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King Weekly Sentinel

King's Community Newspaper

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Team scores for a cause

The U13 AA King Rebellions hockey players stopped by the council chambers before their practice recently to deliver well over 20 purses filled with personal necessities for women in crisis, in support of the Fill A Purse For A Sister Campaign. Mayor Steve Pellegrini accepted this challenge back in October, when it was extended to all York Regional Council. On behalf of King Council, he thanked the team for welcoming the opportunity to donate to this worthy cause.

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Council approves 2024 budget with 3.54% tax hike

By Mark Pavilonis
Editor

King homeowners are facing another tax increase, as council approved the 2024 Budget & Business Plans. The 2024 Operating Budget has a net increase of \$1,702,817, representing a 4.98% average tax increase. The net levy amount is \$36.3 million, which includes the increase as well as some \$673,481 in recommended program changes. With MPAC's latest assessment figures, additional revenues help cushion the increase. King Treasurer and Director of Finance Peggy Tollett noted they also found savings by switching insurance providers. She pointed out King's five-year average increase is 2.64%, below its counterparts in York. King's 2024 Capital Budget comes in at \$14.7 million. When combined with taxes levies by York Region (3.75%)

and the school boards, the blended increase comes in at roughly 3.54% for local taxpayers. Staff noted the final tax rate will be calculated and presented to council in May 2024. "We recognize the challenges taxpayers have faced with the rising cost of inflation over the last couple of years. That is why Council instructed staff to come back with a budget that respected taxpayers' dollars while still delivering the programs and services they expect and deserve," said Mayor Steve Pellegrini. "We have many things to be proud of in this budget, including significant investments in roads, bridges and culverts throughout the Township. We're scheduled to complete the two-year implementation of the downtown Schomberg Revitalization plan and our Nobleton revitalization strategy is kicking off."

See 'Efficiencies' on Page 3

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	Classifieds	Page 17	

Wishing a joyful holiday season to friends, neighbours, clients and colleagues who make our community a blessing in which to live and work!

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www.king.ca



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UPCOMING MEETINGS

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Monday, Jan. 8
6 p.m. - Public Planning Meeting
In-person at the King Township Municipal Centre at 2585 King Rd and live streamed at [king.ca/meetings](https://www.king.ca/meetings)

Monday, Jan. 15
6 p.m. - Council
In-person at the King Township Municipal Centre at 2585 King Rd and live streamed at [king.ca/meetings](https://www.king.ca/meetings)

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Wednesday, Jan. 13
6 p.m. - Committee of Adjustment
Hybrid Meeting (In-person/virtual participation, and live-streamed)
Visit [king.ca/cofameetings](https://www.king.ca/cofameetings) for more information.

To view full Council and Committee agendas, visit [king.civicweb.net](https://www.king.ca/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

Christmas in King

King Township Fire and Emergency Services is collecting food and toys as part of the Christmas in King campaign. Donations of non-perishable food items or new, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at Fire-house 34, located at 2045 King Road in the King City, until noon on Friday, Dec. 22.

The Christmas in King volunteer organization will distribute the collection to families in need to share holiday cheer.



ShopKing this holiday season

Please try to shop locally as much as you can this holiday season to help support our local business community. There are many ways you can do this, including giving a gift certificate from a local business, shopping online when possible and leaving a positive review of a business on social media. For more ideas and ways to shop locally, visit [king.ca/shopking](https://www.king.ca/shopking).



Please see more King Township notices on page 5

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC PLANNING MEETING CONCERNING A PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT

Monday, January 8th, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

This Public Planning Council Meeting will be held in a hybrid format with in-person and electronic participation. Deputations may participate in the meeting remotely or in-person. Refer to the registration process below.

The public are invited to attend the Public Planning Meeting to receive information and provide comments on the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment application, concerning three properties located at 14025 Concession Rd 7, 14295 Concession Road 7 and 1,3,4,5 & 6 Queens Own Lane, in the Township of King in accordance with Section 34 of the *Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter P.13*, as amended.

The Township has determined that the application is considered complete, and the Planning Division has commenced processing. We welcome your comments regarding this application.

Subject Property

- Locations:
- a.) 14025 Concession Road 7, King, ON Part of Lots 12 & 13, Concession 6
 - b.) 14295 Concession Road 7, King, ON Part of Lot 14, Concession 6
 - c.) 1,3,4,5, & 6 Queens Own Lane, King ON Part of Lot 13, Concession 6

- Owners:
- a.) Mullabrack Inc. (c/o Elvio DelZotto)
 - b.) LVO Farms Inc. (c/o Elvio DelZotto)
 - c.) Liadel Farms Inc. (c/o Elvio DelZotto)

Agent: Thorstone Consulting Services

File Numbers: Zoning By-law Amendment - Z-2023-07

Staff Report: The staff report will be available at www.king.ca on the Thursday prior to the meeting date.

Proposed Changes

The proposed Zoning By-law Amendment application submitted by Thorstone Consulting Services Inc., on behalf of the owners: Mullabrack Inc., LVO Farms Inc., and Liadel Farms Inc. under Planning File # Z-2023-07, concerns three properties that are located: south of 16th Sideroad, north of 15th Sideroad, east of 7th Concession Rd, and west of Weston Road.

The application for Zoning By-law Amendment contemplates a lot boundary adjustment to the total landholding for the purposes of enlarging an agricultural parcel to expand on the existing agricultural operations. There is no new lot creation proposed and the existing lot frontage across all three properties would remain unchanged.

Any person may attend the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment. **Written comments will become part of the public record. Please refer to pre-registration details below.**

Lead Planner

A copy of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment application as well as related background information and supporting information are available by contacting Alexander Gambin, Planner I, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., with reference to the address or file numbers for more information. Written comments in advance of the staff report being published may be sent to:

Alexander Gambin, Planner I
agambin@king.ca, 289-800-2652

How to Participate in the Public Meeting

- 1) **VIEW THE MEETING** live virtually at <https://www.king.ca/meetings>. No pre-registration is required.
- 2) **SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS** to the Township Clerk at clerks@king.ca by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the day of the meeting. Comments will form part of the public record and will be circulated to Council and the Planning Division.
- 3) **SPEAK TO COUNCIL IN-PERSON** by pre-registering with the Clerk's Division at 905-833-4068 or email clerks@king.ca no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the day of the meeting. Provide your full name, address, telephone number and the item you wish to speak to.
- 4) **SPEAK TO COUNCIL VIRTUALLY** by teleconference (through a computer, app or by phone) live during the meeting by pre-registering with the Clerk's Division at 905-833-4068 or email clerks@king.ca no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the day of the meeting. Provide your full name, address, telephone number and the item you wish to speak to. Upon receipt of your registration, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for participating.

All comments addressed to Council will form part of the public record.

How To Stay Informed

If you wish to be notified of the decision of Council of the Township of King regarding the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment, you must make a written request to the Clerk of the Township of King, 2585 King Road, King City, ON L7B 1A1, or by email at clerks@king.ca within 5 business days after the meeting.

Appeal Procedure

If a person or public body that would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of King to the Ontario Land Tribunal ("OLT"), does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of King before the Zoning By-law Amendment is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Township of King before the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal ("OLT") unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

Dated at the Township of King this 14th day of December 2023.



Denny Timm
Township Clerk
2585 King Road
King City, Ontario
L7B 1A1

Liadel Farms Inc. (pink line)
Mullabrack Inc. (blue line)
LVO Farms Inc. (purple line)

Comments and personal information (PI) are being collected in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990 c.P.13 as amended, and become part of the decision making process of the application as noted on this form, also become part of the public record. Should you have any questions or concerns with regard to the collection of personal information (PI), please contact the Planning Department, Township of King at (905) 833-5321



Efficiencies in budget cushion 2024 tax impact

From Front Page

“I could spend a lot of time listing all the great things we accomplished in 2023 and what to look forward to in 2024 but in the interests of time I’d direct people to king.ca/budget which has all kinds of great information, including infographics and the comprehensive budget book.”

The impact of the proposed net levy increase of 4.98% on the average residential property (assessed at \$1,000,000) is \$163 per year. This levy analysis includes an assumption for assessment

growth in the amount of \$350,000.

The blended rate of the Township, Region and School boards is approximately 3.54% or \$294 per year on the average home assessed at \$1-million.

“Throughout the budget process, King staff looked at new and creative ways to cut costs and keep taxes as low as possible for the community. I am pleased that our Finance team collaborated with all departments to find over \$834,000 in efficiencies, while making a sufficient investment in repairing and replacing critical infrastructure and keeping the current service levels the

same for all residents to enjoy,” said CAO Daniel Kostopoulos.

“Despite the rising cost of living, the Township is committed to keeping taxes low without compromising the service levels delivered to those who live, work and visit King.”

Various reviews and studies will also be funded, including the Highway 11 Corridor Study and Employment Lands Strategy, and the Development Charge Study Update. These capital projects are in addition to term of Council projects that will continue into 2024, including: \$2.1 million for the reconstruction of Kettleby Road; funding the \$86-million Township-Wide Recreation Centre; \$9.7 million for the reconstruction of 15th Sideroad to Highway 27 and 10th Con-

cession; and, \$4.2 million for the No-bleton Revitalization Strategy with park enhancements.

As part of the budget process, staff have set up additional Reserve Funds that will improve tracking of new initiatives and growth related projects that are no longer funded by development charges, as well as streamline capital funding options.

New reserves include a Growth Related Reserve Fund, New Initiative reserve Fund, and Capital Tax Levy Reserve Fund.

The Township’s projected outstanding net long-term debt at Dec. 31, 2022 is \$19.3 million.

For more information, including the 2024 budget presentation and Budget Book, visit king.ca/budget



June Speers marks her 100th

June Speers of Schomberg turned 100 years young on December 14.

Born in 1923, June had two brothers and a sister. She grew up in Toronto and later lived many years in Agincourt (Scarborough).

Married to Carson for 60 years, she raised three boys and has been blessed to have six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

June attributes her longevity to looking after herself, eating well and staying positive through out life’s ups and downs.

She was an avid curler for over 30 years at several Toronto area curling clubs. She was an active bridge player as well.

For years June has been a very active sports follower with everything from curling, NFL football, The Blue Jays (from day one), PGA golf and even Formula 1 car racing. June was also a very active gardener and a very good baker, to this day.

June is still enjoying life and appreciates her caregivers who enable her to still live independently. She has an active social life and enjoys coffee hour and seasonal dinners in her condo building.

The family celebrated June’s big birthday in September with many friends and family members.

Have your say on noise exemption permit process

The Township of King is currently reviewing its criteria for issuing noise exemption permits to determine whether the noise exemption permit process requires updating in 2024. Residents and business owners are invited to provide their feedback by taking an online survey by Friday, Feb. 2, 2024.

Most municipalities in Ontario have a noise bylaw that regulates when and what type of noise is allowed to occur. Noise in King is regulated by Noise Bylaw 81-142. Under this bylaw, amplified sound is not allowed at any time across the Township. To allow for special events, a delegation bylaw was passed in 2015 authorizing the Township Clerk to exempt some activities from the Noise Bylaw through a noise exemption permit.

The current process allows residents and businesses to apply for a noise exemption permit for the amplification of noise – such as music played through speakers or a live band – for a limited amount of time. Each property in the Township is permitted up to three noise exemption permits per calendar year, until no later than 1 a.m. for special events and occasions.

The online survey will help the Township better understand the following:

Whether the community supports continuing to issue noise exemption permits.

What time amplified noise should be allowed to continue until.

If there are noise-related problems residents or businesses are having in their neighbourhood.

Whether rural and urban areas of the Township should have different noise exemption end times (i.e. should noise have to stop earlier in an urban neighbourhood).

The Township will report back to Council with the results of the survey in 2024 and recommend what, if any, changes should be considered to the noise exemption permit process.

For more information about this project, including a direct link to the online survey, visit speaking.king.ca/noiseexemptions.

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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

Curiosity is one of humanity's best qualities

"No one is dumb who is curious. The people who don't ask questions remain clueless throughout their lives."

- Neil deGrasse Tyson

Our lives are filled with questions yet ultimately, few answers.

Sure, we make it through our lives the hard way - by making mistakes and discovering the answers ourselves. Few are given to us in advance.

There are seldom any shortcuts, cheats or hacks along the way. And writing notes on your arm won't do in this test of life.

I heard recently that our children ask roughly a dozen questions per day, or a little over 4,000 per year. Parents, by all accounts, know the answers to roughly 40%, or 1,600 of them. Whew!

And what of the remainder? I imagine they leave us scratching our heads, or picking up our phones to Google the information.

Queries from youngsters are the most genuine and innocent of all. The inquiries coming from youngsters - in the few times I spoke in classrooms - made me smile with hope in the human race.

John Locke noted that "there is frequently more to be learned from the unexpected questions of a child than the discourses of men."

My advice to the youngins - keep 'em coming!

My son is addicted to asking questions. Some are rhetorical, others pointed, and some genuine. Most have a hint of sarcasm or criticism.

Many centre around the government's role and control over our lives. Others are critical of taxes, bank loans, trying to start a new business from scratch, and the various hurdles



Mark Pavilons

involved.

Recently, I told him my silence and shoulder shrugging was due to the fact I agreed with his assumptions, having lived all of these things first-hand. Alas, I have no answers. And I lack the business acumen and financial backing to help solve his dilemma.

Yes, I am the household devil's advocate, and while I often shoot down such dreams, I only mean to shed some practical light on the situation. Yes, I tend to offer explanations, not solutions or positive reinforcement. I wish I had better news.

Is that based on my own experiences, skepticism or years in the journalism business? I don't know.

Some of it may have to do with my own upbringing.

My parents were both post-war Euro-

pean immigrants, who basically came here and started from scratch. They had basic education, a strong work ethic and a lot of common sense. The war gave them a keen survival instinct.

In my youth, I learned by watching and not so much by asking questions. We had an old set of Encyclopedia Britannica, that I visited on occasion.

I did have a bit of a voracious appetite for knowledge and so I excelled in school and made frequent trips to the library to check out books on things like medieval history, astronomy and more.

In my line of work, I consume tons of knowledge on a daily and weekly basis, on all sorts of subject matter. In my thousands of encounters and interviews with people, I've learned a bit about everything - from neuroscience and metallurgy to the art of oil painting and even circumnavigating the globe!

That's the amazing part of my profession, gleaned something from every person I meet. I am richer for each and every conversation, interview, email and article I write.

Early on in my career, there were a few subjects we avoided - abortion, religion and sexuality.

All three will end up in heated debates and arguments on all sides. Often, there is little safe, common ground on these matters.

But I love engaging in such exchanges nevertheless.

I find each of these subjects fascinating as well as controversial. I have also learned that ignorance tends to be at the root of false information and assumptions.

A word of advice from an old guy - never assume anything and always

give others the benefit of the doubt.

And so, I love to learn new things and new perspectives. I will admit it when I don't know something or have little or no experience in a certain subject.

But that shouldn't stop me - or any of us - from getting better informed, more aware. That's how we break down barriers and open things up for genuine discourse and an exchange of viewpoints.

In newspapers, the most read things are editorials, columns and letters to the editor. That's what sparks an honest dialogue and yes, sometimes heated debate.

But that's the beauty of presenting ideas, views and standpoints in a public forum. It's what makes us think.

Mary Pilon once said that journalism isn't about what you know or how clever your questions are. It's about "your ability to embrace change and uncertainty."

And through our evolution and "woke" periods, shouldn't we all embrace change and uncertainty?

I've always loved assignments in school, or open exchanges where there were no wrong answers. It allowed us to be free and express anything we wanted. That's a beautiful thing.

A certain high school English teacher of mine never shot down a student for a wrong or off-base answer. He always encouraged them to speak out, think and at least try.

Maybe we all need to try a bit harder to understand one another.

In these conflict-ridden times, the need for deliberation is far more important than contention.

Take it from this old dog, you can teach everyone some new tricks.

Who wants in?

Letter to the Editor

Well deserved praise for Schomberg festival organizers

Each year, the Schomberg Village Association puts on A Main Street Christmas, and as the Chair of the Schomberg Village Association, I'd like to thank everyone who had a part to play in this years' event. It was so good to see so many people back in our small Village!

A Main Street Christmas only lasts for one day, but the background work takes much longer.

We're extremely grateful for everyone's contribution whether organizing a parade or appearing in one, working with the police to ensure that everyone's safe or working a gate, putting up decorations or helping Santa settle into his seat, working for an hour or all day long. We couldn't do it without you!

The executive committee of the Schomberg Village Association is very small, and it amazes me how much you have accomplished - it's an honour to work with you to present A Main Street Christmas.

The support of business owners, property owners and residents on Main Street and in the surrounding neighbourhoods is greatly appreciated. We know it's an inconvenience to have your streets blocked off and filled with crowds - and we thank you for your ongoing support.

A large public event such as A Main Street Christmas cannot be presented without considerable costs and through our sponsorship program, our local businesses are the backbone of our finances. We are extremely grateful and humbled by the financial support of our business community and we strongly encourage you to support them when you're making purchases.

Thanks to everyone who appeared in the Santa Claus Parade which kicks off the celebration each year. I believe this year's parade was one of the most impressive ever, and my thanks to Anna Lester, (new on board this year) her volunteers and those who participated.

See 'Success' on Page 6



Quote of the Week

"Never cease to stand like curious children before the great mystery into which we were born."

- Albert Einstein

Trivia Tidbits

Maine is the only U.S. state whose name is just one syllable.

KingWeeklySentinel WEBPOLL
www.kingsentinel.com

Results from last week's poll:
Do you have a real or artificial Christmas tree?

a) Real **50%**

b) Artificial **50%**

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

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Did you attend a company Christmas party this year?

a) Yes
b) No

Go to our website and cast a vote!

<p>KING Weekly Sentinel 30 Martha St., Suite 205, Bolton ON L7E 5V1 Toll Free: 1-888-557-6626 905-857-6626 Fax: 905-857-6363 www.kingsentinel.com</p>	<p>PUBLISHER: London Publishing Corp. GENERAL MANAGER: Zach Shoub EDITOR: Mark Pavilons editor@kingsentinel.com PRODUCTION: Lisa Clendening ADVERTISING: Karen Nemet karen@lpcmedia.ca DISTRIBUTION: Cephise Cuming cc@cephisecuming.com OFFICE: Mary Speck CREDIT DEPT.: Al Lord CLASSIFIEDS: admin@caledoncitizen.com</p>	<p>Advertising & Administration Head Office 30 Martha St., Suite 205, Bolton L7E 5V1 Tel: 905-857-6626 Fax: 905-857-6363</p> <p><small>The advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertisements beyond the amount paid for the space actually occupied by that portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred, whether such error is due to the negligence of its servants or otherwise, and there shall be no liability for non insertion of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement. Copyright King Weekly Sentinel 2023</small></p>	<p>Subscription rates: Within 65 km except towns with letter carriers - \$39.00 + G.S.T. Beyond 65 km and towns with letter carriers - \$67.00 + G.S.T. Single copies 94¢ + G.S.T. or \$1.00 (includes G.S.T.)</p> <p> Member Médias d'Info Canada National NewsMedia Council</p> <p>Funded by the Government of Canada We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada.</p>
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Are Canadian living standards deteriorating?

By Frank Stronach

The Principles of an Economic Charter of Rights

Declining life expectancy for Canadians. Plunging math scores among Canada's high school students. Fewer doctors. And longer wait times for emergency care.

These were some of the headlines from the past week or so. They're warning signals – just a few in a long and growing list – about our country's declining living standards.

A Statistics Canada report that didn't receive much attention showed that life expectancy for Canadians has dropped for the third straight year. In countries with high living standards, life expectancy should be rising, not falling.

The second troubling headline related to the health and well-being of Canadians came from a report published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal. The report showed Canada was lagging behind a number of other OECD countries in various key health indicators. According to the report, Canada was one of the worst countries in the category of total number of physicians per resident and was at the very bottom when it came to receiving timely treatment in emergency care or access to a medical specialist.

But that's what happens when the economy no longer functions properly – there's less and less money for social programs like health, and fewer dollars to look after the most vulnerable and fragile in our society.

And while health is one of the most important indicators regarding a coun-

try's quality of life and overall living standards, so too is education.

An OECD report published last week revealed that the math scores of Canadian high school students continue to fall year after year. In fact, according to the report, they've been dropping for almost 20 years now.

That can't be good in an economy that is increasingly reliant on technology and science, two fields where math skills are critical.

The other worrisome headline from last week was related to a Statistics Canada report showing that Canada's economy is shrinking, household spending is flat, and exports are declining.

When added together, all of these troubling symptoms about the state of our healthcare, education system and economy begin to paint a picture of slow and steady decline.

It's what happens when we import more and export less, when we stop manufacturing products here in Canada, and when a growing percentage of the wealth we do create gets eaten up by our bureaucracy and interest payments on the national debt.

A country that no longer focuses on the creation of wealth will invariably see a decline in its living standards and the unraveling of its economic fabric.

So how do we go about restoring our living standards, which used to be

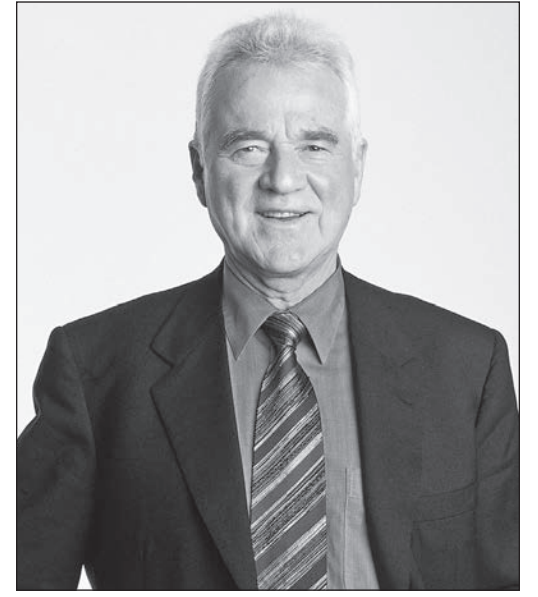
among the highest in the world?

I believe the best way to do so is through the establishment of an Economic Charter of Rights and Responsibilities – a charter that would make our tax system simpler and fairer, boost the incomes of millions of Canadians through profit sharing, unshackle small business to create millions of new jobs, and put the brakes on out-of-control government spending while slashing red tape.

An economic charter would also improve the nutrition of Canadian children and give young Canadians the opportunity to learn technical trades and pursue good-paying careers.

Most of all, an economic charter of rights would help us restore the high living standards that made Canada one of the most desirable countries in the world.

To learn more about the economic charter and how it could generate economic growth and prosperity, email me at info@economiccharter.ca. Or to



learn more about the economic charter, visit: www.economiccharter.ca.

Frank Stronach is the founder of Magna International Inc., one of Canada's largest global companies, and was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame. Email: fstronachlpc@gmail.com



www.king.ca



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ON Canada L7B 1A1

Phone: 905.833.5321 Email: serviceking@king.ca

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC PLANNING MEETING CONCERNING AN OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT & ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT

Monday, January 8th, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

This Public Planning Council Meeting will be held in a hybrid format with in-person and electronic participation. Deputations may participate in the meeting remotely or in-person. Refer to the registration process below.

The public are invited to attend the Public Planning Meeting to receive information and provide comments on the proposed Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment application, concerning a property located at 31 and 37 Banner Lane in the Township of King in accordance with Section 22 and 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter P.13, as amended.

The Township has determined that the application is considered complete, and the Planning Division has commenced processing. We welcome your comments regarding this application.

Subject Property

Location: 31 & 37 Banner Lane, King City, ON
Lot 17 & 18 Plan M1565
Owners: 1000199202 Ontario Inc. & Rehan Danish
Agent: JKO Planning - c/o Jim Kostopoulos
File Numbers: Official Plan Amendment – OP-2023-01
Zoning By-law Amendment – Z-2023-09

Staff Report: The staff report will be available at www.king.ca on the Thursday prior to the meeting date.

Proposed Changes

An Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment Application has been submitted by JKO Planning on behalf of the owners: 1000199202 Ontario Inc. and Rehan Danish, under Planning Files OP-2023-01 and Z-2023-09.

The application for an Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment proposes to amend the Township of King's Official Plan, *Our King* (2019) and Zoning By-law # 2017-66 for the subject lands to facilitate a boundary adjustment between 31 and 37 Banner Lane. The boundary adjustment will result in the conveyance of approximately 535 m² of 37 Banner Lane to the benefiting lands 31 Banner Lane. The retained lands, 37 Banner Lane, will measure approximately 1,187 m². The intent of the boundary adjustment is to assist with the severance of 31 Banner Lane by providing additional rear amenity area to the property. The severance of 31 Banner Lane will create two single-family residential lots that will measure approximately 1,505m² and 1,173 m² each in size. The applicant is seeking to address the newly created lot as 35 Banner Lane.

Any person may attend the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment. Written comments will become part of the public record. Please refer to pre-registration details below. **Written comments will become part of the public record. Please refer to pre-registration details below.**

Lead Planner

A copy of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment application as well as related background information and supporting information are available by contacting Alexander Gambin, Planner I, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., with reference to the address or file numbers for more information. Written comments in advance of the staff report being published may be sent to:

Alexander Gambin, Planner I
agambin@king.ca, 289-800-2652

How to Participate in the Public Meeting

- 1) **VIEW THE MEETING** live virtually at <https://www.king.ca/meetings>. No pre-registration is required.
- 2) **SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS** to the Township Clerk at clerks@king.ca by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the day of the meeting. Comments will form part of the public record and will be circulated to Council and the Planning Division.
- 3) **SPEAK TO COUNCIL IN-PERSON** by pre-registering with the Clerk's Division at 905-833-4068 or email clerks@king.ca no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the day of the meeting. Provide your full name, address, telephone number and the item you wish to speak to.
- 4) **SPEAK TO COUNCIL VIRTUALLY** by teleconference (through a computer, app or by phone) live during the meeting by pre-registering with the Clerk's Division at 905-833-4068 or email clerks@king.ca no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the day of the meeting. Provide your full name, address, telephone number and the item you wish to speak to. Upon receipt of your registration, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for participating.

All comments addressed to Council will form part of the public record.

How To Stay Informed

If you wish to be notified of the decision of Council of the Township of King regarding the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment, you must make a written request to the Clerk of the Township of King, 2585 King Road, King City, ON L7B 1A1, or by email at clerks@king.ca within 5 business days after the meeting.

Appeal Procedure

If a person or public body that would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of King to the Ontario Land Tribunal ("OLT"), does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of King before the Zoning By-law Amendment is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Township of King before the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal ("OLT") unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

Dated at the Township of King this 14th day of December 2023.



Denny Timm
Township Clerk
2585 King Road
King City, Ontario
L7B 1A1

Comments and personal information (PI) are being collected in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990 c.P.13 as amended, and become part of the decision making process of the application as noted on this form, also become part of the public record. Should you have any questions or concerns with regard to the collection of personal information (PI), please contact the Planning Department, Township of King at (905) 833-5321

COMMUNITY SERVICES



Heritage in King: Real estate agents' perspective

By Aladin Jarrah

King's Heritage

We have been running a series of articles discussing the different aspects of Heritage properties in King. So far we've heard from the Township Heritage Department as well as homeowners writing about their experiences living in old houses. This week, we're looking at the subject from the perspective of people who deal directly with these types of properties on a daily basis, namely real estate professionals.

According to local agents we spoke to, there are many older houses (even ones with plaques on the front) that are not officially listed. Most houses in the hamlet of Kettleby, for example, have plaques that indicate the age of the house and the name of its original owner. This does not mean that they're listed or designated, and homeowners can do whatever they like to these homes.

Most houses in the older part of Schomberg are the same. The plaques are there to give some context and charm to the streetscape, but they have

absolutely no effect on what the owner can do to the house. The majority of older homes in the Township fall under this category. But there are a few, 36 to be precise, that are designated as Heritage properties.

One hundred and sixty-six homes in King are "listed," which means that they are not designated but have been identified as homes of interest that require further investigation before designation can take place.

The lack of clear information can sometimes lead to confusion. Agents tell us that Heritage designation or listing scares a lot of people, without them really understanding what it is they're nervous about. The perception is that buying a Heritage home means that you can't renovate it to suit your needs. That isn't actually true.

There is an extra level of Township bureaucracy to get approval through the Committee of Adjustment, but this is usually just about the front façade

and preserving the streetscape. There are no significant restrictions about what you can do inside. There are up-sides, too. There are grants available to help pay for period-sensitive restoration on the house, like putting in efficient and modern windows that preserve the original look of the home.

Sources have suggested that the changing demographics of the Township's population means that a lot of people want to live in a new house. This can affect the value of designated properties as they cannot be torn down and replaced without considerable red tape. But even older properties that are not listed or designated can take that hit.

We learned that a lot of buyers today look at older houses from a land value and utilities standpoint. They don't care for the old plank floors, the millwork or the original plaster walls. They treat an older home as a serviced lot where they can go ahead and build their dream. It makes them less inclined to pay market value, because in their minds they're just buying a lot, a well and septic system.

Of course there are those who appreciate historical homes, and don't want to live in a "cookie cutter" house. There

are fewer of these buyers these days, and some of them get nervous about resale down the road. "A new house with two garages in the front will always sell quicker because there are more buyers looking for that," we were told.

Many real estate professionals point out that the economy and burgeoning interest rates don't help. "Buyers want to know they can get out quickly if their circumstances change and they need to sell. Beautiful old homes have sat on the market for months waiting for the right buyer, so sellers end up lowering their prices to attract the few buyers who have the money to buy and maintain an older home," said one.

It seems that most of these trends have little to do with whether a house is designated Heritage or not. It's the economy. Mortgage rates have tripled. The cost of living has not really eased after COVID, food and fuel are still expensive. All of this just makes people nervous. There is hope that the Bank of Canada will soften its stance on interest rates in the spring, bringing some normalcy to the real estate market and increasing the confidence of buyers, whether they're buying an older house or a brand new one.

Success was a team effort

From Page 4

The Farmers' Parade of Lights was amazing as always – and I think one of the largest. The Schomberg Village Association is grateful for the relationship we've had with the farming community over the years and especially for the time and effort they take to ensure Main Street goes out with a bang, every year better than the last! Thank you!

Thanks to Trisan Construction for a once again not only providing all the bollards that line the streets and ensuring that the streets will be clear of parked cars so that both of our parades can safely make their way along the street, but for also delivering, placing and then finally removing them for us after our event is done.

Thanks to the Schomberg Agricultural Society, allowing us to use their facilities as a parking and staging area and for the Christmas Carriage Ride.

Thanks to the Lions for working the gates all afternoon and evening. It's a tremendous task.

Our thanks to the Township, on both the staff and political sides. We worked with people from multiple departments within the Township, all of whom worked hard to ensure that everything was in place for this year's A

Main Street Christmas. Our local politicians were enthusiastic supporters, and many walked in the Santa Clause Parade! Special thanks is due to Kyle Brett and his local team at Community Services in Schomberg for decorating our Main Street Christmas Tree in time for our Lighting Ceremony on Nov. 26.

We would also like to recognize York Region Police for their guidance and presence and St. John Ambulance and Schomberg firefighters for their support every year.

And of course, a special thank you to everyone who took part in the in the day by coming out, enjoying the day, walking the street, taking part in the activities, enjoying the entertainment, visiting the Christmas market, and shopping at our local stores. We do this for you!

We'll be back next year on Saturday, Dec. 7.

If you'd like to become a part of next year's A Main Street Christmas, or are interested in the other work we do with in Schomberg, reach out to us by leaving a message on the Schomberg Village Association Facebook page, or by sending an email to info@schomberg.ca.

Charles Cooper

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KFES personnel hold food drive for Food Bank

King's Fire and Emergency Services personnel manned stations at several King grocery stores, boosting the King Township Food Bank.

Fire Chief Jim Wall lauded the "amazing group of firefighters" who, in just over 2 hours, "hit a home run in collecting both food and money for our local Food Bank."

Personnel from Firehouse 38 (Nobleton) were up early, collecting donations at three separate locations in the village.

"A ton of great laughs, camaraderie, and a sense of community. Thank you for everything that you do," Chief Wall said.



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Ontario making progress on Yonge North subway extension

The Ontario government is taking another step forward to get shovels in the ground on the Yonge North Subway Extension by issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the contract to design and build the subway's tunnels.

The Yonge North Subway Extension is one of Ontario's four priority subway projects for the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and will deliver much-needed rapid transit between York Region and Toronto.

"Families in King, Vaughan and across York Region deserve improved access to rapid transit, which is why our government is moving forward with the Yonge North Subway Extension," said MPP Stephen Lecce. "Extending the subway, which will include a new subway station in Vaughan, will reduce gridlock for commuting families, connect more people to jobs, and make it easier to travel between York Region and Toronto. Let's get it done."

"The RFP release is the next critical step in our government's plan to extend subway service north from Finch Station to communities in Markham, Vaughan and Richmond Hill, for the first time ever," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. "As York Region grows, we're building the Yonge North Subway Extension to ensure our transit infrastructure keeps up, while providing people with access to better, more reliable public transit."

After being shortlisted through a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process earlier this year, CrossTransit Group, North End Connectors and Toronto-York Tunnel Connectors are being invited to respond to the RFP with proposals that detail how they will deliver the tunnelling project. The contract for the tunnelling project is expected to be awarded in late 2024.

"Reliable, safe and affordable public transit is a key part of building clean, productive and livable communities," said Majid Jowhari, MP for Richmond Hill, on behalf of the Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities. "Projects like the Yonge North Subway Extension will help to connect more than 26,000 people between downtown Toronto and York Region. By working closely with our partners, we are delivering on the important infrastructure that will benefit Canadians for many years to come."

The issuance of the RFP comes as the project reaches another important milestone. Early upgrade work at Finch Station, where the Yonge North Subway Extension will connect with existing Line 1 service, is now substantially complete. The upgrades set the stage for major construction of the subway extension.

"On behalf of the Regional Municipality of York and the more than 1.2 million residents who call our communities home, I commend the Ontario government for taking another positive step forward to advance work on the Yonge North Subway Extension," said Wayne Emmerson, York Region Chairman and CEO. "As our region continues to grow, this critical infrastructure project will provide travellers with more convenient transportation options while continuing to strengthen the economic vitality of our communities."

Once in service, the approximately eight-kilometre subway extension will provide over 94,000 daily trips, connect more people to jobs and housing, and bring faster transit and more convenience to communities across York Region and Toronto.

The Advance Tunnel Contract includes work to design, build and finance the construction of tunnels and the launch and extraction shafts that will be used for the tunnel boring machines.

The Yonge North Subway Extension will put

26,000 more people within a 10-minute walk of transit and is expected to reduce daily travel times for commuters by up to 22 minutes.

The Yonge North Subway Extension will cut the distance travelled by personal vehicles by 7,700 kilometres during rush hour and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 4,800 tonnes each year.

The Yonge North Subway Extension is expected to create thousands of jobs during construction and generate over \$3.6 billion worth of total economic benefits to help stimulate the economy.

Ontario is investing \$70.5 billion over the next decade to transform public transit in the province, which includes the largest subway expansion in Canadian history – the Ontario Line,

the Scarborough Subway Extension, the Eglinton Crosstown West Extension, and the Yonge North Subway Extension.

In 2021, the Government of Canada announced a contribution of over \$10 billion in funding for the four subway projects in the Greater Toronto Area. Federal funding for the Yonge North Subway Extension is conditional on federal Treasury Board approval.

Through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), the Government of Canada is investing \$28.7 billion to support public transit projects.

In May 2020, Ontario signed a landmark Preliminary Agreement with York Region that will help significantly expand the subway network



Kinghaven begins expansion

Kinghaven Farm's greenhouse construction site was prepped and ready for setting concrete for the footings and foundations. Pending full building permit approval, Kinghaven President Jay Willmot says they are hopeful that the broader construction, including technical support buildings, is set to commence in shortly. Kinghaven Farms President Jay Willmot and Farm Manager Peter Thom are shown on site.

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Work on recreation centre progressing

By Mark Pavilons
Editor

The massive Township Wide Recreation Centre is moving ahead swimmingly.

The centre is beginning to look like a rec. centre with some recent touches.

Mayor Steve Pellegrini and King-Vaughan MPP Stephen Lecce took a tour of the facility recently to see the progress first-hand.

“If you’ve passed by the site of our Township-Wide Recreation Centre at the 15th Sideroad and Dufferin Street, you’ve witnessed the incredible progress made since the groundbreaking in 2022. Set to open its doors in 2024, this cutting-edge facility is poised to become a state-of-the-art, high-efficiency, fully accessible recreation complex,” said Mayor Steve Pellegrini.

Key building features include two NHL-sized ice surfaces, a six-lane 25-metre-long lap pool, a multi-purpose athletic fieldhouse and a multi-purpose community room. You can watch a time-lapse video of the construction at king.ca/townshipwiderecreationcentre.



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KING

The best thing about King is its people!

Development of York Region’s first Homelessness Services System Plan under way

The Regional Municipality of York is working on a Homelessness Service System Plan to enhance how to respond to homelessness in York Region. The plan aims to prevent, address and reduce homelessness and is a crucial component of our next 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan.

“Homelessness is a growing challenge across York Region, and we need collaboration for any and all solutions to work,” said York Region Chairman and CEO Wayne Emmerson. “Working with our partners, York Region’s proposed plan focuses on tackling chronic homelessness and strengthening a human rights-based approach to guide decision-making on homelessness to create strong, caring and safe communities for all residents.”

The plan includes three main priorities: prevention and diversion, intervention and housing stability and designing a coordinated system response. To develop this plan, York Region will engage with local cities and towns, community agencies and people with lived experience.

During a special meeting of York Regional Council Nov. 23, community partners and sector experts shared insights on challenges in addressing homelessness and effective initiatives organizations are leading to support people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Partners and experts presented what is happening in the community and the need for additional supports from all levels of government to increase affordable housing and elevate supports for those in need. Council heard from the following:

United Way Greater Toronto, York Regional Police, Community Legal Clinic of York Region, Help Seekers Technologies, MAP Centres for Urban Health Solutions, LOFT Community Services, 360°kids and Blue Door.

“The plan will use data to highlight targets and investments needed to reduce chronic homelessness,” said City of Vaughan Regional Councillor Gino Rosati, Chair of Community and Health Services. “Taking an evidence-based approach will help address systemic causes and needs of people in our communities.”

York Region will continue consultations in the coming months to inform development of the Homelessness Service System Plan, which will be presented to Regional Council for consideration in 2024.

More information on York Region’s Homelessness Service System Plan is available on york.ca/planforhomelessness

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CALAMARI & CHORIZO CIOPPINO
roasted peppers / mussels / tomato / saffron white wine broth / basil purée / grilled sourdough

WARM CAMEMBERT
house chutney / pretzel crostini / warm nuts / agave honey / pickled veg

Mains

MUSHROOM RISOTTO
roasted oyster, cremini & button mushrooms / black truffle cream sauce / gran padano / brown butter porcini panko

SEAFOOD LINGUINI
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STUFFED CHICKEN SUPREME
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TENDERLOIN
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KingWeeklySentinel

Arts & Entertainment

Fall and winter exhibitions at the McMichael

The McMichael Canadian Art Collection is pleased to announce a series of exhibitions exploring the legacy of resource extraction on the landscape – the allure of boom times and the toll of mining activity – as well as a triumphant exhibition of new work by Marcel Dzama, the acclaimed artist’s first solo museum show in Canada in nearly a decade.

Curated by Sarah Milroy, who assumed the position of Executive Director and Chief Curator, these exhibitions demonstrate the McMichael’s leadership as the home to the art of Canada, knitting together our past and present legacies in ways that intrigue, educate and entertain our audiences from coast to coast.

“Our exhibitions on Cobalt and Moridja Kitege Banza reflect on the legacies of mining in Canada and beyond, as artists from the past and present grapple with the environmental and societal impacts of resource extraction to create new artistic forms,” said Milroy. “Meanwhile, Ghosts of Canoe Lake: New Work by Marcel Dzama, mines another resource — that of Canadian art history, as he revisits the legacies of the Group of Seven and Tom Thomson, and his own reckoning with the changing natural world.”

The season begins with a pair of ex-

hibitions that explore how the mining industry shapes communities and landscapes. Montreal-based artist Moridja Kitege Banza’s bold use of contours and colours in large-format paintings invite us to consider the environmental and social impact of intensive resource extraction on communities around the world.

Moridja Kitege Banza: Topographies considers resource exploitation in both the artist’s home country of the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as his new home in Canada.

Topographies provides a contemporary response and thematic companion to Cobalt: A Mining Town and the Canadian Imagination.

The exhibition is curated by Dr. Catharine Mastin, who also authored the accompanying in-depth publication. Whereas Banza examines the environmental and social impacts of contemporary mining on the natural landscape, Cobalt: A Mining Town and the Canadian Imagination revisits historic depictions of Cobalt, Ontario, a mining town that served a century ago as a heroic symbol of human industry and Canadian ingenuity, while also being the site of catastrophic environmental devastation.

Cobalt features a survey of work by 20th century artists who visited

and documented Cobalt and its silver mines between the First and Second World Wars, among them A.Y Jackson, Yvonne McKague Housser, Bess Larkin Housser Harris, Isabel McLaughlin, Frederick Banting, and Franklin Carmichael.

McMichael now presents Ghosts of Canoe Lake: New Work by Marcel Dzama. This is the triumphant Canadian homecoming of internationally acclaimed, Winnipeg-born contemporary artist Marcel Dzama, best known for his fantastical and imaginative ink and watercolour drawings. His multimedia installation at the McMichael celebrates a new body of work inspired by the artist’s interest in Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven and harkens back to his childhood spent in the landscapes of Manitoba and northern Saskatchewan.

A blend of paintings, installation, and film, Ghosts of Canoe Lake is the first major exhibition of Dzama’s work to be presented in Canada in nearly a decade and will be accompanied by a

fully illustrated catalogue with contributions from Winnipeg filmmaker Guy Maddin and an interview with the artist by Sarah Milroy. The exhibition is organized in collaboration with Contemporary Calgary.

The McMichael Canadian Art Collection is an agency of the Government of Ontario and acknowledges the support of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, and the McMichael Canadian Art Foundation. It is the only major museum in the country devoted exclusively to Canadian art. In addition to touring exhibitions, the McMichael houses a permanent collection of more than 7,000 works by historic and contemporary Canadian artists, including Tom Thomson, the Group of Seven and their contemporaries, Indigenous artists and artists from the many diasporic communities of Canada. The Gallery is located on 100 acres of forested land and hiking trails at 10365 Islington Avenue, Kleinburg. For more information, please visit mcmichael.com.

OPP canines featured in fundraising calendar

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) was thrilled to “let the dogs out” for the release of their 2024 Canine Unit Calendar to raise money for local charities.

Students from Mnjikaning Kendaaswin Elementary School visited the OPP to learn about the Canine Unit and see demonstrations from several four-legged heroes. The Auxiliary Unit and members of the charities were in attendance to support the event.

The year’s OPP Canine Unit Calendar showcases twelve canines in action from around the province.

Four-year-old Belgian Malinois Aaron was this year’s cover model and winner of the Obedience category at the 2023 Canadian Police Canine Association (CPCA) National Police Dog Competition. Embedded in the OPP Tactics and Rescue Unit (TRU), Aaron is deployed with his handler to support high-risk incidents.

Other stars include Hopper, a yellow Labrador Retriever who shows off his search skills in his photo for the month of April and Rico, a Malinois-Shepherd mix, tracking through the snow in December.

More than 33 handlers and 50 canines serve the OPP in various capacities, including search and rescue; narcotics detection; firearms, explosives and physical evidence search and detection; as well as suspect apprehension. Canine Unit members also provide community engagement at local events and safety demonstrations.

All proceeds from the 2024 OPP Canine Unit Calendar go to the OPP Youth Foundation and Friends of The OPP Museum. Last year’s calendar sales raised more than \$32,800 for these worthy causes.

Each calendar costs \$15 and can be purchased at the OPP Off Duty Shop (777 Memorial Avenue, Orillia) or online at oppshop.on.ca.

The OPP Youth Foundation provides funds to disadvantaged youth throughout the province of Ontario. The Friends of The OPP Museum is a volunteer-based charitable organization that supports, promotes and assists in the preservation of the history of the OPP.





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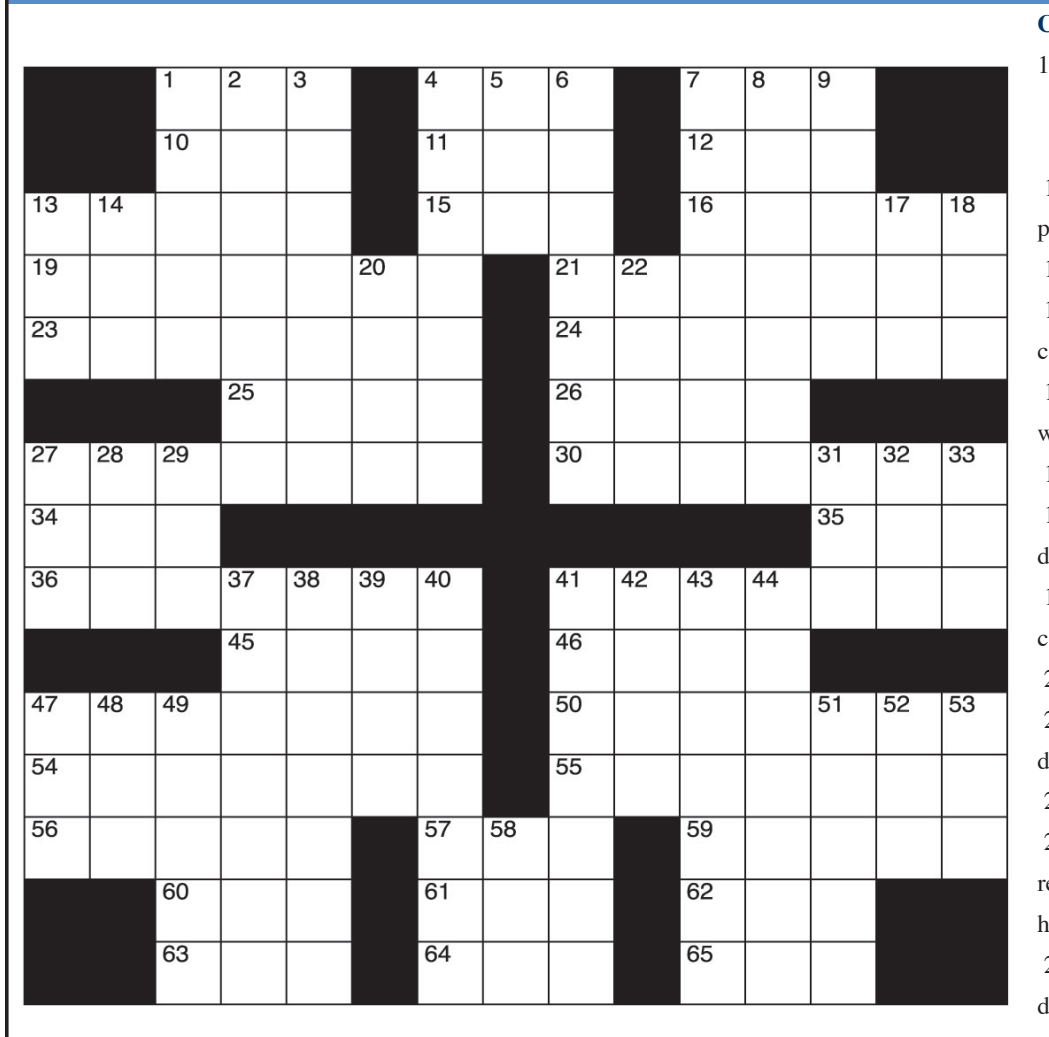


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No one has more self-confidence than the person who does a crossword puzzle with a pen.

The Scoop from Schomberg

By Susan Heslop

Only 10 more shopping days until Christmas, so if you haven't started yet, or you're not quite finished, why not head on down to Main Street Schomberg to pick out some unique gifts for your friends and family. There are so many local shops to choose from and each one has some wonderful Christmas décor and gifts, so make sure you go check it out.

While you're at it, why not celebrate the season at one of our wonderful local restaurants? You won't be sorry you did!

This time of year is a struggle for many, so if you're able please remember to donate either money or groceries for our King Township Food Bank, you never know who may need help and when you donate you might just be helping your neighbours.

"Unplugged on Main" presents a dramatic reading of Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol" Saturday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, 313 Main Street. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for youth. You can purchase advance tickets by visiting www.unpluggedonmain.com. The evening will include six celebrity readers retelling the story of "A Christmas Carol," with a reception to follow and feel free to wear a costume.

Schomberg Seniors (55+) - The big event to end the season took place this past Monday, our "Festive Holiday Potluck Social." The ladies for the social committee did such a wonderful job decorating and organizing games and prizes and everyone brought a wonderful dish, for all to enjoy. We even had a visit from Santa, who said every one of us was on the nice list this year. I'm so relieved because I was a bit concerned.

Thank you to the committee that worked so hard and all who provided food for a wonderful lunch.

This Saturday, Dec. 16 from 2 p.m. we'll be heading to South Simcoe Theatre in Cookstown to see "Snow White & The Seven Aliens." Tickets are \$18.

Monday, Jan. 8, 2024, 10 a.m., Carol Hindley and Barbara Hathorn will

present "P.E.I. Adventure."

Monday, Jan. 15, 11 a.m., Introduction to Bridge 1. Registration is required and limited to 8. Contact klbird@hotmail.com

Monday, Jan. 22, 10 a.m., York Region Paramedic Heart Start - How to use the Defibrillator.

Monday, Jan. 29, 11 a.m., Introduction to Bridge 2.

Monday, Feb. 5, 10 a.m., Lynn Holden presents "Canada's Heritage."

If there is something that catches your eye and you would like to attend any of the Theatre or workshops please reach out to Lynn Bird, klbird@hotmail.com or Margaret Crowe maggie.crowe@hotmail.com.

During the month December, we will be accepting membership registration renewals and new members' registrations for 2024. Come to any of the presentations/workshops and fill out a new form.

Annual fee is \$15 for individuals, \$20 per couple (or two people living at the same address) for King residents. Fees are \$20 and \$30 respectively for non-residents. To keep up to date with events, please check online at king.ca/seniors.

Our 2024 events calendar is shaping up beautifully, but we always want to provide interesting workshops, outings, and presentations, so don't be shy, tell us what you would like to see us add for next year. We are all in this together and your team is only as good as your involvement in the Schomberg Seniors, we'd love for you to come out and join us.

All presentations and meetings will take place at the Community Hall in Schomberg, other than those indicated.

Euchre is on Friday nights at the Trisan, 7 to 9. The cost is \$10 for the evening or pay monthly for \$20. All welcome, all ages, men, ladies, you just must know how to play, how to laugh and not take the game too seriously.

I will say that after a drought of not winning for a year, I finally won last week. Well technically it was a tie, but it was nice to finally have a few loan hands without someone calling the opposite suit or not having all my aces trumped.

This quote spoke to me this week:

"If you don't think representation matters, you're probably well represented" ~ Bernice King

please contact me at nancykhopkinson@gmail.com

The Pot Luck Christmas Social at Nobleton United was last Monday and was lots of fun. Thank you to the organizers, Sharon Birks, Sue DiFebo and Val Ball. Thanks also to Dennis for playing Christmas carols. It was a great sing-along. Thanks to all the participants for bringing so many delicious foods!

December's Messy Church was last Wednesday. Thanks to Pastor Richard for organizing the various activities and storytime, the Laverty family for organizing the main part of the meal, Jennifer Carroll for making the special cookies to be decorated, to Rev. Evelyn for supplying the fresh fruits and veggies, and to all the families who participated.

We are both in person for our respective services (Schomberg United at 9:30 a.m. and Nobleton United at 11:15 a.m.) and online at 11:15 a.m. Go to www.youtube.com. Then search for Nobleton United Church, find the correct date and enjoy! The videos are recorded, so you can also watch them later.

Our Pastor, Richard Gardner, is in the Nobleton church office most Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. If you wish to meet with Richard, drop by or contact him at pastor.schomberg.nobleton@gmail.com or call the church office at 905-859-3976.

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 would love to see here sporter5952@gmail.com or 416-460-5952.



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Nobleton & Schomberg United Churches

By Nancy Hopkinson

Come and experience a warm welcome Sundays at Schomberg United, St. Mary Magdalene Church, 116 Church St., Schomberg at 9:30 a.m. or at Nobleton United Church, 6076 King Rd., Nobleton at 11:15 a.m. Stay and chat afterwards and enjoy some refreshments.

The next Advent Study is at Schomberg United Church at St. Mary Magdalene Church on Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 2 p.m. This is the fourth & final Advent study. Advent is "looking forward to" Christmas, the birth of Jesus.

On Christmas Eve (Sun. Dec. 24), there will be a family friendly service at 3 pm at Nobleton United. There will be a more traditional Christmas Eve Service with communion at Schomberg United at 7 p.m. There are no morning services that day.

"Inn from the Cold" needs donations of men's new warm socks and underwear. If you are able to support this cause, please bring your donations to one of our Sunday services or leave a message at 905-859-3976 and someone will contact you.

The next Messy Church is Wednesday, Jan. 17, at 5 p.m. For more info,

Happy Holidays from Our Family to Yours!



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King Weekly Sentinel

Sports • News • Community Events
Classifieds • At Your Service



Huge success for adult learn to curl program

By Shellee Morning
King Curling Club

Sunday concluded the 2023 Adult Learn to curl program with a well-deserved graduation celebration.

The 8-week program began with curlers learning the basic skills, safety, and strategy of the game, leading them to being “game ready” by the end of the course.

The Christmas themed final day included a 6 end game lunch prizes and a

congratulatory cake for the graduates. The game itself resonated with traditional hurry hard calls, and more noticeably the calibre of curlers and their knowledge of the game after just a few short weeks (once per week) on the sport.

Highlights included Tyler Bayley’s difficult “Brier-like” tap up he made giving his team the shot rock. Fist pumps were exchanged by both teams and with anyone in the vicinity that witnessed it. Annie Sirois brought her



King Curling Club's 2023-24 Adult Learn to Curl graduates.

Cougars down Kings, Otters

By Jim Stewart

Luke Szabo paced the offence with 2 goals and 2 assists as Schomberg defeated Huntsville 5-1 on Saturday night at the Trisan Centre.

It was the third win in a row for the Cougars who have outscored their opponents 17-2 during a trio of games featuring a torrid offence and stellar goaltending.

The Otters opened the scoring 3:44 into the second period when Hunter Haskim beat Cougars’ netminder Anthony Paolini, but it was the only goal Paolini would surrender to Huntsville. Two minutes later, Szabo’s power play goal, assisted by Joey Furlano, tied the game 1-1.

Schomberg took the lead when Jacob Duggan tallied a power play goal at 7:16 with assists going to Adam Miller and Szabo. Furlano fired his sixth of the season ninety seconds later to give the Cougars a 3-1 lead heading into the final frame with Szabo and Andrew Hrinco earning the helpers.

Cougars’ leading scorer Anthony Nascimento gave the home side a three-goal lead nine minutes into the third period with Miller providing the assist. Szabo closed the scoring, on assists from Furlano and Nascimento, with seven minutes left to provide the margin of victory. Szabo’s four-point night was his most productive of the season.

Cougars’ goaltender Anthony Paolini turned aside 21 of 22 Otter shots to earn his seventh win of the season. Schomberg outshot Huntsville 43-22. The Cougars’ victory over Huntsville improved their record to 15-6-0-1. Schomberg’s .705 winning percentage is #18 in the 61-team PJHL.

The Cougars fired five goals in the first 10 minutes of play on Thursday night and coasted to a 9-1 victory over the Pen-

etang Kings at the Trisan Centre.

Joey Furlano tallied two goals and two assists in his first game back from the Injured List while Wesley O’Hara added a goal and three assists to pace the Cougars’ well-balanced attack. O’Hara, Michael Termini, Matthew Lycheck, Furlano, and Jacob Duggan scored in rapid succession in the first period while Adam Miller, Anthony Nascimento, and Carlo Lioni delivered three goals in eight minutes in the second period to give Schomberg an 8-0 lead.

Cougars’ Coach Mark Hrinco saw a connection between his team’s fast start versus the Kings and recent practices: “We’ve been working on puck distribution in practice and making the right hockey plays is something we’ve been preaching.”

When queried about whether his teams have ever scored five goals in the first 10 minutes of play, the Cougars’ bench boss was matter-of-fact: “Never. It’s almost unbelievable that we scored them against a drafted goalie Wade Monague who is very strong and against a team that is vastly improved from last year.”

Coach Hrinco also noted the recent improvement of his own netminder Christopher Thompson whose impressive 116-minute scoreless streak was snapped when Owen Collins beat him under the cross bar to get the Kings on the board with four minutes to play: “Chris has been really stellar against Orillia last week and again tonight against the Kings. The confidence of the team is really high when Chris in the net. You’ve got to beat him with a perfect shot to beat him ...”

The big, athletic goaltender shut out Orillia 3-0 last Thursday to cap a series of games in November in which the Cougars’ offence struggled.



Schomberg U18 Red Wings win Dunnville tournament

The Schomberg U18 Red Wings won five straight games in Dunnville to claim the championship of the 25th annual Albert Schram Local League hockey tournament.

The Red Wings efforts were led by goaltenders Carter Britt and Troy Ehlert who only surrendered two goals in the entire tournament.

In pool play Schomberg defeated the Six Nations Blackhawks 3-0, Glanbrook Rangers 3-0 and the host Dunnville Mudcats 1-0. In the semi-finals, Schomberg topped Glanbrook 3-1 to make it to the championship final.

In the championship game, smooth skating forward James De Carvalho found the back of the net in the 3rd overtime period for a 2-1 victory over the Pelham Panthers. Marcus Rose was the tournament scoring leader and championship game MVP.

Team members include Carter Britt, James De Carvalho, Alejandro Diaz, Troy Ehlert, Davis Forrest, Joey Giardina, Sam Hayhoe, Lucas Lo Porto, Anthony Medeiros, Phoenix Nobilione, Alexander Ramadan, Marcus Rose, Lukas Rossi, Calum Smith-Milne and Darian Vincent.

Team staff: Alfredo Nobilione (Interim Head Coach), Jody Walker (Trainer), Angelo Giardina (Assistant Trainer), Shawn Ramadan (Assistant Coach) and Dave Forrest (Manager).

On the roster but unavailable for the trip to Dunnville were Cameron Budway, Alessandro Caringi, Josh Hayhoe, Dylan Nobilione, Domenic Sbergio and Head Coach Mike Budway.

A-game with a first end first rock hit and roll behind the guard that led to a first end score for her team.

Nina Posa and her husband Al wanted something new to do and after seeing the Adult Learn to Curl poster, decided to give it a try. “I’ve always wanted to try curling” said Nina before commenting that the program here is amazing. After his first week with sore muscles, and not sure whether this was for him, Al returned with new enthusiasm, mastered some very impressive skills and is absolutely “loving it.”

Directors Karl and Barb Davis once again were astounded by the quick progress and accomplishments by their new curlers. This year’s program saw an increase in a younger age group which is very encouraging for the youth in the community. General consensus

among the new curlers was that the program was very informative, socially fun both on and off the ice, and that it was inexpensive to join. The success that this program sees year after year is complemented by the team of volunteer coaches who arrive each week with encouragement and knowledge that they offer to their participants.

A former participant said that the King Curling Club is truly a one-of-a-kind club with everyone being so welcoming to new members and so willing to help them with the game on the ice. Congratulations to all the curlers and everyone involved for another successful Adult Learn to Curl program. Anyone interested to learn more about the program or any of the leagues the club offers can go to the website www.king-curling.com



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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 continue his new series on the book of Acts this third Sunday of Advent. Jeff's message, entitled "All I Want For Christmas is to be Generous," is from Acts 4.32-5.11. 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.

Christmas Eve worship will be Sunday, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m. We invite you and your friends to hear the story of the new-born King Jesus at St. Paul's as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. On Christmas Day, we are offering an online family experience that will premiere at 10 a.m.

A reversible advent calendar is available for download on our website at www.stpaulsnobleton.ca. Each day an item is suggested for purchase for the Love Bags. The Love Bags is a ministry that donates much needed non-perishable items to the clients of the King Township Food Bank. As well, you will find a Daily Advent Devotional along with a daily Christmas Carol on the website.

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

Sacrament of First Holy Communion - Sacrament of First Holy Communion Holy Mass Celebration Dates. Please note, an email has been sent to all parents/guardians regarding the Sacrament of First Holy Communion Holy Mass celebration dates. If you did not receive the email, please contact the parish office.

A gentle reminder that all children who are preparing to celebrate their First Holy Communion in spring 2024

are strongly encouraged to attend the Children's Liturgy of the Word Program on Sundays (St. Patrick's 9:30 a.m., St. Mary's 11:30 a.m.) as a supplement to the at-home Sacramental preparation program. Families should be attending the Holy Mass celebration on a regular basis, that is, every Sunday or Saturday vigil (5 p.m.). See Mass schedule in bulletin.

Calling all Teens Grades 6 to 12, mark your calendars for the Greatest Christmas Party of all Time taking place on Saturday, Dec. 16 after the 5 p.m. Youth Mass. Please bring your favourite dish or desert to share as we celebrate the birth of Christ with a youth ministry dinner and party. Join us for Christmas season cheer while playing festive Christmas games, activities, crafts, competitions and The Epic Christmas Carol Battle. All craft materials will be provided!

Please RSVP by texting Zephania and let us know which dish or desert you plan to share!

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. Please call the parish office if you wish to make an appointment for Confession outside of the scheduled Confession times.

Browse our websites:
St. Patrick's Parish:
<https://stpatrikssc.archtoronto.org/>
St. Mary's Mission: <https://stmarys-no.archtoronto.org/>

Nobleton Seniors (55+) By Joanne Bailey

We welcome all Nobleton Seniors (55+) to the Nobleton Arena to participate in meaningful activities, create new friendships and to share ideas. We are located at 15 Old King Rd. (upstairs).

Our current schedule is as follows:
Tuesday: Mobility Matters - 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Friday: Mobility Matters - 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Please note - Mobility Matters will be cancelled Tuesday, Dec. 19 but there will be a class on Friday December 22.

Our last Thursday will be Dec. 14.

Other scheduled events are as follows: Educational Thursdays - All Thursdays are from 10 a.m. to noon unless otherwise indicated.

December 14, Christmas Party & Cookie Exchange. Come to our last Thursday of 2023 for Christmas fun, music and prizes. Please bring 2-3 dozen cookies & take the same amount home. Please list the ingredients for allergies. We will make copies of the recipes. Wear your festive attire. Councillor David Boyd will join us. We will start at 10 a.m. and provide pizza, tea and coffee around noon. Please plan to stay until 1 pm for all the fun.

Please bring your ideas, for 2024 so we can book them on our calendar.

Our first Thursday in 2024 is January 11, we will be having chair Yoga. We also have booked the following: Osteoporosis, Naturopathic Doctor, Chiropractor, HosPall, YR Police. Lots is coming your way!

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/seniors for more information on programs, workshops, and senior memberships.

Kingcrafts Studio Workshop

Congratulations to Kingcrafts' Raffle Winners!

Nancy Sinclair of Newmarket won basket #1 and Linda Blachford of Aurora won Basket #2. Thank you to everyone who attended our November Studio Sale. We are looking forward to our Spring Sale on April 26, 27 and 28.

Nobleton Lions

Thank you for visiting our booth at the Nobleton Tree Lighting last Sunday where, hopefully, you enjoyed some steaming chili and treats for the kids. We, unfortunately, ran out of chili early, a testament to how popular the event has become.

Continuing our Christmas outreach, you are invited to our annual Skate with Santa event at the Nobleton Arena on Saturday, Dec. 16, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Free skating, a visit with Santa Claus and treats are in store for you and your kids.

Please visit our website, accessible by simply googling "Nobleton Lions" which will bring up the link to the site. Check out "upcoming events" and "useful links" where you will find more information about organizations supported with your contributions. At

the Homepage you will find an appeal for volunteers to help with the Home James program this Christmas season.

Having inducted three new Lions this fall, we continue to welcome new members with a heart to serve, both men and women. You may join us as a guest at an upcoming meeting by contacting Lion Andrew at andrew.bevil@sanofi.com We meet at 6:30 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from September to June at the Old Community Hall, just north of the arena. Our next meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 9.

Horticulture By John Arnott

Potted or packaged amaryllis are now available in supermarkets and all year garden centres. They make great gifts.

In the ancient Greek legend Amaryllis was a lovely lonely young shepherdess in love with Alteo a handsome young gardener who never seemed to notice her, only his garden full of lovely flowers. Appealing to the gods she was given a golden arrow and told to gently pierce her heart while walking to his door. Everywhere a drop of blood fell up sprung a red lily. Voila, he noticed them and her. and gave these unknown flowers her name.

These plants are native to Central and South America but weren't assigned their name until the 1700s. There are some 90 species of amaryllis and many hybrids. Flowers can be red, white, pink or bi colours of these.

Hippeastrum, the botanical name for this plant which can grow 30 to 60 cm/1 to 2 ft. high, comes from hippeus Greek for mounted knight and astron Greek for star thus it is "knight's star." As well the long, wide leaves may have reminded the naming botanists of straps on a horse's harness. These leaves don't appear until the blooms die off.

If buying an already potted amaryllis choose one with the bud just showing through the top of the grapefruit sized bulb. If buying a boxed bulb open the box or get a sales person to open it as bulbs in boxes may have deformed stems (mildly deformed stems will often straighten up) and depending on how long they've been in the box and where, they may even have already bloomed.

If storing the bulb for a few days before planting keep it in a cool non freezing place such as the crisper in a fridge.



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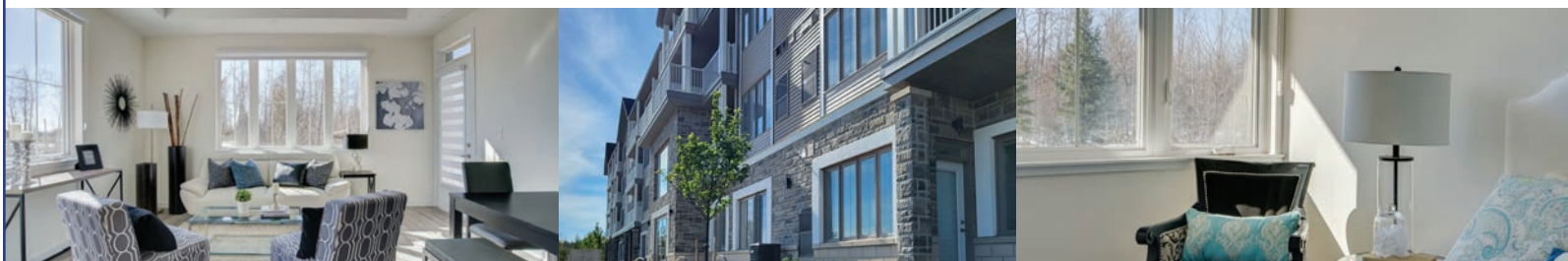
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King's Corners

King City United
By Sheryl Sinka

This Sunday, Dec. 17 is the third Sunday of Advent which we celebrate as the Sunday of Joy. We will be lighting our second Advent candle and this week and Rev Andrew Lee will lead our worship at 10 a.m.

Christmas Eve worship this year will be at 7:30 on Sunday, Dec. 24. There will be no morning worship on that day. On Sundays there is a fellowship time following the worship and Sunday school is offered for elementary aged children during the worship hour. Please call Sheryl Sinka at 416 450 0140 for more information on this.

For the PDF of past messages and recordings please visit our website at kcuc.net

Please remember the King Township Food bank in your givings this season. For those who use the foodbank, the extra support is an expression of kindness and generosity for which so many are grateful. We encourage you to continue to help with donations of food or financial donations for the many need-

ing assistance.

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

King Bible Church

Join us on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. as we're in-person for our services. Pastor Mark will be starting our Christmas series, "Songs of the Saviour." We will also be streaming the service online at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook and YouTube.

We invite you to join us for our Christmas Eve service at 6:30 p.m.

Please visit our website for links and further information: www.kingbiblechurch.com

If you have any questions please email: Lisa Lethangue (lisa@kingbiblechurch.com), Administrative Assistant, King Bible Church, 1555 King Rd, King City, 905-833-5104.

King City Seniors (55+)

By Carolyn Kanitz

The last art class for the year will take place tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 15. The next classes will be January 12 and 26, 2024.

Looking ahead to the new year, Fri-

day, Jan. 5 at 10 a.m., Rob Payne will give a presentation on living in retirement and fixed income investments.

Activities are winding down for 2023. The following are the end dates for 2023 and the start dates for 2024.

Music and Movement, Line Dancing and Gentle Motion are now finished for the year and will resume the week of January 2.

All card games – Euchre, Bridge and Cribbage – as well as Carpet Bowling, Chess, Knitting and Crocheting classes will finish the week of December 18 and resume January 2. Mobility Matters will end on December 20 and restart on January 8.

Have a wonderful holiday season. See you next year!

You may contact KCSC at 905-833-6565 or kingcityseniors@gmail.com

Kingcrafts Studio

Congratulations to Kingcrafts' Raffle Winners!

Nancy Sinclair of Newmarket won basket #1 and Linda Blachford of Aurora won Basket #2. Thank you to everyone who attended our November Studio Sale. We are looking forward to our Spring Sale on April 26, 27 and 28.

Sacred Heart Church

Blessing and opening of our Narthex addition by His Grace Francis Leo, Archbishop of Toronto on Friday, Dec. 15 with Thanksgiving Holy Mass at 7 p.m. Refreshments and Social to follow in the Parish Hall. Kindly note that there will be no Eucharistic Adoration.

This is the last week for submissions by parishioners to share their thoughts on key priorities for the Pastoral Plan through the Archdiocesan Consultation. Complete a brief survey by Dec. 15, on www.archtoronto.org/consultation.

"The closer one approaches to God, the simpler one becomes." – St Teresa of Avila

Confession at 4 p.m. Saturdays. Advent Reconciliation: Wednesday Dec. 20 after 7 p.m. Mass; Thursday, Dec. 21, 3 to 5 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 22 after 7 p.m. Mass.

Weekend Mass at 5 p.m. Saturdays; and Sundays at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. Christmas Masses: Sunday, Dec. 24 at 5, 7 and 10:30 p.m. (Christmas Carols at 10 p.m.) and Monday, Dec. 25 at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Holy Day of Obligation, the Solemnity of Mary: Sunday, Dec. 31 at 5 p.m.; Monday, Jan. 1 at 10:30 a.m.

More on Page 18

Classifieds

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zach@lpcmedia.ca



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From Page 17

Social media – website: sacredheart-ki.archtoronto; email: sacredheartki@archtoronto.org; Facebook & Instagram: Sacred Heart Parish King City. Contact Rectory office at 905-833-1161.

York Pines United Church

This Sunday, Pat Edmonds returns to lead the service at 11 a.m., and then there will be a carol sing at 1 p.m. Feel free to join us for coffee before the carol sing. Next Sunday, we will have the regular service at 11 a.m. and then the Christmas Eve service with communion at 7 p.m., both lead by Rev. Andrew. All are welcome.

York Pines is offering free ukulele classes in December on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to noon. The group will sing and play Christmas carols and pop songs targeting presentation on the Christmas Eve worship service. It's open to the public with both an in-person and virtual format. Participants may bring and share lunch after the lessons. All are welcome, and we have a free rental program. For more details, please call the office at 905-727-8118 or email york-pinesuc@gmail.com.

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

Welcome to St. Andrew's, King City. Join us this Advent Season as we lead up to Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, God's matchless gift to the world.

This Sunday morning, December 17, we're having our monthly fellowship meal and it's breakfast at 9:30 a.m. before our Morning Worship service at 10:30 a.m. Please let us know if you can come by calling the church office at 905-833-2325.

Last Sunday, the message was of Peace, telling us of John the Baptist's parents and their very dark and ostracizing time in their lives. Luke 1:5-25. Although there's such unrest, conflict and darkness, personal and globally, God sent His son, Jesus, the Prince of Peace at the right time in history and gives us the gift of faith to know that God is Sovereign and will care for us. This Sunday the message will be of Joy and the Joy Candle will be lit.

Christmas Eve Day is December 24! Morning worship at 10:30 a.m. and then a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. All are welcome!

Prayer-time hour is at the Church Of-

ice on Tuesdays at 2 p.m. This is a time where we pray for our community and for God's guidance and discernment for St. Andrew's. If you can't be with us, pray wherever you are!

The items for Evangel Hall, Toronto will be delivered this week. These items are winter clothing such as warm socks, hats, scarves, mittens and gloves along with Tim Hortons gift cards for Evangel Hall. If you have warm, clean coats and sleeping bags and spare mugs that you could donate, they would be graciously received as well, www.evangelhall.ca

Please call the office before you drop off your donations.

**All Saints Anglican Church
By Patrick Gossage**

All Saints Christmas celebrations – all are welcome – Wonderful music and readings, Lessons and Carols Service December 17 at 2 p.m. – our Christmas eve service – carols and worship - December 24 at 5 p.m.

Prepare the Way of the Lord – Sermon by Rev. Erin Martin on Mark 1 – John the Baptist prepares the way:

“The Gospel of Mark doesn't tell us the story of Jesus's birth the way the other Gospels do. We aren't told of the

baby lying in a manger, or the star, or shepherds, or angels or any of it. Instead Mark goes immediately to John the Baptist. John's whole life purpose was to prepare people for Jesus' arrival. He was a messenger, a herald of the amazing news that God would come to be with us and for us.

“One of the reasons I think it's so important to reflect on John's call to prepare the way, is not just because it reminds us that Jesus is coming but that through John's call, each of us becomes, a messenger and a herald of good news. We have to share the good news of Jesus, to share the good news of God's steadfast love that has the power to save, heal, strengthen and comfort.

“So go out into the world to reflect God's love, go out into this world to share the good news of God's transforming love. Go to your neighbours and invite them to come to church. Go to the mall and show people grace and compassion when everyone else is frazzled and short-tempered. Go to those who are hungry and feed them in God's name. Go to marginalized communities and both tell them and show them that they are loved, and valued. Go and love and prepare the way of God today. The kingdom of God is near.”

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708 OBITUARIES

Kathryn ("Kaye") Elaine Groen (née McCracken)
It is with profound sadness that we announce Kaye's passing in her 70th year on December 5, 2023 at Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital. Beloved wife of John for 45 years. Loving mother to Krista (Michael). "Best Nana ever" to Emily and Nicholas. Dear sister of Janet Ward (née McCracken), David McCracken, Paul McCracken (Virginia) and the late Donald McCracken. Fondly remembered by her niece Robin (Gord), her nephew Wayne (Fiona), her cherished in-laws, her many great nieces and nephews, extended family and dear friends.
Kaye was born in Alliston, where she worked for Baxter Corporation for over 45 years. She loved to golf, curl and play cards. She volunteered her time to charity events and organizations, including the Huronia Wire Wheel Chapter of Model A Owners of Canada club. She was intuitively creative, making masterpieces in carpentry, painting, quilting and any other medium she could get her hands on. She loved gardening and canning much of her harvest. She was known for her stellar cooking skills, especially her homemade French Onion Soup.
Despite her lifelong health struggles, Kaye was an unrelenting fighter who never gave up. She continuously beat the odds that she was up against. Even when she did not feel her best, she selflessly put the needs of others before her own. She refused to allow her afflictions to define her. Kaye maintained her kind heart, sense of humour and radiant personality to the end.
Funeral has taken place. In lieu of flowers, donations in Kaye's memory may be made to the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada, the Kidney Foundation of Canada, the St. James Building Fund or a charity of your choice.
Online condolences may be left for the family at
www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com

709 IN MEMORIAM

Hrassnig, Stephanie Lee (Crowley)
November 20, 1981- December 14, 2020
I know you are up in heaven
But damn it hurts like hell
Cause i'd just be pretending
If I said anything else
And I know God don't make mistakes
But this sure feels like one
That won't change the facts
That won't bring you back
So I'll cry cause it's over
And smile because we had you
Packed a whole lot of living
Even though it ended all too soon
And in time, I'll start healing
But even when I get that feeling
No matter where I go or what I do
I'll never not remember you
Thank God for all the memories
And pictures on my phone
That don't fill the empty
But I feel less alone
And I know you're with the angels
Right where you belong
Cause you were one to us
You left a legacy of love
You lighting up a whole room like that
You made us think, made us feel, made us all laugh
You always giving the shirt off your back
I miss you bad, I miss you bad
So I'll cry because it's over
Smile because we had you
Packed a whole lot of living
Even though it ended all too soon
And in time, I'll start healing
But even when I get that feeling
No matter where I go or what I do
I'll never not remember you
Oh, I promise you
I'll never not remember you
Loved by sons Baron and Xavier Hrassnig, Mom and Dad,
Sisters Karrie Angus, Coleen Crowley and Meghan Dean
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SELL IT IN THE Classifieds

Jack Colwell

Family and friends are mourning the passing of Jack Colwell on December 9, 2023. Jack was born on the Main Street of Beeton in February 1938 and lived his entire life as a proud Beetonian. He was a long time member of the Beeton Fire Department where he served as captain and a dedicated employee of Borden Metals for 35 years before retiring in 1999. Jack enjoyed many years of Sunday Night Hockey with the boys as well as curling and bowling. He was also a twenty-five year member of the Georgian Bay Steam Club, where he was an active participant. He had a great love of his chickens and pigeons, auction sales, antiques, golfing and spending time in his shop tinkering on multiple projects. His prize possession was easily recognized in many Beeton parades over the years; his 1933 McLaughlin Buick that he purchased in 1959 for \$180. He will be greatly missed by his twin brother Jim. He is survived by his beloved wife Joan (Platt) of sixty years, son John (Sheryl), daughter Janis, grandchildren Dale (Victoria), Dylan, Andrew (Jaimey), Connor and Paige. Friends and family are invited to gather on Sunday, December 17th between 1pm and 4pm at the Beeton Legion to share memories.

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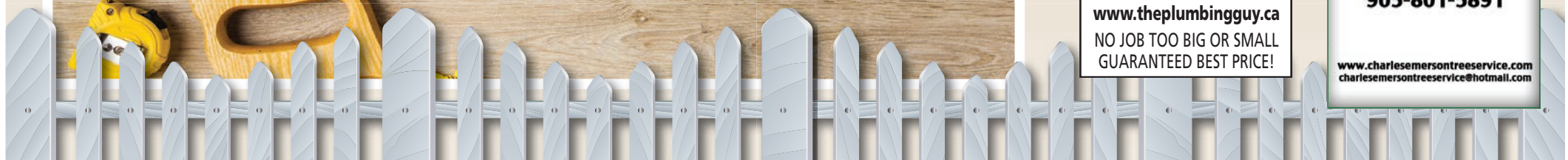
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THE MICHELE DENNISTON REAL ESTATE GROUP'S

Holiday FOOD DRIVE 2023

IN SUPPORT OF THE KING TOWNSHIP FOOD BANK

The Michele Denniston Real Estate Group, in partnership with Intercity Realty Inc. & the King Township Food Bank, have come together this Holiday Season in an effort to support those in need, right here in our community with our 2023 Holiday Food Drive.

Record numbers of Canadians, even those who are gainfully employed, are having to turn to local food banks just to get by. As inflation and the cost of living soar in Canada, new visitors to local food banks increase, as does the need for donations.

The annual Hunger Report, subtitled "Why Ontarians Can't Get Ahead" found 800,822 adults and children visited the province's food banks between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023. Feed Ontario said that represents an increase of 38% over last year and 60% over pre-pandemic levels. Ontario's food banks were accessed 5,888,685 times throughout the year, an increase of 36% over last year and 101% over pre-pandemic levels.

With the holidays around the corner, we especially believe that no person, family or child should go hungry. For that reason, we reached out to the amazing volunteers at the King Township Food Bank to set up this Food Drive and find out exactly what items they need most:

- Tinned Tuna
- Granola Bars
- Sidekicks
- Tinned Fruit
- Peanut Butter
- Condensed Soups
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Beans in Sauce

As the food bank already has an amazing surplus of dried pasta, we kindly ask that you donate other products, and avoid donating products in glass containers, or products that have passed their due date.

DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

Michele Denniston Real Estate Group / Intercity Office - 50 Doctor Kay Dr, Schomberg

Trisan Arena - 25 Dillane Dr, Schomberg

Schomberg Post Office - 197 Main St, Schomberg

Supporting your local community, whether by donating food items big or small, can have a potentially life-saving effect on those who turn to food banks this holiday season. If you are unable to make it to any of our drop-off locations, we are happy to arrange for someone to pick up your donation - just give Michele a call directly at 416-433-8316 or send us an email at michele@micheledenniston.com

Holiday Food Drive

WE ARE IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:
Tinned Tuna, Granola Bars, Sidekicks, Tinned Fruit, Peanut Butter, Condensed Soups, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Beans in Sauce.

* Please, no glass containers, no dried pasta as the Food Bank has an amazing surplus. We request that foods have not passed their best before date.

DROP OFF LOCATIONS

Michele Denniston Real Estate Group / Intercity Office
50 Doctor Kay Dr, Schomberg

Trisan Arena
25 Dillane Dr, Schomberg

Schomberg Post Office
197 Main St, Schomberg

Thank you for your support
Michele Denniston 416-433-8316

MARKET UPDATE - NOVEMBER 2023

AURORA

AVERAGE SALES PRICE

\$1,405,728

AVERAGE 53 DAYS ON MARKET

NUMBER OF SALES

64

110 NEW LISTINGS

SALE TO LIST RATIO

96%

YEAR OVER YEAR % CHANGE

2.56%

KING

AVERAGE SALES PRICE

\$1,682,316

AVERAGE 39 DAYS ON MARKET

NUMBER OF SALES

19

45 NEW LISTINGS

SALE TO LIST RATIO

92%

YEAR OVER YEAR % CHANGE

0.75%

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

It is interesting to note that listings are on the rise which is unusual for this time of the year. With typically only a few good selling weeks left before the market slows prior to the holiday season, this surge of inventory will be welcomed by buyers looking to purchase before year-end. As was the case last month, nicely appointed homes that are priced sharply are still selling in an average number of days or less. With listings on the rise, there is more choice than ever for buyers, no sudden urgency to act quickly, and a normal paced market which makes it less stressful...with the opportunity to include conditions and time for contemplating a major house decision. If you have any questions about current market conditions, we are always here to be a source of value, as your trusted advisor.

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POTENTIAL FOR LOW-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL \$4,899,800

Two properties, 20221 & 20241 Leslie St, being sold together, approx. 1.5 acres combines and one currently used as a mechanic shop & the other is a bungalow. Owner willing to rent back! Call Rocco today!



MANY POSSIBILITIES FOR INVESTORS!

Two properties, 18705 & 18707 Leslie St, being sold together. Total package includes approx. 2.6 acres w/renovated bungalow, in-ground pool, large workshop & 2 storey home. Zoning allows many business or home occupations. Call Rocco today!



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How to care for fresh *holiday wreaths*



Majestic Christmas trees garner the lion's share of the decorative fanfare when the holidays arrive.

*T*rees may be the focal points of holiday decor, but the humble wreath adorning the front door is the first decoration guests are likely to see when visiting a home.

Wreaths may need some care to maintain their beauty all month long. Here are some tips to help holiday wreaths last as long as possible.

CHOOSE A WREATH WISELY

When shopping for a wreath, choose freshly cut greenery that you assemble yourself; otherwise, look for wreaths made from freshly cut boughs with their foliage intact. Make sure not too many needles or leaves are falling off. Heavily decorated, preassembled wreaths may be convenient, but ornaments can make it challenging to give the wreath the moisture it needs to survive.

MOISTURE/WATER

Access to moisture will help to keep the wreath fresh. While a Christmas tree trunk may sit inside of a stand filled with water, wreaths require a little ingenuity. According to the wreath and garland retailer Club Botanic, if you will not be hanging a freshly purchased wreath right away, keep it in a plastic liner in a cool, dark place to help it retain moisture. Just make sure you don't seal that liner closed. Before hanging, lay the wreath in a couple of inches of water for about an hour or up to a day so that the cut stems can soak up water.

Once the wreath is hanging on a door or elsewhere, spritz it with water every few days to prevent it from drying out.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Where you hang the wreath is key to its longevity. Wreaths and garlands hung indoors likely won't last as long as those hung outside, advises the floral retailer Bouqs.com. Evergreen boughs tend to require a colder climate to thrive, and indoor heat can prematurely zap moisture from the wreath. Using a humidifier indoors or misting the wreath may help.

It's probably best to hang fresh wreaths outdoors, but avoid direct sunlight, which can dry out the greenery. Slightly shaded spots are best. If your front door is bathed in full sun for hours, hang an artificial wreath here instead of a fresh one.

MAINTAIN AIRFLOW

Another factor that can affect the wreath's longevity is an ample flow of oxygen. Wreaths tend to last much longer when kept on an outer door, indicates Harbor Farm in Ellsworth, ME. Wreaths sandwiched between a front door and a storm door will probably perish faster due to lack of oxygen.

Following these tips can help keep fresh wreaths as vibrant as the day they were brought home.

3 items your family and friends won't want to re-gift

(NC) Even when re-gifting is something many people do - whether they admit it or not - it can hurt to think your gift wasn't wanted by the recipient and was instead passed along to someone else.

But you don't have to worry with these three strategies for outstanding gift giving every time.

THE PERFECTLY PRACTICAL

With budgets tight and the cost of living high, there's nothing like getting a break on practical purchases that take a regular chunk out of your wallet. Ask your family and friends what they need this year and tell them you're good for it. Think about their lifestyle and what makes a difference. If they have a draining commute to work or school, a gas card will be appreciated. If they work outdoors, give them a nice pair of warm socks. Treat coffee lovers to a break at their local café.

THE ENTICING ACTIVITY

Perfect for a minimalist who despises clutter or an adventurer looking for something new, turning any gift into an activity or event is a great way to treat the recipient to something fun and spend some quality time together - plus it can't be re-gifted. There's everything from tickets to a concert or sporting event to activities like rock climbing. Learning together in a cooking class can be fun too. You can also think further outside the box - and maybe closer in line with a budget - and create your own experience for them by offering to cook their favourite meal.

THE KIND CAUSES

Donating to a worthy cause on behalf of someone else is always a meaningful gift, and it won't require the recipient to do anything or store anything at home. A source like the World Vision gift catalogue is filled with various options that can give them the warm fuzzies of knowing their gift goes to help the world's most vulnerable children. Many of these gifts will be multiplied by governments and corporations to total up to seven times the amount of your gift. No re-gifting in sight.

More information about the catalogue is available at worldvision.ca/gift.

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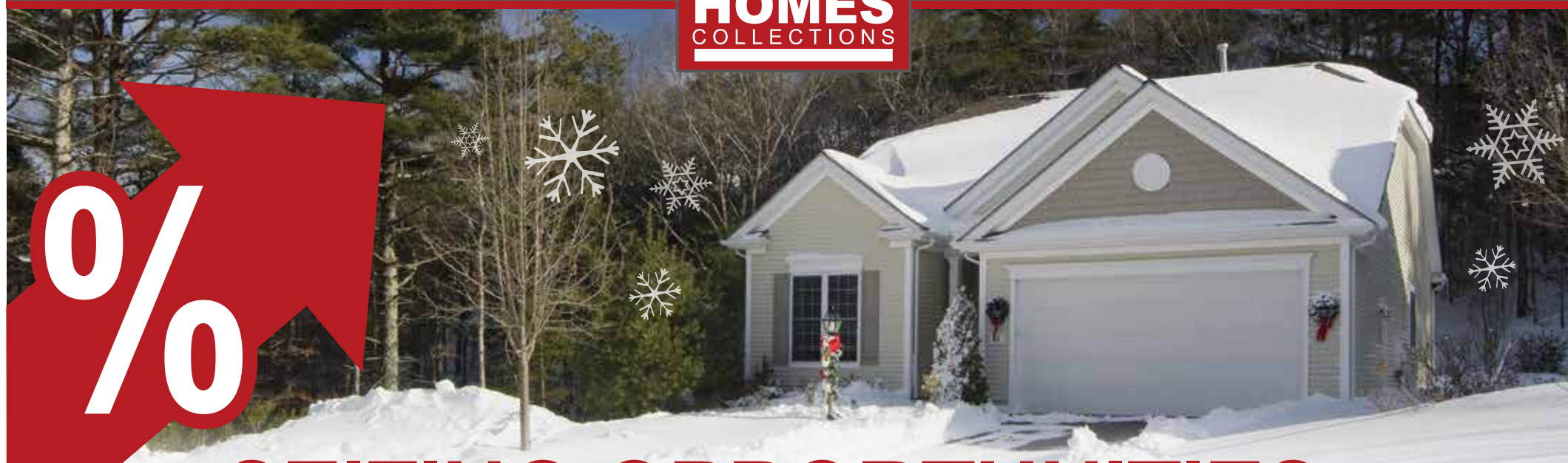


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SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES:

Why now might be the ideal time to buy a home despite high interest rates

In the ever-changing landscape of the Greater Toronto Area's (GTA) real estate market, prospective homebuyers may find themselves hesitating due to the current high-interest rates.

However, counterintuitive as it may seem, there are compelling reasons why now could be an opportune moment to invest in a home in the GTA.

ROBUST AND RESILIENT ECONOMY:

The Greater Toronto Area boasts a diverse and resilient economy, with key sectors like finance, technology, and healthcare driving sustained growth. Even in the face of high-interest rates, the city's economic stability provides a solid foundation for long-term real estate investments.

POPULATION GROWTH AND URBANIZATION:

The GTA continues to be a magnet for both domestic and international migrants, contributing to a steadily growing population. As the area evolves into a global hub, the demand for housing remains strong, creating a favourable environment for property appreciation over time.

LIMITED HOUSING SUPPLY AND GROWING DEMAND:

The scarcity of available housing, particularly in sought-after neighbourhoods, remains a persistent challenge in GTA cities. This supply-demand imbalance can contribute to property values increasing,

making it an opportune time to invest in a home with the potential for appreciation.

HISTORICAL RESILIENCE:

The Greater Toronto Area's real estate market has historically demonstrated resilience, with property values generally exhibiting long-term appreciation. Despite short-term fluctuations, the market has proven to be a reliable investment for those with a strategic, long-term approach.

LOW UNEMPLOYMENT RATES:

Toronto and surrounding areas consistently maintain low unemployment rates, underscoring the city's economic health. A stable job market provides potential homebuyers with the confidence and financial security necessary to navigate higher interest rates.

GOVERNMENT INCENTIVES AND PROGRAMS:

Various government initiatives aim to support homebuyers, even in the face of high-interest rates. First-time buyer incentives, tax credits, and other programs can significantly ease the financial burden, making homeownership more accessible.

POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE INTEREST RATE ADJUSTMENTS:

While current interest rates may pose a challenge, they are subject to change based on economic conditions. Buyers who secure a mortgage now may benefit from potential future interest rate adjustments, potentially leading to reduced mortgage payments over time.

EQUITY BUILDING AND LONG-TERM INVESTMENT:

Real estate is a proven vehicle for building equity over the long term. Despite high-interest rates, purchasing a home in the GTA offers the opportunity to build wealth through property appreciation, providing financial leverage and stability.

Although elevated interest rates and limited housing inventory pose challenges for numerous buyers, it's essential to recognize that market conditions constitute just one aspect of the overall equation. If it happens to be the right time for you to buy a home, delaying the decision doesn't seem logical. For home buyers, our recommendation is that if you find a home that aligns with your requirements and financial plan, and you're prepared to commit to homeownership, along with residing in the same location for the foreseeable years, proceeding with the purchase is a sensible decision.

The Michele Denniston Real Estate Group is committed to providing you with expert, reputable and top-tier real estate service. If you have questions about the market, or how we can better assist you with your real estate goals,

visit us at 50 Doctor Kay Dr. Unit C-22 in Schomberg, or contact Michele directly at (416) 433-8316 or michele@micheledenniston.com



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**RESALE
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COLLECTIONS**

Giving back DURING THE HOLIDAYS

The holidays are the season of giving; giving love and giving thanks, showing appreciation or supporting those in need.

It is a time of generosity towards others by giving of one's spirit, not just giving material things.

We can hold our loved ones close and celebrate the blessings we have been given.

For many, the giving season involves supporting non-profit organizations that help the community or a cause about which we care deeply.

There are many ways you can reach out locally. Me, I like to donate to our local Women's Shelter and the Sick Kids Hospital.

But a gift doesn't have to cost a lot to mean a lot. Consider some meaningful ways to spread good cheer to those who could use a hand.

Some are easy to get your children involved in as well and teach them to learn about the true spirit of the Holidays.

10 WAYS TO GIVE GENEROUSLY AROUND THE HOME

1 OFFER TO HELP SOMEONE DECORATE.
The magic and warmth you feel when your home is decorated can be shared with others. A wonderful time for some yet for others the task can become overwhelming with so many other things to do or

difficult for others who face physical challenges or get to hard-to-reach areas.

Offer to help a friend or neighbour make their house or apartment or front porch beautiful for Christmas time.

2 OFFER TO BABYSIT FOR THE NIGHT.
You could give a mom a night out to do her shopping or give a couple some quiet time alone during a hectic time of year. You could save someone money to use elsewhere or simply provide a much-needed break.

3 COOK A LITTLE EXTRA FOR A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOUR.
While this will cost a little, it can be minimal. Plan a simple meal for your family and buy double the supplies. Cook and put the extra in containers to give away. Who wouldn't love a home-cooked meal on the night they are rushing to a child's event?

4 OFFER TO WRAP SOME CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.
Fun for some and challenging for others. Save someone time by offering to help wrap some of their presents. It can also be a great time to spend time together for someone who may not enjoy a lot of visitors.

5 OFFER A COUPON FOR PET SITTING.
As a dog owner, I now have to think about our dog when travelling or out for extended periods. Give a pet-sitting voucher that someone can cash in during their next vacation or outing.

6 OFFER FREE LESSONS TO A FRIEND OR THEIR CHILD.
Do you know how to play the piano? Do you know how to ride horses or coach someone to become physically fit? Why not offer some free lessons? Private lessons are costly, and many people put this opportunity off.

7 OFFER A SPECIALIZED SERVICE.
If you know how to do nails, hair or makeup, you could treat someone to a mini spa experience. If you know how to change the oil in a car, you could offer a free oil change. Think of something you are good at and use that talent to bless someone else. If you can't fit it into the holiday schedule, provide a voucher to be used later for gardening help or watering plants, etc.

8 GIVE YOUR TIME.
Help a teacher make copies, cut out displays, offer to pick up groceries or run errands or volunteer with a friend or family.

9 GIVE SOMETHING HOMEMADE.
Bake some goodies from items in your pantry. Paint a picture with the paints and canvas you have on hand. Make candles, a Christmas ornament at home or school, and a handmade card. Get on Pinterest and find some easy and inexpensive crafts.

10 DONATE A TREASURE LYING AROUND YOUR HOUSE.
Consider what you may have on hand to give as a gift or donate. Perhaps you have items you stashed away after finding a good deal. Maybe you have beautiful plants at your home that can be split. A good book you have read is always appreciated when shared. Think about what you already have that will bless someone else.

This Holiday Season, let's all agree not to give because we think we have to and not to feel obligated to give something we can't afford. Don't be controlled by guilt, but give out of love & compassion.

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How helping others helps you

Personal growth is at the heart of many New Year's resolutions. Few paths to positive personal growth are more noble than resolving to help others through increased acts of generosity and kindness.

According to Psychology Today, doing good for others, no matter how big or small the deed, feels good but also provides reciprocal benefits. The link between volunteering and lower rates of depression has been well-documented, and there is neural evidence from MRI studies suggesting a link between being generous and signs of happiness in the brain.

The following are several ways to improve oneself by being more mindful of others.

BE AWARE OF SOCIAL ISSUES
Read your local newspaper to stay up-to-date on the pulse of your community as well as the world. Educate yourself about current issues that are affecting people from all walks of life. Understanding the needs or plights of others may boost your willingness to get involved with nonprofit organizations. It also may make you more empathetic and compassionate toward other people.

VOLUNTEER AT A CHARITY
Find a charitable group with which you can volunteer your time. This is a great way to support a cause you believe in and makes it possible for you to collaborate with others who are like-minded, potentially helping you make new friends.

LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE
North America is a melting pot that's home to people from many different parts of the world. Learning a new language may facilitate interactions with fellow community members who might not speak English as a first language.

HELP SOMEONE YOU KNOW
It's commendable to want to assist a charity or a global cause, but what about people close to you who may need a boost? Whether you're lugging boxes to help a friend move or babysitting a niece or nephew so their parents can enjoy a much-needed night out, when you help someone, those good deeds will return to you in time.

When making resolutions, people should consider goals that involve helping others. While this assistance can benefit the people who are on the receiving end of the care and attention, those who are giving of themselves also reap considerable rewards.



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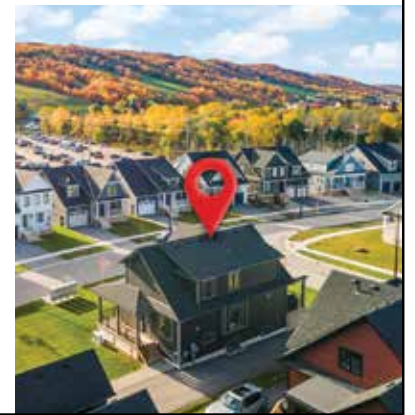
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Clearing snow around your home? Don't forget these areas

(NC) If the snow is not on the ground yet, you can bet on it coming soon.

The days and weeks leading up to snowstorms are the perfect time to learn about how to protect your home from the elements during winter months.

Shovelling snow is something we all know how to do, but are we clearing all the right areas around our home? Here are some common – and other less common – spots you should always get around to:

FOUNDATION

The first area you might shovel is the perimeter of your house. As you do so, remember to keep the area around your home's foundation clear. Water from melting snow could end up seeping into any existing cracks within it and result in damage to your home and belongings. It's a good idea to inspect these areas for cracks before winter weather arrives.

FURNACE EXHAUST PIPES

As you remove snow from around your home's foundation, make sure that your furnace exhaust pipe is not buried in snow or clogged in any way. A blocked exhaust can lead to poorer furnace performance and the risk of dangerous carbon monoxide buildup in your home.

DRIVEWAYS AND WALKWAYS

Clearing driveways and walkways is not only critical for avoiding slips and falls, but also frost damage. Frost can get hidden by snow and wreak havoc on concrete and paved surfaces. By keeping these areas clear of snow, you can prevent unpleasant surprises in springtime.

WINDOW WELLS

If your home has window wells, you'll want to keep them clear of snow. Snow accumulation in them can cause water to enter your basement, where it can damage window frames, walls and other finishings.

ROOF

While many of us would not think to clear snow from our roof, it's definitely an area that requires attention. Ice dams can develop when the roof surface is warm enough to melt snow and the air temperature is still cold enough to freeze it back up again, and they can allow water to seep into your home. After a heavy snowfall, use a roof rake to clear the first foot or so of snow from the roof. You can also consider hiring a professional.

Find more winter home maintenance tips at tarion.com.



What to give new homeowners this

Holiday season

The real estate market has been a wild ride in recent years.

Sellers have cashed in on record-breaking profits, and buyers have had to compete against many others — sometimes in bidding wars — for a limited number of properties. Once listed, homes are selling fast. As interest rates rise and inventory increases, things are likely to change, though for some it did not come soon enough. Individuals who were lucky enough to find a new home this year may discover they now have little money to outfit those homes. Shoppers with new homeowners on their holiday shopping lists may want to help those loved ones outfit their homes this season. The following are some home-related gift ideas to get shoppers started.

VIDEO/SMART DOORBELL: Although the smart doorbell market began with only a handful of options, there's now a bevy of manufacturers who make video and smart home doorbells. These doorbells serve the dual purpose of alerting homeowners to someone at

the door while providing surveillance of the comings and goings outside of the home. Depending on the product, a subscription may be needed to access video history. Doorbells range from \$50 to \$200 and more depending on features and resolution.

FURNITURE GIFT CARD: There's a good chance new homeowners will need to furnish new rooms in a home, particularly if they're coming from an apartment or a smaller place. Many people also like to update furnishings when they move into new places. A gift card to a popular furniture store in the area will provide the head-start new homeowners need to secure sofas, dining sets, lamps, rugs, and more.

HOUSEHOLD TOOL KIT: What better way to prepare new homeowners for do-it-yourself projects and household repairs than with a tool kit? Home improvement retailers often package common tools needed in carrying cases or sets, but shoppers can grab separate items they think will be used and group them together into one gift. Pliers, screwdrivers, wrenches, a level, and measuring tape are good starter tools.

CUSTOMIZED DOORMAT: Give that new home additional curb appeal with a doormat customized with a special message or the new homeowners' names, such as Welcome to the Smith Home. Other customizable products include cutting boards and wall plaques.

PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT: A programmable or learning thermostat will help new homeowners save on their energy bills. Many thermostats now pair with smart home systems and phones and automatically adjust the temperature as needed to reduce energy consumption.

LINENS: A high thread count sheet set or plush Turkish cotton towels may not be something new homeowners think to get for themselves. But these luxurious gifts can make life at home more comfortable.

Moving into a new home is an exciting yet expensive endeavour. Carefully curated gifts can tap into what new homeowners need the most.

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SANTA'S UNEXPECTED AURORA ADVENTURE:

A realtor and contractor's

Christmas Miracle



By Julien Laurion
The Big Tuna of Real Estate

It was a frosty evening in Aurora, Ontario, and the town was aglow with shimmering Christmas lights.

THE AIR WAS FILLED with the sound of carols as families bundled up in their warmest coats, eagerly anticipating the arrival of Santa Claus. Little did they know that this Christmas was about to take an unexpected turn.

High above the town, Santa Claus navigated his sleigh through the starry sky, guided by Rudolph's glowing nose. However, as he approached Aurora, a sudden gust of wind knocked Santa off course, causing a crash landing in the snowy fields of Sheppard's Bush on the outskirts of town.

Dazed but determined, Santa dusted off his red suit and surveyed the damage to his sleigh. With dismay, he realized that repairs were beyond his magical abilities. He needed help, and fast.

Meanwhile, Julien, the versatile entrepreneur known throughout Aurora as both a realtor and contractor, was busy wrapping up his day's work. He had just finished showing a charming house to a client named Stephanie when his phone buzzed with an urgent message from Olivia, a local business owner.

"Santa Claus crash-landed in Aurora! He needs our help," the message read.

Julien's eyes widened in disbelief. Without a moment's hesitation, he called Stephanie, Olivia, and his dependable contractor friend, Sydney, to meet at the crash site. On their way, they picked up Dino, a resourceful handyman and grandmaster of all things and Bruce, an aviation enthusiast who happened to be nearby.

As they arrived, they found Santa inspecting his damaged sleigh, surrounded by curious woodland creatures who had come to investigate the commotion.

"Santa, we're here to help!" Julien announced cheerfully, stepping forward with a confident smile.

Santa's twinkling eyes brightened at the sight of the eager group. "Oh, thank you, my friends! I'm afraid my sleigh took quite a tumble. Without repairs, I won't be able to make it to the North Pole in time for Christmas."

Julien glanced at Sydney, the skilled contractor, who quickly assessed the situation. "We'll have your sleigh fixed in no time, Santa. Dino and I will gather materials while Bruce assists with the technical aspects."

Stephanie, with her knack for organization, began coordinating the impromptu repair operation. Olivia offered hot cocoa and cookies to keep everyone energized, while Sydney and Dino worked their magic, using their tools and expertise to mend the broken sleigh.

As the repairs progressed, Santa shared tales of his adventures from the North Pole, captivating everyone with stories of the magical workshop and his mischievous yet diligent elves.

Hours flew by, and finally, the sleigh was restored to its former glory. Santa beamed with gratitude, ready to continue his journey.

"Now, Santa, we've been thinking," Julien said with a twinkle in his eye. "Aurora is a wonderful town. Why not consider staying here for the night? Or maybe relocating here permanently, I could help you with that OR you could just rest, and in the morning, Bruce can assist in getting your sleigh back to flying shape."

Santa chuckled warmly. "What a splendid idea! The kindness and ingenuity of all of you have warmed my heart. Aurora truly is a special place."

The townspeople gathered around, cheering as Santa Claus, with a grateful wave, settled in for the night in a cozy cottage provided by Julien's real estate service.

The next morning, Bruce meticulously fine-tuned the sleigh's mechanics, ensuring a safe and swift journey for Santa. With a jolly "Ho, ho, ho!" and a chorus of thanks, Santa bid farewell to his newfound friends in Aurora.

As his sleigh soared back into the wintry sky, leaving behind a trail of sparkling magic, the townspeople watched with joy, knowing that they had played a part in a Christmas miracle.

From that day on, the tale of Santa's unexpected Aurora adventure became a cherished story passed down through generations—a reminder of the power of kindness, teamwork, and the spirit of Christmas in the heartwarming town of Aurora, Ontario.

Happy Holidays to all and thank you to all my clients, this was a year to remember!

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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Must-haves to achieve a holiday wonderland

The end of the year marks a period of heightened festivity. Come the holiday season, homes and businesses are decorated and everyone seems to have an extra spring in their step.

The sight of snowflakes, candy canes, evergreen wreaths, and Christmas trees can elicit nostalgia for happy holidays of the past and excitement for what is yet to come. When it comes to decorating for the holidays, there are certain items that set the scene.

CHRISTMAS TREES: Germany is credited with starting the modern Christmas tree tradition. It dates back to the 16th century when devout Christians brought trees into their homes and decorated them. German settlers brought Christmas tree traditions to America upon their arrival in Pennsylvania in the 19th century.

MISTLETOE: Mistletoe is known as the “kissing plant” and it is customary for couples to kiss while standing beneath the plant, typically hung in doorways and arches. Mistletoe was once hung to drive off evil spirits and ensure fertility. Kissing under the mistletoe was first found to be associated with the Greek festival of Saturnalia and later with primitive marriage rites.

LIGHTS: Lights are commonly seen during the holiday season. The custom of having holiday lights dates

back to when Christmas trees were decorated with candles, which symbolized Christ being the light of the world. These traditions evolved from pagan rituals that would celebrate the return of the light of the sun as the days grow longer after the winter solstice.

YULE LOG: Many families burn a Yule log in the fireplace and watch it burn while listening to Christmas carols. The familiar custom of burning the log dates back to solstice celebrations and the tradition of bonfires. The Christmas tradition called for burning a portion of the log each evening until Twelfth Night, also known as the Epiphany, which takes place on January 6.

POINSETTIAS: Poinsettias are a tropical plant that originated in Mexico. Joel Roberts Poinsettia was the first Ambassador from the United States to Mexico. He became enamoured with the plants and brought them back to his native South Carolina. An old Mexican legend suggests a poor girl had nothing to offer baby Jesus at Christmas Eve services, so she picked a handful of weeds and put them at the bottom of the nativity scene. These weeds burst into bright red flowers and became known as “Flores de Noche Buena,” or “Flowers of the Holy Night.”

Holiday decorations borrow traditions from all over the world to help establish a festive wonderland.



HELP MAKE YOUR POINSETTIAS LAST LONGER

POINSETTIAS are synonymous with the holiday season. These colourful plants brighten up homes with their vibrant hues in variations of red, white and pink, making them a holiday decoration many people cannot live without.



While they're most visible during the often chilly holiday season, poinsettias prefer warm weather. Poinsettias are native to Central America and originally flourished in an area of southern Mexico. The Aztecs used the plant for decorative and medicinal purposes.

The poinsettia may have remained a regional plant if not for the efforts of Joel Roberts Poinsettia, who was the first United States Ambassador to Mexico under President James Madison. Poinsettia, who would later found the Smithsonian Institution, had a love of botany and became enamoured with the brilliant red plants he saw in Mexico. Eventually, Poinsettia began growing the plants at home in South Carolina, and friends and others soon coveted them.

Poinsettias are beautiful and the bracts (modified leaves) can be vibrantly coloured. That signature vibrancy is why many people would like to preserve their poinsettias to last beyond the New Year, which is possible with the right

care. The following are some tips, courtesy of Mother Nature's Network, Habersham Gardens, Oregon Live, and Phoenix Flower Shops, to keep poinsettias thriving past the holiday season.

- Start with healthy plants that have full leaves, bracts and deep colours.
- Poinsettias do best when the temperature is between 65° and 75° F. Temperatures below that or drafts from cold windows can cause leaves to drop.
- Position the plant in a room that gets indirect sunlight for at least six hours per day. If direct sunlight can't be avoided, diffuse the light with a sheer curtain.
- Poinsettias need well-drained soil. Overwatering or allowing roots to sit in wet soil can cause the leaves to fall off prematurely. Water thoroughly only when the pot

looks dry. In households with temperatures around 70° F, the plant should be watered about once a week.

- Fertilize the plant after the blooming season with a balanced, all-purpose fertilizer.
- Try placing poinsettias in or near a bathroom, as they prefer high humidity.

It may be possible to get poinsettias to rebloom next season. Allow the poinsettias to dry out a little more in the spring. In May, cut about four inches from each stem to produce a lush, full plant during the winter. The plants can be moved outside in June and during the summer, but keep them away from direct sunlight. Return the poinsettias indoors beginning around October. Make sure the plants get at least 12 hours of darkness per day for around eight weeks in October and November. This will help them develop a deep hue and bloom on time for Christmas.

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EASY Holiday CENTREPIECE IDEAS

The holiday season is a great time to make any home a bit more merry and bright. Most individuals let their personalities show through their home decor, and holiday decorating is just as personal as decorating throughout the rest of the year.

The main living areas of a home get the most decorating attention, with a Christmas tree or menorah taking a prominent position in the front window. Garlands, candles and other accoutrements also may dress up spaces. However, when it comes to holiday hosting, attention also should be given to the dining table — which can benefit from a festive centerpiece.

Premade centerpieces are undeniably attractive, but adding a homespun touch can be a fun creative pursuit and become a family tradition. Explore these eight simple ideas to dress up your holiday table.

FROSTED PINE CONES: Take advantage of a crisp winter's day to venture into a forest or park that is rich with evergreen trees. Gather pine cones from the forest floor and, if possible, a few evergreen boughs.

Give the pine cones a touch of winter whimsy with a little faux snow in a can or even white paint. Nestle the boughs and pine cones into a wide-mouthed vase or bowl in the centre of the table. Individual pine cones can later be turned into place cards for seating guests.

HOLIDAY THANKS: Cut many strips of paper roughly 6 inches in length from various coloured pieces of paper to match the holiday theme. When guests arrive, ask them to write a favourite holiday memory or two, or what they're thankful for. Twirl the paper strips around a pencil to curl them, and then place the curlies into a decorative bowl in the centre of the table. Later in the evening, the host or hostess can read some of the sentiments.

MAGICAL FOREST: Use green and silver conical party hats to turn a table or sideboard into a veritable

evergreen forest. Arrange them on a blanket of faux snow or white confetti.

FRESHLY CUT: Select attractive flowers in vibrant holiday hues from a florist or even the supermarket floral section. Cut the stems and place them into an unusual display container, such as holiday-themed mugs or a punch bowl.

GLASS BAUBLES: Who says ornaments should be exclusive to the tree? A crystal or glass cake stand can be transformed into an icy delight when topped with silver and clear glass ornaments.

BIRCHWOOD: The crisp white colouring of birch bark is right at home with holiday decor. Go stark with pieces of cut wood in varying heights intermingled with white candles that mimic the shapes and scale of the wood.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES: If guests are coming over and the race is on for a fast centerpiece, look no further than the kitchen. Lemons, artichokes, pears, or pomegranates look festive in a bowl interspersed with some greenery and baby's breath.

CORNUCOPIA: The Horn of Plenty can be customized for any holiday. Purchase a horn in wicker or woven grapevine and fill it with flowers, fruit and greenery, or even painted gourds or miniature pumpkins.

Holiday hosts and hostesses should not neglect the dining table when they decorate. Festive centerpieces can be handmade without much effort on the part of hosts.

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