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Volume 51, Issue 3

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E-waste event at Cold Creek

Do you have old electronics collecting dust at home? Properly dispose of your e-waste for free at the Community Electronic Recycling event, held at Cold Creek Conservation Area on Saturday, Jan. 27 and Sunday, Jan. 28, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring your unwanted electronics (e.g., TVs, computers, cameras) to ensure they are disposed of safely, recycled and kept out of landfill. Seen here, Mayor Steve Pellegrini and volunteers show off the haul from a previous event in King at the Trisan Centre. For details, visit king.ca/electronicrecycling.

Register to attend Highway 11 Corridor workshop

The public is invited to an in-person public workshop at the King Township Municipal Centre Jan. 30 to discuss the ongoing Highway 11 Corridor study.

This event aims to actively involve the community, seeking valuable input and feedback to shape the direction of the land-use study.

The workshop will feature a hands-on exercise designed to delve deeper into key considerations highlighted in the draft discussion paper, as well as insights gathered during the public open house held in November 2023.

The Jan. 20 sessions run from 2 to 4 p.m. and again from 6 to 8 p.m.

Pre-registration is required due to limited space and participants need to attend only one workshop.



Register via Eventbrite using one of the following links:
Highway 11 Corridor study public workshop 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Highway 11 Corridor study public workshop 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

In 2023 King Township initiated a land-use study to guide future development of the Highway 11 Corridor, a unique area located in the Township's northeast corner. Historically known as a "highway commercial area" running between Bathurst Street and Canal Road, the area is made up of commercial- and tourism-oriented land uses. This unique area holds strategic significance as a gateway to the Township, with connections to neighboring municipalities, including Bradford West Gwillimbury, East Gwillimbury and Newmarket.

The Highway 11 Corridor study is being undertaken in three phases and is anticipated to conclude in mid-2024. The public open house is phase one of the study.

See 'Public' on Page 3

INSIDE	<p>REGULAR FEATURES</p> <p>Editorial Page 4</p> <p>Business Page 8</p> <p>Sports Page 13</p> <p>Classifieds Page 14</p>	 <p>King plows ready to tackle snow events.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">See Page 3</p>	 <p>Trees of Giving boost ORTA organization.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">See Page 10</p>
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ATTENTION DEVELOPERS!

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Highway 404 Secondary Plan Approved "Mixed Business Employment" 1.88 Acre Parcel with 200 ft of Frontage on Green Lane Just East of Hwy 404, Great Visibility and 412 ft Deep Lot! Existing 2545 SF Stone 3 Bedroom 3 Bath Home with Double Garage and In-ground Pool Plus 400 SF Secondary Double Garage! Contact Listing Agent for Further Details!

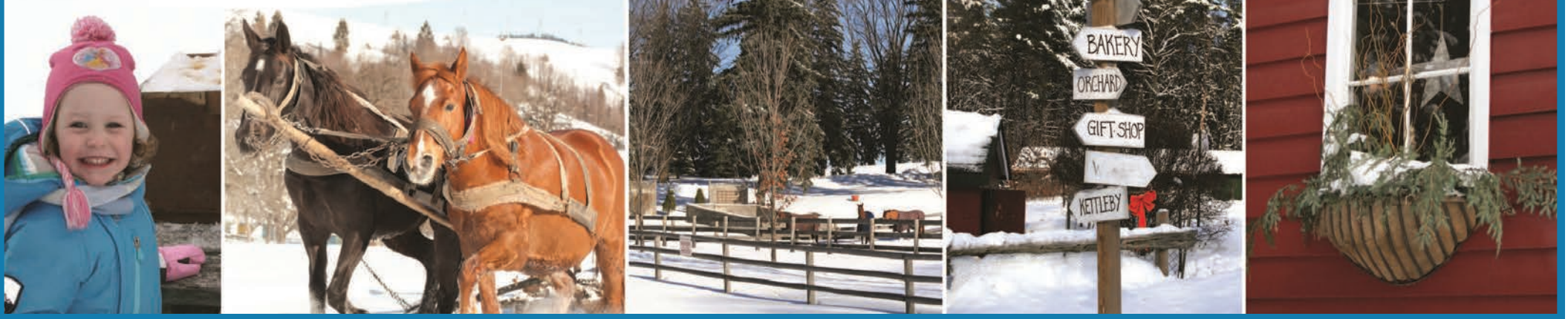
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Phone: 905.833.5321 Email: serviceking@king.ca



UPCOMING MEETINGS

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Monday, Jan. 29
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

Thursday, Feb. 1
6 p.m. – Heritage Advisory Committee (Hybrid Meeting – Not live-streamed). If you wish to participate in the meeting virtually, register by emailing cpang@king.ca by 12 p.m. (noon) on the day of the meeting.

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

BID NOTICES

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Please visit the Township website at www.king.ca for employment opportunities. All applications must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on the day they close.

- Lead Hand – Facility Services – Community Services – Deadline January 26
- Parks Seasonal Worker – Public Works – Deadline February 16
- Parks Summer Student – Public Works – Deadline February 16

PUBLIC NOTICES

Burn permits

Open air burning (unless it's a recreational fire) requires a permit from King Fire & Emergency Services. Permits cost \$50 and are valid until December 31 of the calendar year. To obtain a burn permit for the 2024 season, call 905-833-2800 or email fire@king.ca. View our Interactive Burn and Fire Restriction Map to find out what type of fire you're allowed to have. Learn more at king.ca/BurningInKing



Property tax bills

Residents can expect to receive their 2024 interim tax bill in mid-January, with the first installment due on February 21. For more information, visit king.ca/propertytaxes.



**KING TOWNSHIP MAYOR'S CULTURAL GALA
AN EQUESTRIAN AFFAIR**

The Manor
16750 Weston Road
King Township

Thursday, February 29, 2024
Doors Open 5:30 PM, Dinner 7:00 PM

KINGHERITAGEANDCULTURE.CA

This event is held in partnership with Arts Society King and the King Heritage & Cultural Centre.

Noise Exemption Permit Process

Review

Take the survey and provide your feedback!



www.speaking.king.ca

Please see more Township notices on page 5

PUBLIC NOTICES

Meet the Mayor & Ward Councillors



Tuesday, February 27, 2024
King City Public Library
1970 King Road, King City
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Councillors Debbie Schaefer
Jordan Cescolini

Tuesday March 26, 2024
Nobleton Public Library
8 Sheardown Drive, Nobleton
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Councillors David Boyd &
Jennifer Anstey

Tuesday April 23, 2024
Schomberg Public Library
77 Main Street
Schomberg
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Councillor Mary Asselstine

Tuesday May 7, 2024
Ansnoeveldt Park Picnic Shelter
18997 Dufferin Street
Newmarket
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Councillor Avia Eek

Discuss Township/Ward Issues



Not sure what Ward you live in? View the King Township Councillors and Ward Map at king.ca/maps.
Learn more about your Mayor and Council here <https://www.king.ca/council>

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO PASS AMENDING BY-LAW TO REMOVE A HOLDING (H) SYMBOL

Monday, January 29, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

This Council Meeting will be held in a hybrid format, both in-person and live streamed at <https://www.king.ca/meetings>.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of King intends to consider an amending by-law under Section 36 of the *Planning Act* to remove the Holding (H) Symbol for the lands described below. The earliest Council will consider passage of the by-law is the Council Meeting on Monday, January 29, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.

Subject Property

Location: 1925 15th Sideroad, King City
Owner: King Green Developments CR Inc. – (c/o. Nick Cortellucci)
File Number: Z-2023-06

The subject lands are located in the northeast quadrant of the Village of King City; west of Dufferin Street and south of 15th Sideroad and comprise an 89 single detached lot draft approved plan of residential development (19T-18K02). The location of the lands are known as 1925 15th Sideroad and are legally described as Part of Lot 10, Concession 3.

The total landholding is zoned Residential Urban Single Detached "A" Exception Holding ('R1A-K1A(H)') Zone; Residential Urban Single Detached "A" Exception Holding ('R1A-K2A(H)') Zone; Residential Urban Single Detached "A" Exception Holding ('R1A-K1B(H)') Zone; Residential Urban Single Detached "A" Exception Holding ('R1A-K2B(H)') Zone; Environmental Protection ('EP') Zone; Open Space ('OS') Zone to Schedule 'A' (Map 2) of By-law No. 74-53 (Township of King Zoning By-law) and Residential Single Detached "A" – K1A Exception Holding ('R1A-K1A(H)')(R1A-1) Zone; Residential Single Detached "A" – K1B Exception Holding ('R1A-K1B(H)')(R1A-2) Zone; Residential Single Detached "A" – K2A Exception Holding ('R1A-K2A(H)')(R1A-3) Zone; Residential Single Detached "A" – K2B Exception Holding ('R1A-K2B(H)')(R1A-4) Zone; Environmental Protection ('EP') Zone; and Open Space ('OS') Zone to Schedule 'A2' of By-law No. 2017-66 (Schomberg and King City Urban Areas), pursuant to the approval of amending Zoning By-laws Nos. 2019-075 and 2019-076, respectively on September 23, 2019.

The removal of the Holding (H) Symbol will, in part, facilitate the development of the lands in the manner intended by the draft approved plan and will implement the applicable zoning standards on the property.

Lead Planner

Additional information relating to the amending By-law, including supporting information, is available by contacting Felix Chau, Planner II, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. with reference to the address or file number for more information.

Written comments in advance of the meeting may be sent to:

Felix Chau, Planner II
Email: fchau@king.ca
Telephone: 289-800-2574

Written comments will become 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 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.



Dated at the Township of King this 15th day of January, 2024.

Denny Timm
Township Clerk
Township of King
2585 King Road, King City, ON
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 Division, Township of King at (905) 833-5321.

Highway 11 Corridor Study

Notice of Public Workshop


The Township of King will be holding two in-person Workshops on January 30, 2023 regarding the Highway 11 Corridor Study.

The Workshop will involve a hands-on exercise that will further explore key considerations for the Study. Further details will be provided in advance of the Workshop.

Please note that space is limited and pre-registration is required!
Interested participants may register by visiting the Project Page or by using the QR codes below.

Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2024


Location: 2585 King Road, King City, L7B 1A1



2:00 - 4:00 PM

Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2024

Location: 2585 King Road, King City, L7B 1A1




6:00 - 8:00 PM

For more information visit speaking.king.ca or contact the Project Team at policyplanning@king.ca or 289-800-2656.

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

ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday, January 20th, 2024
Trisan Centre
25 Dillane Drive, Schomberg
9:00am - 11:00am



KING



King reminds residents of snow clearing procedures

By Mark Pavilons
Editor

Now that winter has us in its grips, King Township want to let residents know they're ready to tackle each and every snow event that occurs.

Snowplowing occurs in priority sequence – with major roads first, followed by neighbourhood roads, and cul-de-sacs last – to ensure that fire and emergency services are able to drive on the roads and respond to calls.

Road clearing is typically completed within a 12-hour period after the snowfall is complete but can take longer during a significant weather event.

King's winter parking restrictions are in effect until April 15. On-street parking between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. is prohibited to allow for snow clearing. Parking your vehicle on the roadway during a snowplowing, sanding or salting event is also prohibited. Parking infractions will be ticketed \$100.

For more information, visit king.ca/snowremoval.



Public can get involved in study

From Front Page

Several different opportunities for interested parties to get involved will be planned throughout all phases of the study.

An introductory video about the study can be watched on King's YouTube channel at [youtube.com/@kingtownship1354](https://www.youtube.com/@kingtownship1354).

To receive regular updates on the project, including details on upcoming meetings, surveys and reports, subscribe to the project page at speaking.king.ca.

For regular updates on Township programs and events, follow the official corporate social media channels on X and Facebook, subscribe to King's monthly e-newsletter or visit king.ca.

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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

Trying to stay connected to the 'great mystery'

I recently urged my son to apply his somewhat green thumb to growing mushrooms.

Not your basic fungi, but those thousand-dollar specimens sought by fancy restaurants. Truffles can cost upwards of several thousand per pound. That's what I'm talking about!

How hard can it be to raise and sell a fistful of these beauties?

Turns out, very hard. But as they say, if it were easy, everyone would be doing it.

It seems my boy is under pressure – to get active, busy and earn money. After all we westerners believe that generating wealth is some sort of gauge of people.

Mistake number one.

And yet, our young people, in record numbers, are graduating, and taking "gap years" to figure things out. Even armed with hard-earned degrees, finding those dream jobs is not easy.

And just what is a dream job? What field, or industry moves along effortlessly, unhindered by the economy, making everyone rich?

Not all of our young want to be accountants, bankers, lawyers, brain surgeons or politicians.

It's somewhat disheartening, as a parent, to watch our kids go through this.

We do our best to help them. We set aside money for college or university; help them in their courses; encourage them to experience life, and always tell them to do what they love and grab life by the tail.

Is that enough these days? I don't think so.

As a Boomer, once we hit our mid-20s, we got an itch to move out and be on our own. We didn't care if we only ate KD and watched a black and white TV. We had jobs and that was enough to cover our essentials.

But with today's rents, cost of living, transit, cars, car insurance and yes, groceries, it's an uphill climb.

The pressure to just make it outweighs the need to move out and move on.

The world applies enough pressure to our young, we don't need to add to it. But it's often hard to hold our tongues.

While we'd all love to be 21 again, none of us would want to "start over" in



Mark Pavilons

this day and age.

In our house of five, and four dogs, it's seldom still. Like Oz, people come and go so quickly here!

My wife is a whirlwind, keeping the cogs well oiled. With two jobs, she's often overburdened.

But she doesn't know how to chill. Perhaps she's reluctant to "press pause" for various reasons.

They say that when you're idle or relaxing, you're alone with your thoughts. Some us can shelve them, but others can't. I'm an expert chiller, but constantly bickering with myself in my own mind is not a healthy pastime.

Meditation aside, how do we calm an overactive mind, brought about by our hectic lifestyle?

According to Andrea Menard, author of "Seeds from the Sacred Feminine: A 52-Card Wisdom Deck with Handbook," we have to be in tune with our sacred masculine and feminine sides.

"Take a moment to breathe and stop the whirlwind," says Menard. "When was the last time you sat still for more than 20 minutes?"

"Your sacred self waits for your moments of stillness to emerge. Be still and remember who you are. In the silence, feel your connection to the Great Mystery."

When is the last time anyone of us, regardless of our beliefs, felt any connection to the "Great Mystery?"

During the past year, and my experience with cancer, I have longed to believe in such a mystery. I have tried to find solace in stillness and prayer.

I wish science had risen to the point where we could just pluck out negative thoughts and feelings, and replace them with good ones. Wouldn't that be amazing?

Of course, we'd put all the supplement and pharmaceutical companies out of business.

Some, like Menard, suggest writing down your thoughts and take up journaling.

I tend to express myself through this very column, and little bits of me constantly float to the surface for all to see. I find this therapeutic, and sorry to burden you with my woes, but maybe you share some of my sentiments.

Menard points out, when you surround yourself with living things, you become more alive too. Gardening, tending to plants, etc. all help in this regard. I suppose tending to our four-legged family members works, too.

"There is great healing in the Earth Realm," says Menard.

There is much more to this planet of ours than we know. I have come across some fascinating articles on just how physically connected the flora and fauna are in our world. Symbiotic relations abound in the plant kingdom and this is not random but by design. I have learned that some tree root systems stretch for

miles, literally boosting all others they encounter underground.

Incredible.

I think we'd all love to bring some calmness into the chaos around us. Some of it we can't control – the economy, running errands and our work environments. But at home, we should be able to instill some serenity.

Menard suggests this involves tossing material things, objects that we don't really need. She says we're not meant to "hold on to physical objects that no longer serve you.

"Release your hold on the stuff and feel the relief rise in your chest. You are free again. Remember the ways of your ancestors and pare your life down to the basics. Use only what is necessary. Allow your wealth to flow to someone who needs it more than you."

And yet here we are, settling in after a taxing gift-giving season. I can just imagine the piles of material things that may remain untouched, and not needed.

I have constantly told my family that my needs are simple. A few toys to play with; a collectible or two to admire; some laughs; home-cooked meals and the occasional beverage.

At this stage of my life, should I come into untold wealth, I would still not buy fancy clothes, luxury cars or Swiss watches. Those days, those desires, are gone.

Plop me in the middle of a Zen garden with an umbrella in my drink and I'm good to go.

Namaste.

Letter to the Editor

Editorial missed the point

You recently commented on the fact that coffee was served to a Palestinian protester (King Sentinel, Jan. 11, 'When did coffee become political?').

You made it sound like people are being ridiculous because we can't share a coffee. You have completely missed the point to people's frustrations.

Not that long ago the truckers convoy were treated like terrorists for what happened in Ottawa.

Some of them are still fighting legal battles. They were peaceful and even helpful to those around them. They were not afforded the same cup of coffee. In many cases they had their ability to make coffee taken away and stores in the area told not to serve to the truckers.

The Palestinian protests are blocking highway over passes and on and off ramps. Somehow they are allowed to shout from the roof tops that an entire nation must be eradicated (from the river to the sea).

No one is happy with what is happening in the Middle East. Most Canadians want peace.

Most Canadians will share a coffee with anyone.

Julie Dietrich

KingWeeklySentinel WEBPOLL
www.kingsentinel.com

Results from last week's poll:

Do you think Prime Minister Trudeau deserves more time in office?

a) Yes **18%**

b) No **82%**

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

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Are you prepared for the winter driving season?

a) Yes
b) No

Go to our website and cast a vote!

WINTER DRIVING

FOR

Canadians who've now forgotten how

- Tire Traction Trivia
- Snow Plow Etiquette
- Emergency Kit BINGO Card

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Quote of the Week

"Be comfortable with the age you are, and just accept it."

Helen Mirren

Trivia Tidbits

The 2010 Olympic hockey men's final was the most-watched event in Canadian history.

<p>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><small>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</small></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 2024</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> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: 0.8em;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> Member News Media Canada Medias d'Info Canada </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> National NewsMedia Council nnc </div> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin-top: 5px;">Funded by the Government of Canada Canada We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada.</p>
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Canada's economic pillars are on shaky ground

By Frank Stronach

The Principles of an Economic Charter of Rights

Canadians are feeling increasingly pessimistic about their financial well-being – and for good reason.

A new national survey from Pollara released last week confirmed that nearly one out of every two Canadians said they expect their household income to drop this year, with a majority of Canadians saying they are “worried” about their personal finances.

What’s keeping Canadians up at night?

According to the survey, it’s the high cost of groceries, which is taking a bigger and bigger bite out of everyone’s paycheck. Many mothers and fathers throughout the country go to bed every night worried about having enough money to feed their families. That should never happen in a country as rich as Canada.

But it’s not just higher grocery bills eating into the take-home pay of most Canadians.

Higher taxes are also making Canadians poorer. A whole slew of new taxes are scheduled to take effect this year, including higher taxes for Employment Insurance and the Canada Pension Plan, as well as added taxes on gasoline and home heating.

If all those extra taxes weren’t bad enough, we got news last week that the quarterly federal debt payment in Canada hit an all-time high. According to

Statistics Canada, Ottawa spent over \$11 billion in the third quarter of the current fiscal year.

In plain terms, it means that ten cents out of every dollar of revenue the government collects is now going to pay interest on the debt. The national debt is a runaway freight train heading for the cliff – and few people are sounding the alarm. The worst part is that we have no plan in place for tackling the debt.

When you add all of these factors together, on top of a chronically feeble economy, it’s hardly surprising that Canadians are growing poorer and poorer year by year.

And the reason why is that Canada’s economic fundamentals are all on shaky ground.

As we head into the new year, deteriorating consumer confidence and lower consumer spending will hurt small business the most. It seems that small business always gets the short end of the stick.

When it comes to taxation or regulation or economic policies, the rules are almost always slanted in favour of big business. And yet it’s small business that shoulders most of the load when

it comes to creating jobs and developing new products and technologies. It’s baffling that such a large, fundamental chunk of our economy is routinely neglected.

We need to create a more level playing field that unshackles small business and gives them the opportunity to flourish. And we need to firm up the other pillars of our economy so that Canadians can enjoy higher living standards.

A national economic charter of rights and responsibilities would accomplish this. The charter would require government to pay down the debt over 20 years, reduce spending by a specific percentage each year, and cut red tape. It would also require the government to reform our tax system by making it simpler, more transparent, and fairer. In short, it would establish the strong, solid foundation necessary for our economy to grow.

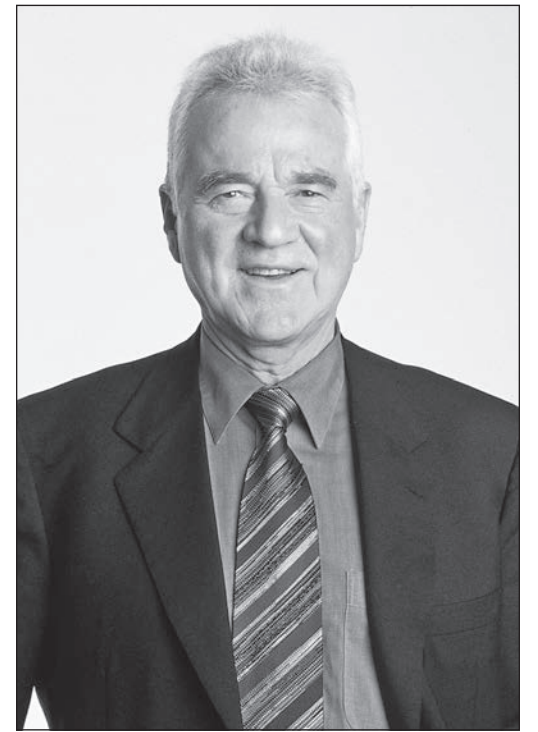
An economic charter would also ignite our economy by giving millions of Canadians the chance to participate in profit sharing, by removing income tax and reducing the regulatory burden on small business so they can thrive and grow, creating new jobs and new wealth that will benefit all Canadians.

Until we shore up our crumbling economic pillars, the vast majority of Canadians can expect living standards to continue to erode.

Pollara Survey Sources: <https://www.pollara.com/economic-outlook-2024-canadas-post-covid-economic-malaise-continues/>

<https://www.pollara.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Pollara-Economic-Outlook-2024.pdf>

BMO Survey Source: <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/nearly-a-third-of-canadians-plan-to-cut-spending-in-2024-over-cost-of-living-concerns-bmo-survey-887285198.html>



Higher Taxes Source: <https://www.taxpayer.com/media/NYTC-Report-CTF-2024.pdf>

Parliamentary Budget Office Source: <https://distribution-a617274656661637473.pbo-dpb.ca/7590f619bb5d3b769ce09bdbc7c1ccce-75ccd8b1bcfb506fc601a2409640bfdd>

Record high debt sources: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/240109/dq240109d-eng.htm>

<https://nationalpost.com/news/politics/interest-costs-for-federal-debt-soar-to-new-highs>

Fraser Institute Source: <https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/growing-debt-burden-for-canadians-2024.pdf>

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. For more, email fstronachlpc@gmail.com

MP Roberts shames government on the treatment of our seniors

After eight years of Justin Trudeau, seeing headlines like “More seniors on the brink of homelessness facing evictions and unaffordable rent,” is not uncommon.

And King-Vaughan’s MP Anna Roberts says it’s extremely troubling that seniors can no longer afford basic necessities.

“I’ve heard from seniors all around the country who tell me they are struggling. Maria, a senior I met in Maple, retired with the hopes of living out her golden years but due to the out of control inflation, she must go back to work. Nancy, a senior I met in Toronto must now rely on the food bank because the cost of groceries has skyrocketed. Francesca, a senior I met in Vaughan now has to choose between filling up her car or heating her home because of the added cost burden created by the carbon tax.

“These are just some of the many sad stories that I’ve heard from seniors around Canada. The Sai Dham Food Bank, in Toronto are now delivering

to the doors of over 3,000 seniors. The scary part about this is that these numbers are increasing daily. This elite, out-of-touch Finance Minister doesn’t care how Liberal policies have made life unaffordable for Canadians.”

She noted the first Liberal carbon tax has already added 14.3 cents for every litre of gas.

The second Liberal carbon tax, which came into effect on July 1, continues to boost the price at the pump and, by 2030, will add a total of 17 cents plus the sales tax on top of that.

“If someone told you eight years ago that seniors must choose between heating and eating, you would never believe them. Eight years ago, when this Prime Minister took office, Canada was rich, affordable, and safe. After eight years of Trudeau, we see a record two million food bank visits in a single month. The common-sense Conservative plan will axe the tax, balance the budget, and build homes not bureaucracy to bring home lower prices for Canadians.”



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Cajun jambalaya sure to warm your heart

In the face of skyrocketing food costs, Chef Pops has taken on this challenge:

Feed a family of four a nutritious gourmet dinner for around \$20. The rules: No hard-to-find obscure ingredients allowed; everything has to be a pantry staple or available from local grocers. No processed foods or packaged items with unpronounceable ingredients; everything has to be made from scratch ... and it has to be easy to put together; no weird or fancy techniques or equipment needed. Lastly, it has to be so delicious that it raises an eyebrow on the first bite.

By Aladin Jarrah

This week we turn an envious eye South with an easy and delicious Cajun dish that'll bring a Bayou smile to your frozen Northern face. Jambalaya is as flexible as it is delicious, and is quite forgiving in terms of ingredients. Let your pantry/freezer be your guide and don't get all hung up on using exactly what is described.

Annual pancake breakfast Jan. 20

Rise and shine – it's pancake time! Join Mayor Steve Pellegrini and members of Council for the annual King Township Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Jan. 20 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Trisan Centre in Schomberg. Feast on pancakes, sausages, bacon and other breakfast goodies, all made by the Schomberg Lions Club. Plus, hear from the town crier, who will in to make some special announcements.

Chef Pops

You have a random lump of kielbasa? Use it instead of the sausage. Left-over chicken languishing remorsefully in the back of your fridge? Perfect. A shrimp ring you never pulled out of the freezer at Christmas? Gimme. The gentle spice'll warm you, the rice'll drive the damp out of your bones and your pocket-book will thank you as you spend \$20 on whatever you don't have on hand from this list:

- 2 chicken thighs (or 1 breast if you must), sliced
- 2 sausages (mild Italian are good, but anything that isn't a hot dog will work)
- 1 small bag raw shrimp, peeled
- 1 cup white rice
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 1 large yellow onion, sliced
- 2 bell peppers, any colour, sliced
- 1 ½ cups chicken stock
- Crushed hot pepper flakes to taste
- Cajun seasoning as follows: A teaspoon each of paprika, onion powder, garlic powder, black pepper, cumin and oregano.
- 1 TBSP vegetable oil
- 1 green onion, sliced thin, for garnish

Use whatever wide, heavy bottomed pot you have. It needs a tight-fitting lid. Heat the oil on medium and fry the sausages until they brown and firm up. They don't have to be cooked all the way through. Remove the sausages to a plate and allow to cool. Add the onion to the pan with a three-finger pinch of salt and fry for five minutes, scraping the brown bits off the bottom of the pan. Once the veggies have softened, add the spice mixture and fry for a minute longer. Go easy on the salt: sausages and stock can be salty, and it's easy to add more later but impossible to remove.

Slice the sausages into rounds and pour any liquid they gave off into the pan. Add the rice and stir until it's coated with the spice mixture.

Add the tomatoes, sausage,

chicken, hot pepper flakes and stock to the pan, and give everything a good stir. Turn it down as low as you can, slam on a lid and let it cook for 20 minutes. No peeking.

After 20 minutes the rice should be cooked through and the liquid should all be absorbed. Add the shrimp and put the lid back on for 5 minutes more to allow the shrimp to steam. If you're using pre-cooked shrimp, you don't need the five minutes.

Gently fold everything together, adjust the salt if necessary and top it with the green onions. Serve with a bottle of your favourite hot sauce for those who like it spicy.

As always, let me know how it goes, and feel free to make recipe requests: chefpopskitchen@gmail.com



Climate science denial puts us all at risk

By David Suzuki

In 1988, NASA scientist James Hansen warned the U.S. Congress that Earth was heating at a dangerous, accelerating rate mainly from burning coal, gas and oil.

The science wasn't new. Throughout the 1800s, scientists recognized what is now known as the "greenhouse effect." In 1859, Irish physicist John Tyndall conducted experiments that showed gases including carbon dioxide could affect climate by preventing heat radiation from escaping. In 1896, Swedish chemist Svante Arrhenius demonstrated how changes in CO2 could affect climate.

Their research coincided with the fast-developing fossil fuel era. Although Earth's climate has always fluctuated, the rapid warming we've experienced since fossil fuel burning began is unprecedented. As NASA points out, "It is undeniable that human activities have produced the atmospheric gases that have trapped more of the Sun's energy in the Earth system. This extra energy has warmed the atmosphere, ocean, and land, and widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere, and biosphere have occurred."

When Hansen testified 35 years ago, the evidence for human-caused global warming was already undeniable — and it spurred a shift. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was formed. Hundreds of scientists and policy-makers met in Toronto for a major international conference on climate change, releasing a statement that read, "Humanity is conducting an unintended, uncontrolled, globally pervasive experiment whose ultimate consequences could be second only to a global nuclear war."

In that momentous year, even U.S. President George H.W. Bush (an oilman!) and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher promised to heed the environmental warnings, with the former establishing the U.S. Global Change Research Program and implementing the Global Change Research Act, which mandated a National Climate Assessment every four years.

In Canada, newly elected Prime Minister Brian Mulroney appointed Lucien Bouchard as environment minister. In an interview, I asked Bouchard what he considered to be our most important environmental issue. "Global warming," he replied. "How serious is it?" I asked. "It threatens the survival of our species," he responded. "We have to act now."

Even the oil companies recognized the problem. According to Harvard researchers, starting in 1977, "Exxon

researchers created a series of remarkably reliable models and analyses projecting global warming from carbon dioxide emissions over the coming decades."

Oil industry executives realized their enterprises threatened human health and survival, but they were more concerned about how climate action threatened their bottom lines. Instead of helping the world reduce consumption of its products, they devised campaigns to sow doubt and confusion about the climate science their own researchers had confirmed.

In concert with the automobile industry, they developed products and encouraged lifestyles that would burn even greater amounts of the polluting, climate-altering fuels. With help from compromised media, paid politicians, shady front groups and uninformed, fearful citizens, the denial machine went into full swing.

Now we've reached a critical point. Over the past 35 years, sales of gas-guzzling SUVs and trucks have accelerated, emissions have risen, the planet has heated to dangerous levels and politicians still campaign against sensible, effective climate policies. Even those in politics who recognize the problem and implement measures to address it have to compromise or water them down in the face of rampant denial.

It's not hyperbole to say those who have fuelled and are still fuelling climate science denial have blood on their hands. And while the ignorant might have once been excused for being duped by such a sophisticated, exorbitantly financed public relations behemoth, there's no justification now to ignore what has become a clearly evident crisis.

James Hansen retired from NASA in 2013, but he hasn't stopped warning about the climate crisis. He recently led research that concluded warming and climate sensitivity to rising emissions have exceeded even the IPCC's best estimates, thanks in part to a collective failure to implement proven measures to slow emissions, such as carbon pricing.

We've had plenty of time to shift course — any further delays will cause more pain and hardship for everyone. It's long past time to move from denial to action.

We've had plenty of time to shift course — any further delays will cause more pain and hardship for everyone. It's long past time to move from denial to action.


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.

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Resident connects with Ukrainian youth to teach English

By Aladin Jarrah

The ongoing war in Ukraine continues to affect the lives of people there in so many ways. Other than the obvious social and military consequences, many ordinary young Ukrainians have had their lives put on hold as their hopes, dreams and aspirations are paused during these tumultuous and difficult times.

This all seems it would be distant and disconnected to an HR Manager at Maple Leaf Foods, living in Schomberg, half a planet away.

In actual fact, it has changed Jill Barber's outlook in many ways.

You see, in addition to her job in human resources, Barber has a secondary role at Maple Leaf Foods: she helps in leading their Raise The Good in the Neighbourhood Volunteer Initiative, which provides Maple Leaf Foods team members two days per year to volunteer in the communities they live and work in.

In her research, Barber came across an organization called ENgin, which has a simple and powerful mission. According to the not-for-profit, they "help Ukrainian youth connect with the global community by empowering them to speak fluent, conversational English. Our work breaks down borders to catalyze Ukraine's postwar reconstruction and longer-term economic and social development.

"Our one-of-a-kind model is human-centered, personalized, and authentic. Through 1-on-1 conversation, we facilitate mutually beneficial relationships between students and volunteers, creating a virtuous cycle of growth and understanding. And by doing this at unprecedented scale - 40,000 participants and counting - we're bridging cultures and fostering a more interconnected, empathetic world."

A few months ago, Barber connected with 23-year-old Kateryna in Ukraine, and their weekly conversations have changed Barber's outlook. "As an ENgin volunteer, I have been meeting weekly with Kateryna, a graduate from Zaporizhzhia, to help her practice English. Kateryna and I have become good friends and I feel I benefit from our relationship almost as much as she does. Our sessions give me a front-row seat to the effects of the war, and I do my best to support Kateryna through the challenges she faces every day."

Barber has been deeply moved by Kateryna's story and their closeness continues to grow. She explains: "This initiative goes beyond addressing short-term needs, focusing on enhancing spoken English to provide Ukrainians with broader academic and professional opportunities. ENgin aims to empower individuals, opening doors to new jobs, bridging educational gaps, and facilitating the resettlement process for refugees impacted by the war.

"In my sessions with Kateryna I not only contribute to her language goals but also gain insights into Ukraine and the profound effects of the war on her family. Her brother and partner are both soldiers in the war. She never knows when she'll see either of them again. It's a meaningful experience that goes beyond language support, fostering understanding and connection. I'm honoured to be part of it, and I wanted to share my experience for others who are seeking a volunteer opportunity that allows them to connect from home and make an impact on the lives of young people."

If you're interested in learning more about the work ENgin is doing in Ukraine, or wish to volunteer and join the conversation, go to www.enginprogram.org and read all about it.



Jill Barber



Patricia McGuire

Last of the matriarchs

By Mark D. McGuire

The hands that rocked the cradle are sadly missed.

Patricia Lee was born in Hamilton, Ont., April 13, 1923. Patricia's dad was from England so they moved back to England in 1934.

Patricia Lee joined the Women's Auxiliary Corps in London, England in 1942.

Patricia was quite diminutive but assertive. Her fellow soldiers called her "General Lee."

Patricia met and married a Canadian soldier, Allan D. McGuire. They moved back to Schomberg, Ontario and had eight children who all did well.

Patricia had 11 sisters-in-law and there were a number of matriarchs among them. Alas, regrettably, the hands that rocked the cradle and the matriarchs are no more.

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York approves 2023 to 2027 multi-year Accessibility Plan

York Regional Council approved York Region's 2023 to 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, which outlines how The Regional Municipality of York and York Regional Police are working to meet and surpass requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

"York Region is committed to creating welcoming and inclusive communities, valuing the diversity of residents and allow every person to thrive, free of barriers and without discrimination," said York Region Chairman and CEO Wayne Emmerson. "Part of this commitment is making the Region more accessible for everyone."

Developed in consultation with people with disabilities, community members and the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee (YRAAC), the plan identifies actions across the following five areas impacting residents' daily lives:

Information and communications, employment, transportation, design of public spaces and customer service.

Multi-year accessibility planning was first established in 2013. Since then, York Region and York Regional Police have implemented and met all AODA requirements for broader public sector organizations. Building on foundations of accessibility accomplishments and actions, the two organizations continue to meet and, in some cases, exceed the AODA requirements. Most actions in the plan are already in place and continue to be part of regular business practices.

Highlights of the 2023 to 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan include:

Incorporating accessibility practices across all stages of employment, including providing accommodations during recruitment, assessment and selection processes and supporting employees with disabilities in the workplace.

Making it easier to travel and move around the Region by considering accessibility needs of people with disabilities.

Creating, providing and receiving information and communications in accessible ways.

Updating York Region's accessibility design guidelines for buildings and facilities to enhance the accessibility of Regional public spaces.

Training all employees, volunteers and agents on AODA, Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation and Ontario's Human Rights Code as they pertain to people with disabilities.

"York Region is enriched by contributions from people of all abilities," said Tom Vegh, Town of Newmarket Deputy Mayor and Chair of the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee. "York Region and YRAAC remain passionate about identifying and removing barriers, changing attitudes and the importance of accessibility across all York Region communities."

York Region's long-standing commitment to continuous improvement extends to accessibility and continues to drive the Region forward. Earlier this year, YRAAC marked its 20th anniversary,

and since inception, committee members have shared knowledge, expertise and lived experiences to help make Regional programs, services and facilities more accessible.

Creating a community that is welcoming, inclusive and accessible for everyone aligns with York Region's Vision, Regional Official Plan, 2023 to 2027

Strategic Plan – From Vision to Results, Accessibility Policy and Inclusion Charter for York Region.

The plan will also be updated every four years to coincide with each new term of Council and York Region's Strategic Plan.

For more information, visit york.ca/accessibility

Eligible Canadian residents receive first pollution pricing rebate of the year

Canada's approach to pollution pricing is not only one of the best ways to fight climate change, it also puts money back into the pockets of individuals and families. The direct proceeds from the federal pollution price are returned to the jurisdiction from which they were collected to help with cost-of-living challenges while keeping the incentive to pollute less.

People living in provinces where the federal fuel charge applies will receive their first pollution pricing rebate of the year through direct bank deposit or by cheque. This means a family of four will receive a pollution price rebate, called the Climate Action Incentive payment; \$244 in Ontario.

Eight out of 10 households receive more money back through the pollution price rebate than they pay as a result of the federal pollution pricing system, with low- and middle-income households benefitting the most.

Residents of small and rural communities receive an extra 10 per cent supplement beyond the base rebate amount. As of April 2024, the government will double the rural supplement to 20 per cent, in recognition of the increased energy needs of rural residents and their reduced access to cleaner transportation options.

As 2024 kicks off, the Government of Canada reiterates its commitment to pollution pricing and its crucial role in meeting targets to cut emissions by 40 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Estimates show that pollution pricing will contribute about a third of the total reductions in emissions that will occur between now and 2030. Putting a price on pollution and returning the proceeds to eligible Canadians through rebates provides support for individuals and families while also maintaining an incentive to reduce emissions.

"Canadians will start noticing payments arriving in their bank accounts and mailboxes starting Monday. These

rebate payments are the other half of the carbon pollution pricing system, with eight out of 10 families actually getting more back than they pay. Rebate payments are helping families with the higher cost of living, alongside a range of other programs introduced by our government, like the Canada Child Benefit, child care, grocery rebates, dental and rental support, and more. The federal pollution pricing system is not only supporting the everyday affordability challenges of Canadians, but is a key part of our plan to fight climate change, contributing about a third of our overall emissions reduction goal," said Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

In provinces where the federal pollution price applies, 90 per cent of pollution pricing proceeds is returned directly to households through pollution price rebate payments. The other 10 per cent is used to support small- and medium-sized enterprises, Indigenous groups, and farmers.

Residents of Canada don't need to apply to receive the pollution pricing rebate. They need to file their income tax and benefit return to automatically receive the payments they are entitled to.

Labelling of this direct deposit payment can vary from one financial institution to another, and its amount will vary depending on the number of eligible individuals living at the same address, and whether they reside in a small and rural community.

Pricing carbon pollution is just one part of Canada's plan to prevent the worst impacts of climate change and build a sustainable future for everyone. In addition to the pollution price rebate, the Government of Canada continues to support households in cutting energy costs through financial assistance for enhanced insulation, energy-efficient electric heat pumps, and zero-emission vehicles.

Did you know that King Township is the Ninth Bee City in Canada? The goal of the Bee City Canada certification is to provide and promote healthy, sustainable habitats for bees and other pollinator species.

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STEPHEN LECCE
MPP for King-Vaughan



Community helps Neighbourhood Network make holidays merry

By Brock Weir

Community members have stepped up to help Neighbourhood Network meet unprecedented demand for their annual Holiday Gift Drive.

Neighbourhood Network, which serves the communities of Auro-

ra, King, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, Newmarket, and Whitchurch-Stouffville, said community support for their Holiday Gift Drive has enabled them to sponsor 90 families this Christmas season, but 16 families are still in need for support.

Their asks are not huge, says Neigh-

bourhood Network's Erin Cerenzia, Manager of Community Relations for Magna International, but essentially boil down to some of the very basics of life we take for granted.

"We are blown away by the support from the community, as well as from our colleagues from Magna," Cerenzia told The Auroran. "It's the most requests we've ever received, and we're incredibly grateful with the support we have received. We have a few families who are single parents - mothers and fathers - who have young children ranging in age from the youngest being two-years-old to the oldest being 13. We have a few families who are also single-parent families who have teenagers or older children who have special needs that require a lot of financial care and support for their medical needs on behalf of families.

"The thing that is always the most unusual or surprising to me is the fact that people are wishing for what we would consider just basic necessities, so more than ever on wish lists this year we have wishes for food, toiletries, cleaning products for the house, toilet paper. 10 years ago, we had a lot of wish lists for specific toys, games or books for children, but now we're really just looking for ways to get through the holiday season just with those essentials. If we can provide that, and then additional gifts and Christmas cheer on top of that, that is really our goal."

It's not just families with kids who are in the minds of Neighbourhood Network this time of year. Their Holiday Gift Drive also accounts for local seniors who are also in need - financially, medically, and otherwise.

"When we're thinking about how the community can support a couple of key pieces for us - gift cards to grocery stores or businesses where there

is an opportunity to purchase food, that is always helpful, and gift cards to restaurants are also very helpful. Warm clothes, winterwear like socks, mitts, hats, and scarves, all in a variety of sizes, would be of huge help and assistance. We also suggest gift cards to places like Amazon and Walmart where there might be an opportunity, specifically with single parents and single seniors, to purchase a variety of types of items from those stores. They might be able to purchase a book, a board game, or items from their home because these types of gift cards reach a whole variety of available items for sale.

"We take such pride in the work this Holiday Gift Drive program offers back to our community and these are necessities and essentials for life. We also take great responsibility [in this because] it is critical support they are looking for."

If you would like to contribute, it's not too late.

Donations will be accepted through Friday, December 15, at Magna's Corporate Headquarters, 337 Magna Drive, Aurora, which is available 24/7.

Further information on what's needed at neighbourhoodnetwork.org or by emailing Lisbeth Goodyear at Lisbeth.Goodyear@magna.com.

"No contribution is too small," says Cerenzia. "We always encourage people in the community to give what works for you and your family and if you can give a \$25 Tim Horton's gift card, you might feel that's not enough, but for some of these families who are on our wish list, that could be the only gift they receive. Every single contribution, regardless of the size or amount, has such a positive impact on our neighbours who are in need. I would encourage everyone to really think about what they are able to do and make a donation if they can."



Dr. Bryan Ma of Physiomed in Nobleton, led attendees in a 7th Inning stretch during the Rise Up conference hosted by Natalie Massuci.

'Rise Up' conference a great success

The Rise Up conference held at the gorgeous Nobleton Lakes Golf Club was a huge success.

The power-packed day included teaching the benefits of a growth mind set, the power of words specifically our self-talk, and effective communication. Attendees enjoyed musical solos, dance performances, interactive break-out sessions, and networking opportunities.

Dr. Bryan Ma of Physiomed Nobleton led the attendees in a 7th-inning stretch. The attendees were engaged, took lots of notes, and left feeling both inspired and empowered!

Save the date: Next year's Rise Up Conference is slated for Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024 at Copper Creek Golf Club in Kleinburg.

For those who are serious about transformation and empowerment in the New Year, Natalie will be running a Power Up Boot Camp.

Session 1 runs from Jan. 4 to Feb. 8, 2024. Session 2: Thursday, Feb. 15 to Thursday, March 21. The Boot Camp includes 6 master classes on topics from Masucci's latest book entitled "EmPOWERed" and a one-on-one coaching session with Natalie. Topics include the Multiple Perspective Advantage, forgiveness and so much more. Classes will be on Zoom on Thursday nights. This program is limited to the first 20 people so sign up today.

Visit the website at www.empoweredwordministries.ca for more information and to register.



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Trees of Giving event boosts Oak Ridges Trail Association

The annual Trees of Giving campaign was a resounding success, with the Schomberg Horticultural Society's tree winning the Best in Show award. Trees of Giving showcased creatively decorated real or artificial trees by local community groups, businesses and King Township Council at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre from Nov. 18 to Dec. 16.

The theme for this year was "Festive Forest." Visitors voted for their favorite tree by making a \$2 donation, with all proceeds benefiting the Oak Ridges Trail Association. This year more than \$800 was raised.



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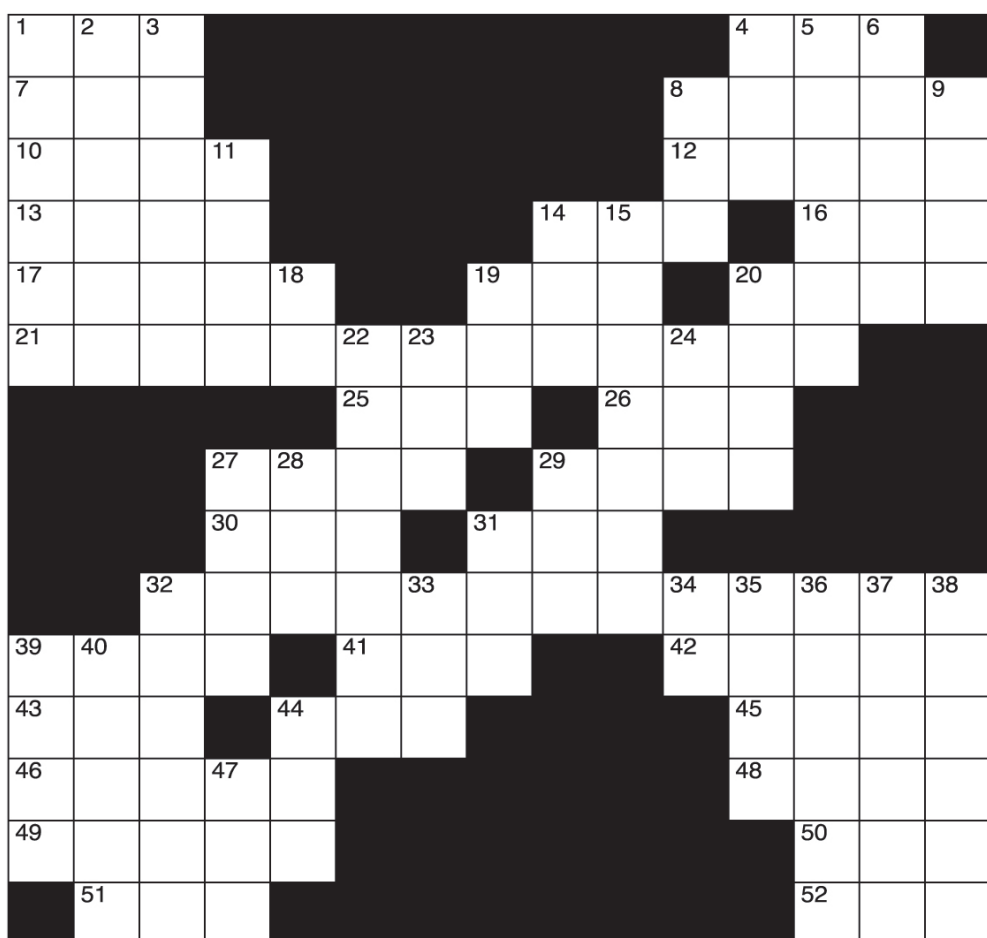
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Microgram
- 4. Where golfers begin
- 7. Each
- 8. Warm weather metropolis
- 10. Coat with sticky substance
- 12. Girl's given name
- 13. Myth (Spanish)
- 14. Ultrahigh frequency
- 16. Former NBAer Jeremy
- 17. Where rockers work
- 19. Your consciousness of your own identity
- 20. Soft-finned fishes
- 21. Localities
- 25. Paddle
- 26. Union
- 27. Member of religious community
- 29. Small shrill flute

- 30. Small constellation (abbr.) in the Milky Way
- 31. They __
- 32. College kid on vacation
- 39. de Armas and Gasteyer are two
- 41. Part of the human body
- 42. A progressive grading
- 43. Sound unit
- 44. Noise some birds make
- 45. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 46. Portuguese city
- 48. Be extremely, uncritically fond of
- 49. Resembling old Norse poems
- 50. Ask for out of extreme need
- 51. Sino-Soviet block

CLUES DOWN

- 1. An insane person
- 2. __ Boothe Luce, American author
- 3. Buttock muscles
- 4. Men's fashion accessory
- 5. "Hotel California" rockers
- 6. Electronic communication
- 8. Magnetomotive force (abbr.)
- 9. Hostelries
- 11. A way to resound
- 14. Exclamation: yuck!
- 15. A resident of Indiana
- 18. Exclamation of surprise
- 19. Make a mistake

- 20. Boundary
- 22. Antilles island
- 23. It's used to make furniture
- 24. Clod
- 27. They indicate where places are
- 28. Bobby __, NHL champ
- 29. Prints money
- 31. Honorable title (Turkish)
- 32. Appetizers
- 33. Midway between north and northwest
- 34. Spanish be
- 35. Breezed through
- 36. Grilled dishes
- 37. In a way, excites
- 38. Change mind
- 39. A French abbot
- 40. Popular candy
- 44. Partner to cheese
- 47. Wood or metal bolt

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

Event underscores reality of gender-based violence

By Brock Weir

The stark and tragic reality of gender-based violence was underscored recently as Yellow Brick House partnered with St. Andrew's College and St. Anne's School to host the annual Break the Silence, Step Into My Shoes event.

A yearly mission of Yellow Brick House, the Aurora-based shelter for women and children fleeing domestic violence, this year's event saw participants set out on foot through St. Andrew's picturesque campus to raise \$100,000 for the cause – with every \$150 raised going towards providing one night of safety for a woman or child fleeing a dire situation.

"It was an extremely successful event, and each year it gets better and better," said Lorris Herenda, Executive Director of Yellow Brick House. "We were thrilled to have St. Andrew's College students and St. Anne's School students help us organize and actually emcee the event and that was fantastic. Having students from both colleges co-emcee and co-coordinate and assist in the planning really speaks to how we all play a part in the solution to ending gender-based violence. We really took the opportunity with our event to not only raise awareness of the impact of domestic violence in our community but also put out a Call to Action."

Herenda says that in this year alone there have been "tragic numbers" in Ontario, with 55 women lost due to intimate partner violence in the first 44 weeks of 2023. This, she said, does not even include the number of children who have been murdered as well in domestic situations.

"This is not something that happens to a select group of people in particular communities – it can happen to anyone anywhere and it impacts us all," she

said. "We need all voices, all different age groups, and all different genders speaking about this issue because it impacts us all. Our Call to Action is fairly simple: we must invest in prevention programs. We must invest in education so we can start educating our youth and our community at large about healthier relationships, especially with youth, [that] these are what healthy relationships look like, these are what risk signs look like, and this is how you can escape dangerous situations and this is where you can get help. Changing the societal attitude, if you will, about violence against women and girls... we must, as a society, say no to that. If we're witnessing or suspicious about being abused, collectively, we must have the services available to assist families who are escaping the violent situation while simultaneously investing in prevention programs, educating our community that we don't want to have intimate partner violence as part of our societal norms."

Over the last couple of years, more than 40 Ontario municipalities, including Aurora, have declared intimate partner violence an epidemic. But doing so is not enough, says Herenda. There has to be an "actual investment" at all levels of government, including infrastructure to enable agencies like Yellow Brick House, to provide the services that are needed. Investment is also essential to offer prevention programs in schools, workplaces, and "wherever people are gathering."

"In 2024, we're looking forward to getting more details about an agreement that has been made between the Federal Government and the Province of Ontario with regards to the National Action Plan and the investment [that] the Federal Government is giving to the Province of Ontario to implement investment into infrastructure and pre-

vention programs. More details to come with that."

In the meantime, now is the perfect time to help with that investment as the Citrine Foundation has stepped up to foster a donation-matching program.

The Citrine Foundation was established in 2016 to support Canadian charities that serve children, women, healthcare, the arts, and more. Since its inception, it has distributed more than \$9.5 million to such organizations.

"We have a drive during the month of November for Women Abuse Prevention Month and during this month we

are encouraging people to contribute to Yellow Brick House and double their impact. We have the Citrine Foundation who has contributed up to \$25,000 in matching donations," says Herenda.

"We encourage people to really join us during this campaign and all the funds raised will be going towards our prevention program."

For more information on Yellow Brick House and the services it offers the community, visit yellowbrickhouse.org.

If you are in crisis, call their 24-Hour Crisis Line toll free at 1-800-263-3247.

KING
The best thing about King is its people!



MPP boosts food drive

Stephen Lecce, MPP for King-Vaughan, attended the Maple Community Church Box Filling Drive event at the Toronto District Christian School in Vaughan in December. MPP Lecce bought pizzas for the volunteers and thanked them for their hard work in filling the boxes with essential items that will be given to families in need over the holiday season.

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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 series on the book of Acts.

We offer children's ministry and nursery during the service. After the service you are welcome to join us for a time of socializing over coffee and goodies. 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.

If you know a student looking for volunteer hours, let him or her know that St. Paul's is looking for assistance with our audio-visual ministry on Sunday mornings. Training will be provided! Indications of interest can be sent to jeff@stpaulsnobleton.ca.

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" bags 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

St. Mary's Church

Life Teen - Life Night - January 20 - save the date!

Jan. 20/21 - Let our Lady Bless your Home. The Apostolate of the Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary will be presented in our parish on the weekend of Jan. 20-21 by the Heralds of the Gospel. It aims to make Reparation to her Immaculate Heart for the offenses received from mankind. This Apostolate started with a blessing of St. John Paul II in the year 2001 and is now spread to over 70 countries. Sign-up sheets will be available in the foyer in January.

Feb. 3 - Life Teen Valentine's Party. Calling all teens in Grades 9 to 12, mark your calendars and save the date for the We The North Valentine's Day Dinner Dance taking place on Saturday, Feb. 3 after the 5 p.m. Youth Mass at St Mary's Parish Hall.

We will be joined by our sister parishes in the northern region for a delicious dinner, live DJ and new friendships. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks!

Please RSVP by texting Zephania at 905-716-4837 and let us know that you're joining us!

If you wish to dive deeper into Scripture, join Fr. Mike Schmitz on his podcast - Bible in a Year.

Go to: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXS0cAkuT-PqFMtZQ379qdEmcfxO1SvXc>

Browse our websites:
St. Patrick's Parish: <https://stpatrickssc.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:
Mobility Matters classes Monday and Friday - 1 to 1:45 p.m.

Educational Thursdays - from 10 am to 1200 noon unless otherwise indicated.

January 18 - "Bone Up to Osteoporosis" speaker presentation.

January 25 - Naturopathic Overview presented by Dr. Christina Carew.

February 1 - Balance Health Studio Chiroprody presented by Nicole Joseph.

February 8 - HosPall, understanding their services. Please register for this event.

February 15 - Fun Day of board games and cards.

February 22 - "See Snow? Drive Slow" presented by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario.

February 29 - "Frauds and Scams" presented by York Regional Police.

March 7 - CPR and Defibrillator presented by King Fire & Emergency Services (Kevin Ritson).

March 21 - Tai Chi presented by Judy Leeming.

March 28 - "First Impressions Count" (clothes, jewelry, hair) presented by Frank De-bartolo.

All weekly Thursday programs in Nobleton will be \$1 for members and \$2 for non-members unless otherwise indicated. Remember to sign up for your 2024 membership.

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.

Nobleton-King City Garden Club

Join the Nobleton-King City Garden Club for our first meeting of 2024, 'Six Essential Herbs for the Culinary Herb Garden' with Pat Crocker via Zoom on Jan. 22. Fusing her knowledge of herbs with a passion for healthy foods and over five decades of growing and writing about the helping plants, Pat has much to teach us about.

For those interested in attending Pat's presentation, the non-member fee is \$5, or a 2024 Club membership can be purchased for \$20 to attend all of this year's dill-ightful meetings! Payment can be e-transferred to nobletonkingcitygardenclub@gmail.com.

Nobleton Book Club

Our schedule for meetings is the second Tuesday of the month, at 7 p.m. in the Nobleton Program room.

Come by and check out these interesting, lively and varied group discussions. It does not matter if you are able to come every month, but rather, come when you are able. Whether you have read the book or not, you will enjoy an entertaining evening discussion - with so many different points of view! All these titles are available through the Nobleton Public Library and other King Township libraries.

Here is the reading list for 2024:

Tuesday, February 13, 2024: The Bandit Queens by Parini Shroff.

Nobleton Lions

Now is the time to mark two popular events on your 2024 calendars. On Friday, Feb. 23, the annual poker tournament will be held at the Nobleton Arena. Then on Sunday, June 9 the long-running, much-anticipated golf tournament will be staged at the Nobleton Lakes Golf Club. Details for these events as well as announcements of other events, once they are planned, will follow on the website and on social media.

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 learn more about events and organizations supported with your contributions.

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., with dinner at 7, 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. 23.

St. Alban's By John Arnott

Epiphany (from the Greek epiphaino meaning to reveal or show) the church season many Christians are marking now wasn't observed in the early years of Christianity. It was most likely first celebrated in the 3rd century AD and mainly by the Greek-speaking eastern part of the Roman Empire which would eventually become the Byzantine Empire (named for Byzantium a small town in Asia Minor, modern Turkiye) around which Constantine the Great, the first Christian Roman emperor, had Constantinople, the city named after him, built as an alternate capital for the old empire.

The St. Alban's Anglican community in Nobleton notes that in the late 3rd century AD Greek speaking St. John Chrysostom mentioned along with the visit of the Magi (Wise Kings) to see the infant Yeshua and told his congregation in Constantinople that the star which had been guiding these noble easterners had disappeared once they reached Israel so they no alternative, but to go Jerusalem and seek help finding this new born king. News of their mission spread quickly through those who held power and finally to King Herod.

This is how Yeshua came to the attention of the world outside And this was his epiphany or revelation.



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King curlers resume their fine-sweeping action

By Shelley Morning
King Curling Club

Club Action

A "Sterling" start to 2024!

Saturday, Jan. 6 started the 2024 curling year off with a new style of curling; Sterling. A new game that has only 2 curlers throwing 6 rocks from each end towards their partner!

Each game has very little sweeping and requires precise draw and tap back weight. It is a very fast game (played in 1 hour) and based on comments will become very popular.

Sterling means Stick-Slide-Two person-Curling, and it originated as 2 Person Stick Curling in Western Canada and is endorsed as a player friendly game by curling greats Kevin Martin and Glenn Howard.

The first King Curling Stirling Bonspiel had local curlers Mark Saldat and Kim Bayley defeating Ray and Craig Honey in a last shot nail biter to take the first draw. Dave and Julie Hymers defeated veteran Curlers Karl and Barb Davis in the second draw.

There was a full house of curlers from as far away as Guelph who enjoyed 3 6-end games with a wonderful lunch, provided by Sue Sheardown and Ann Gerrits. This fun, exciting, and interesting twist on traditional curling will be making a return on next year's bonspiel calendar.

King curlers returned to the hack this past week with a renowned energy after a 2-week hiatus for the Christmas break.

The Men's league and their healthy roster of 17 teams tested out their muscle memory in fine sweeping fashion after some tight scoring games. The top 6 teams are separated by a mere 4 points for the top spot who is currently owned by Team Barber. Pelland sits 1 point back for 2nd while Gerrits and Inglis are tied 2 points back for 3rd. Teams Allen and Campbell are respectively 3 points and 4 points behind for 5th and 6th place.

Every game from here on in will be crucial for playoff positions where a loss could potentially drop a team severely and a win will secure your spot, at least for that week.

The game between Gerrits and Inglis was anticipated to be shot for shot and to the viewer it was well worth watching. Skips played with determined strategy as the mates responded. Victory was awarded to Inglis allowing his team to move into the tied position with Gerrits in the overall standings.

Other winners included Holmes, Davis, Smith Livingstone and Barber.

The action during the ladies league continued as though there was no stoppage of play. The scoreboard on the



Team Fraser's Vice Sandra MacDonald was rock solid during her game with impressive play making of several take-outs and draws. Her strong performance kept her opponent in the chase and the score close.



Veronica Wilson, Vice for Team Morning and known for her hitting part of the game was an integral part to her teams win that included 2 key draws to the button and well-placed guards in the final frames of the game to secure victory.

O'Hara, Szabo, and Thompson lead Cougars to 2-1 win over the Spartans

By Jim Stewart

Wesley O'Hara scored the game-winning goal, Luke Szabo opened the scoring two minutes into the game, and Christopher Thompson put in another stellar goaltending performance to lead the Schomberg Cougars to a 2-1 win over the Innisfil Spartans at the Trisan Centre on Thursday night. It was O'Hara's fourth game-winning-goal of the season.

He described his second period goal, on a puck badly misplayed by Spartans' goalie Francesco Sciabbarrasi, as "a free little gift. We were forechecking and caused a turnover. We had the chances tonight, but we need to finish better."

The Cougars' goal-scoring co-leader discussed the value of the home ice win versus Innisfil: "Personally, it was my first game back after the Break so it was good to get back with the team and meet the new players [Arunas Scott from the Caledon Golden Hawks and Nick Winiarczyk from the Alliston Hornets]. For the team, the win tonight means we can stay ahead of Orillia in the standings and stay in third place. If we keep winning our remaining games, we could catch Stayner and Alliston for second or first."

O'Hara complimented rookie Christopher Thompson's fine goaltending performance: "Chris definitely kept us in the game, especially in the first period when we had the three penalties in a row. He was our best penalty killer." Thompson, who stopped 29 of 30 shots, was selected First Star of the Game by PJHL staff.

Szabo got his team off to a quick start on Thursday night. The speedy center generated a breakaway on a pass from Matthew Lychek and deftly deked diminutive netminder Francesco Sciabbarrasi, sliding the puck into the net low glove side to stake Schomberg to a 1-0 lead at 2:01. Lychek and Joey Furlano earned their 13th assists on Szabo's twelfth of the season. The Cougars imperiled their lead when Zach Gallow and Szabo drew penalties 28 seconds apart, but a big blocked shot by penalty-killing ace Anthony Nascimento and sixteen saves by Thompson kept the Spartans off the scoreboard.

Nascimento's forwarding pass in the second period set up O'Hara's game-winner when Sciabbarrasi mis-

handled the puck beside the net. O'Hara buried the elusive disk in the vacated cage at 9:37 to give the Cougars a two-goal lead. Nascimento earned his team-leading seventeenth assist and Andrew Hrinco contributed his 12th assist to O'Hara's seized opportunity.

Schomberg carried their narrow lead into the third period until Stefan Kastanis roofed a puck high glove slide from inside the circle to spoil Thompson's shutout bid and pull the Spartans to within one goal at 7:53. The Cougars failed to cash in numerous opportunities in the final frame. When Schomberg Captain Adam Miller's blast from the point beat Sciabbarrasi, but not the right post midway through the period, it was as close as the home team got to increasing their lead against the hard-charging Spartans. The Cougars' nail-biting, entertaining win improved their third-place record to 20-8-0-1. Spartans' netminder Sciabbarrasi stopped all fourteen shots he faced in the third period and was full value for his Second Star selection, kicking out 35 of 37 to keep the Spartans in the contest. Eighth-place Innisfil fell to 6-22-1-1 with the loss to Schomberg.

PJHL Trade Deadline Update

Three trade deadline transactions affecting the Schomberg Cougars were approved by the PJHL:

1. The Cougars granted veteran defenceman Jacob Duggan his trade request to the second-place Hanover Barons (23-4-2) of the North Pollock Division. Duggan – with five goals and seven assists in his third season with Schomberg – was a reliable blueliner and a significant contributor on the power play with four PPG this season. He has played two games in a Barons uniform.

2. Caledon Golden Hawks center Arunas Scott was picked up for the Cougars' playoff run. Scott had seven goals and five assists for Caledon, including three PPG.

3. Forward Nick Winiarczyk was selected from the Alliston Hornets at the deadline as well. Winiarczyk tallied six goals and five assists, including three PPG, for the division-leading Hornets.

Both Scott and Winiarczyk made their debuts for the Cougars on Thursday night versus Innisfil.

early draw revealed some very tight games with victory going to teams Sinclair, Holmes, and Oakley, while Teams Gorsline and Davis tied.

The back and forth action carried on into the late draw with Morning against Fraser. Singles were awarded in the first 2 ends but then Fraser collected a 3 point score in the 3rd making it 4-1. Morning rebounded back with a score of 4 in the 4th to take a 5-4 lead.

The game was incredibly close with both delivering great shots and flawless draws to the button. Veronica Wilson; Vice for Morning who loves the hitting part of the game delivered 2 timely draws to the button behind guards as well as several well-place guards which was an integral part of the game.

Sandra MacDonald, who plays Vice

for Fraser, also had a very impressive game that included some solid hits and difficult come-arounds for the point. A total package playmaker, MacDonald was a key factor for her Skip and keeping the game close. All 8 eight players were responding to the call in a game that could have gone either way but it would be Morning with the eventual win that elevated her team into a first place tie overall with team Gorsline.

Team Kelly Stronach who welcomed new players Donna De Winter and Sheila McKinley to her squad this year continued with their strong strategy finding victory in their second half season opener. The win for Stronach places her behind Gorsline and Morning while Teams Sinclair and Bones are tied for 3rd overall.

Cougars enjoy 4-1 win over Caledon

By Jim Stewart

The Golden Hawks and Cougars must have thought they were extras in that quirky 1993 movie Groundhog Day because the events of their PJHL matinee game at the Mayfield Recreation Complex this weekend were hauntingly similar to a game played in Caledon between these divisional rivals last month.

On Saturday afternoon, the parallels between the two games four weeks apart were uncanny:

Again, the Schomberg Cougars struck first when Michael Termini opened the scoring early as he did exactly four weekends ago on December 17 when the squads squared off at The Icebox.

Again, the Cougars took a commanding 3-0 lead heading into the third period. Again, the Golden Hawks scored early in the third period to pull within two goals of the visitors and created a renewed level of energy to battle the visitors from Schomberg. Again, the Cougars responded quickly to restore their three-goal margin over the home side.

Again, the goalies that squared off against one another four weekends ago – Anthony Paolini for the Cougars and Chad Walker for the Golden Hawks – put forth excellent efforts, but Paolini once again prevailed and Walker once again suffered the hard-luck loss.

There were some obvious differences between the two PJHL contests – Saturday afternoon's game was missing the panoply of penalties that plagued the game in December which included an all-out melee in the third period. Saturday's game was tame by comparison with only five minor penalties being called against each team. Schomberg won the contest 5-1 Dec. 17, but the sequence of the four goals on Saturday was identical to the game in Caledon four weekends ago.

When Termini wired a wrist shot past Chad Walker to light the lamp on Saturday less than four minutes into the game, the Golden Hawks had to wonder about PJHL history repeating itself. Thomas Cecutti put the visitors up 2-0. The Cougars took a 3-0 lead early in the middle frame. This time, Schomberg's Nick Winiarczyk scored 88 seconds into the second period to give the visitors a three-goal cushion that they took into intermission as they did in December. Much like the December 17 contest, Caledon struck less than three minutes into the third period when Tyler Van Dehn's power play goal from the slot, assisted by Andrew Perrino and Jared Leite, pulled the Golden Hawks to within two goals. However, in a similar plot development, the Cougars answered quickly to stifle Caledon's momentum. Schomberg forward Spencer Natale banged in a rebound 13 seconds after Van Dehn's marker to restore the Cougars' three-goal lead.

Paolini flashed the leather at 14:43 to preserve the Cougars' lead and his team required his athleticism in the final frame.

The Scoop from Schomberg

By Susan Heslop

Looks like winter finally arrived, and although late, I for one am not all that upset about it. I was very much enjoying the milder temperatures. Having said that I do know that many ice fishermen and snowmobilers are happy to finally see the colder temps and the lakes finally freezing over.

It was a cold one this week, I hope everyone stayed warm and finally got out those big bulky coats and boots. I had mine out for the first time all winter. Personally, I'll be now counting the days till spring arrives.

Speaking of spring, the Schomberg Horticultural Society invites you to their upcoming seminar, Jan. 23, "Through the Garden Gate" which is a photographic journey through the most beautiful gardens in Schomberg and area with pictures by our talented photographers. Our selection is from last year's photo competition together with photos taken throughout the year. This is a wonderful time to enjoy the

highlights from last year's gardens. Informal meeting, no agenda or reports will be sent.

It's via Zoom: From the comfort of your living room couch. Virtual doors open at 7 p.m., presentation by Chris Somerville starts at 7:30 p.m. Free event for Society members and members of the community. Please email, schombergortsociety@gmail.com for link to access meeting and presentation.

The King Township Food Bank is holding an "Open Closet" event Saturday, Jan. 20 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at King Bible Church, 1555 King Road, King City. They will be accepting clothes, housewares, and toys for all ages. If one of your resolutions was to get organized, now is your chance to clean out those closets and donate all the clothing and other items you no longer use to people in need.

While you're cleaning and organizing here is the perfect opportunity to get rid of those old electronics taking up space, King Township is hosting a "Community Electronic Recycling" weekend, Jan. 27 and 28, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Cold Creek Conservation Area.

Schomberg Euchre Club: 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 need to know the basics, and how to laugh, enjoy a great group of people and not take the game or yourself too seriously. This past Friday we enjoyed some wonderful cookies made by our own "Cookie Duchess" Liz Loach, thanks Liz.

Schomberg Seniors (55+): Here is what is coming up for our 55+ club, please come out and join us.

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

Monday, January 29 - 11 a.m. - Introduction to Bridge 2.

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

These events all take place at the Schomberg Community Hall.

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

How many of Canada's World Heritage sites have you visited? Do you know how many there are? Canada has 22 of the world's 1,199 UNESCO designated heritage sites. Over the course of the past 40 years, Lynn Holden has travelled Canada, with camera in hand, to photograph all our country's world heritage sites. She has published a book, "Canadian Heritage Sites" showcasing

20 of those sites.

Two additional heritage sites were designated since the book's publication. Holden will be speaking at the Schomberg Seniors 55+ meeting on Feb. 5 at 10 a.m. "I want other Canadians to understand that we have these outstanding places," said Holden. Her book will be available for purchase at the meeting.

These events all take place at the Schomberg Community Hall.

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.

Annual fee is \$15 individual/\$20 a couple or two people living at the same address for King residents. For non-residents, it's \$20 and \$30 respectively for non-residents. To keep up to date with events, please check online at king.ca/seniors.

This quote spoke to me this week: "May we stop seeing ourselves through the eyes of people that never saw us." ~ Shane Steele

Please reach out with your events, stories or happenings to sporter5952@gmail.com or 416-460-5952.

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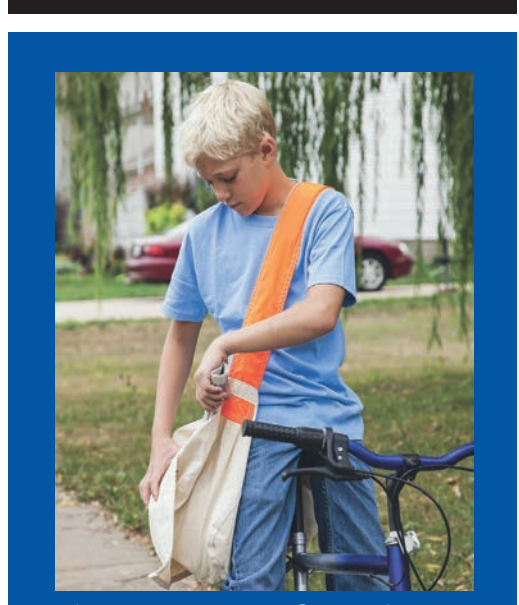
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Zach Shoub
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Nobleton & Schomberg United Churches

By Nancy Hopkinson

This Sunday, Jan. 21 at 3 p.m. is special. We will not be having our regular morning services, but instead we will have a joint covenanting service at Nobleton United Church.

This special service is to mark Nobleton & Schomberg United Churches' official relationship with student minister Richard Gardner, with God, and with the wider community represented by Shining Waters Regional Council. We invite the community to join with us on this occasion to officially welcome Richard. There will be tea & coffee and some refreshments afterwards. Let me, Nancy, know if you need a ride (905-859-0761).

Our regular services resume the following Sunday: at Schomberg United, St. Mary Magdalene Church, 116 Church St., Schomberg at 9:30 a.m. and at Nobleton United Church, 6076 King Rd., Nobleton at 11:15 a.m.

We are both in person for our respective services (Schomberg United at 9:30 am and Nobleton United at 11:15 a.m.) and online at 11:15 a.m. Go to www.you-

tube.com. Then search for Nobleton United Church, find the correct date and enjoy! The videos are recorded, so you can also watch them later.

The next Seniors' Luncheon is Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 11:30 a.m. (arrive by 11:15 a.m.) at St. Mary Magdalene Church, lower level, 116 Church St., Schomberg. "Dan the Country Man" Skelcher is back by popular demand, for a Valentine's Day celebration. He sings a variety of gospel and country songs. The meal is pork tenderloin with apple marinade and apple chutney, with rice and peas, buns & butter with a dessert of chocolate brownies & ice cream and choc drizzle. Please let Sheila Kelly (905-939-2315) know if you are interested in attending. Space is limited. If you prefer, the meal can be delivered. Although the meal and entertainment are free, we do appreciate any donations you are able to make to offset some of our costs.

Sunday Feb. 11 is "Souper Bowl of Caring" Sunday. We are being challenged to once again bring soup and crackers for the King Township Food Bank. The best soups to share are Habitant, soup mixes especially Knorr, and ready to eat soups. Do check the best before dates. A monetary donation is

always welcome. If you want to support this cause but cannot attend service, phone me at 905-859-0761 and I will arrange to get your donation.

The next Messy Church is Wednesday, Feb. 21, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Nobleton United Church. Messy Church is for families. Even grandparents enjoy participating. There are 6 optional activities until 6 pm, when there is an interactive story (and songs). At 6:15 p.m. we eat. Afterwards, we clean up. Please let me know if you plan to attend (nancykhopkinson@gmail.com).

The famous DiFebo Pasta Dinner at Nobleton United Church returns on Friday, March 1. The meal includes pasta with meatballs, salad and dessert. It is a great time to socialize, as we do not rush out afterwards. To reserve your seat, please contact Linda Olsen at 437-552-0442. The cost is \$25/adult, \$12 for 10

years and under, free for those under 5. Seating is limited, so don't miss out!

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: 905-859-3976.

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708 OBITUARIES

Frances Millard
 With profound sadness we announce the passing of Frances Millard, on January 3, 2024. Frances passed away peacefully in her sleep at age 81. Frances was a caring and giving person, and she will be deeply missed. Frances is survived by her sons Larry, Mark and Mike. Besides her children, Frances is survived by her sister Jane and her brothers Larry and Jack. We will share plans for a Celebration of Life Ceremony at a future date.

Siarkas, Areti
 Passed away peacefully at Southlake Hospital on January 12, 2024 at the age of 87. Beloved wife of Christos. Survived by her two sons John and his wife Kelly, Bill (Torrie) and grandchildren Chris, Matthew, Areti "Toula" and Sam. Areti was a proud member of the King City Business community for over 50 years. Visitation was held at Marshall Funeral Home, 10366 Yonge Street on Tuesday, January 16 from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. A funeral service was held in St. Panteleimon Greek Orthodox Church of Markham, 11323 Warden Avenue., Markham on Wednesday, January 17 at 11:30 a.m. Interment Elgin Mills Cemetery. Online memories and condolences maybe shared at www.marshallfuneralhome.com

709 IN MEMORIAM

MORTON, DOUG
 In loving memory of a dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle who passed away January 23, 1994.

*His weary hours and days of pain
 His troubled nights are past,
 In our aching hearts we know,
 He has found sweet rest at last.*

Sadly missed and never to be forgotten by sister Carol, brother-in-law Larry and niece Cheryl.

In loving memory of our daughter,
Erika Carlyn Nolet
 January 18, 1993 - February 20, 1997

If we could sit in Heaven,
 Even for a day,
 The pain in our hearts would temporarily go away.
 We'd put our arms around you and whisper words so true,
 That living life without you is the hardest thing to do.
 No matter how we spend our time,
 No matter what we do,
 There's no morning, noon or night,
 That we don't think of you.

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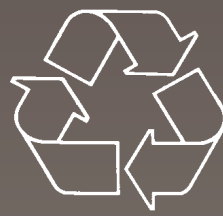
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King's Corners

King City United By Sheryl Sinka

This Sunday, Jan. 21 we welcome all to worship at 10 a.m. when we welcome Doug Reid to lead our worship. Sunday school has resumed for elementary grades and takes place during our worship hour. For questions please contact Sheryl Sinka at 416-450-0140.

For the PDF of past messages and recordings please visit our website at kuc.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 needing assistance.

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

King Bible Church

Join us on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. for our Sunday Worship service! Pastor Mark will be continuing our sermon series "Tough Questions." We will also be streaming the service online at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook and YouTube.

Please come and shop at our Open Closet Outlet on Saturday, Jan. 20 from 10 a.m. to 1 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

Reminder: If the school buses are cancelled in the Township, then all seniors' activities will be cancelled as well.

Please pick up your 2024 membership cards from Alicia or Emma in the office next time you are at the Centre.

Friday, Feb. 2 there will be a presentation at 10 a.m. on 'Cholesterol' by the Vaughan Health Unit. Please RSVP to 905-833-6565 to make sure there are enough materials for all attendees.

The following activities are available at the King City Seniors' Centre.

Monday mornings: 10 a.m., 11 a.m. – Mobility Matters

Monday afternoons: 1 p.m. – Music and Movement; Cribbage; 2 p.m. – Knitting/Crochet classes.

Tuesday mornings: 9:30 a.m. – Line Dancing.

Tuesday afternoons: 1 p.m. – Bid Euchre.

Wednesday mornings: 10 a.m., 11 a.m. – Mobility Matters.

Wednesday afternoons: 1 p.m. – Bridge; Chess; Board Games.

Thursday mornings: 9:30 a.m. – Gentle Motion (similar to Tai Chi).

Thursday afternoons; 1 p.m. – Carpet Bowling.

Friday mornings: 9:30 a.m. – Art Class (2nd & 4th Friday of the month unless otherwise noted). Friday afternoons: 1 p.m. – Progressive Euchre.

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

Kingcrafts Studio

Learn to Crochet a Granny Square Scarf, Afghan, or Bag (Adult Workshop). Are you interested in making your own cosy granny square afghan

or useful granny square bag? Come and join us in our fun workshop! You will learn how to crochet classic granny squares and how to sew them together. Bring a granny square project that you would like to make. There are many projects online. We can teach you how to read the pattern. Both right and left handed instruction is offered.

The cost for non-members is \$55. The Jan. 20 workshop is limited to 8 so register early! The last day for registration is midnight on Monday, Jan. 15.

Sunflower Paint Party (Adult Workshop). February is cold, but we are sure to warm up by painting this bright, cheery sunflower acrylic on canvas (16" x 20"). We provide everything you need including step by step instructions to follow along. Colours to use are suggested but not written in stone.

For example, your sunflower could have more purple petals or you may wish to tweak the background colour. You will learn at least three brush strokes and a sponging and stippling technique to make your painting pop! Our events are fun, non-competitive and stress-free. You'll be happily surprised with what you can create!

It's a beginner level, but all skills levels are welcome. For non-members, it's \$45 and all materials are included. It runs Feb. 3.

One-of-a-Kind Felted Bracelet Workshop for Adults. Learn how to create unique wearable art using this wet-felting technique. It is fun and easy, incorporating merino wool, soap, water and embellishments. You will soon be inspired to make many other felted items. Instructors are Maureen Mewett and Debbie Hanks and all material is included for this March 3 workshop.

Working With Enamel (Adult Workshop). Come and learn to enamel! We will create one blue or one green flower from start to finish. The flower is approximately 2" in diameter with an 8" stem. You can keep it for yourself or give as a gift. Mother's Day is just around the corner! Workshop includes full instruction, tools and supplies.

All material included for this April 20 workshop. It's limited to 8, so register early! The last day for registration is midnight on Monday, April 8.

For further information and registration go to our website at www.kingcrafts.ca

Sacred Heart Church

Rite of Enrollment for First Reconciliation and Holy Communion – Jan. 20 and 21. Rite of Enrollment for the Sacrament of Confirmation – January 27 and 28. The Children & Youth will receive their pendant cross during the 5 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses.

Invitation to all for our Pot-Luck Supper Saturday, Jan. 20 and Adult Faith Educational Meeting following the 5 p.m. Holy Mass. A brief talk followed by a movie "Saints Closer to Us."

Please support our 2nd Annual Family Dinner and Dance on Saturday, Feb. 3. Good food and laughter to share with family and friends. Tickets available after Masses or call Joanne Bozzo (Rectory Office) jbozzo@archtoronto.org.

Membership drive for the Knights of Columbus over the next few weeks. Pick up information on this fraternal organization of Catholic men who put their faith into action. Volunteer opportunities in service to Sacred Heart Church and community. Consider becoming a member.

Our Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion: every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. followed by Mass. Private Confession in our new Narthex at 4 p.m. Saturdays. Weekend Mass at 5 p.m. Saturdays; and Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m.

Website: sacredheartki.archtoronto.org. Email: sacredheartki@archtoronto.org. Facebook & Instagram: Sacred Heart Parish King City. Contact Rectory office at 905-833-1161.

York Pines Church

Rev. Andrew will lead this Sunday's service at 11 a.m. which will include an adult baptism, and John Clements joins us as organist and choir director. Feel free to come for coffee at noon. Next Sunday, Scott Martin returns to lead the service.

York Pines Book Club will discuss "The Last Book Shop in London," by Madeline Martin on Jan. 22 at 10 a.m. You don't have to have read the book to participate.

Our January Fellowship luncheon is on the 31st at Boston Pizza, 8 First Commerce Drive, Aurora. Come and bring a friend. Please call the office at 905-727-8118 or email yorkpinesuc@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

St. Andrew's By Kathy Patterson

Welcome to St. Andrew's! Our morning worship is at 10:30 a.m. and Alison Agnew will be leading us in worship continuing with II Thessalonians. Want to understand the Bible and see if it's relevant? Come and join us!

"Tuesdays at 2" (prayer time for the community, for St. Andrew's, requests and thanksgivings) at the church office in the afternoon - all are welcome. Wednesdays at 7 p.m. is the Book Study ("The Unfolding Gospel" by John Bowen) at Renate's home. Call the office to find out more details.

The next fellowship meal is a Potluck lunch following the Morning Worship on Sunday, Jan. 28. Hope you can make it.

The virtual Q and A (stemming from the previous sermon) is resuming on Tuesday evenings. Call Alison to be included on the ZOOM link.

For pastoral care, call St. Andrew's, King City at (905) 833-2325 to speak with Alison Agnew, or phone one of the Elders. Our Interim Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Jeff Loach can be contacted at St. Paul's, Nobleton at 905-859-0843.

All Saints Anglican Church By Patrick Gossage

Dancing at All Saints - Come and get

some gentle and fun exercise with our Good Moves Dance Party on the 1st and 3rd Thursday and 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month at 1 p.m.

Known, Loved, Healed – a sermon by Rev. Erin Martin at a healing service on Psalm 139:

"We are here today to think about, pray about, and seek healing in a variety of forms.

"Some of us may be seeking healing from medical or physical injuries or ailments. Some of us may be looking to be healed of depression, or other mental health crises. We may be looking for God to help heal our relationships, or our addictions, or our circumstances which can often feel broken and painful. We may be seeking healing for the world and all its people who are being hurt by oppression, wars and conflicts and disasters. My prayer in this service is that you will feel God working in you and with you and around you in a real way.

"I know that lots of movies and media are devoted to healing that looks like the big miracles – the spontaneous healing of cancers, or someone who hasn't been able to walk suddenly gets up and walks again. There's nothing wrong with praying for miracles. But sometimes healing is about understanding or accepting our circumstances or learning to thrive within the realities of illness or injury.

"In the psalm we said together today, we're told that the Almighty God of the Universe and knows the things that are happening in our lives. Each of us is able to say that God created our inmost being and knit us together before we were born. There is nothing that God doesn't know about our needs. We are deeply known, and we are deeply loved.

"I hope that's how we'll approach all our prayers for healing today. I hope that we'll be attentive to all the ways, that God will answer our prayers, and I hope most of all that we will feel supported by God and by each other on our healing journeys.

"Fredrick Buechner said in his work, 'The Sacred Journey,' that God is with us on our journeys, God has been with us since each of our journeys began.

"Listen for God. Listen to the sweet and bitter airs of your present and your past for the sound of him and know with certainty that you are held fast by God's love."



RESALE HOMES COLLECTIONS

SEE THIS WEEK'S PAPER FOR YOUR ISSUE OF RESALE HOMES COLLECTIONS.

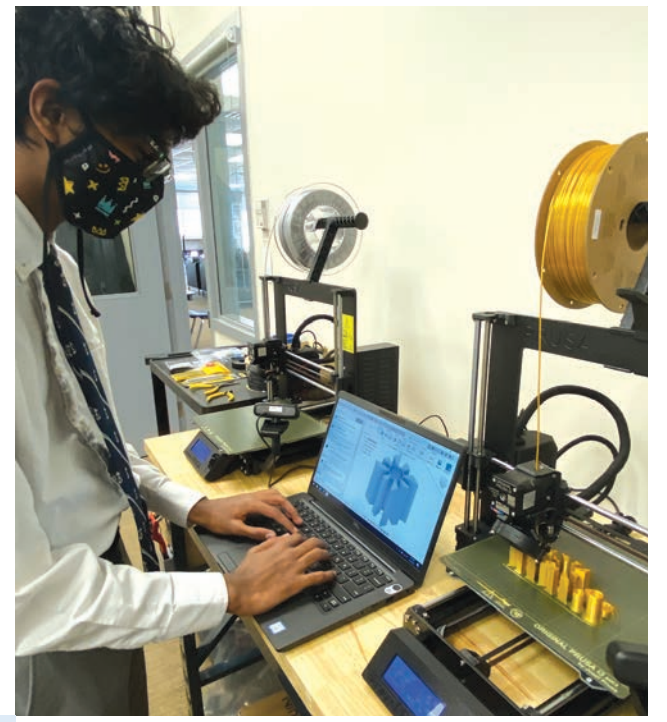
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We look forward to welcoming you to VC!

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ARTS

Our comprehensive arts program includes Instrumental and Vocal Music, Musical Theatre, Fine Arts and Media Arts and is integral to our commitment to develop the whole person. Students have the opportunity to imagine, create, perform and develop self-worth. Participation in the arts serves to broaden the lens through which our students see the world.



SOCIAL OUTREACH & LEADERSHIP

One of the most important aspects of the Villanova experience is the opportunity to transform compassion into action through service activities. VC students share their own talents and resources with those in need in ways which have included overseas mission trips, weekly sandwich patrols, Habitat for Humanity builds and countless other social outreach projects.



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RESALE HOMES COLLECTIONS

AURORA/KING
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Senior Account Executive
ZACH SHOUB
zach@auroran.com

Account Executive
KAREN NEMET
karen@lpcmedia.ca

Senior Account Executive
DIANE BUCHANAN
diane@auroran.com

Art Director
SARAH DIDYCYZ

Published By:



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AURORA'S HOME HILARITY: Where Julien Laurion is the Maestro of Makeovers!



By Julien Laurion
The Big Tuna of Real Estate

Welcome to Aurora, a town where homes don't just stand; they practically do stand-up comedy. As Aurora's premier real estate and renovation guru, I've seen houses that could tell jokes better than most sitcoms. And that's just the beginning of our quirky little real estate tale.

DIVING INTO AURORA'S REAL ESTATE is like jumping on a trampoline – it's full of ups and downs, and you need a good sense of balance (and humour). With prices doing a tap dance that rivals the best Broadway shows, I've been the ringmaster, guiding clients through this circus with a smile and a data-backed strategy.

Have you heard about the house near the Aurora Arboretum that thought it was a tree? No kidding, it was branching out in all directions! That's where I come in, turning real estate challenges into charming living spaces, one laugh at a time.

When it comes to renovations in Aurora, think of me as your personal home whisperer. I've transformed more basements than Houdini had escape tricks – from dusty storage dungeons to palatial playrooms. Remember the kitchen on Temperance Street that was stuck in the 70s? With a flick of my magic design wand (and some serious elbow grease), it's now a sleek, modern culinary paradise.

Every creaky floorboard and quirky corner in Aurora's homes has a story, and I'm here to listen and then rewrite the script. It's not just about a new coat of paint; it's about reinventing your space to make it a starring character in your life.

Finding or creating the perfect home in Aurora is like baking the perfect cake – it needs the right ingredients, a bit of science, and a lot of heart. That's where my expertise sweetens the deal. From finding hidden gems in the real estate market to adding that 'wow' factor in renovations, I bring a mix of data-driven insights and creative flair.

Dreaming of a sunroom where you can sip coffee and watch the snowfall? Or maybe a home office that makes even Mondays feel like Fridays? Let's make it happen. With my network, expertise, and a sprinkle of humour, your dream home is closer than you think.

Looking ahead, I see a vibrant Aurora where every home is as unique and delightful as its owner – a place where your home isn't just where you live but a reflection of your personality and dreams.

So, to you, dear reader, lounging in your Aurora abode or dreaming of one: if you're looking to buy, sell, or transform a property, why not do it with someone who knows Aurora's real estate dance and can lead with style (and a few good jokes)? Let's chat over coffee (my treat!) and start sketching the blueprint of your dreams.

In Aurora, every home has its quirks, and every renovation project is an adventure. With me, Julien Laurion, your real estate and renovation journey will be filled with expertise, creativity, and a hearty dose of humour. Let's turn your home into the talk of the town, one chuckle (and brick) at a time!

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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MARKET UPDATE – DECEMBER 2023

AURORA	KING
AVERAGE SALES PRICE	AVERAGE SALES PRICE
\$1,291,453	\$2,417,667
AVERAGE 41 DAYS ON MARKET	AVERAGE 64 DAYS ON MARKET
NUMBER OF SALES	NUMBER OF SALES
47	9
31 NEW LISTINGS	18 NEW LISTINGS
SALE TO LIST RATIO	SALE TO LIST RATIO
97%	91%
YEAR OVER YEAR % CHANGE	YEAR OVER YEAR % CHANGE
0.55%	1.08%

*The statistics provided were obtained from the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board's Market Watch DECEMBER 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

We are anticipating gains in the market and hopeful this will return by February / March, with the TD Bank announcement of rates decreasing into 2025. As we head to spring, we suspect that it will be a more robust market. Presently, inventory remains low and there are many spillover Buyers from 2023 out shopping. We are encouraging Sellers to begin preparing to be market ready, to capitalize on low supply and active shoppers. In an evolving market, the Key Advantage Team are your trusted partners for insight and support, to help you make informed decisions with confidence. If you are thinking of buying or selling, now is the time to connect to talk strategy.

– Provided by Key Advantage Team Royal LePage RCR Realty
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3 modern kitchen features to consider

It's well-documented that kitchens are the most popular rooms in many homes. Kitchens are where families tend to congregate during holiday celebrations, and many a child has tackled their homework as mom or dad prepares dinner just a few steps away.

With so much time spent in the kitchen, it's no wonder kitchen renovations are popular. In fact, data from the National Association of Home Builders indicates kitchens are the most popular room to remodel. Whether homeowners are planning a full-scale remodel or a few tweaks to update the room, the following are three popular features of modern kitchens.

1 KITCHEN ISLAND

A recent survey from the interior design experts at Houzz found that kitchen islands are popular for a variety of reasons. Fifty-eight percent of respondents indicated they enjoy eating at kitchen islands, while 49 percent reported they like islands for entertaining. Forty-five percent of respondents like socializing around kitchen islands. Islands provide a versatile functionality that comes in handy when preparing meals on typical weeknights and when hosting friends and family on special

occasions like holidays and birthdays. Islands come in a variety of shapes and sizes and can be customized to fit just about any space. Mobile islands can be utilized in small kitchens when homeowners want the extra prep space but think the kitchen would be too cramped if a permanent island were added.

2 DEEP SINK

The popularity of farmhouse-style sinks is proof that large and deep sinks are sought-after among today's homeowners. Farmhouse sinks may be best suited to a particular aesthetic, but a 2021 study from the National Association of Home Builders ((NAHB) found that side-by-side double sinks and walk-in pantries were the most popular of 30 listed kitchen features. That study surveyed more than 3,200 recent and prospective home buyers. Deep sinks are especially useful for people who love to cook, making them a solid addition to any kitchen where home chefs ply their trade most nights of the week.

3 STORAGE

As the NAHB study indicated, kitchen storage space is sought after among modern homeowners. As home cooks expand their culinary horizons and cook more elaborate meals, they need extra places to store specialty pots and pans, ingredients and other materials. Homeowners looking to add more storage in the kitchen can consult with a local contractor about how to create such space. A walk-in pantry can do the trick, but homeowners with kitchens where space is more limited may need to get a little more creative. Sliding-door pantries and roll-out shelving in existing cabinets can add functional space in kitchens with close quarters.

Modern kitchens are visual marvels and highly functional spaces. A new island, a deep sink and some extra storage space can help homeowners transform their existing kitchens into spaces that cater to their every need.

5 on-trend ideas for your new home

(NC) Moving into a new home offers an opportunity to create a space that reflects your family's values, enhances comfort and is better for the environment.

Whether you're shopping for a new home, renovating your current space or building from scratch, consider some of the latest trends while searching for inspiration.

HOME AUTOMATION

From ovens that can be turned on remotely to skylights that open and close automatically and more, there are a multitude of ways to integrate smart home technology into your living space to make it more energy efficient and convenient. Start small with a voice assistant, smart light bulbs, home security system or a programmable thermostat. After that, you can implement additional features like smart appliances, remote-controlled window blinds and other electronic devices you can control from your phone for a complete smart home system.

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

A long-popular trend, green, or sustainable, design has evolved over the years to include more than energy-efficient appliances and LED light bulbs. Now, it's about reducing your carbon footprint and minimizing impact on the environment. To try the trend yourself, think big and get creative – install solar panels on your roof, choose highly insulated building materials that don't require deforestation and upcycle old furniture or decor instead of buying new.

DISASTER RESILIENCY

From wildfires that last for months to devastating tornadoes and major floods that impact entire cities, an increase in natural disasters due to climate change has required changes when building homes. Opting for disaster-resilient materials is an important first step. For example, using strong, energy-efficient insulated concrete forms (ICFs), like those from Nudura, instead of traditional wood framing, helps homes better withstand extreme weather. ICFs can endure winds of up to 400 kilometres per hour (equivalent to an F4 tornado) and offer a fire protection rating of up to four hours.

OUTDOOR LIVING

Transforming your backyard can help you make the most of your existing space. To take full advantage of your yard or patio, consider incorporating elements from the interior such as a television and comfortable seating options. Outdoor kitchen setups complete with refrigerators and sinks can make entertaining easier and a fire pit or fireplace can allow your friends and family to enjoy the outdoors even on cool nights.

CUSTOMIZATION

You no longer have to settle for run-of-the-mill floor plans or what works for others. If you're considering a new build, work with an architect to create exactly what you're looking for, or speak with a contractor about including personalized architectural features and custom-built storage, for example, in your existing home.

To see how you can make sure your home lasts a life-time, visit nudura.com/future-proof.

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NAVIGATING THE REAL ESTATE LANDSCAPE: A Look into King Township in 2024

As the real estate market continues to evolve, certain regions stand out for their unique charm, desirable amenities, and investment potential.

King Township has always garnered attention for its picturesque landscapes, affluent communities, and burgeoning real estate market. This article explores the real estate scene in King Township, delving into its key features, market trends, and what makes it an appealing destination for homebuyers and investors alike.

Nestled in the heart of York Region, King Township boasts an ideal blend of urban and rural living. Homebuyers are drawn to the scenic beauty that King Township offers, making it a haven for those seeking a peaceful retreat while still enjoying proximity to major urban centres like Toronto.

HOUSING MARKET OVERVIEW

The real estate market in King Township has experienced notable growth in recent years, with a variety of housing options catering to different preferences and lifestyles. Detached single-family homes remain a popular choice, often featuring expansive lots and modern amenities. Additionally, the township has seen an increase in demand for luxury properties, including estates and custom-built homes that capitalize on the surrounding natural beauty.

AMENITIES & ACCESSIBILITY

King Township is renowned for its commitment to preserving green spaces and promoting sustainable development. The area is dotted with parks, trails, and conservation areas, providing residents with ample opportunities for outdoor activities and recreation. This emphasis on a high quality of life, combined with excellent schools, both at the private and public levels, local shops, and cultural amenities, contributes to the township's appeal among families and professionals.

Moreover, King Township boasts easy access to the GO Train and Highway 400. This ensures convenient commuting options, making it an even more attractive choice for residents seeking both a serene environment and connectivity to broader urban centers.

MARKET TRENDS

The real estate market in King Township has witnessed steady appreciation in property values, reflecting the area's desirability. Factors such as limited inventory, high demand, and the township's commitment to controlled development have contributed to a competitive market. In December 2023, the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board (TRREB) reported a benchmark price of \$1,835,300 in King Township, representing a +1.08% appreciation year over year, +35.30% over 3 years, +58.30% over 5 years, and +129.26% over 10 years.

INVESTMENT POTENTIAL

Investors keen on the Ontario real estate market are increasingly eyeing King Township for its potential for long-term growth. The township's commitment to maintaining its unique character while accommodating growth ensures a stable investment environment. Whether purchasing residential properties for rental income or commercial spaces, King Township offers diverse investment opportunities.

CHALLENGES AND CONSIDERATIONS

While King Township presents a promising real estate landscape, potential buyers and investors should be mindful of certain challenges. Zoning regulations, conservation restrictions, and the need for careful development planning can impact the speed of new construction and renovations. Navigating these considerations requires working closely with experienced local real estate professionals.

When considering your housing options, it's essential to work with an experienced real estate team who cares about their clients & their investments. The Michele Denniston Real Estate Group has over 30 years of collective Real Estate expertise, focused in King Township. If you have questions, visit us at 50 Doctor Kay Dr. Unit C-22 in Schomberg, or contact Michele directly at (416) 433-8316 or michele@micheledenniston.com! We are committed to providing you with expert, reputable and top-tier real estate service; we look forward to connecting with you soon!



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**RESALE
HOMES
COLLECTIONS**



Turn your bedroom into a *relaxing* retreat

Furnish a home for comfort

As people continue to fix up their homes, they may be interested in ways to make them more comfortable. Lawns, kitchens and living rooms are popular spaces to renovate. Certain furnishings can ensure living spaces are comfortable places to pass the time.

ENSURE AN ABUNDANCE OF LIGHT

One stark overhead light will not create a cozy environment. Introduce groupings of illumination where you hope residents and guests will congregate to engage in conversation. Utilize different lighting sources, such as task lighting, table and floor lamps, recessed or ambient lighting, and even candles. Warm temperature light bulbs will add to that comfortable feeling.

COORDINATE DESIGNS FOR EACH SEASON

Crisp cotton and breezy linens are great for the warm weather, but when the colder temperatures arrive, it's time to swap for flannel or jersey. Folded quilts or throws on the sofa also can be handy for chilly evenings. Make subtle changes to the home as the temperature changes to epitomize comfort in your spaces.

SPLURGE ON YOUR SOFA AND BED

Much time will be spent lounging on the couch or sleeping in your bed. It's worthwhile to invest in pieces that are durable and, above all else, comfortable. While these items may be more expensive up front, the comfort they provide will be well worth it.

SOFTEN HARSH LINES

Tricks like incorporating round area rugs or using oval or round pillows can break up the straight line of rooms and even modern furniture pieces. Opt for soft and inviting textiles as well. Textural elements, such as woven decor baskets, also can soften harsh lines.

INTRODUCE ORGANIC ELEMENTS

Home entertaining expert Julie Blanner says plants, flowers, fruits, and vegetables bring life to a space. Choose easy-care plants if you do not have a green thumb, or swap out freshly cut blooms in vases as pops of colour and fresh elements are needed.

UTILIZE WARM PAINT COLOURS.

Cool-toned paints can make a space seem colder and more utilitarian or clinical. When looking at swatches, select paints that have warm undertones. Eggshell and satin sheens will be more inviting and evoke a cozy feel more effectively than flat or matte finishes.

These are just a few ways to build a cozy and comfortable home. Working within these parameters, homeowners can customize their interior spaces to maximize comfort.

Bedrooms are more than places to lay our heads at the end of the day. Bedrooms serve different functions, and not all are conducive to relaxation.

PEOPLE WHO USE their bedrooms as a workspace may find they're compromising their well-being by introducing activities into the bedroom. The Sleep Foundation says having an office in the bedroom blurs the lines between work and personal life, which can have serious effects on sleep. Rather, people should be looking to turn their bedrooms into relaxing retreats that offer a respite from the outside world.

REMOVE BLUE-LIGHT EMITTING DEVICES
Computers, tablets, smartphones, and other electronic devices emit blue light, which can compromise natural melatonin production in the body that contributes to sleep. Such devices should not be used at night in the bedroom.

USE A NEUTRAL COLOUR PALETTE

Neutral colour palettes evoke a spa feeling. Walls can be painted white, beige or a light shade of gray. This can help the room feel calming and welcoming.

DECLUTTER THE ROOM

A sense of calm can be achieved simply by removing excess clutter. There is some evidence that the brain is more calm near an empty dresser, desk or clothes hamper. Therefore, removing excessive items from the room is the first step to making a nice retreat.

ADD SOFT LIGHTING.

Adjust the intensity and the colour of the lighting in the bedroom. It should be subtle and warming. Dimmers enable homeowners to adjust lighting as needed.

INSTALL AN ELECTRIC FIREPLACE

There is something to be said for the relaxing effects of gazing into the flames of a fire. A crackling (faux wood) fire is an added layer of indulgence in a bedroom.

ADD AN AREA RUG

Even in rooms with carpeting, an area rug under the

bed can further define the bed's perimeter and add extra plushness underfoot.

INVEST IN AROMATHERAPY DIFFUSERS

Certain smells can create a relaxing mood. These may be sandalwood, lavender or jasmine. Utilizing their preferred scents, homeowners can employ reed diffusers in their bedrooms to enjoy the aromas of natural oils.

USED CLOSED STORAGE

Open shelves and visible closet interiors may not hide a mess. Exposure to clutter can contribute to feelings of anxiety. Store items that shouldn't be on display behind closed doors or drawers.

BRING IN LUXURY LINENS

Homeowners should not skimp on comforters, sheets, duvet covers, and pillows for their beds. A cozy bed to dive right into can serve as the centerpiece of a bedroom retreat.

Turning a bedroom into a relaxing space can help individuals sleep better and reduce anxiety.

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Organizational tips for bathrooms and laundry spaces

BATHROOM

Apart from a vanity and possibly a medicine cabinet, many bathroom layouts tend to be pretty sparse in terms of storage. So it is up to homeowners to introduce more storage and organizational function.

- **Over-toilet shelving:** Freestanding units are available from many different retailers, but they may lack aesthetic appeal. Homeowners can install open shelves above the toilet that coordinate with the style of the home. Use them to store extra towels or display decorative items.

- **Streamlined containers:** Invest in coordinating storage containers (clear are preferable) so that all items can be uniformly put away. First sort through all items to determine which size containers are necessary and how many are required.

- **Conceal toilet paper:** Homeowners want to have bath tissue on hand, but simply placing it near the toilet can look cluttered or unsightly. Use decorative baskets to house one or two extra rolls and place them on shelving or on the toilet tank itself.

- **Freestanding cabinet:** Those lucky enough to have linen closets in their bathrooms can keep everything behind closed doors. In small bathrooms, this may not be possible. However, a freestanding cabinet, similar to a kitchen pantry cabinet, can be used if there is space for it. Store all of the linens and other items inside.

LAUNDRY

Laundry rooms can be very organized or a catch-all space for objects that simply do not fit in other rooms in the home. Perfecting laundry room organization can take some effort.

- **Folding station:** A laundry room is more useful with a folding station. It can be a separate counter over cabinetry, or innovative homeowners build a counter over front-loading washing machines and dryers.

- **Utilize wall space:** Use hooks and shelving to get items off the floor or counters. Use them to hold brooms, mops, ironing boards, detergent, and much more.

- **Invest in a pedestal storage drawer:** Laundry pedestal storage drawers can be used to keep dryer sheets, laundry pods and additional supplies out of view.

- **Use space-saving cabinetry:** Pull-out drawers and cabinets can be used to hold hampers, ironing boards, and other frequently used items without cluttering up the room.



Simple strategies to create more storage space in the kitchen

If home is where the heart is, then the kitchen is where that heart spends most of its time. Kitchens are where family and friends tend to congregate during holiday celebrations, and many a homework assignment has been completed at a kitchen island while parents prepare dinner.

THE POPULARITY OF KITCHENS is reflected in the attention these rooms get from renovation-minded homeowners. Data from the National Association of Home Builders indicates kitchens are the most popular room to remodel. Upgrading kitchen storage is a popular renovation project, and it's also one that has practical appeal. Adding more storage in the kitchen gives the room a more organized feel, which can make preparing meals more enjoyable and create space

when hosting and guests inevitably congregate around an island. With those benefits in mind, would-be organizers can consider these strategies to create more storage space in the kitchen.

TAKE STOCK OF THE SPICE RACK

Creating more storage space does not necessarily have to involve tools like screwdrivers, hammers and nails. Spice racks can easily become overcrowded as amateur cooks expand their culinary repertoire. A crowded spice rack inevitably spills out onto the surrounding countertop. Take stock of the spice rack and discard any spices or seasonings you haven't used in a while. This can create a more organized look and free up extra counter space.

MAKE A DIGITAL COOKBOOK

If your go-to recipes are filling a binder or two, those binders are almost certainly taking up precious storage space. Scan printed recipes and convert your physical recipe collection into a digital cookbook you store on a tablet.

INSTALL ROLL-OUT SHELVING IN THE PANTRY

Roll-out shelving puts the entire pantry to use. Without such shelving, items are destined to be relegated to that nether region known as the back of the pantry. Some items never emerge from this area, as cooks forget they're there and then purchase duplicates, which inevitably contributes to storage issues. Roll-out shelving ensures all items in the pantry can be found and greatly reduces the likelihood that cooks will have lots of duplicate items taking up precious kitchen space.

REMOVE SINGLE-USE GADGETS FROM THE KITCHEN

Much like spices and seasonings vital to the preparation of specialty meals tend to be used just once, kitchen gadgets that lack versatility have a way of gathering dust and taking up storage space. Whether it's a popcorn maker, a seldom-used but space-needy wok or another gadget that's used infrequently, if at all, store single-use gadgets in the garage or another area of the house where they won't get in the way or contribute to a less-than-organized look in the room.

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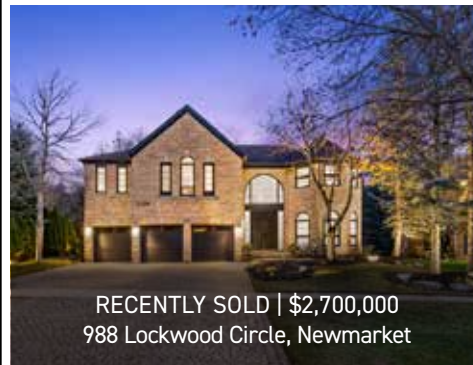
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Broker & Managing Partner
Niusha.Walker@TheAgencyRE.com
NiushaWalker.com
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**RESALE
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A rundown of 3 popular flooring materials

Even though it's underfoot, flooring can set the tone for how a room or even an entire home is viewed. Perhaps that's one reason why flooring generates such strong opinions when homeowners look to refurbish or replace their floors.

HOMEOWNERS now have more choices than ever when considering new flooring for their homes. The following rundown of three popular flooring options can help homeowners as they try to decide which material best suits their homes.

1 HARDWOOD FLOORS

Hardwood floors might once have been a relatively straightforward option, but homeowners may now choose between solid wood flooring and engineered wood flooring. According to The Home Depot, engineered wood flooring provides the look of solid wood flooring without the high maintenance of such floors. Engineered wood is manmade and created with the use of wood strands, particles, fibres or veneers of wood that are forged together with adhesives. Each engineered wood flooring plank is composed of several layers of plywood or fibreboard with a solid wood veneer on top, which is how it can provide the look of solid wood flooring. Solid wood flooring planks are made from a single piece of hardwood. Each type of flooring has its pros and cons, and homeowners who prefer hardwood floors are urged to speak with a flooring professional about the features that make these options unique from one another.



2 LAMINATE FLOORS

Laminate flooring is another engineered flooring product. But unlike engineered wood flooring, laminate flooring does not utilize real wood and many people can recognize that the moment they step on a laminate floor. Flooring is such a vital and heavily trafficked component of a home that it's typically best to leave the installation to a qualified professional. However, homeowners who prefer the DIY route should know that laminate flooring is viewed as among the easiest types of flooring for DIYers to install.

3 VINYL FLOORING

The experts at Good Housekeeping report that vinyl flooring is the fastest-growing category of flooring. The Home Depot notes that vinyl flooring is made

from plastic and usually consists of acrylic, PVC and similar polymers. Luxury vinyl tile is thick and durable, and it's often noted for its likeness to solid wood. Vinyl tile also is considered a versatile flooring option, as The Home Depot notes it can be purchased in planks, sheets or tiles. The Home Depot advises homeowners to consider the thickness range when mulling their vinyl flooring options. Thickness ranges between four and 40 millimetres, and a thicker layer is more resistant to water, scratches and stains.

Homeowners will be confronted with a variety of options when considering a flooring project for their homes. The right option for a given home may come down to a host of factors, including cost, look and durability.

Wood floor cleaning guide

The following are some steps for keeping wood floors as pristine as possible.

REMOVE SHOES

It's a good idea to remove shoes, particularly heels, when walking on wood floors. Sharp heels, cleats and other shoes can scratch or dent wood flooring.

SWEEP OR VACUUM FREQUENTLY

The experts at The Spruce suggest sweeping, vacuuming or dust-mopping wood floors daily. Dirt and dust make floors more slippery, and dirt or sand particles can lead to scratches on the floor.

LEARN YOUR FLOORING TYPE

Wood flooring is broken down into three main categories: solid hardwood flooring, engineered hardwood flooring and laminate wood flooring. Traditional hardwood is made of planks or strips of any hardwood covered in a wood stain. Engineered flooring is manufactured by gluing together several thin plies of hardwood. Laminate flooring looks like wood but generally is a veneer or a photographic image of wood covered by a thick layer of melamine resin over fiberboard.

SKIP HARSH CLEANSERS

Regardless of flooring type, most are covered by a sealant that can become streaky or dull if the wrong cleanser is used. Avoid chlorine bleach, ammonia, pine oil, or undiluted vinegar. Instead, choose a cleanser that is specifically recommended for the flooring type. Do not allow water or solutions to sit on the floor, as that can contribute to staining and warping. With laminate flooring, avoid wet mopping unless the flooring is specifically marked as being able to be wet. The underlayers of laminate flooring can warp if it gets wet.

DAMP IS BETTER THAN WET

When cleaning wood flooring, use a damp rather than a soaking wet mop. Better Homes & Gardens says standing water can damage wood surfaces.

USE THE HARD FLOOR SETTING

When vacuuming, adjust the vacuum to a hard flooring setting, which will not engage the brush rollers on the vacuum head. Rollers can scratch wood and laminate flooring, advises The Home Depot.

USE REPAIR PRODUCTS AS NEEDED

Scratch and repair kits can fill in small scratches. Wood floor polish and wood waxes also can revitalize worn floors. Again, check that the product is safe for your particular flooring before use.

Wood floors bring warmth to a home and are very popular. Cleaning them correctly can add to their appeal and longevity.

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