEASURE AND MANAGE YOUR CONSUMPTION

The only way to truly understand where and how you're using energy around the home is by using a monitoring system, such as Wiser Energy. While the system can be used on its own, you can pair it with Wi-Fi enabled switches. This allows you to use your smartphone to turn devices on and off using an app. With such detailed information in hand, you can make adjustments to your lifestyle at home to reduce your monthly bills.

Learn more about home energy monitoring at se.com/ca/en/home/smart-home/wiser.

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5 outdoor cleaning tips to get your home in tip-top shape

(NC) Whether you love projects around the yard or would rather be lounging with a good book or TV show, sprucing up your home's exterior does more than make it pleasing to the eye.

Simple, year-round maintenance will help you avoid costly problems down the line, such as rot or insects spreading indoors. Here are a few easy and important steps.

CLEAN YOUR EAVESTROUGHS

All sorts of weather conditions can wreak havoc on your gutters. If water runs back toward your foundation or pools on the roof, it may lead to water damage inside your home. Give your eavestroughs and downspouts a careful look every season. Clear any debris and make any repairs.

WASH YOUR SIDING

Pressure washers are handy for cleaning the outside of your home. If you don't own one, you may be able to borrow one from a friend or rent one. Check for any blisters, cracks or problem areas in your siding and fix them up to prevent rot.

REFRESH YOUR AIR CONDITIONER

Shut off power to the outdoor unit and clean debris from the grill/cage and the fan to prevent clogging and subpar performance. Rake around the unit and cut back surrounding branches for a clean look and to allow for proper airflow.

INSPECT THE DECK

Wooden decks, including railings and stairs, require staining every few years to look their best and protect against the elements. Decks can be pressure washed but remember to keep the sprayer moving for a thorough clean. Be sure to examine deck posts and support beams for signs of rotting, too.

TIDY THE LANDSCAPING

Low lying areas of your lawn should have additional soil laid down to prevent pooling of rainwater. You should also trim your bushes and trees as required to help avoid future storm damage.

Find more tips on how to clean and protect your property at cooperators.ca.

www.newscanada.com



4 simple and sustainable backyard improvements

(NC) One in three consumers say they have increased their efforts to incorporate environmentally friendly practices into their daily life, according to a recent Trusted Media Brands survey. Some of the easiest steps toward a more sustainable lifestyle can be taken right in your own backyard.

Create an outdoor oasis with these simple and sustainable tips - no green thumb required.

SAVE TIME - AND WATER - WITH LOW-MAINTENANCE LANDSCAPING

Sow the seeds for a hassle-free backyard by planting perennials or shrubs, which require minimal upkeep. Support your local environment by choosing native plants, as they typically require less watering, fertilizer and pesticides, and they're beneficial to pollinators. Plus, many native plants can store excess carbon dioxide for better air quality.

COLLECT AND REUSE RAINWATER

Conserving rainwater is a simple way to make your outdoor space more sustainable. Install a reusable drum in your yard below gutter spouts to collect water when it rains. Once full, use the rainwater to water plants or clean exterior surfaces like decking, siding and outdoor furniture.

CHOOSE ENERGY-EFFICIENT LED LIGHTING

Replace outdated, energy-draining deck and landscape lighting with energy-efficient or solar-powered outdoor lights. LED lights are extremely long lasting, easy to install and use significantly less energy compared to once more-commonly used incandescent bulbs. Not only can you enjoy your yard long after the sun goes down, but you can feel good knowing you are making a sustainable choice.

CONSIDER WOOD-ALTERNATIVE DECKING

Among the greenest products available for the home is composite decking, such as Trex, which is manu-

factured from more than 95 per cent recycled materials. Unlike wood, composite decking resists fading, staining, scratching and mould, and needs only an occasional soap-and-water cleaning. Since composite decking never needs to be stripped, stained or painted, no environmentally harmful chemicals are required.

These easy upgrades not only benefit the planet but also create an outdoor space that will leave your neighbours green with envy. Find more information at ca.trex.com.

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Outdoor living trends for this summer



(NC) According to real estate website Zillow, a functional outdoor space is the most sought-after amenity by today's homebuyers. For those looking to make the most of their outdoor spaces, here are six trends shaping backyards this year:

MIXED MATERIALS

Gone are the days of matchy-matchy monotony. Today's homeowners are embracing eclectic design schemes with lots of visual interest by juxtaposing materials like concrete and composite, wicker and aluminum, copper and stone – as well as mixing colours and patterns for added personality and visual intrigue.

SUSTAINABLE SELECTIONS

Sustainability is no longer a “nice to have” but a meaningful requirement among increasingly eco-conscious consumers. Composite decking is an eco-friendly choice that outperforms and outlasts natural wood.

LIGHT NEUTRALS

Light, neutral hues are permeating home design inside and out due to their ability to create a sense of calm and serenity. Provide a perfect foundation for an on-trend outdoor space with low-maintenance composite decking that features refined, trend-forward colours such as the Trex Transcend collection, with creamy taupe, deep mocha, coastal brown and mountain grey.

STYLISH SECLUSION

Privacy has become a huge selling point. This is driving demand for stylish fencing, pergolas, privacy panels and lattice, which create a sense of sanctuary through visually appealing, durable and easy to maintain features.

LUXE LIGHTING

Rising inflation will have homeowners looking for small investments that make a big impact. From

candles and string lights to firepit tables and deck lighting, a little illumination can completely change the look and feel of an outdoor space without breaking the bank.

ADDED FUNCTION AND VALUE

Make the most of your outdoor space by optimizing the area beneath the deck. With the addition of an under-deck drainage system, this space can be used for storage or as a bonus outdoor living area.

For maximum moisture protection and design flexibility, opt for a system that's installed above the joists of the substructure. This application allows you to run electrical and gas lines safely and discreetly to power lighting, fans, appliances and entertainment components to create a fully functional outdoor room.

Find more outdoor living ideas, tips and inspiration at ca.trex.com.

3 ways to ensure your deck stays high and dry

(NC) Because they are exposed to the elements, decks and their supporting substructures are highly susceptible to water penetration. Without proper protection, rain, dew and snow melt can seep into screw holes and sit on boards, joists and beams causing them to rot, decay and deteriorate over time, posing serious safety issues. Here are three easy ways to protect your deck from moisture damage:

1 SEAL THE SUBSTRUCTURE

One of the simplest ways to prevent premature deterioration of a deck's substructure is to apply protective tape to the joists and beams of the foundation. Butyl-based tapes are best and are available in easy peel-and-stick options that apply as a “cap” to the tops of wood joinery. This creates a moisture barrier and also helps hold deck screws and fasteners strongly in place for longer. And don't forget the ledger board. This key connection point where the deck attaches to a house is especially vulnerable to moisture, but it can be fully sealed with a wider flashing tape.

2 CONSIDER COMPOSITE DECKING OVER WOOD

Made from a blend of plastic and wood fibres, composite decking won't absorb water like treated lumber. It also won't crack, warp or splinter in colder climates and will hold up to humidity and precipitation. High-performance composite decking is extremely durable and easy to maintain, so there's no need to spend time and money every year sanding and painting or staining your deck. Instead, simply give it an occasional cleaning with warm soapy water and get back to enjoying your space.

3 DIVERT WATER WITH A DECK DRAINAGE SYSTEM

For an elevated deck, consider adding a deck drainage system, such as the Trex RainEscape system, to protect your deck's substructure from moisture while also creating dry, usable space beneath the deck. This innovative system installs over joists and beams to completely shield foundational components from moisture. The added bonus is that homeowners can safely add furnishings as well as gas lines and electrical wiring to accommodate lighting, ceiling fans, appliances and entertainment centres to create an outdoor oasis under the deck.

Find more information to protect and extend the life of your deck at ca.trex.com.

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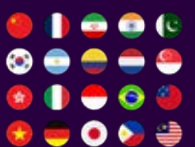
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