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King's Community Newspaper

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Township welcomes students

CDS students visited the King Municipal Centre recently, loaded with great questions. Mayor Steve Pellegrini said it was an "absolute delight to spend the morning with them discussing government." They got a chance to sit at the council table and understand how decisions at a local level are made and how they impact our residents and businesses. "I look forward each year to engaging our youth in politics and government," the mayor added.

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Naming rights for new recreation centre on the table

By Mark Pavilons
Editor

King Township is looking at how to name the new Township Wide Recreation Centre.

Staff noted the building is on track and nearing completion and they're looking at putting a value on the naming rights.

Over the last six months, staff have engaged with interested parties both formally and informally. There has also been a public bidding process. So far, four proponents have expressed interest in parts of the facility, with one section still vacant.

Zancor Homes is in the running for naming the facility and building exterior. JTF Homes is interested in naming rink 1 and The Country Day School would like to have their name on rink 2. Trisan Construction is eyeing the

Aquatics Centre, while the Athletics Centre remains vacant.

The Township could see some pretty impressive revenue numbers for the rights.

Staff hired a firm to provide a fair market valuation. The name of the building and exterior is pegged at \$1.5 million over 15 years. Rink 1 and its spectator area, is valued at \$350,000 over 10 years. Rink 2 and the Athletics Centre is put at \$300,000 over 10 years and the Aquatic Centre is \$250,000 over 10 years.

Staff will also be looking at exploring the potential of naming rights for smaller elements in the Athletic Centre, such as board rooms, community rooms and dressing rooms.

Staff noted since the funds will be spread out over 10 to 15 years, they will be put into a reserve fund.

See 'Name' on Page 3

ATTENTION DEVELOPERS!

Rare offering of approx. 15 1/2 PRIME acres in the south part of King City within the village boundaries! Call me for details.



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<p>INSIDE</p>	<p>REGULAR FEATURES</p> <p>Editorial Page 4 Business Page 8 Sports Page 17 Classifieds Page 19</p>	 <p>Youth Fair in King was a huge success.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">See Page 7</p>	 <p>Local pens her first fiction novel.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">See Page 13</p>
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UPCOMING MEETINGS

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Monday, Feb. 26
6 p.m. – Council
In-person at the King Township Municipal Centre at 2585 King Rd and live-streamed at king.ca/meetings

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Wednesday, Feb. 21 (Rescheduled from Feb. 13)
11 a.m. – Accessibility Advisory Committee (Hybrid Meeting – Not live-streamed)
If you wish to participate in the meeting virtually, register by emailing dmoratto@king.ca by 10 a.m. on the day of the meeting.

Wednesday, Feb. 21
6 p.m. – Committee of Adjustment
Hybrid Meeting (In-person/virtual participation, and live-streamed)
Visit king.ca/cofameetings for more information.

Wednesday, Feb 21
6 p.m. - Special Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting (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) Friday February 16, 2024.

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.

- Parks Seasonal Worker – Public Works – Deadline February 16
- Parks Summer Student – Public Works – Deadline February 16
- Human Resources Coordinator – Payroll & Benefits – Corporate Services – Deadline February 20
- By Law Student – Growth Management Services – Deadline February 16
- Cold Creek Site Operator – Community Services – Deadline February 21
- Water/Wastewater Operator – Public Works – Deadline February 21
- Deputy Clerk – Corporate Services – Deadline February 23

PUBLIC NOTICES

king.ca/employment

WE'RE HIRING

Spring/Summer Seasonal Positions

2024 Volunteer Appreciation Awards

Nominations now open

Citizen of the Year • Senior Citizen Award of Merit
Youth Award of Merit • Lifetime Achievement
Special Recognition Award: Resident & Non-Resident

Deadline: March 13, 2024

For details and a link to the nomination form, visit: king.ca/awards

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
Ansnovaldt 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 king.ca/council

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JOIN KING'S ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Advise Council on matters relating to access and inclusion to Township programs and services for citizens of all abilities, and promote the implementation of provincial legislation.

Submit your application by Feb. 23 at king.ca/committees.

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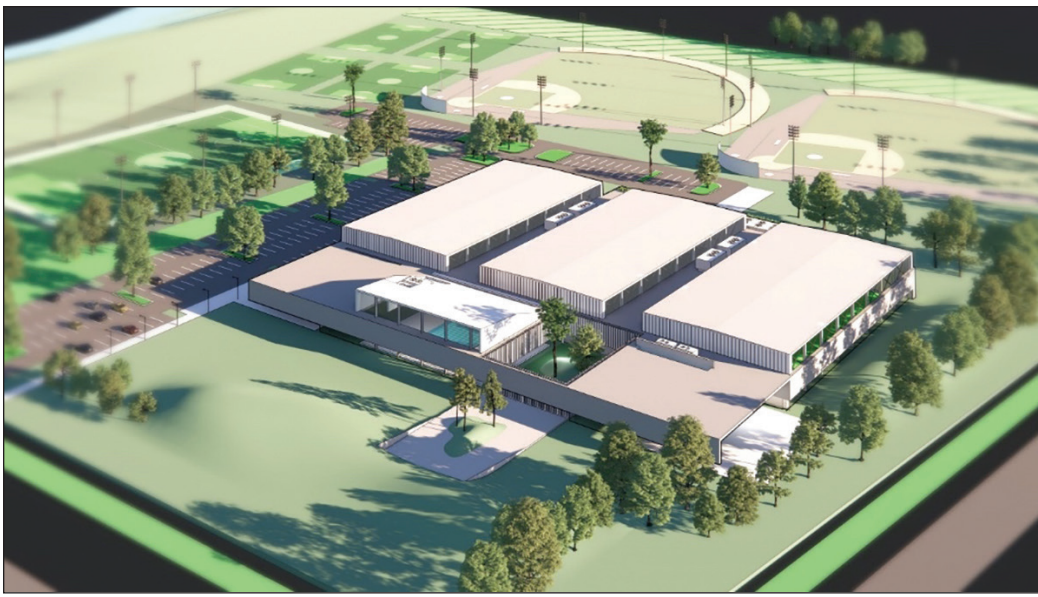
Summer Camps & Recreation Programs

King Summer Camps offer a variety of programming throughout the Township for residents and non-residents. The Summer Camp Guide includes all the need-to-know information, new camps, camp descriptions and course codes for online registration. Each camp location can accommodate children and youth ages 4 to 15. Program offerings include arts, science, dance, cooking, outdoor adventure, field trips, and more. Visit king.ca/camps.

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Name should reflect community

From Front Page

“As a part of the annual budget process, these funds can be pulled to support capital improvements to the TWRC, thereby removing the need for taxpayer supported funding,” staff said. “Obtaining naming rights within the terms identified for the exterior and large interior spaces of the TWRC will help to meet both the short and long-term financial needs of the facility.”

King City resident James Bruce Craig shared his thoughts on naming.

He pointed out there was a day when the name of a community building reflected the community where it was located and in a sense belonged to everyone in the community. Names were not based on monetary donations or corporate and commercial interests.

“I believe it’s important that our community amenities in King Township reflect values and interests that are about the community and belong to everyone,” he said.

A prime example for me is Toronto’s very special stadium with a retractable roof built in the 1970s. The public was invited to submit names, and either a committee or some kind of voting process was used to select the name given.

“And I remember with enthusiasm when this remarkable stadium was named ‘The Skydome’ – what a great name that belonged to Toronto and to the people of Toronto. This name was unique and quickly became known internationally as ‘Toronto’s Skydome.’

“Even when corporate interests stepped in and the name was officially changed to the Rogers Centre, I continued to call it ‘The Skydome’ and I still do.”

He said he hopes that in King we could have a public process that results in a name for the TWRC that relates uniquely to King Township and not to a donor whether it be corporate or private.

“Yes, let’s recognize with gratitude the generous donations received, but not through the name of the new township-wide recreation centre and its various features inside. Is it possible that corporations in King would be willing to generously contribute a donation for the new Recreation Centre without requiring that the exterior of the facility or large portions of the indoor elements take on a corporate name?”

“I strongly encourage Council to endorse an approach to naming the TWRC that belongs to the whole community and reflects King Township. Let’s give the ‘naming rights’ to the people of King Township, and let’s come up with a special name that relates to place, the local environment or history and truly belongs to King Township and to the community across the Township.”

Councillor Debbie Schaefer agreed with Craig’s points, but she also understands the economic realities. She wondered if a community naming exercise could be undertaken after the 15-year time frame.

Mayor Steve Pellegrini noted the Township will likely offer extensions to interested parties after that time frame and he said he didn’t want to hinder future councils.

The roughly \$2.7 million in revenue is quite substantial and it’s a “balancing act,” he said.

He further stressed that no other council or municipality has built a roughly \$100-million facility without burdening the taxpayers.



Resident calls out offenders

A King City resident wants the public to keep an eye out for offensive litter bugs.

Chris Wanschura noted that on his daily dog walks along the north side of King Road, between the Seniors Centre/library and William Street, he regularly finds broken Pop Shoppe glass bottles.

“From what I can tell these are being thrown out of a vehicle travelling west. One can only guess the responsible person must get some kind of thrill or offensive enjoyment by knowing they are creating a dangerous situation to any person or animal using the sidewalk. It is also very unsightly and I cannot imagine what this vehicle occupant is thinking of by doing this,” he said.

From all the residents in the area who use these sidewalks all we can ask is that this behaviour by this person be halted. Please consider the consequences of your actions to the community and environment.

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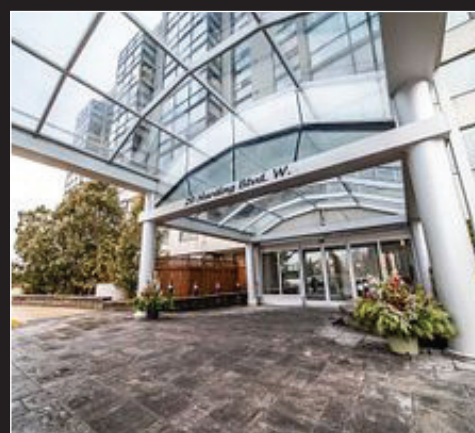
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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

- Michael Connelly

We should all be very concerned about what's going on

Is anyone overly concerned about the state of world affairs?

I know the old saying – "you can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink" – but come on, folks!

There are so many issues, concerns, and impactful events that our plates are overflowing. I realize it's a lot to handle and take in, but we have to not only make sense of it all, but react accordingly.

"Awareness without action is worthless," according to Phil McGraw.

The alarm bells should be ringing loudly across the globe.

We are likely the most advanced and knowledgeable species in this region of the galaxy.

As our technology expands, so does our access to information.

The smart phone generation has so much power and potential at their fingertips that there's no reason our species isn't highly aware, informed and cognizant.

We know what's important and yet, what are we doing? Are we taking action, en masse, to solve the world's woes? Are we lifting that strong texting finger to lend a hand?

Leonardo DiCaprio said raising awareness on the most pressing environmental issues of our time is more important than ever.

We've been sounding the environmental alarm bells for more than a decade, but just how far have we come?

The RBC Climate Action Institute released its Climate Action 2024 report. It notes the federal government has covered roughly 80% of the cost of climate action since 2016. The provinces need to step up spending to get Canada back on track.

More than half of Canadian businesses have set emissions reduction targets for 2030, and 96% of CEOs surveyed are confident they can hit them.

Roughly two-thirds of Canadians want to do more to tackle climate change, but roughly half don't favour



Mark Pavilons

actions that could erode their standard of living.

Sad, but the bottom line affects us all.

King has laid the foundation for climate action and got ahead of the curve several years ago. We're hindered by limited funds, but there's no question the will is there. And that's a good thing.

Some of us, including King residents, are leaning on EVs to carry us into the future. But, as we've come to realize, they may not be the be all and end all.

The production of car batteries causes more harm than good, it seems, and production waste from EVs is far from clean.

Going electric is a good thing, if that source is clean, abundant and sustainable.

According to OPG, hydro and nuclear power produce more than 85% of Ontario's total energy, and remain the "backbone of its grid – one of the cleanest in the world."

It's great we have a sustainable source, but as most homeowners know,

hydro isn't cheap and the more we plug in, the more it will cost.

We are so very dependent on electricity, to heat our homes, power our numerous devices and, yes, keep us informed via the internet.

I'm sure there are challenges in the energy industry, yet most of us are unaware of them.

I'm positive that the next big conflict would involve simply turning off the juice, without a single shot being fired.

Speaking of conflicts, we have two major ones on our hands, and it seems little progress is being made on either front.

The war in Israel has been devastating. As of Feb. 6, more than 28,000 people (26,751 Palestinians and 1,410 Israelis) have been killed in the Israel-Hamas war, including 85 journalists and over 136 UNRWA aid workers.

While peace talks are taking place, there's no end in sight for this human tragedy.

Most Canadians are far removed from the conflict and unless you take note of the rallies and protests, you likely don't think about it much. But it has become a divisive factor here and abroad.

The ongoing Russian aggression in Ukraine is also taking a huge toll. Estimates put Russian soldier casualties at 300,000. Sources put Ukraine military and civilian casualties at 70,000, with another 120,000 wounded.

Here we are, in 2024, and tens of thousands are being killed and wounded daily in these aggressions.

I picture Edvard Munch's "The

Scream" as I read about such tragedies. I can't even fathom such losses.

Are we not concerned about these things?

Throwing verbal and financial support at military and humanitarian efforts is one thing. Putting an end to hostilities is another.

And what of the aftermath of both of these wars?

Has anyone even pondered the astronomical costs of the cleanup and finding new homes for the thousands upon thousands of displaced people?

Men, women and children will be mourning losses, filling holes and digging through the rubble for decades to come.

We will see a generation of war-torn people unlike anything since the Second World War.

And that should concern each and every one of us, from around the globe.

And let's not forget about what we've all lost through this – love, compassion, beauty, art, architecture, spirituality and even the sweet sounds of music.

Allen Ginsberg once said the only thing that can save the world is reclaiming awareness. And awareness may very well be the first step in healing, but where to begin?

"Every one of us has the ability to raise awareness, volunteer, educate our friends and family, and give back to our communities," Matt Barnes said.

Let that be our pledge, our mantra, as we move forward.

And be thankful we live in a peaceful country.

Letter to the Editor

Put people's survival first!

The following letter, to Prime Minister Trudeau and ministers, was submitted to the Sentinel.

I write in reaction to your recent announcements that funding to UNWRA has been frozen and that Canada has committed an additional \$40M to the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Society.

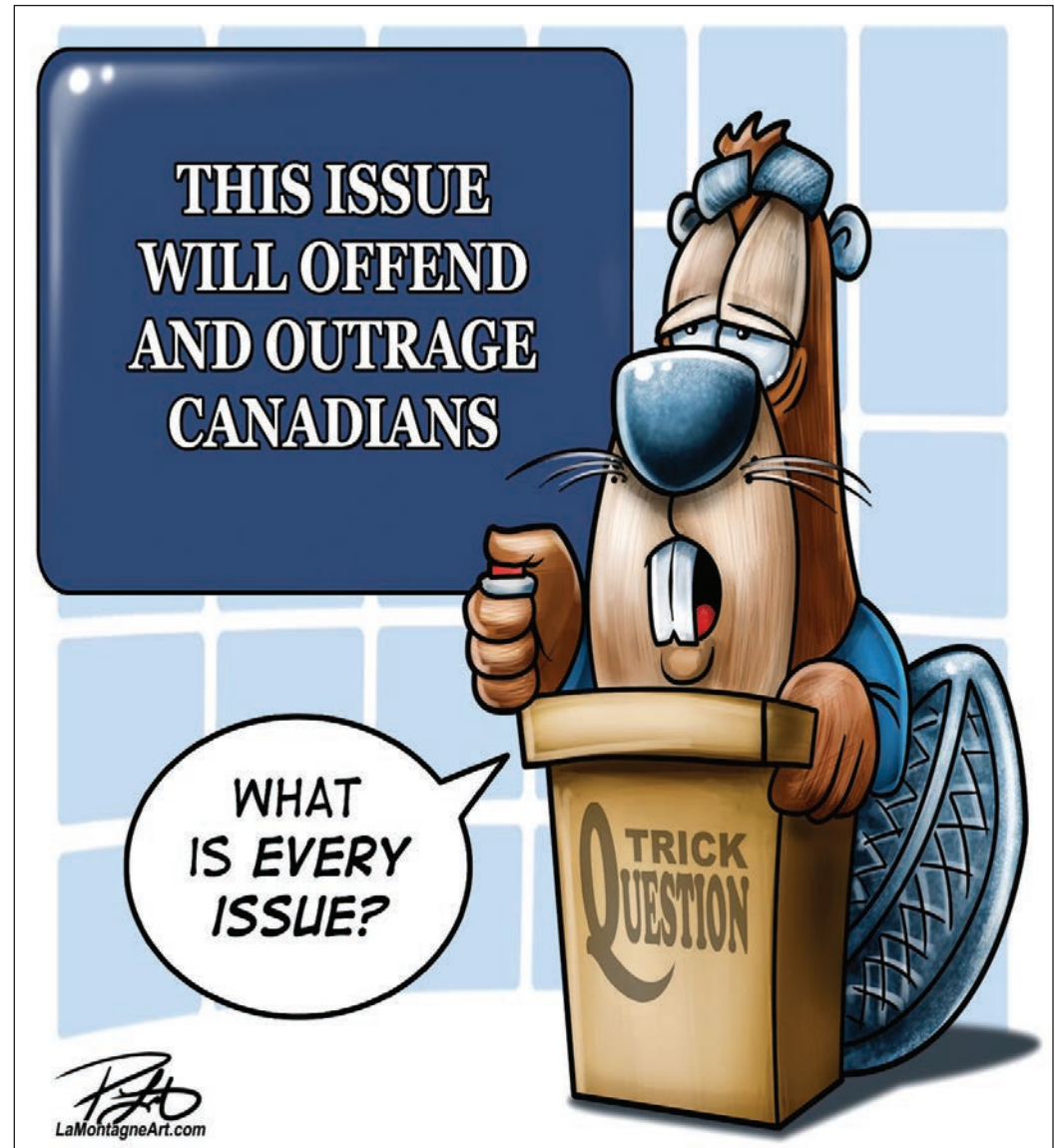
I concur that the Hamas attack on Oct. 7, 2023 was horrific, and it is deeply distressing to learn that 12 UNWRA employees have been identified as having taken part in those attacks. News reports have suggested that another 190 may be implicated in some way.

However, we must weigh these figures against 13,000 UNWRA employees involved in the life-saving work in Gaza, and the logistical difficulties for the Red Cross/Red Crescent Society in gearing up to take over that work in an apocalyptic was zone.

Surely any impetuous cessation of funding would be nothing less than collective punishment, starvation of the people of Gaza, and "cruel and unusual punishment," immoral if not strictly illegal under both Canadian and International law.

Please place the survival of Palestinians first as you struggle to adjust Canada's role as a result of the news.

Bill Patterson
King City



Quote of the Week

"Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing."

— Benjamin Franklin

Trivia Tidbits

Lacrosse originated with the Ojibwa First Nations, who used it to train warriors.

KingWeeklySentinel WEBPOLL
www.kingsentinel.com

Results from last week's poll:

Are you staying in or going out for Valentine's Day?

a) Staying In **100%**

b) Going Out **0%**

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

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Have you experienced long delays in health care?

a) Yes
b) No

Go to our website and cast a vote!

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<p>Subscription rates: Within 65 km except towns with letter carriers – \$39.00 + G.S.T. Beyond 65 km and towns with letter carriers – \$67.00 + G.S.T. Single copies 94¢ + G.S.T. or \$1.00 (includes G.S.T.)</p> <p> Member Medias d'Info Canada National NewsMedia Council</p> <p>Funded by the Government of Canada We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada.</p>		<p>Published every Thursday</p>

There's an economic storm brewing in Canada

By Frank Stronach

The Principles of an Economic Charter of Rights

No one likes being the bearer of bad news, but I truly believe, with every bone in my body, that we're headed for some severe times in the years ahead.

How severe? Depression-era levels of unemployment, for one. The large spike in joblessness will be brought about by many factors all taking place at once, including the digital and AI revolution, which will wipe out a large number of white-collar jobs, and the disruption to global trade brought about by increased regional strife and armed conflict.

I also foresee food shortages coming to our shores, and food will continue to become more and more costly.

A new poll published last week by the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario (FSRA) revealed that more than 44 per cent of residents in Ontario said the high cost of living is taking a big bite out of their cashflow, leaving them with less dollars for retirement savings. In other words, while it's getting harder and harder to put food on the table, it's also getting much more difficult to sock away savings for our retirement years.

I lived through the Great Depression as a young boy. People got by. They made do with what they had. In our house, that meant eating cornmeal three times a day. I don't think the downturn we're going to experience will be as bad or long, but I do think it will be more severe than any recession we've had in nearly a century.

For many small business owners in Canada right now, we're already in a

period of deep economic turmoil. A report published last week by the federal Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy showed that business bankruptcies were up 75 per cent over the previous year.

On top of that, according to Statistics Canada there were over 200,000 business closures between June and October 2023, which means the owners simply closed up shop rather than file for bankruptcy. That's a sad commentary on the business environment we've created in this country.

As with everything in life, major disruptive events like economic downturns are sometimes beyond our control. But it nevertheless makes you wonder: to what extent have we been the authors of our own economic misfortune?

Regardless, there are still many steps we can take right now to make our economy stronger and more resistant to the economic storm that is brewing.

One of the surest ways we can bolster our economy is through the implementation of an economic charter of rights that will get our government finances and economy back on a solid footing. I believe it would completely regenerate Canada by raising incomes and living standards and reining in the damage currently being done by government debt and spending that has gone completely off the rails.

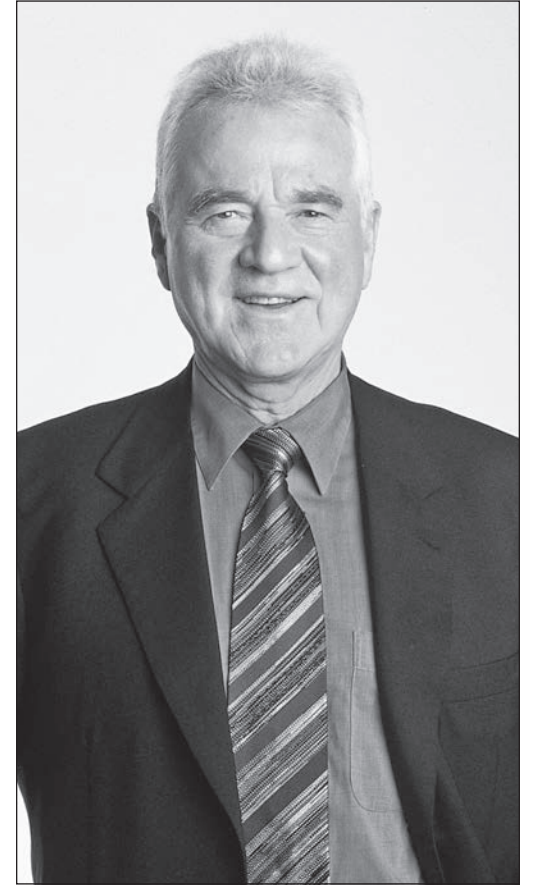
Small business owners, who are be-

ing battered right now from all directions, would especially benefit from the economic charter since it would eliminate business tax on these companies and dramatically reduce the number of regulations currently strangling small business.

But small businesses and besieged Canadians can't sit back and hope for better days. They need to fight for change. The national coalition I've formed to push for an economic charter of rights is one of the best ways we can restore sound economic principles and place our country in a much better position to weather the economic downturn that is inevitably coming.

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

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



Letter to the Editor

Truck proliferation an issue

I read with interest the recent letter by Rob Reith about the proliferation of trucks in Schomberg. All I can say is "well said, but good luck!"

About 5 years ago I took a number of aerial images of the truck sites. These images showed far more than the visual eyesore we see from road level. They highlighted not only the sprawl, but the environmental damage the leaking fluids were having on the land.

These images were sent to our councillor at the time, the Mayor, King by-law and the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority. In addition, they were published on the Schomberg Community Facebook page.

The response from all levels at King was "we're looking into it." The present situation answers the question of how well they handle "looking into things."

It also begs the question of who and how powerful is the truck lobby.

As far as Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority, they said they were extremely busy, and might look into it if they had time. Guess 5 years would be rushing them.

The response to the Facebook pictures was incredible. So many people picked up their iPads, wrote strong statements about the awful truck dump and said things must change. Trouble is, when they had an opportunity to challenge and question our local politicians about the trucks at a local candidates meeting, Facebook or reality TV won out. Two people showed up!

As I said, "good luck."

And please don't be too surprised when the new signs go up on the 400 saying "Welcome to King The Truck Storage Centre of Ontario."

Steve Bradley
Schomberg

Home care worker charged with assault

Investigators with York Regional Police #4 District Criminal Investigations Bureau have charged a personal support worker (PSW) with assault and believe there may be more victims.

On Friday, Feb. 2, police were contacted regarding elder abuse incidents that occurred at a care home in the City of Vaughan. Through investigation, police learned an 89-year-old male resident was assaulted by a PSW on two occasions, Jan. 29 and Feb. 2.

As a result, a 32-year-old Caledon woman was charged with Assault x2.

Investigators believe there are more victims and are releasing photos of the accused, asking that any other victims please come forward.

This investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to contact the York Regional Police #4 District Criminal Investigations Bureau at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7441, Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS or leave an anonymous tip online at www.1800222tips.com.

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Ottawa vows to deliver better health care in Ontario

Universal public health care is a core part of what it means to be Canadian.

It is the idea that no matter where you live or what you earn, you will always be able to get the care you need.

Unfortunately, our health care system has not been living up to expectations. From overwhelmed emergency rooms to surgery backlogs to health care workers under enormous strain – Canadians deserve immediate action to deliver better health care, when and

where they need it. That is why the Government of Canada is making transformative investments to improve how provinces and territories deliver health care across the country.

Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, alongside the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, announced a new \$3.1-billion agreement to improve health care in Ontario. This investment will help increase access to family doctors, reduce wait times, hire more health care work-

ers, and ensure faster care for Canadians, including mental health care.

Under this agreement, Ontario will continue to deliver on its Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care and create new primary care teams to help more people connect to family doctors.

With more family doctors, as well as nurse practitioners, nurses, pharmacists, and social workers, health teams will ensure families can access timely, quality primary care. This will also help reduce backlogs for surgeries and wait times in emergency rooms while improving access to care for patients without a family doctor, especially in rural, remote, and underserved areas.

To fill health care shortages, Ontario will add hundreds of new family physicians and nurse practitioners, as well as thousands of new nurses and personal support workers. Enrollment in health care education programs will be expanded by over 700 spots – including over 70 in Northern Ontario. To keep building the talent for the future, Ontario will support students with tuition fees, help practising professionals gain new skills, and bring more health workers into the field.

The agreement will also make it easier for Canadian and internationally trained doctors and health professionals to practise in Ontario, so they spend less time dealing with red tape and more time helping patients in need. This includes removing barriers to foreign credential recognition, simplifying licensing processes, and increasing program access for highly educated and skilled health professionals. The Province will modernize digital infrastructure – from information reporting, to collection, to sharing. By expanding the availability of electronic health information and increasing the number of health care professionals who can securely access and share this information, health care will be more convenient, connected, and patient-centred.

Mental health is a central pillar of this important investment. Ontario will add five new Youth Wellness Hubs to the 22 that have opened since 2020, making it faster and easier for youth to connect to much needed mental health and substance use services in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities. The Province will also continue to expand its Structured Psychotherapy Program, helping thousands more Ontarians get timely help for depression or anxiety through free cognitive behavioural therapy and other related supports.

The federal and provincial governments will engage and work with Indigenous Peoples to address gaps and systemic inequities in Indigenous health care services and improve access to culturally safe care. Under the agreement, funds will go to Ontario's Support for Indian Residential Schools Burials Funding program, which provides cul-

turally safe mental health supports to Survivors of residential schools, families, and communities. As we move forward on the shared path of reconciliation, safe and timely health care is a priority for Indigenous communities.

"Canadians value our universal public health care system, but recently this system hasn't been living up to its promise. That's why we're signing agreements with provinces and territories to help ensure Canadians can access reliable, timely, and safe health care. Today's agreement with Ontario will increase access to family doctors, reduce backlogs, increase the workforce, and make the health care system work better. Let's give Canadians the quality health care they expect and deserve," Prime Minister Trudeau said.

"This new 10-year agreement will help support our ongoing work in Ontario to connect more people to convenient care close to home. Right across the province, we're making historic investments in health care to build more hospitals, bring on more doctors and nurses, expand home and community care, and reduce wait times. We look forward to continuing working with our federal partners to ensure Ontarians get the health care they need and deserve," added Premier Doug Ford.

"Ontario is making historic investments to help improve the patient experience through Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care. As we continue to put our bold plan into action, today's agreement will complement our ongoing work to ensuring Ontarians have unparalleled access to convenient care in their communities, no matter where they live," said Caledon's MP, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Sylvia Jones.

Ontario's three-year action plan can be found here. Progress on the Province's initiatives and broader commitments under this new agreement will be measured against targets which the Province, together with the Canadian Institute for Health Information, will publicly report on annually.

Budget 2023 outlined the Government of Canada's plan to invest over \$200 billion over 10 years, including \$46.2 billion in new funding for provinces and territories, to improve health care for Canadians. Within this funding, \$25 billion is allocated through tailored bilateral agreements with provinces and territories to address the unique needs of their populations and geography.

The announcement builds on the Government of Canada's recent announcement that up to \$86 million will be provided to 15 organizations across the country to increase capacity for foreign credential recognition of approximately 6,600 internationally educated health care professionals. This investment will help ensure highly educated and skilled immigrants receive proper recognition for their international credentials in Canada.



Mayor Steve Pellegrini met with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau during the government's announcement Friday in King, of significant funding for health care.

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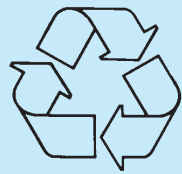
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Snow High -2C° Low -5C° ~10cm Wind S 24k	A Few Flurries High -3C° Low -13C° 1-3cm Wind NW 25k	Scattered Flurries High -6C° Low -8C° ~1cm Wind W 17k	Scattered Flurries High -2C° Low -13C° ~1cm Wind NW 27k	Mainly Sunny High -3C° Low -8C° - Wind N 9k	A Few Flurries High -2C° Low -6C° 1-3cm Wind S 12k	Sun/Clouds High -1C° Low -5C° - Wind NW 8k



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Food Talk with author

Get your tickets for Food Talk with Puneeta Chhitwal-Varma: speaker, food advocate, and author of upcoming book "Good Food, Healthy Planet: Your Kitchen Companion to Simple, Practical, Sustainable Cooking."

She offers sustainable and healthy ways to adopt uncomplicated and affordable kitchen routines that work for real people.

In recognition of International Women's Day and the KHCC's exhibit "Food for Thought," Puneeta will share her unique insight and practices, while also creating a recipe from her new book to sample.

It will be held at King Heritage & Cultural Centre, March 7 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35/person and doors open at 6:30 to view the exhibit. Purchase tickets at: <https://www.kingheritageandculture.ca>.

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Empowering Youth: Youth Opportunity Fair a resounding success

By Brittany Grenici

King Township Municipal Centre came alive with energy as recreation coordinator Erin Burford and the Mayor Youth Action Team hosted their second Youth Opportunity Fair Feb. 8.

The event aimed to raise awareness of the programs, volunteer opportunities, and educational pathways available to the youth community in King.

Representatives from esteemed institutions like Guelph University, York Regional Police, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Neighbourhood Network, and

many more, gathered under one roof to showcase the array of opportunities awaiting young minds.

In all, more than 70 youth and 140 visitors attended the fair.

This event served as a valuable platform for local organizations to connect with the younger demographic, offering insights into potential career paths, volunteer initiatives, and educational programs. Attendees had the chance to interact with representatives from various fields, fostering a sense of community engagement and empowerment.



Waffle Thursday: Collaboration for the future of King

Residents of King are invited to kick start their day with a delicious plate of waffles and engaging conversation at the King City Public Library.

King Chamber of Commerce is hosting "Waffle Thursday" Thursday, Feb. 22, from 7:30 to 9 a.m.. It will be a unique networking event that's aim is to create a platform for the community to engage in meaningful, open dialogue surrounding the future of King City.

Attendees will share their visions for the town's growth, identify priority issues affecting businesses, and have the opportunity to direct Chamber advocacy efforts. Additionally, Unlimited HRM Solutions Inc will introduce their Human Resources offerings, providing valuable insights for local businesses.

Whether you are a business owner, community leader, or a concerned resident, Waffle Thursday promises to be the perfect blend of networking and community building. Join them Feb. 22 to connect, engage, and contribute to the thriving future of King City!

For more, visit <https://kingchamber.ca/events/#!/event/2024/2/22/waffle-thursday>



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Be a vendor at King's annual Food and Drink Fest!

Calling all local chefs, caterers, craft beverage makers and restaurants!

King Township is inviting the best food and beverage vendors in the area to participate in the King Food and Drink Fest on Saturday, June 8 from noon to 9 p.m. at Memorial Park, located at 25 Doctor's Lane in King City. The deadline to submit a vendor application is March 4.

Historically known as the annual "King City Craft Beer and Food Truck Festival," in celebration of its 10th anniversary this year, King Township has decided to expand what's on the menu for 2024! This year's festival will feature some of the best bites and bevies in the area, much to the culinary and sipping delights of foodies from near and far.

Over the years, this festival has attracted over 3,500 attendees from King Township and surrounding communities, and we expect an increased crowd this year as we plan our biggest festival yet. Event attendees will nosh on culturally diverse cuisines and taste (so many!) libations – whisky, beer, cider, cocktails, and even mocktails – while enjoying non-stop, live entertainment on two separate stages.

Food and drink booth vendors get a 10x10 foot space at the event venue. Food trucks will be also be accommodated. Fees start at \$200 for beverage vendors and \$250 for food vendors. Don't miss out on the fun – or the opportunity to attract loyal new customers!

Visit kingfooddrink.ca to download

the vendor package. Vendor space at this event is limited. To be considered, complete the vendor application form and email, along with a sample menu, to events@king.ca by Monday, March 4. The King Food and Drink Fest Committee will review all applications and

notify successful applicants by Monday, March 11.

Sponsorship opportunities to showcase your businesses are also available. For sponsorship levels and recognition, view the sponsorship package at kingfooddrink.ca.

YCDSB Director of Education retires

York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) Director of Education Domenic Scuglia will retire after a 41-year career promoting equity, excellence and faith in two Canadian provinces.

"The Board of Trustees is grateful for Domenic Scuglia's many contributions to the YCDSB, in particular for creating stability in our school board during the difficult days near the end of the pandemic," said Chair of the Board Elizabeth Crowe. "Dom's commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples is inspiring and it will be one of his lasting legacies in this board."

Starting his career in 1982 as a physical education teacher, Mr. Scuglia later served as Vice Principal at Father Michael McGivney Catholic Academy in Markham and Holy Cross CA in Woodbridge. He was later appointed Principal of St. Joan of Arc Catholic High School in Maple and the founding Principal of St. Maximillian Kolbe CHS in Aurora.

After spending his career at the YCDSB, Mr. Scuglia moved to Regina Catholic School Division, where he was the Director of Education from May 2016 to June 2021. In July 2021, Mr. Scuglia returned to the YCDSB to serve as

Director of Education.

"It has been a joy and honour to be part of the YCDSB for 40 years," said Domenic Scuglia. "It was a difficult decision to start a new phase in my life, but I know that we have the right people in place to ensure that the YCDSB remains the top school board in Ontario for years to come."

Before becoming Director of Education, in addition to his teaching and administrative duties, Mr. Scuglia furthered the spread of rugby in this province by volunteering as the Director of Junior Rugby and later the President of Rugby Ontario.

"Dom has an amazing ability to connect with people, as is seen in the excitement that fills every school when he visits," said Chair Crowe.

Mr. Scuglia is known for his leadership, consensus-building and, particularly, his love of students.

John De Faveri will serve as the YCDSB's Interim Director of Education. Mr. De Faveri has been a Superintendent of Education at the York Catholic District School Board and Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board. He was Director of Education for the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board for four years. Mr. De Faveri has held executive positions with the Georgina Trades Training Inc., a not-for-profit organization that provides training opportunities to those in that community.

"I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that the Trustees at YCDSB have given to me to once again serve the York Catholic community," said John De Faveri. "It feels great to return to where my career began."

The York Catholic District School Board supports and inspires approximately 50,000 students and their families through an innovative Catholic education curriculum rooted in Gospel values. More than 5,000 dedicated staff are committed to building strong faith-filled communities of lifelong learners, guided by commitments to student achievement, equity and inclusion, and well-being.



King Mayor Steve Pellegrini supports the Princess Margaret lottery. He toured grand prize home with Princess Margaret representatives Kim Gardiner and Ramona Oss.

King home is grand prize in hospital lottery

By Mark Pavilonis
Editor

A King home is once again the grand prize in the spring Princess Margaret Home Lottery.

The grand prize not only includes the local mansion, but a 2024 Jaguar I-Pace and \$500,000 cash.

Located in the heart of King City, the home is fully furnished and landscaped home features five bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms, a home theatre, conservatory, gourmet kitchen and backyard oasis.

The grand entrance welcomes you with majestic hardwood floors leading to an elegant dining room, and the gourmet kitchen boasts an oversized island and a convenient servery. The striking double-sided fireplace in the great room will enhance every occasion, and the conservatory has glorious full height windows. Find wellness in the lower level with a personal gym and juice bar.

The home itself is valued at \$6.75 million, and the grand prize package rings in at \$7.94 million.

Princess Margaret has been able to pioneer novel treatments like immunotherapy, develop innovative psychosocial programs like Managing Cancer and Living Meaningfully (CALM) that are replicated around the world and even launch a blood test which can detect 50 different cancers before symptoms ever appear. We attract the best and brightest clinicians, researchers and trainees, each of whom believes deeply that The Princess Margaret is where you come to change the world. And with over 20% of its patients enrolled in clinical trials – a rate far higher than the U.S., the U.K. or the rest of Canada – The Princess Margaret is constantly testing new, more effective, less toxic ways of treating cancer.

All of these things combine to create hope and to reinforce our belief that together, we will transform cancer outcomes so that people everywhere can lead longer, better lives, free from the fear of cancer.

So, when you purchase your tickets for the 2024 Spring Princess Margaret Lottery, please know that you are not only getting an opportunity to win over 20,000 exciting prizes, you are contributing to world-leading research, exceptional patient care and, most importantly, you are fueling hope.

For more, visit <https://princessmargaretlotto.com/grand-prize-7-3-million/>






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Nominations open for King's 2024 Volunteer Appreciation Awards

King Township proudly announces a call for nominations for its annual Volunteer Appreciation Awards, inviting the community to shine a spotlight on the unsung heroes who embody the spirit of selflessness and community service.

Last year almost 30 individuals and organizations were recognized for their contributions to making King an exceptional place to live. Their areas of volunteering included the King Township Food Bank, helping newcomers and refugees, various environmental causes and community events.

Nominations for the 2024 Volunteer Recognition Awards are now open. The nomination categories for King citizens are:

Citizen of the Year – An award given to a citizen to recognize and honour outstanding contributions to the Township.

Celebrate a volunteer making a difference in your community

Special Recognition Award: Resident & Non-Resident – An award given to one or more citizens or an organization for a special contribution made to the community in whole or in part.

Senior Citizen Award of Merit – An award given to a Senior Citizen to recognize and honour special contributions to the seniors population.

Lifetime Achievement – An award to recognize outstanding citizenship within the community, with many years of

dedicated service and devotion to the residents of King.

Youth Award of Merit – An award given to a younger citizen to highlight special contributions.

Refer to the Volunteer Appreciation Awards Criteria for more information pertaining to eligibility requirements.

Nomination forms can be submitted online at king.ca/awards. All online submissions will automatically be sent to the Township Clerk's Office.

Hardcopy versions can be submitted in-person or mailed to the Township of King at 2585 King Road, King City, L0G 1J0.

The deadline to submit a nomination is 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13, and the award recipients will be selected by Council.

Award recipients will be celebrated during a special, invitation-only ceremony for family and friends, to be held at the King Township Municipal Centre during National Volunteer Appreciation Week, the week of April 21-27.

For details, including a link to the nomination form, visit king.ca/awards.

"Volunteers are the heartbeat of our community and their dedication makes King Township truly spectacular. These awards, from Citizen of the Year to Lifetime Achievement, are our way of expressing gratitude for the many years of dedicated service and devotion our volunteers bring to King. As we open nominations, I encourage everyone to nominate those who have made exceptional contributions," said Mayor Steve Pellegrini.

Celebrating creativity and empowerment: King's third International Women's Day event

By Brittany Grenici

In a vibrant celebration of creativity, empowerment, and community spirit, the Township of King recently hosted its third International Women's Day event at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre Feb. 7.

The evening was a testament to the remarkable talents of local female artists who came together to explore the

theme "Food for Thought" through a captivating art exhibit.

The location for this event couldn't have been more fitting as it echoed with the voices of those who have contributed to the rich tapestry of King City. As guests strolled through the exhibit, they were greeted by thought-provoking artworks and food-related facts placed around the room.

Approximately 18 art pieces adorned the walls, each telling a unique story related to the central theme and showcasing the diverse perspectives of talented women.

The theme "Food for Thought" served as a creative catalyst, inspiring artists to delve into various aspects of

food-related issues ranging from sustainable agriculture and the global impact of food choices, to eating disorders and food scarcity.

This successful evening was more than a celebration, but also a testament to the strength and talent within our community.



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Arts & Entertainment

Comedy in King fundraiser returns this March

Back by popular request, Christmas in King is thrilled to announce that it is bringing back Yuk Yuk's Comedy in King on March 22 at the Kingbridge Centre in King City.

Comedy in King is the premier fundraiser for Christmas in King which reaches beyond food bank registrants to help those who can manage 11 months of the year but need that extra support during the holidays. Proceeds from last year's show went to help more than 500 people in our community have a brighter and merrier holiday season.

If you missed Comedy in King last year, you won't want to miss it this year. It promises a wonderful night of laughter and fun, all for a very worthwhile cause in our own community.

Comedy in King will feature Martha Chaves, who is returning as the head-

liner, along with Chuck Byrn and Fiona O'Brien.

Martha describes herself as the "most famous Nicaraguan-Canadian LGBTQ+ stand-up comedian in the world," but despite being an act of such a unique nature, she's hilariously relatable, universally funny and accessible. She tours from coast-to-coast as a headliner for Yuk Yuks (Canada's premiere chain of comedy clubs) and is also in high demand for corporate performances, conferences, and speaking engagements.

She can frequently be heard on CBC's The Debaters and Laugh Out Loud. She is a regular panellist on the popular CBC show Because News. Martha also starred in two TV specials which were broadcast nationally: Comics! on CBC and Something About Martha on CTV and the Comedy Network. Martha was named 2018's Stand-up Comic of the Year by the Canadian Comedy Awards after being nominated seven years in a row, and her CD Chunky Salsa was included in a list of 2019's best comedy records.

Comedian Chuck Byrn brings an entertaining look to most any topic and knows how to keep his audience in stitches. A father of two, Chuck often mixes in parenting stories along with hot topics he's gleaned from being a



self-confessed news junkie. Chuck has always been popular at major Canadian festivals and has worked as a comedic writer for television.

He completed five seasons writing for the CBC show Still Standing which resulted in a nomination for a Canadian Screen Award. He was also nominated for three separate Canadian Comedy Awards including Best Male Stand Up.

After emigrating from Dublin, Ireland to Toronto in 2012, Fiona O'Brien began a quest to stamp out the racism that the Irish face ... one lucky charm at a time.

Fiona quickly established herself by winning over audiences at festivals like Funny Women UK, the Halifax, Boston, and Winnipeg Comedy Festivals. O'Brien is featured on CBC's Laugh Out Loud, Because News, Just For Laughs, and She's So Funny on Sirius XM, and Yuk Yuks. Her comedy album 'Magically Malicious' is now on iTunes and

Spotify. After providing the world with three future taxpayers, Fiona decided to dedicate her life to making people laugh with her no restraint, provocative, and unique humour.

Comedy in King is supported by Arts Society King and the Township of King. A huge thank you to our generous sponsors Schomberg Dental & Orthodontics, IG Private Wealth Management - Spence and Associates, IPG Renewables, Nicola Institutional Realty Advisors and beverage sponsor Hockley Valley Brewing Co.

Tickets are on sale now at christmasinking.ca for \$60 each. Doors open at 7 p.m., show starts at 8 p.m. A shuttle service will be available on site at the Kingbridge Centre, 12750 Jane St., King City. Get your tickets today before they sell out!



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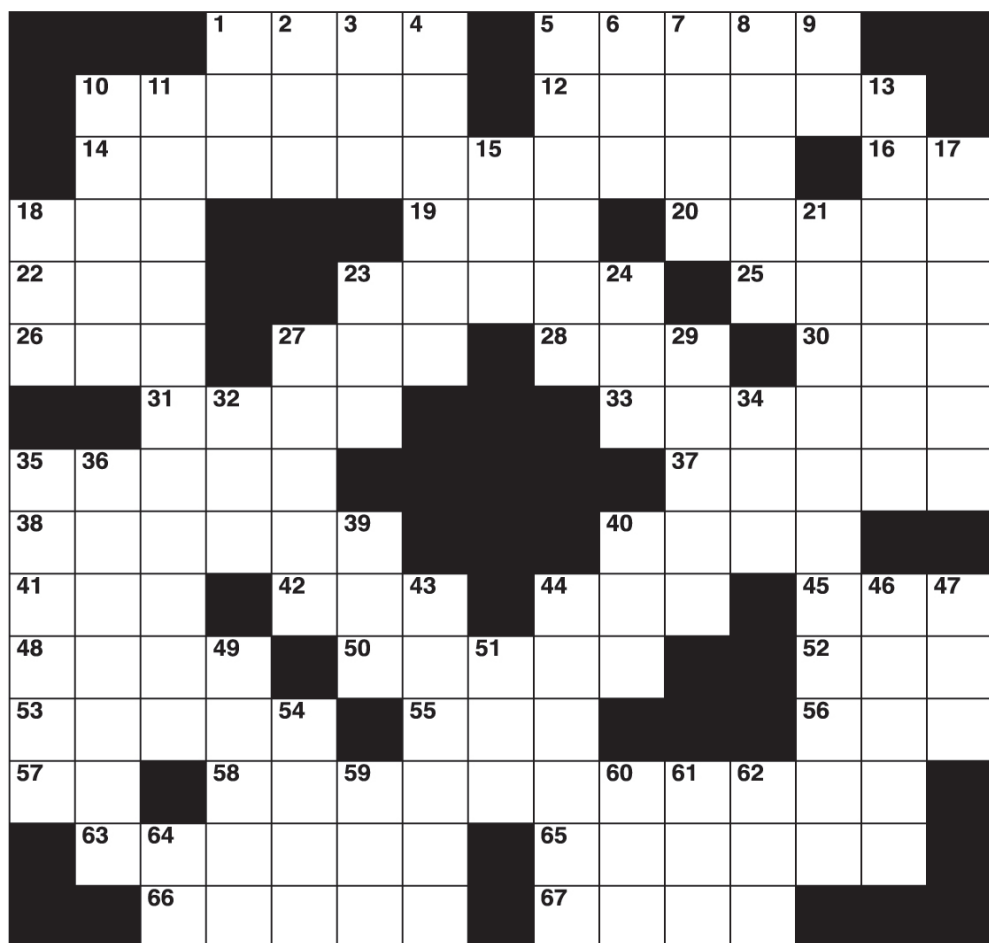


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CLUES ACROSS

1. Gene type
5. Persian male given name
10. Type of protection
12. Cloud
14. One who returns to life
16. Gym class
18. General's assistant (abbr.)
19. Baby's dining accessory
20. Enchantress
22. Prefix denoting "in a"
23. Spiritual leader
25. Cavities
26. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
27. Foot (Latin)
28. Sweet potato
30. Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
31. Land
33. More inquisitive
35. Dog breed: ___ Apso
37. Stood up

CLUES DOWN

38. Direct and uninhibited
40. Authorless
41. Blocking type of drug (abbr.)
42. Retrospective analysis (abbr.)
44. Root mean square (abbr.)
45. Macaws
48. Actress Remini
50. Polynesian wrapped skirt
52. City of Angels hoops team (abbr.)
53. Fitzgerald and Baker are two
55. Bowling alley must-have
56. A way to cool down
57. Ethnic group in Asia
58. A way to alter
63. Set of five
65. Removes from the record
66. Dummies
67. Set period in office

1. DC Comics superhero
2. Brew
3. Play
4. Single-celled animals
5. Rough to the touch (British)
6. Small island
7. Often noted alongside cons
8. Preparation of rootstock
9. Atomic #44
10. Egyptian unit of capacity
11. About secretary
13. Particular groups
15. Poke fun at
17. Make certain that something occurs
18. Financial term
21. Justify
23. Arbitrator
24. 007's creato
27. Czech name for Prague
29. Groans
32. American time
34. No seats available
35. ___ Stahl, journalist
36. Cleft lip
39. Talk incessantly
40. Expresses atomic and molecular weights (abbr.)
43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
44. Curdled milk
46. Running competitions
47. A team's best pitcher
49. Carthaginian explorer
51. World-renowned city
54. Most common Japanese surname
59. The bill in a restaurant
60. They ___
61. City of Angels football team (abbr.)
62. Distinctive practice
64. One quintillion bytes

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

Debut novel by King author ‘makes a splash’

By Mark Pavilons
Editor

A King City resident is drawing on her experience as a first-time mom for her debut novel.

Brianne Sommerville’s debut thriller “If I lose Her” is due out March 5.

The novel will appeal to fans of domestic suspense novels as it explores a mother’s battle with postpartum depression, trust and the shadows lurking close to home.

“The early chapters of the novel read like a stream of consciousness from my perspective as a new mother,” said Sommerville. “Like someone writing in a journal, I would confide about my worries. Was my daughter gaining adequately? Was I producing enough milk? Was my daughter developing at the ‘right’ rate? From there, Joanna Baker’s story came to me, and I expanded on the novel, creating a psychological thriller. I believe mothers will find Joanna’s story relatable – the sleepless nights, the stretched, lonely days – but I also hope readers enjoy the twisty ride as they turn the pages to get to the truth.”

The story revolves around Joanna Baker about the baby blues, but when a near-fatal mistake places the first-time mom under the watchful eye of Child Protective Services, she receives a serious diagnosis – Postpartum depression. Jo hears the words, yet they don’t make sense. Nothing does. Her blackouts are increasing, and she can’t recall events she’s been accused of. As she fights to keep her daughter, she discovers cracks in her neighborhood, family, and her own home. With the support of her sisters, she attempts to piece together her traumatic past and uncover



who is truly in control. Jo must battle her faltering mind to save what’s most important – her daughter.

“Debut author Brianne Sommerville makes a splash in the thriller genre with her captivating, compelling If I lose Her. I flew through this riveting, suspenseful story of a new mother whose past traumas might be unraveling her current reality, or someone else could be pulling the strings. As the list of suspects grows, Sommerville beautifully balances a woman trying to figure out who’s putting her child in danger with a deep, raw look at motherhood, marriage, and family that skyrockets in intensity on every new page. A fantastic read,” said Samantha M. Bailey, USA Today, and bestselling author of A Friend in the Dark.

The publishing process was definitely extensive and eye-opening for her. She found her publisher Rising Action (a women-owned and run small press based in Toronto) when she tweeted about the premise and caught the eye of her editor. The entire timeline from signing with my publisher to publication took about two years.

“My favourite part of the process was helping choose a cover design. Our designer offered three options and I had the final say. Another surreal moment was hearing the narrator of my audio book for the first time,” she shared.

She said she’s always been drawn to suspense and thrillers. Growing up my favourite books were mysteries like The Boxcar she used to watch Dateline and Unsolved Mysteries with her mom and sister.

“I love solving puzzles and it was a ton of fun being in the driver’s seat and having the opportunity and challenge of keeping readers guessing throughout the story,” she remarked.

She absolutely thrilled to note she’s already signed a second book deal with her publisher for her sophomore thriller “What She Left Behind,” which will hit shelves in August 2025. The story follows Charlotte Boyd as she oversees the renovations of her parents’ century home only to become obsessed with the previous owners and their secrets. It features two points of view, including a 16-year-old’s diary entries, in which Brianne used my own high school diary as inspiration for the voice.

Sommerville studied English Literature at Queen’s University where she discovered her love of creative writing, performing in open mic poetry nights and writing and directing theatrical



productions. But it wasn’t until Brianne had her first-born daughter that her passion for writing fiction truly ignited. During nap times and sleepless nights, Brianne found solace in documenting both the joys and struggles of early motherhood, finding her inspiration for the fictionalized novel.

If I lose Her is available in paperback, e-book and audio book on March 5 and can be purchased online through Amazon, Indigo and Barnes and Noble. Brianne will also be on hand at bookstores in York Region, signing copies:

Sunday, March 17 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Chapters Newmarket and Saturday, March 23 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Indigo Hill Crest Mall in Richmond Hill.

Mayor’s Cultural Gala is ‘An Equestrian Affair’

Aged, refined and sophisticated style: guests of the 2024 Mayor’s Cultural Gala will be transported to an elegant, equestrian lounge the evening of Thursday, Feb. 29 at the Manor, located at 16750 Weston Road in King.

In a nod to King’s rural landscape and equine community, the theme for the third Mayor’s Cultural Gala in support of arts, culture and heritage in King Township, is “An Equestrian Affair.”

Single tickets (\$250) and tickets for a table of 10 (\$2,250) are available for sale now through February 22 at king.ca/mayorsgala.

Set against a backdrop of equine chic décor, guests will enjoy a night of exclusive entertainment, dinner and dancing with a live DJ. The lineup includes a photo booth; dueling electric cellists; an acoustic guitar performance; live art painting; and, a silent auction. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a reception service that includes an antipasto bar and crudité garden, featuring a variety of seasonal vegetables. A plated dinner service with duo entree starts at 7 p.m. Guests receive two complimentary, standard drink tickets. Two bottles of wine (one white, one red) are included at each table and a top shelf cash bar is available.

Funds raised from this event will go towards supporting the important work of Arts Society King and the King Heritage & Cultural Centre. This includes arts, culture, heritage-based programming, exhibitions and special events, as well as the preservation and restoration of important heritage buildings.

The Mayor’s Cultural Gala is a biennial fundraising event, hosted by King Township in partnership with Arts Society King. The last gala event, held on September 2022, was a tremendous success and raised \$76,000 in support of arts, culture and heritage in King Township.

For information on how to sponsor the event, donate an item to the silent auction, or purchase tickets, visit king.ca/mayorsgala.

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WORKING FOR YOU

Annual bird count is a fun activity for Family Day

By Jim Stewart

The “Great Backyard Bird Count,” which takes place February 16 to 19, is a bird-watching and bird-counting event organized by Birds Canada, the National Audubon Society, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Its purpose is to take stock of bird populations before they begin annual migrations across the world. Enjoying a charm of goldfinches enjoying seeds at backyard feeders is one way of participating in the Bird Count, but trips to the forests and fields of the GTA during the Family Day Weekend are other ways to help bird conservation organizations track avian populations. The annual event is sponsored by Wild Birds Unlimited which provides timely advice and supplies for aspiring birders.

During our interview on the weekend, WBU Newmarket Store Manager and conservationist Kristen Martyn

offered readers some timely tips about how to get involved with this important global Bird Count and how to assist with bird conservation strategies already in place and supported by Birds Canada and Cornell U:

The King Weekly Sentinel: Please discuss the live bird feeder cam that is sponsored by the Wild Birds Unlimited stores.

Kristen Martyn: We wanted to create a virtual wild bird experience for people to help foster an appreciation for backyard birds. One way we thought we could do this was through live bird feeding stations. We sponsor two cameras year-round (Backyard Bird Feeding Cam and the Ground Feeding Cam). Seasonally, we introduce a live Hummingbird Cam and we hope to introduce a live Nesting Cam soon. We hope that through these experiences people can connect further to the birds and get an up close view of their sometimes se-

cretive lives while being non-intrusive to the birds. It’s been so much fun we just had our 33rd species make an appearance on our live cam and we anticipate many more new species this spring. We’ve gotten such great feedback from people on the live cams, it’s been such an exciting new experience for us. Our sponsored cameras can all be viewed by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/kristenmartyn>

KWS: What is the process by which York Region residents can participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count?

KM: Participation is easy and free. All you need to do is identify and count the birds you see in your yard (or any other location you wish) for at least 15 minutes Feb. 16-19. You can participate on all days or whichever day(s) you are available to do so. After your count is complete you upload your results on eBird.org (registration is free). If you are new to bird identification, the Merlin Bird ID app is a great tool. If you have participated in the count before you can upload your results on the eBird Mobile app or on eBird.org.

For more information on how to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count visit birdcount.org

KWS: How does Wild Birds Unlimited contribute to bird conservation initiatives?

KM: Wild Birds Unlimited sponsors a number of nature and conservation organizations including larger nationwide organizations (Bird Studies Canada, Lab of Ornithology etc.) and at the local level (Shades of Hope, Ducks Unlimited, York Simcoe Nature Club etc.). We are proud to be the founding sponsor of the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). Our sponsorships and donations fund a wide variety of projects, everything from sending young people to nature camps to helping local rehabbers continue the important work that they do. At our core, we are bird and nature lovers who are passionate about the birds and are committed to assisting a wide variety of educational and conservation initiatives.

KWS: How do events like the Great Backyard Bird Count raise awareness about the urgency to protect birds and their habitat?

KM: I believe that the GBBC helps to bring awareness to the birds and wildlife in our own backyards or natural places we cherish (local parks, conservation areas etc.). At its core the GBBC

gets people involved in grassroots conservation via citizen science. People are participating and contributing to an important data set that will ultimately help researchers and the public understand bird population trends over time. The results of this data will help us to understand what’s happening with our bird populations and how important it is to not only protect existing habitat but contribute to creating habitat in our yards for wildlife.

I believe that the act of participating in citizen science projects such as the GBBC creates a special interest which fosters long term stewardship of our birds and establishes the connection to help with their conservation.

Unpredictable ice conditions pose safety risk

Members of the York Regional Police Marine Unit are continuing to remind residents to stay safe while on Lake Simcoe after responding to a person in distress who had fallen through the ice.

On Feb. 10, shortly before 3 p.m., the Marine Unit was called after a kite surfer had fallen through the ice in Cooks Bay. Officers located the male approximately two kilometres off shore, who was in distress after being in the cold water for some time. The male was rescued and transported to hospital for medical treatment.

Each year, members of the Marine Unit respond to calls of people, vehicles and pets that have fallen through the ice. Citizens are reminded to keep pets and children away from all ice surfaces during times when the temperature is rising and the ice is melting.

The thickness of the ice on Lake Simcoe can vary based on currents below the surface and temperatures above. Uneven cracks can quickly form, resulting in hazardous obstacles for snowmobilers. Check with your local ice hut operators for information in the latest ice conditions.

Remember: No surface of ice or body of water is ever completely safe. It is crucial that citizens take individual responsibility in evaluating the dangers of any recreational activity. If you make educated choices regarding safety, accidents can be prevented.

For more information and safety tips, contact the York Regional Police Marine Unit at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7321.



CDS presents murder mystery ‘Clue’

The Country Day School is pleased to present three performances of the hilarious farce-meets-murder mystery, Clue.

They will be shown Feb. 29, March 1 and 2. Based on the screenplay by Jonathan Lynn and written by Sandy Rustin, Clue is the comedy whodunit that will leave both cult fans and newcomers in stitches as they try to figure out who did it, where and with what.

The public is welcome to attend. Tickets are \$20 and available at www.cds.on.ca/tickets.

All three productions will take place in the CDS Performing Arts Centre, 13415 Dufferin Street, King City. Warning: Loud Noises & Flashing Lights.

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Food Bank distribution

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

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King Weekly Sentinel

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. Jeff's message, entitled, "Blinded by the Light" is from Acts 9.1-31.

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.

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 at stpaulsnobleton.ca/connect.

If you know young people who need volunteer hours for school, we would be pleased to have them volunteer to run our audio-visual booth on some Sundays throughout the year. Training is provided. Interested individuals can reach out to our Pastor through the connection card at stpaulsnobleton.ca/connect.

St. Mary's Church

If you haven't attended a Life Teen or Edge event, check out the Youth Ministry bulletin board or our social media for more information and photos from past events.

Teens in Grades 8 to 12 are invited to join us for our next Life Teen event Saturday, Feb. 17 called "No Strings Attached," taking place after the 5 p.m. Youth Mass with music led by our Youth Band.

In a world that worships material possessions, we're here to shine a light on the path of detachment. We will discuss the pitfalls of materialism and the beauty of a life rooted in God, not possessions.

Join us for a pizza dinner followed by fun games and engaging activities!

Hope to see you there! Please text Zephania Gangl our Youth Minister for more details or see the attached poster.

Please note, the St. Patrick's KofC will once again be hosting a MacGregors fundraiser which will be delivered on Saturday, Feb. 24. Deadline to order is Tuesday, Feb. 20. All proceeds will go to St. Patrick's Church to support our parish needs. Please see the parish bulletin for details on how to order, or speak to John Pallotto, St. Patrick's, Grand Knight on 416-525-9450.

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

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

Nobleton Seniors (55+)
By Joanne Bailey

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

Our current schedule is as follows:
Mobility Matters classes Monday and Friday – 1 to 1:45 p.m.

Educational Thursdays – from 10 a.m. to noon unless otherwise indicated.

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 Lions

Tickets are selling fast for the annual Fundraiser Poker Tournament which will be held at the Nobleton Arena on Friday, Feb. 23. To obtain your ticket, which must be bought in advance, please call Lion Gunther Vetter at 905-859-8958. Note, tickets will not be available at the door.

Then, on Saturday, March 30, at 10 a.m. your kids can look forward to the free township-wide Easter Egg Hunt at the Nobleton Sports Park, sponsored by the three Lions Clubs in King.

Later this spring the Nobleton Lions, along with other community groups, will take part in the Nobleton Victoria Day festivities. On Sunday, May 26, you and your pets are invited to be part of the annual Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides. For more information about the walk and how you can participate and donate, please visit <https://www.walkfordogguides.com/>

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 fully 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.

St. Alban's
By John Arnott

The St Alban's Anglican community in Nobleton has the scoop on this Valentine guy and is willing to share it with you here! You see because he lived in turbulent times that saw the fall of the Roman Empire and that ominous black cloud settling on the horizon ready to plunge western world into another Dark Age. Not much is known about this man of hearts whose

name is much linked with February 14. Some say he never existed and is simply the creation of some long ago romantic's imagination. But the Bolandists, a dedicated group of highly skilled Jesuit researchers headquartered in what is today Belgium, accessed hidden away and long forgotten early Christian documents, some in never before accessible private archives that mention 2 Valentines! However, it's generally accepted today that these documents refer to the same man at two different times in his life.

By mid-February the Mediterranean region is beginning to get spring like weather and taking advantage of this the ancient Romans celebrated with a holiday, the Lupercalia. One highlight of this festival happened when groups of young people got together for a picnic style outing. Before setting out each girl scratched her name on a small piece of broken pottery and put it in a bowl then each boy would draw out a piece. The girl whose name was on that fragment would be his partner for the day. When Romans became Christians many of them didn't want to give up old customs and holidays. So wisely the Christian leaders began to Christianize the most popular thus the December Saturnalia became Christmas and the February Lupercalia became the time to honour martyred Valentine.

It is thought that young Valentinus began his religious life in a newly created role of monk in a newly created community known as a monastery and he was in charge of the gardens. So perhaps then it was he who gave the first valentine gifts when he took fruits, vegetables, flowers, seeds, medicinal herbs and his knowledge of same to help the poor, sick and elderly in nearby villages.

He became a priest and sometime later created bishop of Terni in central Italy. Then he fell afoul of the anti-Christian Roman authorities when he opposed their rules in regards to the drafting new soldiers. For this he was arrested, imprisoned and later executed near the Via Flaminia a famous Roman road. Could then the written messages he exchanged with family, friends and parishioners while he was in prison be considered the first valentines!

Valentine was martyred on or about Feb. 14, 269 AD during the reign of Emperor Claudius II and only a few years later possibly 304 AD St. Alban met the same fate in England.

Free FAMILY DAY Skate

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King Weekly Sentinel SECTION B

**Sports • News • Community Events
Classifieds • At Your Service**



Women's 'Spiel the Wine' flavoured with success

**By Shellee Morning
King Curling Club**

King Curling Club's Ladies league hosted its 6th annual "Spiel the Wine" bonspiel this weekend.

Sixteen teams completed the two full draws that included teams from, York (Newmarket), Fenelon Falls, Grimsby, Milton, and nine teams from the home club of King. 64 Curling/Wine enthusiasts played 2 games, enjoyed breakfast and lunch as well as wine tasting from wine specialist Lisa Kokelj.

They say what makes a good wine in the first sip of tasting is the "liveliness, crispness or how aggressive" the flavours are received. All of those same adjectives were present in the opening games of this prestigious ladies event as the ice shed echoed from the high octane of energy that was heard and displayed across the 4 sheets during game play and that continued throughout the day upstairs in the lounge.

Draw 1 that included 5 of King's team contributors, resulted in Teams Morning and Kamstra successfully winning both games with the highest points going to Team Morning for first place and Team Kamstra for Second Place. Team Morning consisted of Skip Shellee Morning, Vice Veronica Wilson, Second Kim Battershell and Lead Susan Burman. Team Morning played solid in all positions against both of her opponents from York. Highlights were of a draw to the pin for a steal, laser take-outs and well-placed guards to control the house.

Team Kamstra included Skip Rosie

aka "Rosé" Kamstra, Pam McKinley as Vice, Julie Hymers as 2nd and Lloy Bloom as Lead. Highlight for Kamstra took place in their first game when down 7-0 then battled back to win by 2. Total team unity included timely draws and take-outs as well as well-played strategy.

Draw 2 resulted in some very close scoring games across the sheets with required measurements for the point, exchange for the lead and pristine shot making. Victories went to Team Wiersma from Grimsby for first place and Team Catto from York who claimed 2nd place for highest points.

Best dressed for the Costume event went to Team Kathleen Gorsline on Draw 1 and Team Stronach on Draw 2, both from the King Curling Club.

An event of this magnitude cannot be possible without its generous sponsors that included James Morning & Sons Ltd. of Kettleby, Party Magic of Bolton, Cardinal Golf Group and Salt Cave of Bolton. Event committee Cindy Perkin-Rhode and her assistants Sue Sheardown, Cindy Phillips and Sharon Dorney collected a team of volunteers that once again went above and beyond in the execution of a very well organized and fun event. Perkin-Rhode thanked club volunteers who helped with, photography, draw master, kitchen and bar staff and many from the club's Men's League who all contributed their valuable time throughout the day.

Ice technician Richard Quick worked his magic and delivered a great sheet of ice keeping the curlers on their brooms.



Skip Shellee Morning, Vice Veronica Wilson, 2nd Kim Battershell and Lead Sue Burman finished in first place at the 6th Annual Spiel the Wine held at the King Curling club early draw.



Skip Rosie Kamstra pictured with her team of Lloy Bloom as Lead, Julie Hymers at 2nd and Pam McKinley as Vice captured 2nd place also in the early draw in the weekend event.

Photos by Bob Belcher

Cougars' cagy veterans Gallow and Palazzo lead the way in crucial 6-3 win over the Kings

By Jim Stewart

Leadership on the ice from the veteran core of Cougars was required in a statement game at the Penetang Memorial Community Centre on Friday night.

Veterans Zach Gallow and Jordyn Palazzo responded by firing two goals each to lead Schomberg to an emphatic 6-3 win over the Kings in what was a lively preview to their upcoming first round playoff series.

It a virtual shoo-in with four regular season games remaining that the fourth-place Cougars (25-12-0-1) will face-off against the fifth-place Kings (16-19-1-2) in the North Carruthers Division's opening round. Schomberg trails third-place Orillia by two points. The Terriers have a game in hand and they own the tie-breaker based on their 4-2 record versus the Cougars this year.

Winning on Friday night was imperative for the Cougars, given that they had lost two games in a row to the rapidly-improving Kings - 5-2 on Dec. 22 in Penetang and 5-4 on Jan. 18 at the Trisan Centre. Earlier in the season, the Cougars mauled the Kings 9-1 and 6-3.

Cougars' Head Coach Mark Hrinco was pleased with his team's road effort in Penetang: "We had a game plan for the small rink in Penetang. We didn't execute it early, but the vets took over. We needed to adjust and we did to take control of the road game."

Coach Hrinco was happy about the timely and productive performances of veteran players like Gallow and Palazzo in the must-win game versus the Kings: "Those two guys are our Darcy Tuckers. Both players are frustrating to play against. Palazzo and Gallow have to play the 'hated game' for us and stay out of the penalty box. That's a challenging role to play, but it's great to see these hard-checking guys score two goals each for us, too."

Schomberg's bench boss also recognized the importance of the game with a forward glance at the imminent play-off series with the Kings: "We lost two games in a row to them so we needed to send a message that would set the table for the playoffs. We did that on Friday night."

Indeed, the veteran Cougars answered the bell in Penetang, but the Kings gave their 269 fans much to

cheer about early in the game when the home side took a 2-0 lead on goals by Ethan McCallum and Kaleb Seemin at 11:23 and 14:34, respectively.

Four minutes later, Anthony Nascimento's third power play goal of the season, assisted by fellow veteran linemate Carlo Lioni, got Schomberg on the scoreboard. Gallow's unassisted goal with 16 seconds left in the period pulled his team into a 2-2 tie heading into the first intermission.

The Cougars got off to their patented quick start 48 seconds into the second period when Palazzo, with helpers from Schomberg's leading scorer Luke Szabo and rookie Mitchell Nelson, gave his club its first lead of the contest. Gallow, who earned First Star of the Game honors, tallied a power play marker at 13:35 to give Schomberg a two-goal lead that they took to the dressing room. Veteran defenseman Andrew Hrinco earned his 19th assist of the season on Gallow's second goal of the game.

Once again, the Cougars pounced early when Nick Winiarczyk beat Kings' goaltender Sawyer Lammle only 1:51 into the final frame. Gallow picked up his third point of the game on Winiarczyk's emphatic goal that staked Schomberg to a 5-2 lead on the road.

Aidan MacDonald tallied for the Kings at 15:01 to narrow to visitors' lead to two goals, but Palazzo's second of the game ninety seconds later restored the Cougars' three-goal cushion and some breathing space. Palazzo's power play marker was assisted by Lioni who tallied his team-leading 23rd helper of the season. Palazzo's two-goal performance in Penetang earned him Third Star of the Game honors.

Cougars' rookie goaltender Anthony Paolini earned the W and Second Star of the Game honors by turning aside 30 of the Kings' 33 shots.

Cougars changing divisions in 2024-25

The Schomberg Cougars will be on the move next season as the PJHL announced its realignment plans that will coincide with the Muskoka Bears joining the 63-team league in 2024-25. Consequently, both the Cougars and the Caledon Golden Hawks will move to a revamped seven-team East Orr Division that will include perennial powerhouse Clarington Eagles.

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HOURS: Monday-Friday 8:00am - 5:30pm;
Saturday 8:30am - 5:00pm; Sunday 10:00am - 4:00pm

King's Corners

King City United By Sheryl Sinka

This Sunday, Feb. 18 we welcome all to worship at 10 a.m. with Rick McKinley leading our worship. This will be the first Sunday of Lent.

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 kcuc.net

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

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.

Our first potluck lunch of the year will be held tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 16 at 12:30 p.m. Attendees are asked to bring a main course or dessert item to share on the buffet table.

Mobility Matters is cancelled next week - Monday, February 19 (Family Day) and Wednesday, February 21 (annual AGM).

The Centre will be closed on Monday, Feb. 19 all day for the statutory holiday (Family Day).

The Annual General Meeting for the King City Seniors Centre will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 11:30 a.m. at the Centre.

Friday, March 1 at 10 a.m., Chantal from York Region Police will discuss their Project Lifesaver program which combines radio technology with co-ordinated police response to locate wandering and disoriented loved ones. In addition, there will be a discussion on Crime Prevention. RSVP by calling the Centre at 905-833-6565.

The following activities are available at the King City Seniors' Centre. If you see something that is of interest, please come out and join the group. All are welcome.

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; 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 kingcityseniors@gmail.com

Sacred Heart Church

During this Lenten Season, the Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday evening beginning at 6:15 p.m., followed by Holy Mass at 7 p.m. Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament starts at 3:30 p.m., Holy Rosary at 5:30 p.m., Benediction at 6:00 p.m.

All are invited to attend a Potluck with an adult faith educational meeting on Biblical Direction for a Healthy and Happy Life. Bring your favourite dish Saturday, Feb. 24 after 5 p.m. Mass.

A further update to our February Dinner/Dance: A grateful Thank You also to Joe Petrolo and Gerry Sciarra for organizing and emceeding the event; and, to Tony & Nadia Pascuzzo for selling tickets, posting on social media and coordinating table setup. We raised \$7,600 through ticket sales, raffles and

donations all going towards paying down our loan.

Consider, also joining the Knights of Columbus, this fraternal organization of Catholic men who put their faith into action and volunteer their service to Sacred Heart Church and community.

Contact the Rectory or Joe Cartagnese at 416-804-7272.

Thanks also to those who have contributed to the Giving Tree located in the Narthex. Those who wish to have their family or company name on the leaf may contact the Rectory.

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

This Sunday, Rev. Andrew returns to lead the worship service, the first Sunday in Lent. Did you know that if you give up something for Lent, you can still enjoy it on Sunday. Rick McKinley will be back next Sunday.

The next Book Club meeting will be on Monday, Feb. 26 at 10 a.m. We will be discussing two books - "The Last Bookshop in London" by Madeline Martin and "Laughing with the Trickster" by Tomson Highway. Contact the office for more information. Our February Fellowship Lunch is on the 28th at the Buttery at 17565 Yonge St. in Newmarket. Come and bring a friend. RSVP to the office at 905-727-8118 or yorkpinesuc@gmail.com. All are welcome.

St. Andrew's By Kathy Patterson

February 25 is our Annual Congregational Meeting following a light lunch after the morning worship service. We will receive the Annual Report, discuss the 2024 budget and look forward to going into 2024 with God's guidance.

The virtual Q and A is resuming on Tuesday evenings, led by Anne Campbell. Call Alison to be included in the ZOOM link. There will also be an in-person Q and A on Wednesday evening which Alison will lead at a residence. More info to follow next week.

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

As we begin Lent, All Saints want to emphasize how welcome everyone is to attend and take communion at our 8 a.m. service with the old Book of Common Prayer in the chapel and in the main church at 10:30 where the words of the service from the Book of Alternative services are projected on big screens. The recorded service is also available later on our facebook and all programs and events on our website <https://www.allsaintskingcity.ca/>.

After the Glory - Sermon by Rev. Erin Martin on 2 Kings 2 - Elijah taken to heaven and Mark 9 - the transfiguration.

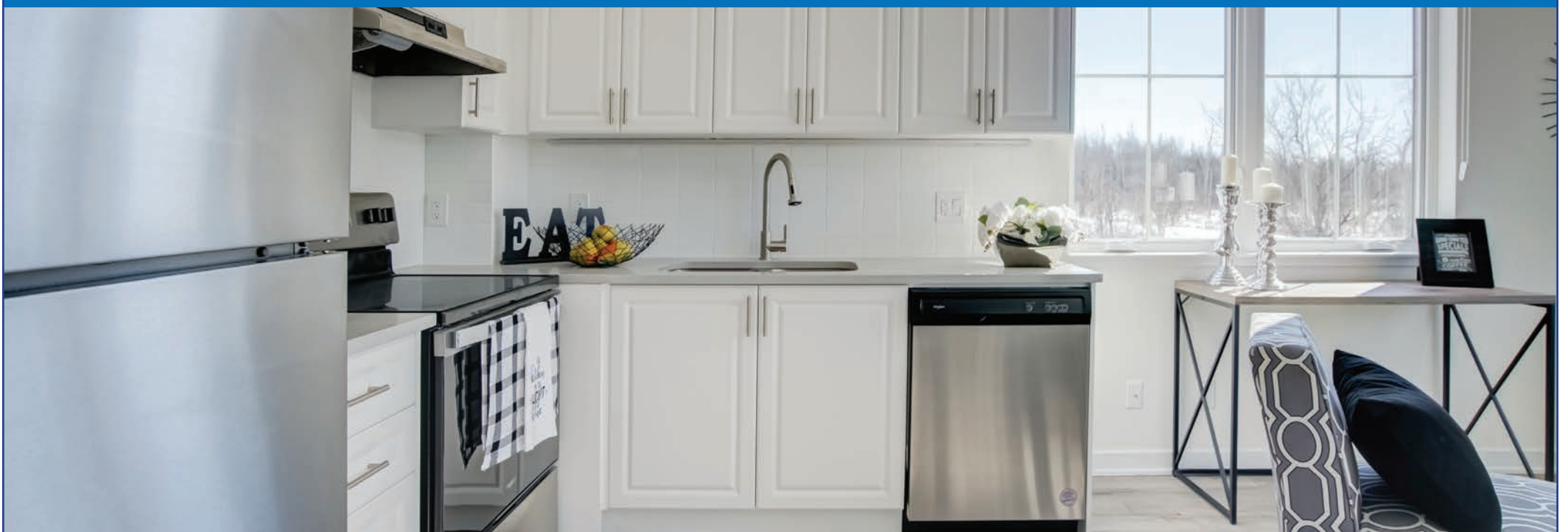
"When Elijah told Elisha that it was time for him to be with God without him. Elisha refused to leave his side. And when the whole community of prophets tried to comfort Elisha and encourage him to stay with them so that they could support him in his grief: "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And each time they asked Elisha He wasn't ready to stay. It was the last goodbye, and he was going to have to decide how to go on without him. The chariots came and the whirlwind carried Elijah away.

"Writer Debie Thomas says: 'I know few scenes in the Bible more poignant than the one that ends this story. As quickly as the vision comes, it departs. The vision is glorious, but divine wonders can't save anyone. Elisha's salvation comes in the long silence after the glory. It comes when he chooses to stand up, shoulder his grief, take up his teacher's mantle, and cross the threshold into a new and unfamiliar life.'

"This theme also plays out in the story of the Transfiguration. Again, a story full of miracles and light and glory. It's possible that Peter, James and John experienced similar feelings to those of Elisha. Jesus's disciples knew him as a rabbi, friend, and miracle worker. They loved Jesus, and the work they did with him They were happy being with Jesus.

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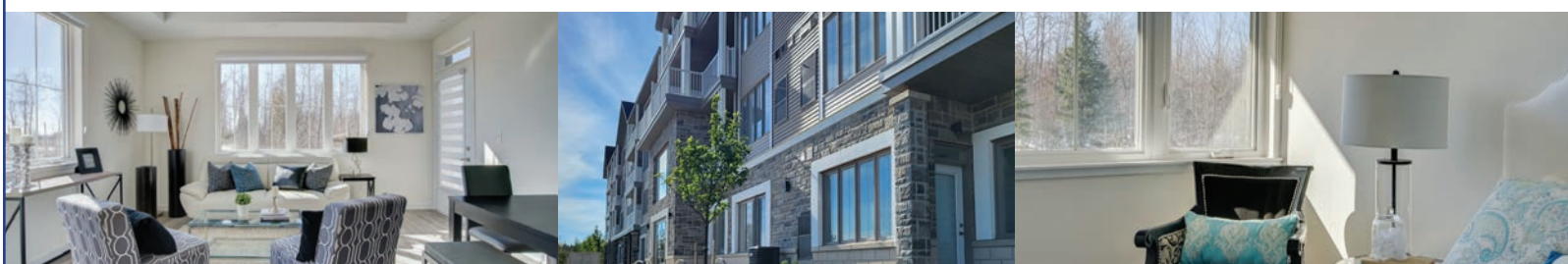


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Scoop from Schomberg

By Susan Heslop

Did everyone survive Superbowl Sunday?

Happy Valentine's Day, I hope everyone was shown some love this week. It's so important these days that everyone feels like they have someone in their corner who loves them.

Big week for the florists, card stores and the wing restaurants - Valentine's and the Superbowl all in the same week.

The past week I was contacted by the assistant editor of Toronto Life magazine Lauren McKeon. She is working on an in-depth feature story on the recently convicted former local Doctor, Dr. Wameed Ateyah, and is requesting the community's assistance. The story will cover his repeated assaults of his patients, his convictions, the ongoing harm he caused, and how he was able to operate for so long, despite several complaints to the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

She is looking for anyone who would

like to come forward and she is willing to keep it anonymous. If you feel like you have something to contribute you can email her at lmckeon@torontolife.com.

Nobleton Public School is having a Bingo Fundraiser on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 6 p.m., to raise funds for the Grade 8 students. Along with Bingo, they'll be lots of food and prizes. The cost is \$20 a ticket. So, get out your dabbers, line up your good luck charms, warm up your Bingo shouting voice and head to school for an evening of fun.

The Dufferin Marsh will be hosting "Great Backyard Bird Count" on Saturday, Feb. 17 at 9 a.m. They ask you to meet at the bulletin board at Dr. Kay Dr. in Schomberg.

Please join the Schomberg Horticultural Society on Feb. 27, for a timely presentation of "Jumping Worms" by Kathleen Gorsline, Master Gardener.

Enjoy this talk from the comfort of your living room by Zoom. Virtual doors open at 7 with the session beginning at 7:30. Free event for Society members and members of the community.

Contact schomberghortsociety@gmail.com for link to access meeting and presentation.

Cold Creek Maple Syrup Fest is back

for its second year. Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. You can purchase tickets at coldcreek.ca/maplesyrupfest

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. We've had a few new members lately and we'd love to see more.

Schomberg Seniors (55+): We have 74 members now and we still have room for more, so if you're over 55 and want to learn a few new skills and make a new friend or two, please come out and join us.

This past Sunday, a group of us attended "Doris and Ivy in the Home" at the Orangeville Theatre. It was a wonderful performance and such a great venue. It sure kept the crowd laughing, I recommend it, especially if you are of a certain age. Our local theatres really need our support, and we have a few venues near Schomberg, make sure to go because it is something we'd hate to lose.

Next up, Monday, Feb. 19 - 10 a.m. -

Speaker "All things Racing Pigeons" with Mario Rea.

Saturday, Feb. 24 - 8 p.m. - Concert: York Symphony Orchestra, "Night at the Opera." Trinity Anglican Church, 70 Victoria Street, Aurora. Senior tickets \$25

Monday, Feb. 26 - 10 a.m. - Program - Trivia at its Best.

Monday, March 4 - 10 a.m. - Speaker - Frank Smith - Ukulele sing along.

These events all take place at the Schomberg Community Hall, except as indicated.

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.

This quote spoke to me this week: "Age is not how old you are but how many years of fun you've had" ~ Matt Maldre

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

Please reach out with your events, stories of happenings or anything you would love to see here porter5952@gmail.com or 416-460-5952.

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or email admin@caledoncitizen.com

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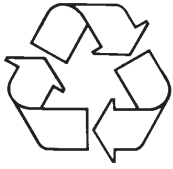
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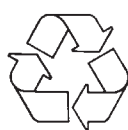
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C/O St. Patrick Elementary School, 50 Western Ave. Schomberg, ON.,

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Nobleton & Schomberg United Churches

By Nancy Hopkinson

We are happy to announce that our Lenten Lunches are making a return! Join us for the first gathering of this season on Friday, Feb. 16, starting at 11 a.m. We will be serving a delightful lunch of pancakes and sausages at noon. This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone in our community to come together, share in fellowship, and enjoy a warm meal. We invite each and every one of you to be a part of this cherished tradition.

Thanks to all who contributed soup and crackers and monetary donations for the King Township Food Bank on last Sunday's "Souper Bowl of Caring" Sunday. The organizer Rev. Evelyn McLachlan was pleased with the support.

Both of our churches have very friendly but small congregations. We would be happy to see you and have a chat after the service while enjoying coffee, tea and light refreshments. Schomberg United meets at 9:30 a.m. Would you prefer to sleep in and have a leisurely start to your Sunday? Noble-

ton United meets at 11:15 a.m. Rides can be arranged, just phone me at 905-859-0761. During service, we sing a lot. Research has shown that singing releases endorphins which make you feel happier and make your brain more flexible. So come and sing with us!

We are also online at 11:15 a.m. Go to www.youtube.com. Then search for Nobleton United Church, find the correct date and enjoy! The videos are recorded, so you can also watch them later and sing along. But it is all better in person!

The next Seniors' Luncheon is Tues. 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.

The next Messy Church is Wednesday, Feb. 21, 5 to 7 p.m. at Nobleton United Church. Messy Church is for

families and is free. Even grandparents enjoy participating. The theme this time is the story of the prodigal son. 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).

On Sunday, Feb. 25 at 11:15 a.m., we will have a joint service at Nobleton United, followed by a lunch, and then our Annual General Meeting will start at 12:45 p.m.

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 at 905-859-3976.

Schomberg United Church meets at St. Mary Magdalene Church, lower level, 116 Church St., Schomberg. It is accessible. Nobleton United Church meets 6476 King Rd., Nobleton.



The best thing about King is its people!

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 - Apr 5th.....Locked & Loaded Sale.
 - Apr 12th.....Farm Auction for Ron Hodgkinson.
 - Apr 26th.....Spring Equipment Sale.
 - May 3rd.....Antiques, Collectibles & Quality Household Items.
 - May 22nd-25th.....Straight Shooter Sale.
- Stay tuned for dates on our upcoming Art & Book Sale, Tool Sale, Coin Sale & more!

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708 OBITUARIES

ROCKS, Bjorg

After a long and rewarding life Bjorg passed away at the age of 85 at Southlake Regional Hospital on Friday, February 9th, 2024.

Bjorg was born near Bergen, Norway on September 2nd, 1938 and grew up on a picturesque farm in a hamlet that bore her ancestral name, Midtun. Coming to Canada in 1960, she remained a Norwegian at heart and loved the many trips she made back home to visit her entire family and friends.

As an artist she captured the Canadian rural spirit in her many paintings and her folk art beckoned to her Norwegian roots. As an avid downhill skier she enjoyed all the Canadian winter had to offer and spent her winter weekends on the slopes.

Bjorg enjoyed many lifelong friendships in both Norway and Canada and maintained close knit and meaningful relationships with those who surrounded her.

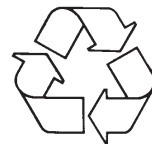
Bjorg is survived by her husband Norbert of nearly 60 years and her son Eric (Barb). She was the proud grandmother of James and Thomas and will be missed greatly by her remaining siblings Margun, Tone, and Svein (Evelyn) in Norway. She is predeceased by her siblings Inger Johanne (Magnar), Olav, and Arne and her parents Bjarne and Birgitte.

The family will be planning a private celebration of Bjorg's life when the weather warms up in the spring.

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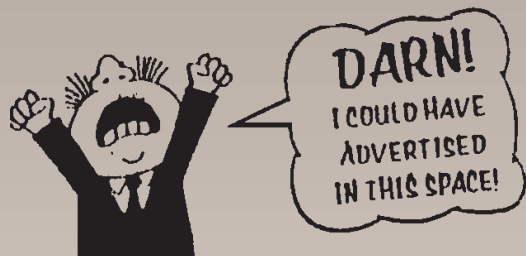
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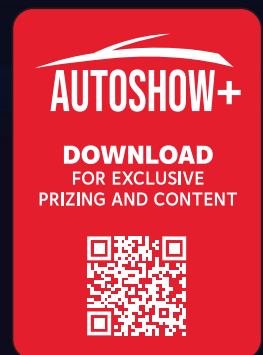
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Rocco Racioppo, with RE/MAX REALTRON Realty Inc., has over 40 years of experience buying and selling residential properties and he is an expert in the industry.

Beginning his career in Toronto in 1980, Rocco achieved his real estate license when he was just 21 years old and entered his career with an enthusiastic vigour, which he still maintains over four decades later. Rocco loves being a Realtor and engaging with his clients and the public.

After his start in Toronto, he later moved to Unionville and gained more experience before moving to Newmarket in 1995.

Known as a personable and outgoing individual, Rocco easily blends into any social situation and uses his natural talents to expertly lead real estate negotiations to produce the best results for his clients.

Currently based in Newmarket, Rocco serves a wide area in the region including surrounding cities and towns.

Over the course of his career, Rocco has transitioned to being a real estate agent who specializes in high-end homes, country estates and waterfront properties. He is now in the top ten of Realtors in York Region for sales that exceed \$2 million.

Many high-end properties have features that are unique and different and may be a challenge to properly appraise for a true market value.

Because of his experience and knowledge of the industry, Rocco prides himself on the ability to evaluate such properties and determine a selling price which is fair and equitable in the current market while ensuring his clients achieve the best results during a sale.

Marketing a property when it is being offered for sale needs key strategies to ensure the right potential buyers can be reached.

Rocco designs marketing strategies and takes advantage of several ways to present a property in its best light to attract those who are potential buyers.

First impressions are very important, and Rocco can advise clients on the small details that present their home in the best possible way to anyone who views the property.

Many of Rocco's clients are repeat clients who have had such a good experience they return to him when they make a decision to sell and move to a larger house or downsize. He has many new clients who have been referred to him by others who have had such a good experience they recommend Rocco to friends and family who need the services of a qualified and experienced Realtor.

It is his expertise, experience, and outgoing and friendly personality that allows his clients to trust him to help ensure their biggest investment is protected and they achieve the best results when selling or buying a home.

If you are planning a move and need expert help to get you through it all, you can call Rocco at 905-841-4787, or send him an e-mail at: rracioppo99@gmail.com.

WRITTEN BY Brian Lockhart



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MARKET UPDATE – JANUARY 2024

AURORA

AVERAGE SALES PRICE

\$1,198,012

AVERAGE 64 DAYS ON MARKET

NUMBER OF SALES

38

82 NEW LISTINGS

SALE TO LIST RATIO

99%

YEAR OVER YEAR % CHANGE

1.79%

KING

AVERAGE SALES PRICE

\$1,591,800

AVERAGE 82 DAYS ON MARKET

NUMBER OF SALES

10

42 NEW LISTINGS

SALE TO LIST RATIO

95%

YEAR OVER YEAR % CHANGE

2.05%

*The statistics provided were obtained from the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board's Market Watch JANUARY 2024; Summary of Existing Home Transactions for All Home Types, JANUARY 2024 + Focus on the MLS Home Price Index for Composite, JANUARY 2024 for York Region's Aurora and King

The market is beginning to pick up, as we are experiencing what feels like an early spring. 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. Multiple offers are coming back into play and consumer confidence is returning. We are encouraging Sellers to begin preparing to be market ready, to capitalize on low supply and active shoppers. For Buyers, this means working closely with your advisor to ensure you are receiving the best care and advice. Having pre-approvals situated is advantageous in today's landscape. 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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HOT NEW LISTING IN NEWMARKET!!



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JUST LISTED IN SHARON!!



\$1,899,000

Fantastic executive 4 bedroom bungalow on huge pie shaped 1/2 acre treed and private lot on quiet court in prime Sharon! Very spacious layout features modern family sized kitchen w/ island & w/o to large deck, large open concept living and dining rooms w/fireplace, oversize family room also w/fireplace & 3 car garage! Bonus fin. rec room & office in bsmt too!

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COMING SOON! \$2,799,900

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Is buying a home on your mind? 4 things to think about

(NC) Becoming a homeowner can be exciting, but is it the best decision for your circumstances? Here are four steps to help you decide if homeownership is right for you:



1 CONSIDER WHAT YOU CAN AFFORD

According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, your monthly housing costs should not be more than 39 per cent or so of your gross monthly income. These costs include your mortgage payments, property taxes and utility costs such as heating and cooling. Review your budget to assess whether you can realistically take on these extra costs.

2 GET PREAPPROVED FOR A MORTGAGE

Getting preapproved for a mortgage with your bank will tell you what amount you qualify for. It provides a benchmark you can compare with your budget. Keep in mind that the amount you are approved for doesn't necessarily fit in your budget.

Once you've done that, you can start looking for homes that are right for you and your finances. You can also use the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada's free mortgage qualifier tool to see if you can qualify for a mortgage to buy a home based on your income and expenses.

3 REMEMBER ALL THE OTHER COSTS

When you buy a home, you must pay for upfront costs in addition to your mortgage. Referred to as closing costs, these are one-time fees you pay to complete the sale. Examples include home inspection fees, legal fees, property tax adjustments and title insurance.

Be prepared to spend between one and a half and four per cent of the home's purchase price on these costs at the time you close on the home. And don't forget ongoing expenses such as maintenance costs and insurance.

4 EXPLORE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND INCENTIVES

The Canadian government has home-buying programs and incentives. If you're eligible, these can help you purchase your home:

- **HOME BUYERS' PLAN:** You may withdraw up to \$35,000 from your registered retirement savings plan tax-free to buy your first home.

- **FIRST-TIME HOME BUYER INCENTIVE:** You may receive five or 10 per cent of your home's purchase price for a down payment.

- **HOME BUYERS' AMOUNT:** You may be eligible to receive a non-refundable tax credit of up to \$1,500.

- **GST/HST NEW HOUSING REBATES:** You may be eligible for a rebate for some of the tax you pay when buying your home.

Find more information to help you decide if buying a home is right for you at canada.ca/money.
www.newscanada.com

A GUIDE FOR FIRST-TIME OWNERS:

Navigating property assessments and taxes

(NC) First-time home ownership is a significant milestone, and with it comes unique experiences, like navigating property assessment and taxes for the first time.

If you're unsure how your property assessment is determined and how it relates to your taxes, here is what you need to know:

Over 5.6 million properties across Ontario are assessed and classified by The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, an independent, not-for-profit organization.

There are five key elements that affect your property's value:

1 LOCATION: The neighborhood where your home is situated significantly influences its market value. The desirability of the area often plays a crucial role in determining how much a buyer is willing to pay.

2 LOT SIZE: The area of your lot is calculated by multiplying the frontage by the depth. A larger lot size can positively impact your property's value.

3 TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE OF LIVING AREA: The exterior of your home is measured to determine the total area of the building. It's important to note that this measurement excludes areas like the basement, deck, porch or garage.

4 BUILDING AGE: Property value is adjusted to reflect renovations or additions, considering the actual condition of the house rather than its original construction year.

5 CONSTRUCTION QUALITY: The type of building materials used, and the quality of finishes also play a role in determining your property's assessed value.

Property data is collected through on-site inspections, digital imagery and information provided by property owners, including via questionnaires. This data helps inform property assessments which are used by municipalities to help calculate property taxes.

Understanding your property assessment will help you become better equipped to navigate the financial responsibilities of homeownership. Find out more at mpac.ca/valuematters.

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from IMS Incorporated Statistics

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Why you should consider selling your home now – Before the Spring Market

Considering putting your house on the market this year? While many homeowners typically wait until spring to list their properties, there are significant advantages to listing earlier this year and getting ahead of the curve.

Traditionally, the winter months tend to slow down home sales. However, this winter presents a unique scenario. High-interest rates kept the real estate market stagnant for much of 2023. With interest rates easing up in the new year, there's a substantial amount of pent-up demand and supply waiting to enter the market. Some of it has already surfaced – the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board (TRREB) has reported that home sales (i.e. transactions) were up 37% in January, year over year. Conversely, new listings were also up 6.1%.

Throughout most of 2023, the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) experienced a Buyer's market primarily influenced by a combination of inflation and multiple interest rate increases. According to TRREB's January data, the sales-to-new-listings ratio stands at 50%, indicating a shift to a balanced market. To provide context, a ratio below 40% indicates a buyer's market, while anything exceeding 60% signifies a seller's market.

When it comes to selling a home, timing is crucial. By hitting the market at the right moment, sellers can maximize their profits and secure better terms. So, is now the right time for you to list your home? Let's explore some reasons why you might want to get a head start on putting up that "For Sale" sign:

INTEREST RATES HAVE STABILIZED

In 2023, high-interest rates deterred many home sellers and buyers alike. The Bank of Canada has held the key interest rate at 5% for a fourth consecutive time. Projections suggest that the Bank of Canada will hold again on March 6th, 2024, with a small chance we may see a 0.25% decrease in rates.

LOW HOUSING INVENTORY

Despite market stiffness, sellers enjoy a significant advantage due to low housing inventory. The scarcity of available homes means that properties can attract attention quickly. Well-priced homes in good condition can receive swift offers, especially unique or special properties that are in high demand.

POTENTIAL INCREASE IN BUYERS

With mortgage rates becoming more favorable, experts anticipate an influx of buyers who were previously priced out of the market. This increase in demand may lead to more homes entering the market, resulting in heightened competition among sellers. Listing now could mean facing less competition before the market becomes saturated with other sellers.

REDUCED EFFORT FOR SELLERS

The beginning of the year can surprisingly be a beneficial time to sell. Many individuals have extra cash from work bonuses and tax refunds, potentially leading to more and higher offers. While there may be fewer buyers house hunting during the winter months, the offers received could be more meaningful as sellers won't have to compete with as many similar listings.

BEATING THE CROWDS

Selling now allows homeowners to secure a good price for their current home and move into their next property before the market becomes overly competitive. By entering the market as buyers before prices surge in the spring and summer, sellers can benefit from more options and negotiating power.

PERSONAL MOTIVATIONS MATTER

While market timing can be advantageous, personal reasons for selling should not be overlooked. Whether it's due to a job change, family size adjustment, retirement, or other life events, homeowners should prioritize their personal needs when deciding to sell.

The Michele Denniston Real Estate Group gets you from "FOR SALE" to "SOLD" and are committed to providing you with expert, reputable and top-tier real estate service. If you have questions about the market, or how we can better assist you with your real estate goals in 2024 and beyond, visit us at 50 Doctor Kay Dr. Unit C-22 in Schomberg, or contact Michele directly at (416) 433-8316 or michele@micheledenniston.com



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RESALE HOMES COLLECTIONS



How to improve the value of your home for the long-term

(NC) For most of us, our home is by-far our biggest investment. So, if we're going to spend more money on it for renovations, we want to make sure they're wise expenses for the long-term. Here are four things to consider when planning your next reno.

UPGRADE THE KITCHEN

In most surveys of the best renovation projects for return on investment (ROI), kitchen renos usually top the list. It makes sense given how much time we spend in there cooking, eating and socializing. If it's in your budget, opening-up walls and adding a kitchen island are trendy options. But a fresh coat

of paint and some new handles on the drawers and cabinets are a low-cost way to refresh the most popular room in the house.

REFRESH THE BATHROOMS

Next on the list of best renos for ROI are bathrooms. Turning a dingy old bathroom with inefficient fixtures into a home-based spa will do wonders for your day-to-day life, and the home's resale value. Some investments, such as low-flow showerheads and faucets, and water-conserving toilets are both environmentally friendly and will help lower your utility bills. Others, such as adding heated floors will have your feet thanking you for as long as you live there.

PREPARE TO AGE IN PLACE

As we start to get older and think about retirement living, most of us are planning to stay in our current homes – or, age in place. If you are planning on renovating some or all of the rooms in your house, there are some simple steps you can take to make it easier for you to stay there well into your golden years. This

includes adding extra lighting, widening doorways so a walker or wheelchair can fit through and having a barrier-free shower or bathtub.

TEST FOR RADON

Your home should be your sanctuary, but some homes can house some real hazards, including radon, a cancer-causing radioactive gas. Radon is a naturally occurring gas that comes from the breakdown of uranium in the ground. In many homes, the gas can seep in and accumulate to dangerous levels. Long-term exposure to radon is the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers, so reducing your risk is important for your health. The first step is to test the radon level using a simple DIY kit. Then, if the level is high, you can lower it with the help of a certified professional, making your home healthier for you and increasing its value long term.

Learn more about radon, how to test for it and fix problematic levels at takeactiononradon.ca.

www.newscanada.com

3 reasons your home value matters

(NC) For many Ontarians, the place they call home is more than just a dwelling. It's an investment, a cornerstone of financial stability and often their single largest asset. It is also where they make memories with family and friends and connect with their community.

Whether you're buying a house soon, selling your current property, refinancing or renovating, it's important to understand the value of your home.

Here are three reasons why the assessed value of your home matters:

- 1 Navigating the housing market can be complicated but having access to accurate and reliable data can help you make informed decisions whether you're buying or selling a home, renewing a mortgage, renovating or even planning for retirement.
- 2 It can help you anticipate and budget for tax obligations since your property taxes are calculated based on assessed home values, at a tax rate based on what your municipality determines is needed to build and run a thriving community there.
- 3 It can provide insights into your local real estate market. These insights can impact potential decisions around buying, selling or investing in real estate.

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation is responsible for assessing the value of every property in Ontario – that's more than 5.6 million properties across the province.

"Homeowners in Ontario want to know their home's assessed value and how it compares to others in their neighbourhood," says Carmelo Lipsi, the organization's vice president and chief operating officer. "We are committed to providing fair and transparent assessments so Ontarians can be empowered with accurate insights to make informed decisions and understand their local property market."

Find more information about property assessments at mpac.ca/valuematters.

www.newscanada.com



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5 tips for easy and complete spring cleaning

(NC) Spring cleaning can feel like your big chance to get your living space under control and this can be a source of stress for many of us. Here are some tips for a quick, complete clean.

PLAN YOUR APPROACH

It's not going to get done if you don't make time for it, simple as that. Think about what you need to tackle, and when you'll do each thing. Whether you go room by room or start with one task in every room, set a date (or a series of dates) to get it done.

DO AN INVENTORY

Once you've set aside the time, don't be sidetracked by a lack of cleaning supplies or tools. Include a moment in your schedule to check your stash of rags, stock up on cleaning products and make sure your vacuum is in good shape. Knowing you're prepared can be motivating too.

MAKE IT A PARTY

Whatever keeps you entertained while doing boring tasks, embrace it – maybe throw on some tunes, or set friendly competitions with family members about who can do the most. Plan a reward for once you're done – think takeout, your favourite TV show or something else you enjoy.

PLAY IT SMART

It's about time to toss loose paper like junk mail and ancient receipts, right? Just be sure to shred anything with personal information like your name, social insurance number or address before you throw it in the recycling. Tossing intact pages gives thieves an easy way to amass the details they need to steal your identity. A shredding machine makes things more convenient, but you can always use scissors or rip it up if you don't have one.

DON'T FORGET DEVICES

Your digital life deserves as much of a clean as your physical space. Not only do you spend a lot of time on devices like your phone, tablet and laptop, but you also leave yourself open to identity theft and hacking if you neglect good security hygiene for them.

Offload unnecessary files or apps that sit unused, install anti-virus and anti-malware software and make sure your devices will automatically update. Also check on and strengthen your social media security and privacy settings.

Find more information about cleaning and securing your devices from BMO's Financial Crimes Unit at bmo.com/security.

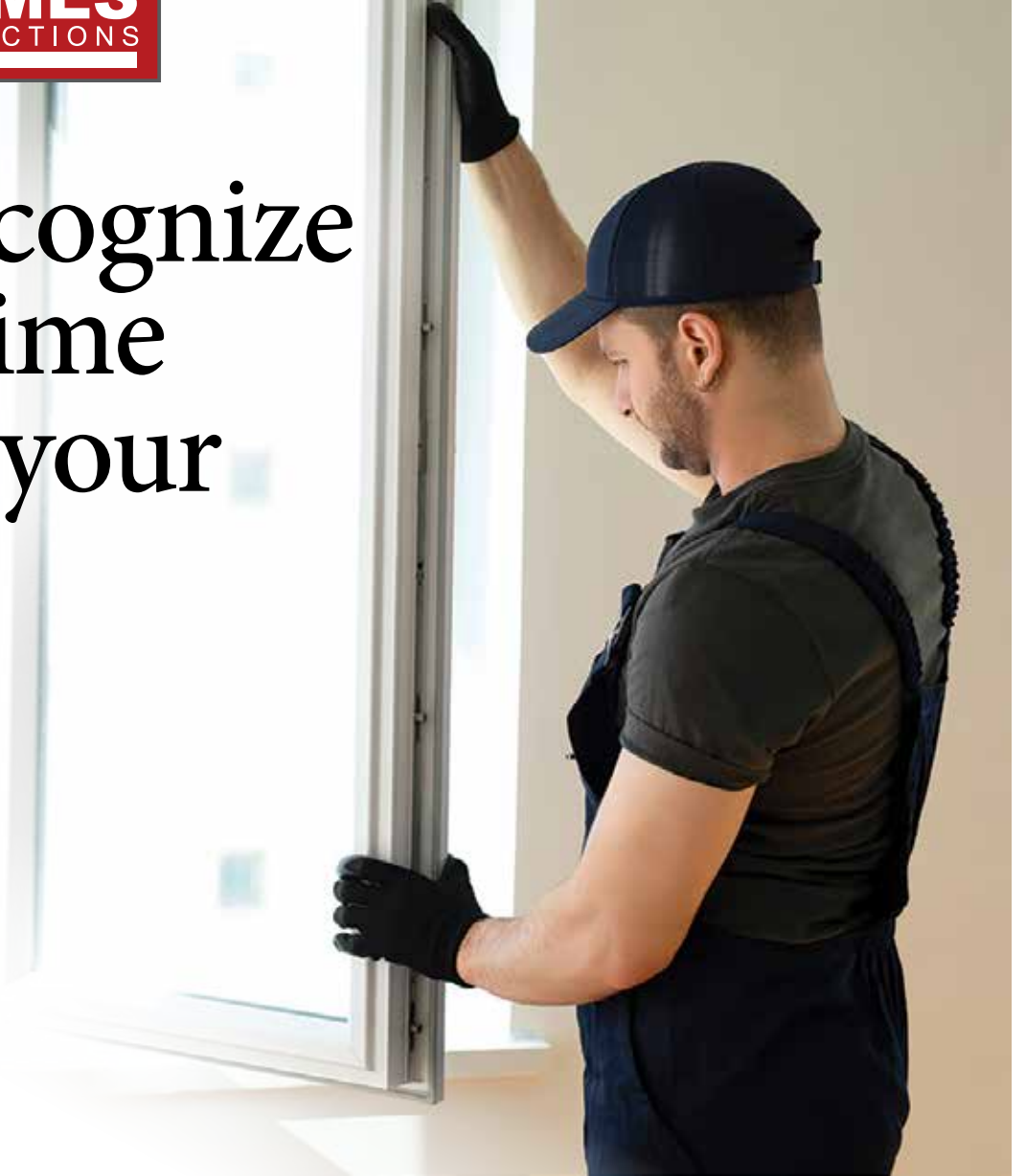
www.newscanada.com

How to recognize when it's time to replace your windows

Windows are a major component of a home. Window installation professionals will tell homeowners that the average life span of residential windows is between 15 and 30 years. Most well-maintained products can last 20 years, so homeowners who have windows approaching that age may want to schedule a window assessment and possible replacement.

Replacing windows is a job that requires advanced skill, and this is not a do-it-yourself project. There are many qualified professional window installation companies that will work with homeowners to measure, order and install windows that will fit with the style of a home and local weather, all while providing features the homeowner desires.

For those wondering when to replace windows, Pella and Renewal by Andersen, two of the premiere window manufacturers, offer these guidelines.



DIFFICULTY OPENING AND CLOSING WINDOWS.

A window that does not operate as it should can aggravate homeowners. If windows are sticking shut or cannot be securely closed, it's probably time for something new.

THERE'S APPARENT WINDOW DAMAGE.

Accidents happen, and if a rock is kicked up from a lawnmower and cracks a window or if spring baseball practice has gone awry with an errant throw, windows may require replacement.

DRAFTS IN THE WINDOW ARE COMMON.

If heating and cooling systems are working overtime, drafty, poorly-insulated windows could be to blame. Various agencies can perform energy efficiency tests in a home. Windows that are determined to be the weak spots should be replaced.

DATED WINDOWS ARE PRESENT IN THE HOME.

Older windows may pose safety hazards, especially those in older homes. A larger window may be needed

to comply with fire safety codes allowing for window egress. Dated windows also may simply look "old" and compromise the aesthetics of a home.

OUTDOOR NOISES ARE NOTICED QUITE READILY.

Newer windows can help reduce noise transmission. So those leaf blowers, airplanes, barking dogs, and kids playing basketball up the street won't disturb homeowners as they try to enjoy some peace and quiet indoors.

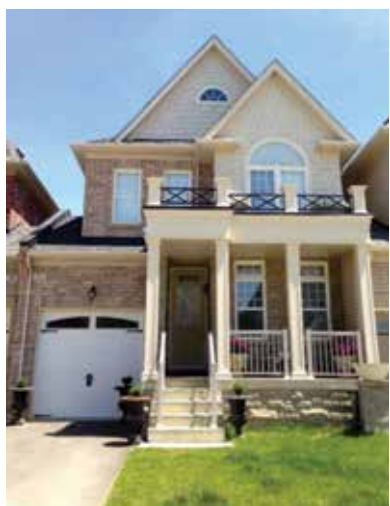
FADING INDOORS IS NOTED.

Windows that do not feature low-emissivity (Low-E) glass coatings will not block UV rays. Those rays can cause fading to wood floors and furniture or pretty much anything the sunlight touches. Replacing existing windows with Low-E coating alternatives can safeguard belongings and improve window efficiency.

Window replacement may be necessary when existing windows are showing signs of aging or damage.

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**RESALE
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THE GREAT AURORA MAKEOVER: Julien Laurion's quest to turn "Meh" into "Wow!"



By Julien Laurion
The Big Tuna of Real Estate

In the heart of Aurora, Ontario, where the homes have as much character as the people living in them, there's a hero among us.

NOT THE KIND WHO WEARS A CAPE (though we're not ruling it out for themed Thursdays), but one who wields a hammer with the finesse of Thor and has an eye for real estate potential that could give HGTV stars a run for their money. Meet Julien Laurion, the maestro of makeovers, the wizard of renovations, and quite possibly, your next best friend in the quest to transform your home from "meh" to "wow!"

Julien's journey in the magical world of real estate and renovations began not in the dusty archives of ancient home makeover scrolls, but amidst the humble abodes of Aurora. With a keen eye for potential and a passion for transformation, Julien saw not just homes, but canvases waiting for a masterstroke. And thus, armed with a tape measure and a vision, he set out to turn the ordinary into the extraordinary, one property at a time.

But what sets Julien apart in the bustling metropolis of Aurora's real estate scene? Is it his unparalleled skill in finding the diamond in the rough properties? His ability to see a spa bathroom where you only see a broom closet? Or perhaps it's his commitment to turning your basement into the ultimate man cave or zen retreat, depending on the day's mood.

One of Julien's most talked-about makeovers involves a house on the brink of being dubbed "The Haunted House of Aurora." With its peeling paint, creaky floors, and a garden that was more "wilderness" than "backyard oasis," it was the stuff of real estate nightmares. But where others saw despair, Julien saw a challenge. Fast forward six months, and the once-dreaded house became the jewel of the neighborhood, boasting a kitchen so sleek and modern, even the most discerning of chefs would nod in approval.

And let's not forget the infamous "Garage Turned Glamour Den" project. Picture this: a garage so cluttered, you'd expect to find a lost civilization within its depths. Julien, with his trusty team, dove into the abyss and emerged victorious, transforming the space into a haven of relaxation and entertainment. The new "Glamour Den" quickly became the envy of the neighborhood, complete with a state-of-the-art home theater, a bar that rivals the town's best, and lighting that sets the perfect mood for either a movie marathon or a cocktail party.

But Julien's talents don't stop at renovations. His real estate prowess is equally legendary. With a knack for matching people with their dream homes, he's like the Cupid of real estate, minus the arrows and the diaper. Whether you're looking for a cozy starter home or a sprawling estate to host your weekly book club (or disco night, I don't judge), Julien's your guy.

Of course, every hero has their quirks, and Julien is no exception. Rumor has it, he can't start his day without a double shot of espresso and a walk with his dog, Sir Fluffington III, around Aurora's picturesque streets. Some say it's where he gets his best ideas. Others whisper that Sir Fluffington is the real brains behind the operation. The truth remains a mystery.

In a world where "boring" and "standard" have become all too common, Julien Laurion stands as a beacon of creativity and innovation. His mission? To ensure that every home in Aurora reflects the uniqueness and charm of its inhabitants. So, if you're ready to embark on a journey of transformation, to turn your living space from "just another house" on the street to "that incredible home" everyone talks about, Julien's your go-to guru.

Just remember, when you see a spectacular home in Aurora that makes you do a double-take, chances are, Julien Laurion had a hand in it. And if you're lucky, your home could be next on his list of magnificent makeovers. So, gear up, Aurora! It's time to bid farewell to the mundane and embrace the extraordinary, one renovation 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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MODERN ELEGANCE – RICHMOND HILL

Discover elegance and luxury in this upgraded home, boasting a modern kitchen with stainless appliances and quartz counters. Hardwood floors, crown moulding, and pot lights enhance its charm. Enjoy a spa-like ensuite in the primary bedroom and versatile space in the finished basement. Offered at \$1,599,000.



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