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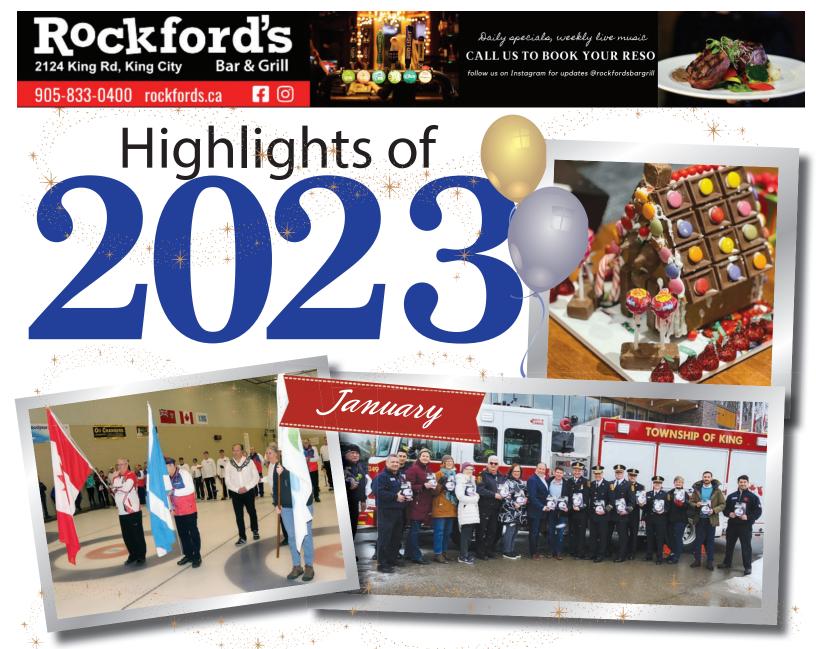
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Thursday, December 28, 2023

Volume 50, Issue 52



King's Community Newspaper

Sharing some remarkable achievements in 2023

I am delighted to share some remarkable developments and achievements that have shaped our community in 2023 and that we have to look forward to in 2024.

2023-2026 Corporate Strategic Plan: planning for future success

Building on the success of our recently completed four-year Corporate Strategic Plan, Council recently approved and adopted the new 2023-2026 plan which sets out the Township's goals for the next four years. As we progress through the plan, we'll make regular reports back to the community as part of our commitment to transparency and accountability. You can review the plan at king.ca/corporatestrategicplan.

Township-Wide Recreation Centre: a hub of wellness and inclusivity

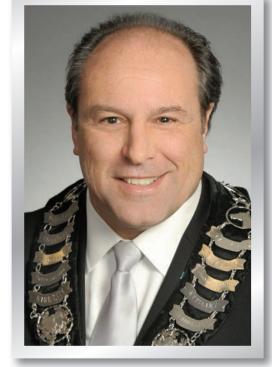
If you've passed by the site of our Township-Wide Recreation Centre at the 15th Sideroad and Dufferin Street, you've witnessed the incredible progress made since the groundbreaking in 2022. Set to open its doors in 2024, this cutting-edge facility is poised to become a state-of-the-art, high-efficiency,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

Renovations: transforming Schomberg Community Hall

Our commitment to enhancing community spaces is evident in the renovations at Schomberg Community Hall. The facility is now a fully renovated, high efficiency, fully accessible community space. These improvements ensure that our residents have a vibrant and welcoming place to come together and celebrate in the heart of historic Main Street in Schomberg.

Revitalizing our parks: a green oasis for all

We've invested significantly in our parks, creating havens for relaxation and recreation.



From the Lions Parkette to Osin Lions Park, Fox Trail Park, Tasca Park Phase II, Kettle Lake Park and the King Heritage and Cultural Centre Park, these projects contribute to the lush, green tapestry of our Township. To learn more about these parks, visit king.ca/parks.

Traffic calming initiatives for safer streets

Our ongoing efforts to prioritize safety on our roads include innovative traffic calming measures. By investing in infrastructure and paving strategies, King Township is actively working towards a secure and efficient transportation network. Speed hump installations were made this year in Nobleton. For more information on our traffic calming initiatives, visit king.ca/trafficcalming.

Infrastructure upgrades: paving the way for progress

King's gravel road conversion program aims to enhance the existing road network to improve transportation and reduce yearly maintenance expenses by the Township through the resurfacing of existing gravel roads with asphalt paving. Over the past several years, we've transformed close to 40 kilometres of gravel roads into paved surfaces. This year we were able to resurface the 17th Sideroad around Weston Road and the 18th Sideroad around Jane Street. We also invested \$2 million in bridge and culvert repairs and \$1.7 million in road improvements.

These accomplishments represent just a glimpse of the strides we are making to foster a community that residents are proud to call home. For more information on our programs, services and ongoing major projects, please visit king.ca/majorprojects.

King Township Public Library: programs and services keep improving

The King Township Public Library continues to add programs and services making it a place that has something of interest for everyone. A new self-serve book kiosk was recently installed at the Trisan Centre in Schomberg and the King City branch now has a new sound booth. Whether you're a streamer, musician, podcaster, or just looking to explore new technologies, the sound booth is available for creative projects and endeavors. Patrons can visit the King City branch during operating hours to book time in the booth and begin recording today.

Shop local this holiday: help support home-grown businesses

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.

As we bid farewell to 2023, I extend my warmest wishes for a safe, peaceful and prosperous New Year to you and your loved ones. Please continue to stay safe, shop local and volunteer as much as possible.

Mayor Steve Pellegrini



annduncan.ca









King Township

2585 King Road King City,

Phone: 905.833.5321 Email: serviceking@king.ca

ON Canada L7B 1A1

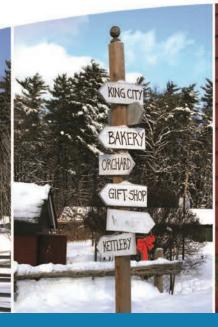


www.king.ca





PUBLIC NOTICES





UPCOMING MEETINGS

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

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

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 for more information.

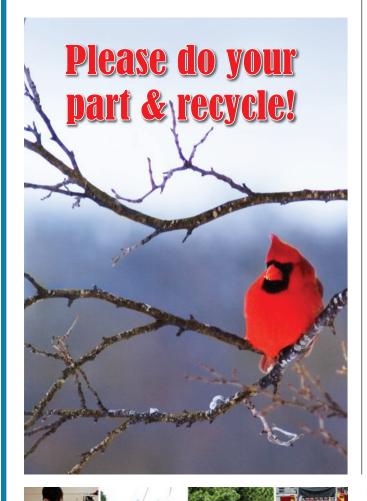
To view full Council and Committee of the Whole agendas, visit king.civicweb.net

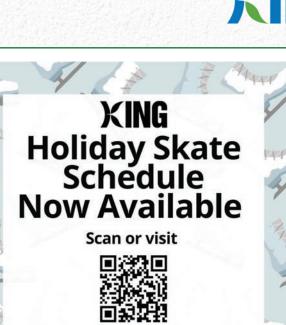
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Chamber remains focused on the future

the path ahead. As Chair of the board, I want to thank all of you for the honor and privilege to serve this year. The opportunity to give back to the organization that played a pivotal role in my business's early days has not only been rewarding but instrumental in shaping my business acumen. I will always be grateful for the opportunity.

We know that too many of our fellow citizens and members are entering the new year a little damper; burdened with the uncertainties of uneven business growth, slow job creation, difficulty in hiring in many industries, rising costs, and an unclear outlook for the future. I encourage every member to be optimistic.

Let's seize the abundant opportunities awaiting our businesses and community.

Don't let the political gridlock and economic uncertainty dissuade your business

t's an opportune time to reflect on from opportunity. Businesses have a proud our journey and set our sights on history of overcoming all obstacles to achieve success. We've done it before, and we will do

> We stand poised at the threshold of our 16th year, brimming with potential and armed with a wealth of opportunities to drive outstanding results for our membership. Reflecting on our recent milestones, we welcomed 83 new members and secured a remarkable 22 new annual sponsorships in 2023. The response to our Excellence in Business Awards night was overwhelming, with over 300 submissions - an indicator of the dynamism within our community. The launch of our new website stands as a testament to our commitment to evolving with the times.

Embracing change and innovation has always illuminated our path forward. When the Chamber was founded in 2008 the economy was recovering from financial panics. Our founding members weren't deterred by the economic climate. Instead, the spirit of entrepreneurship and a desire to make a lasting impact in their community inspired these visionaries and leaders. That passion carries on in the membership today.

Our future will always be brighter when we embrace innovation and change. When the Chamber was established, when it came to products, incremental improvements were the name of the game in 2008.

Phones got faster (iPhone 3G anyone?), notebooks turned into netbooks and pocket cameras went from recording standard-definition video to HD. Fast forward to 2023, we must welcome, not lament, the changes in the business world.

Your board of directors remains focused on this future.

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge

the outstanding contributions of the leadership we received from the board this year. These volunteers dedicated long hours away from their businesses in service to the Chamber and our community.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to the Chamber's Manager of Member Services. While Members are the lifeblood of our organization, we would have organizational chaos without the Chamber's dedicated and passionate Manager.

As we approach the year's end, let's carry forward the spirit of camaraderie and innovation that defines us, poised to embrace the boundless possibilities that await us in the coming year.

> Michelle Frauley President, King Chamber of Commerce

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The Weather Network's 2023-24 Winter Forecast

Niño has a reputation for bringing mild winters to most of Canada. Strong El Niño conditions have developed in the Pacific Ocean, so can we expect a mild winter across Canada again this year?

To answer that question, The Weather Network has released its winter forecast for the months of December, January and February.

The winter forecast does feature a mild start to the season, with a delay in the arrival of consistent cold weather for most Canadians. However, January and February could bring a dramatic pattern change to parts of Canada that would challenge our perception of El Niño winters.

"The current El Niño event and ocean water temperatures across the Pacific Ocean are giving us a pattern that is unlike anything that we have ever seen before," said Chris Scott, Chief Meteorologist at The Weather Network. "Therefore, we believe that the upcoming season will deliver some curveballs that will set this winter apart from typical El Niño winters. While mild temperatures should continue to dominate across western Canada, it appears to be a different story for the eastern half of Canada where winter is expected to make more than just a token appearance."

El Niño is associated with warmer-than-normal ocean water temperatures in the tropical region of the Pacific Ocean to the west of South America. This has an impact on the global jet stream pattern.

Here's a more detailed look at what we can expect across the country during the upcoming winter season:

Ontario and Quebec

A mild start to winter is expected, with less snow than normal during the weeks leading up to the holidays. However, a pattern change is expected as we get deeper into the season with periods of much colder weather expected. Below-normal snowfall is expected for most of the region as the storm track will often be well south of the region. However, if the storm track shifts far enough north at times, then southern parts of the region will still see near-normal snow totals.

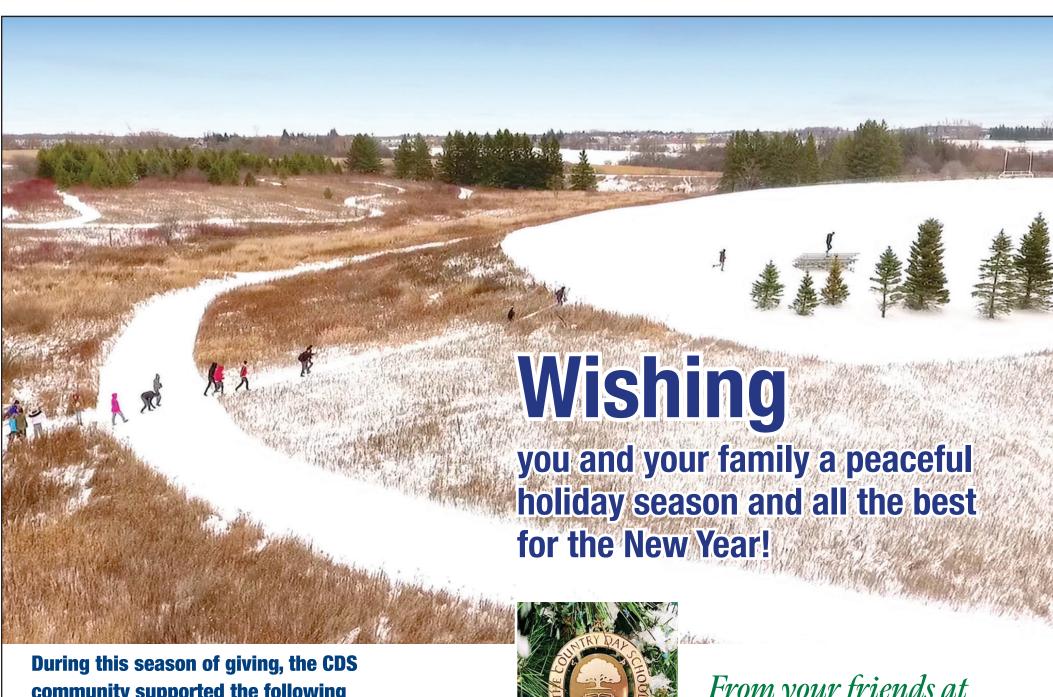
Final verdict for the province - Above normal; near normal southeast and below normal; near normal northwest and far southeast.

Complete winter forecast details, including regional breakdowns, maps and charts are available at theweathernetwork.com/winter









community supported the following charities:

*Aurora Food Pantry

*Blue Door's Leeder Place

*Holiday Heroes Toy Drive

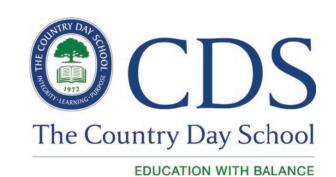
*Inn from the Cold *Rose of Sharon

*Seniors Wish *The Welcome Table

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From your friends at The Country Day School



Memorable Moments of in King





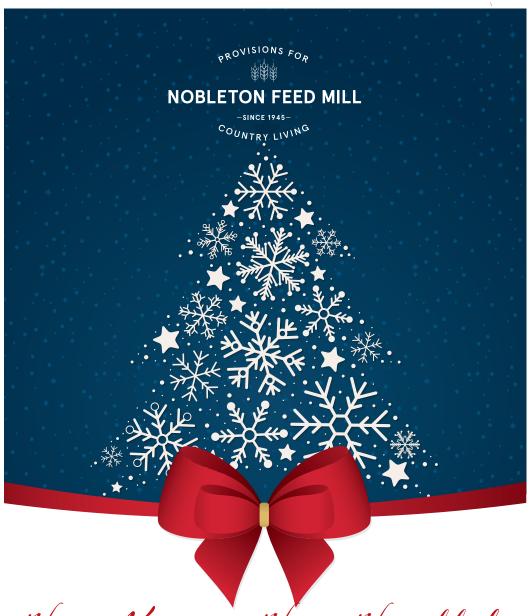












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Rampant consumerism fuels climate catastrophe and inequalities

Bv David Suzuki

n the Western world, year-end celebrations were once observed to give thanks, to mark the coming of brighter days and to enjoy the company of family and friends. Now, they've become little more than consumer orgies. From Black Friday and Cyber Monday sales to Christmas shopping, it's hard to escape the frenzy. Corporations from small to large count on the increase in spending. Governments rejoice at the economic boost.

Many products end up in landfills after little or no use. It's all part of the rampant consumerism fuelling the climate crisis. Wealthy nations, especially the wealthiest people in those nations, are the biggest drivers of this climate-altering consumer madness. A recent Oxfam report, "Climate Equality: A planet for the 99%," shows the top one per cent of humanity is responsible for more greenhouse gas emissions than the poorest 66 per cent.

Those emissions are "enough to cause the heat-related deaths of 1.3 million people over the coming decades," the Guardian reports, noting that, "The suffering falls disproportionately upon people living in poverty, marginalized ethnic communities, migrants and women and girls, who live and work outside or in homes vulnerable to extreme weather."

The super wealthy - mostly white males in North America and Europe, with their superyachts, private jets, massive mansions and lavish lifestyles - have the most devastating footprint. They "also wield enormous and growing political power by owning media organizations and social networks, hiring advertising and PR agencies and lobbyists, and mixing socially with senior politicians, who are also often members of the richest 1%."

The report "reveals a perverse reality: those who have done the least to cause the climate crisis are the ones who are suffering the most. And those who have done the most will likely suffer the least."

Prominent French economist Thomas Piketty argues that progressive carbon pricing based on income and ability to reduce emissions is needed, along with banning high-emission goods and services such as large vehicles, private jets and short-distance flights.

"We have to put class and the studies of inequality between social classes right at the centre of our analyses of environmental challenges in general," Piketty told the Guardian.

As the Oxfam reports notes, we must recognize "that a radical increase in equality is a precondition to ending climate breakdown and poverty." It argues, "A tax of 60% on the incomes of the super-rich 1% of earners globally would cut the carbon equivalent of more than the total emissions of the UK and raise US\$6.4 trillion to fund renewable energy and a transition away from fossil fuels."

"The focus on economic growth of any kind and endless extraction and overconsumption at any cost must end," Oxfam says. "People should be put back in charge of their destiny, and democratically elected governments, not corporates, should shape our economy."

The oversized impacts and influence of the excessively wealthy don't let the rest of us off the hook. Oxfam confirms what others have found: that high income countries are responsible for 100 times more emissions than low-income countries. But as Piketty notes, middle and upper classes are responsible for most of those

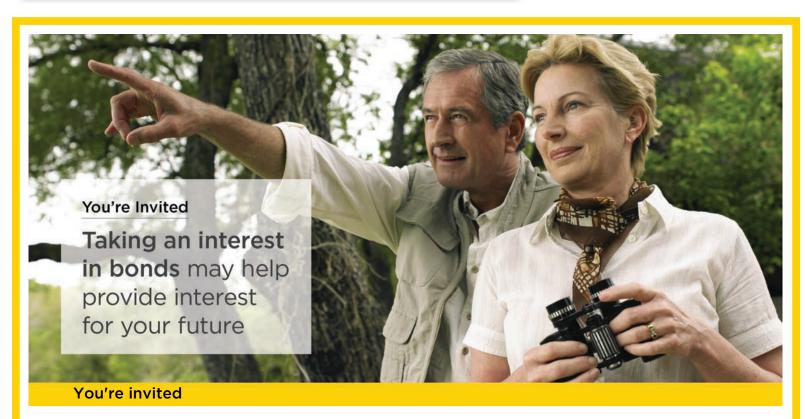
What's really needed is a change in our way of thinking, which starts with us all. As long as people continue to worship money and stuff, and increased consumer spending is reported and regarded as "good news," we won't be able to shift from our wasteful ways. We need to slow down and learn to appreciate what really matters in life: time in nature, time with family and friends and time to pursue our own interests.

As author and London Metropolitan University emeritus professor Kate Soper notes, "Consumer culture, formerly seen as a vehicle of self-expression, is better viewed at this stage in its evolution as a means of extending the global reach and command of corporate power at the expense of the health and wellbeing of the planet and most of its inhabitants."

We can all do our part. During the upcoming holiday season, let's find more meaningful activities than contributing to the consumer madness - share your time, volunteer, exchange books, donate to a worthy cause or, most of all, commit to helping put an end to the fossil-fuelled consumer-capitalist system that's creating massive inequality and destroying our world!

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

Learn more at davidsuzuki.org.



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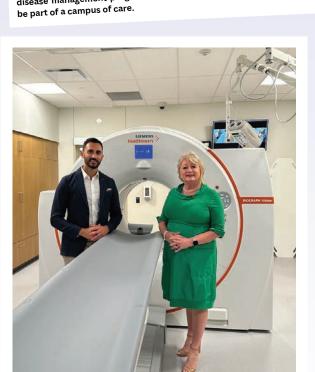
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MPP Lecce hosted Stan Cho, Ontario's Minister of Long-Term Care at the official ground-breaking ceremony for the St. Rita at Marylake long-term care home in King City. MPP Lecce is delivering increased long-term care spaces as King Township has one of the lowest ratios of resident to long-term cares. Once completed, the new home will provide 160 new beds for its residents and offer enhanced chronic disease management programs and palliative care services and will



MPP Lecce unveiled York Region's first PET-CT Scanner at Southlake Regional Health Centre. This new scanner at the Stronach Regional Cancer Centre is designed to dramatically reduce wait times and support preventative health care.



At the 172nd Schomberg Agricultural Fair, MPP Lecce hosted Lisa Thompson, Ontario's Minister of Agriculture where they touted Ontario's support for farmers, opposed the carbon tax and committed to help open up export markets for high quality nutritious food made in Ontario



MPP Lecce announced with York Region MPPs, YCDSB trustees and the Consul General of Italy that the Ontario Government is investing \$ 350,000 to protect and support the Italian Language Program for elementary school students at York Catholic District School Board.



MPP Lecce visited Kidz World Child Care Centre where he outlined the 50% reduction in child care fees. He has delivered for all families in King and Vaughan to reduce fees and increase spaces.



MPP Lecce announced the Government of Ontario's \$18 million investment over three years to help combat and prevent auto theft in our community. This investment will help crack down on criminals and improve safety for families and seniors in King and Vaughan.



MPP Lecce and Mayor Pellegrini review progress at the new Township-Wide Recreation Centre set to open doors in 2024. MPP Lecce delivered one of the largest provincial investments in recreational infrastructure in King Township's history through Ontario's \$17.6 million investment. This game changing investment will benefit children, families and seniors with access to fitness rooms, ice rinks, indoor pools and outdoor facilities.

STEPHEN LECCE

Memorable Moments of in King







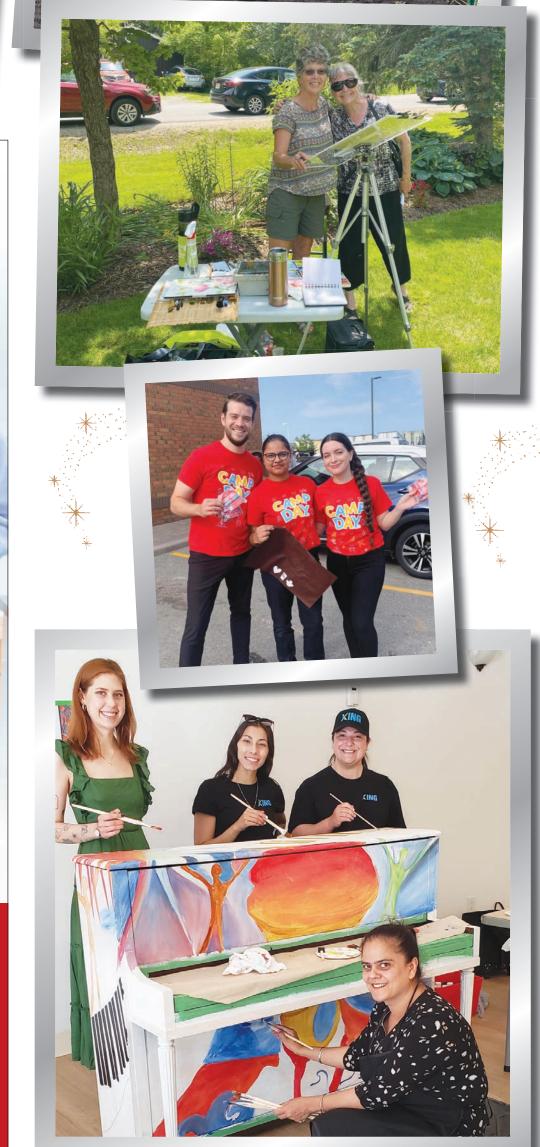


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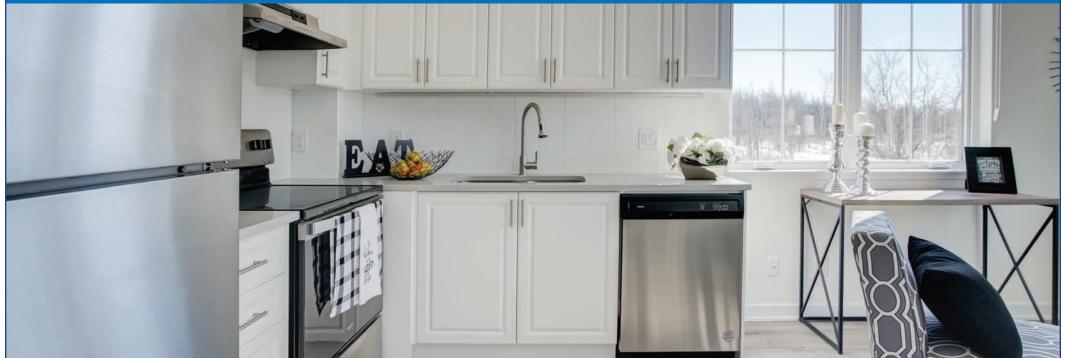
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October











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Published every Thursday





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2023: A year of listening to King-Vaughan families and delivering real results

he final week of 2023 is an opportune time to reflect upon the year that was and focus on the year ahead. The days are cold and the nights are long, but every day, I am reminded of the kindness, generosity of spirt, and hopeful (but not boastful) optimism of King-Vaughan families, seniors, and young people. Like many of you, I believe Ontario's best days are still ahead of us.

I grew up in Vaughan, and my immediate family is in King, so I am still incredibly grateful for the opportunity to represent the people of King-Vaughan in our provincial legislature. When I first stood for election in 2018, I made a commitment to really listen to the concerns of hard-working families and then do everything in my power to deliver real support. As MPP, my priorities are expanding access to quality health care in King and Vaughan, improving transit and easing the burden on residents as they commute to work or school, building new long-term care beds, reducing child care fees and taxes, and ensuring that all levels of government continue to invest in modernizing local infrastructure.

As King, Vaughan and the rest of York Region have grown and prospered, our health care needs have expanded and grown more complex. Thankfully, Mackenzie Health has provided York Region families and seniors with excellent health care for six decades at its Richmond Hill hospital. More recently, our government helped Mackenzie Health build the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital, which was essential for ending hallway health care in Ontario, and we have provided funding to improve infrastructure at the Richmond Hill facility.

Our government is making life easier for commuting families by investing in the Barrie Line GO expansion, including more stations, cleaner technology, and more connections as well as allments to the King City GO station, and that's in addition to the investments we delivered for improvements to the Rutherford and Maple GO stations.

It's clear the global economy is becoming a digital economy, which is why our government made two investments of \$219 million and \$48 million to bring high-speed internet thousands of households in communities such as Kleinburg, Kettleby, Schomberg, King City, Nobleton, Lloydtown, Pottageville and the Nashville area.

When I first ran for office, King had among the lowest rations of long-term care beds to residents within the entire GTHA, and I promised I would fight for our community. Last year, I announced a new long-term care home that will be built on the lands adjacent to Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital that will create 256 new long-term care beds. And in October, construction began on St. Rita at Mary Lake, a new long-term care home in King Township. When construction is complete, its 160 residents will have a new, modern, and comfortable place to call home.

Hard-working King families deserve more opportunities to take part in fitness and recreation, so I was proud to deliver one of the largest community centre investments in the entire province - \$17.6 million in partnership with King Township and the Government of Canada - to build the township-wide recreation centre at 15 Sideroad and Dufferin Street. The project is scheduled to open in 2024.

I am writing this column in my role as the MPP for King-Vaughan, not as Ontario's Minister of Education, but I would like to briefly discuss some incredibly good news for hard-working parents here in King and across the province.

In June, our government passed The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023, bet-

day service, every 15 minutes, seven days a week. ter known to the public as Bill 98. The Act will ian language program for elementary school stu-This year, we made some significant improve- enact over 20 key policy changes to make school boards more transparent and accountable to parents and taxpayers, mandate consistent training for teachers, and allow the ministry to establish fundamental priorities, including binding instructions at the classroom level.

> As the Minister responsible for child care, I understand its critical importance to working families, which is why our government has taken many actions to make it more available and affordable. In fact, families are already benefiting from a reduction of child care fees by 50 per cent on average, and are saving an annual average of \$6,000 to \$10,000 per child.

> Closer to home, our government is building and expanding schools across the community, in addition to investing \$350,000 to protect the Ital-

dents at the York Catholic District School board during the 2023-24 school year. As the son of immigrants to Canada, I am proud to help support Italian language education, and many other international languages, here in King-Vaughan and across York Region.

I wish all of my constituents a happy and prosperous new year, and I sincerely thank my MPP staff, Ministry of Education staff, and all of the volunteers who make up Team Lecce for their incredible efforts over the past year. I could not do my job without you.

From my family to yours: Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Seasons Greetings.

The Hon. Stephen Lecce is MPP for King-Vaughan and Ontario's Minister of Education.





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