

# Special New Year Edition King Weekly Sentinel

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King's Community Newspaper

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FREE

Thursday, January 2, 2025

Volume 51, Issue 1

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# Highlights of 2024



January



## Julianne Boileau

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## Mayor reflects on milestones in 2024

As 2024 draws to a close, I'm delighted to reflect on a transformative year for King Township – a year marked by innovation, sustainability and a deep commitment to community well-being. Here are just some of the highlights of what we've accomplished together.

We're thrilled to announce the upcoming opening of the Zancor Centre in January. This state-of-the-art, multi-use recreation facility will be the first in Canada to achieve Zero Carbon Building Design certification. With two NHL-sized ice rinks, aquatics facilities and a turf fieldhouse, the Zancor Centre represents a milestone in sustainability and recreation. And note, less than 1% of the cost came from residential taxes; we received federal, provincial and developers' contributions to fund the cost.

Community-driven planning exercises are underway for King City and Nobleton, ensuring sustainable and vibrant development in key areas. Open houses welcomed residents to shape the vision for these neighborhoods, emphasizing heritage preservation and community growth. Stay tuned for a series of more Open Houses for the Official Plan review scheduled for January.

Feedback from residents and stakeholders is helping shape the long-term vision for our transportation infrastructure, ensuring King Township remains well-connected, accessible and future-ready.

This year, we harnessed technology to make King Township more efficient, transparent and accessible. We launched our performance dashboard, which allows residents to track service delivery metrics, from snow clearing to recreation programs, enhancing transpar-



ency and accountability. Kingsley, our Virtual Assistant, powered by AI, offers 24/7 assistance on our website, making it easier than ever for residents to access information.

Ask King Planning is a new online service which enables residents to schedule one-on-one consultations with planners at their convenience, streamlining access to critical planning services.

We continued to prioritize community well-being and heritage preservation. Utilizing \$250,000 in provincial funding, we began restoring two iconic buildings – the King

Christian Church and the King Railway Station – underscoring our dedication to preserving King's rich history.

September saw the launch of our first annual Safe Streets initiative, focusing on pedestrian, cyclist and driver safety.

We expanded the Taste of Main dining event from Schomberg to all of King Township, renaming it Taste of King. The two-week culinary celebration spotlights the Township's culinary diversity, from fine dining to casual bites, at eateries across the Township. We also introduced a new event, Kingtoberfest, which celebrated German culture and cuisine at the Cold Creek Conservation Area.

This year, we introduced a new service-based budget model, emphasizing transparency and alignment with community priorities as we continue to deliver high-quality services while responsibly managing taxpayer funds.

As we look to 2025, I'm excited for what's to come – the official opening of the Zancor Centre, further progress in neighborhood planning and ongoing community engagement in shaping our Township's future.

Thank you to our Council, staff, and most importantly, our residents and businesses for your partnership and support. Together, we're making King Township an exceptional place to live, work and thrive.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Please continue to volunteer, shop local and visit [king.ca](http://king.ca) for all things King.

~ Mayor Steve Pellegrini

## HAPPY New Year

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All the best in 2025!

from the staff at  
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# KING



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king.ca

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## Upcoming Meetings



### COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, January 13**  
6 p.m. - Council Public Planning
- Monday, January 27**  
6 p.m. - Council
- Monday, February 03**  
6 p.m. - Council Public Planning
- Monday, February 10**  
6 p.m. - Council
- Monday, February 24**  
6 p.m. - Council

In-person at the King Township Municipal Centre and live streamed at [king.ca/meetings](http://king.ca/meetings)

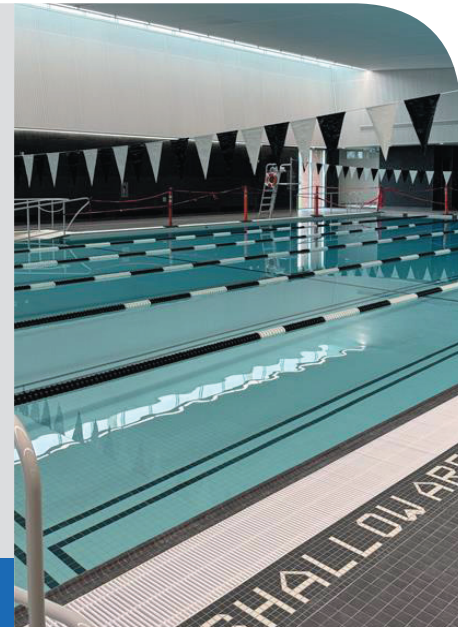
View full Council and Committee agendas at [king.ca/meetings](http://king.ca/meetings)

## Unsure which swimming level to register for?

### Swim assessments

A swim instructor will guide your little swimmer through a series of in-water skills and provide parents/guardians with the recommended appropriate swim level. Pre-registration required.

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For more information, visit [king.ca/aquatics](http://king.ca/aquatics)



## Time to say goodbye to your Christmas tree?

### We've got you covered!

Pickup Dates: Weeks of Jan. 6 and Jan. 13.

### Reminder:

- Remove all decorations, nails, tree stands, and plastic bags.
- Trees over 6 feet? Cut them into pieces!

For more information, visit [king.ca/waste](http://king.ca/waste)



## Water Bills

Due Date: February 26

Property owners receive six water bills this year, for the billing cycle ending in February, April, June, August, October, and December reflecting two months of usage.

Register for the Township's ebilling service to receive an electronic version of your water utility bill or property tax directly to your email or sign up for the Pre-Authorized Debit Program (PAD).



[king.ca/waterbilling](http://king.ca/waterbilling)

New 2025 waste calendar is online now at [king.ca/waste](http://king.ca/waste)

For questions about waste removal, contact GFL at 1-866-421-5625 or email [WasteLine@gflenv.com](mailto:WasteLine@gflenv.com).

## Register now!

### 2025 Winter Recreation Guide

There's snow place like King this winter: the Township has planned a fun lineup of recreation programs (including swim lessons!) for the coolest season of the year.

Dabble in musical theatre, try cooking, coding or cross stitching, take a dance class, join an ice hockey league, play sports or explore the wintry outdoors snowshoeing or cross-country skiing! Plus, P.A. Day programs and March Break camps for the little ones!

Programs start the week of January 13, with the exception of the new Zancor Centre, where programming will start the week of January 27.



view online at

[king.ca/recreation](http://king.ca/recreation)

## We're HIRING



- Growth Management Services Coordinator
- Supervisor of Roads, Rural Maintenance & Drainage

View job postings at [king.ca/employment](http://king.ca/employment)



## Museum exhibits

The King Heritage & Cultural Centre showcases Canada's vibrant history through primary documents and artifacts, including a unique collection of over 400 Canadian-themed Wedgwood pieces. The exhibits are updated regularly, so there's always something new to discover!

### A Place to Call Home

Tuesday-Saturday, Ongoing

### Canadian Wedgwood Collection

Tuesday-Saturday, Ongoing

### Reflections of Ourselves

Tuesday-Saturday January 11 - March 1

### Resist & Persist

Tuesday-Saturday, March 8 - April 26

For more information, visit [kingheritageandculture.ca](http://kingheritageandculture.ca)



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[serviceking@king.ca](mailto:serviceking@king.ca)



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# KING



# Best of 2024 in King



January



## King Chamber marks successes in 2024

**T**he King Chamber of Commerce is on an upward trajectory. And the past year marked many firsts, milestones and achievements. This past year, the Chamber welcomed five new board of directors – Sonja Golchin, David Magahey, Carmelinda Galota, Stephanie Sinclair and past-president Angelo Santorelli.

A new Chamber Ambassador Program was launched, where members pay for their logo to be feature in a pop-up banner and displayed prominently at out events. This brought in a dozen ambassadors.

The Township Coupon Booklet, containing 38 coupons, was launched. In April, a special event – Ladies Who Lead – was held, through Seneca HELIX HERizons Program. The topic was “Knowing Your Worth in the Workplace” and the event attracted 60 attendees.

The annual Mayor’s Luncheon in May drew more than 145 guests at Nobleton Lakes. Mayor Steve Pellegrini provided township updated, goals and accomplishments.

The event series, “King After Five,” was launched, after the successful Rooftop Sunset Mingle in July. “King After Five” helps the business community connect and network. The next one is scheduled for Jan. 16, 2025 at Nobleton Dental Smiles – “New Year, New Smiles.”

The launch of King Proud and the Morning Youth Grant was another huge milestone. In all, seven recipients were selected in the first intake , each receiving \$500 to kickstart/ enhance their business.

King Proud merchandise supports the grant. The second intake will take place this coming spring. Boosting the campaign were donations by the King City Lions (\$1,500) and Seneca College (\$2,500).

A new signature event rolled in, the Gran Fondo King (September). This new event, with the help of B1 Gruppo, attracted over 150 cyclists who were able to choose from two routes. Jerseys were made by local business Surge Activewear and featured the amazing sponsors.

In August, the Farm to Table event was once again held at Beretta Farms, with a farm fresh meal provided by Beretta. The event, meant to celebrate our local farmers, attracted 83 attendees and vendors.

The King Chamber wants to be unique from ever other chambers and that’s why they are offering exclusive member perks – 30% all Cintas Services; travel savings (through Chloe the Travel Agent and Elena Cortesi wired for Travel); Mark’s Commercial digital Savings Card (only chamber in Canada offering this perk).

The annual Excellence in Business Awards enjoyed a first – a sold-out crowd of 149. Seven awards and two new ones were handed out this year. The night also celebrated the Morning Youth Grant recipients and provided them plaques and gave an opportunity for them to address the crowd on their businesses and what the funds went towards.

Chamber representatives showed their community support at more than 50 events throughout the year.

The year also saw 14 new annual sponsors, and membership increased by almost 10% with 250+ members.

The Chamber now has an office located at the Trisan Centre and is staffed every Wednesday and Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mercedes Lato was hired as a full-time permanent employee of KCC as the Member Services Manager.

The Chamber is promising more successes and special events in 2025.

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# Memorable Moments of 2024 in King



## TOGETHER we care

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At Hospall Private Homecare, we believe that helping seniors to age in place is a key part of building a stronger community. We also prioritize giving back to the community in many ways. As we reflect on the past year, we celebrate the families in King Township that we have been honoured to work with, the trust they place in our care, our fantastic, best-in-class Caregiving Team, and our community involvement with the Township of King. From volunteering with the King Food Bank, supporting the Alzheimer's Society of York Region fundraising efforts, sponsoring local theatre, participating in the King Chamber of Commerce and supporting the King Township's Age Friendly Steering Committee, we are proud to call King Township our home.

*Wishing all a happy, prosperous and healthy*  
**NEW YEAR**



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# Best of 2024 in King



March



## Wishing

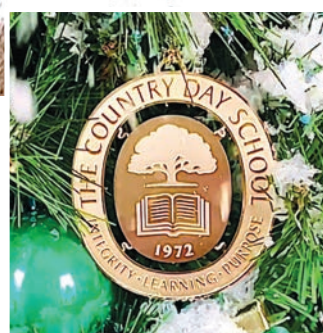
you and your family a peaceful holiday season and all the best for the New Year!

During this season of giving, the CDS community supported the following charities:

- \*Blue Door's Leeder Place
- \*Holiday Heroes Toy Drive
- \*Inn from the Cold
- \*Rose of Sharon
- \*Seniors Wish
- \*The Welcome Table
- \*Yellow Brick House

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# CDS

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EDUCATION WITH BALANCE



# CHATS reflects on successes

By Christina Bisanz  
CEO CHATS

Community & Home Assistance to Seniors

As we reflect on the past months, I am reminded of the incredible power of collaboration and community. Together with our Leadership Team, Board and Committee Members, CHATS has actively engaged with government officials, including MPs and MPPs, to champion critical issues facing seniors and the community support services sector. These discussions centered on wage parity, staffing resources, and enhanced funding – key areas essential to addressing the growing needs of our aging population.

We need our elected officials to advocate with us, for seniors in York Region and South Simcoe. To help them understand the need, several elected officials were able to experience CHATS programs in action at our Aurora, Richmond Hill, and Markham locations. These visits offered a unique opportunity to witness firsthand, the life-changing impact of our services on clients and families. We're hoping these experiences help to influence an understanding of the critical need to invest more funding into the seniors-service sector and CHATS.

Community engagement remains at the heart of our mission. This fall, we celebrated the success of several initiatives, including the "Amazing Adventure: Country Edition," which raised an impressive \$37,000 for our In-Home Services. Events like these exemplify the spirit of generosity and commitment that drives our work.

We are equally proud to participate in the United Way Greater Toronto Staff Giving Campaign. Through creative fundraising efforts, our team is supporting programs that foster inclusivity and independence for seniors.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported the CHATS Raffle, which raised funds for York Region's first not-for-profit Overnight Residential Respite Dementia Care Centre. Your generosity is making a difference for seniors and their families.

At CHATS, we are steadfast in our dedication to ensuring seniors live with dignity, independence, and grace. Whether it's through our programs, partnerships, or community events, your support enables us to continue this vital work.

Visit [investinchats.ca](http://investinchats.ca) <http://www.investinchats.ca> to learn more about how we're driving meaningful change.

## Memorable Moments of

# 2024

in King

March



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# Memorable Moments of 2024 in King

## Canadians will have some big choices to make

By Anna Roberts  
King-Vaughan MP

2024 was rough. In 2025, Canadians will have a big choice to make.

From the country roads with some of the richest soil in the world in the Holland Marsh to the urban city centre at Canada's Wonderland, I've been all over this year, listening to the voices of the people of King-Vaughan and sharing the common sense Conservative message throughout Ontario and Quebec.

I've attended 346 events over the past 365 days throughout 2 provinces all within our one amazing country. The true north strong and free. I do this all to share our common sense movement to bring home the country we once knew and still love.

I've done a lot in 2024, and there's still so much more to do. I've been knocking on doors, attending town hall meetings, church fundraisers, seniors' luncheons, political rallies, and much more. Everywhere I go, the message I hear is the same, Canadians are fed up and want an election now.

2024 has been a rough year for many Canadians. The NDP-Liberal govern-

ment has caused skyrocketing debt, skyrocketing inflation, skyrocketing addictions, and skyrocketing overdose deaths.

Soon Canadians will have a choice to make at the polls; a common sense Conservative government that will axe the tax to lower the cost of gas, groceries, and home heating; a Conservative government that will build the homes Canadians desperately need by axing the sales tax on new homes under \$1 million; a Conservative government that will fix the budget with a dollar-for-dollar law, for every new dollar of spending there must be a dollar of savings to bring down inflation; a Conservative government that will stop the crime by bringing jail, not bail for repeat violent offenders and securing our borders to keep illegal firearms out.

OR an NDP-Liberal government that doubled your housing costs, by adding a ton of bureaucracy and red tape, skyrocketed the cost of food with their regressive carbon tax, and unleashed crime, chaos, drugs, and disorder in our streets with their soft-on-crime, hug-a-thug policies.



Happy

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YEAR

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# Best of 2024 in King



May



STEPHEN  
**LECCE**  
MPP for King–Vaughan

WISHING YOU A POSITIVE

# 2025

PROUD TO SERVE OUR  
INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY



# Memorable Moments of 2024 in King



**Wishing you a bright New Year**  
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# Best of 2024 in King



June



July



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Merry Christmas*

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# Memorable Moments of 2024 in King

July



2025  
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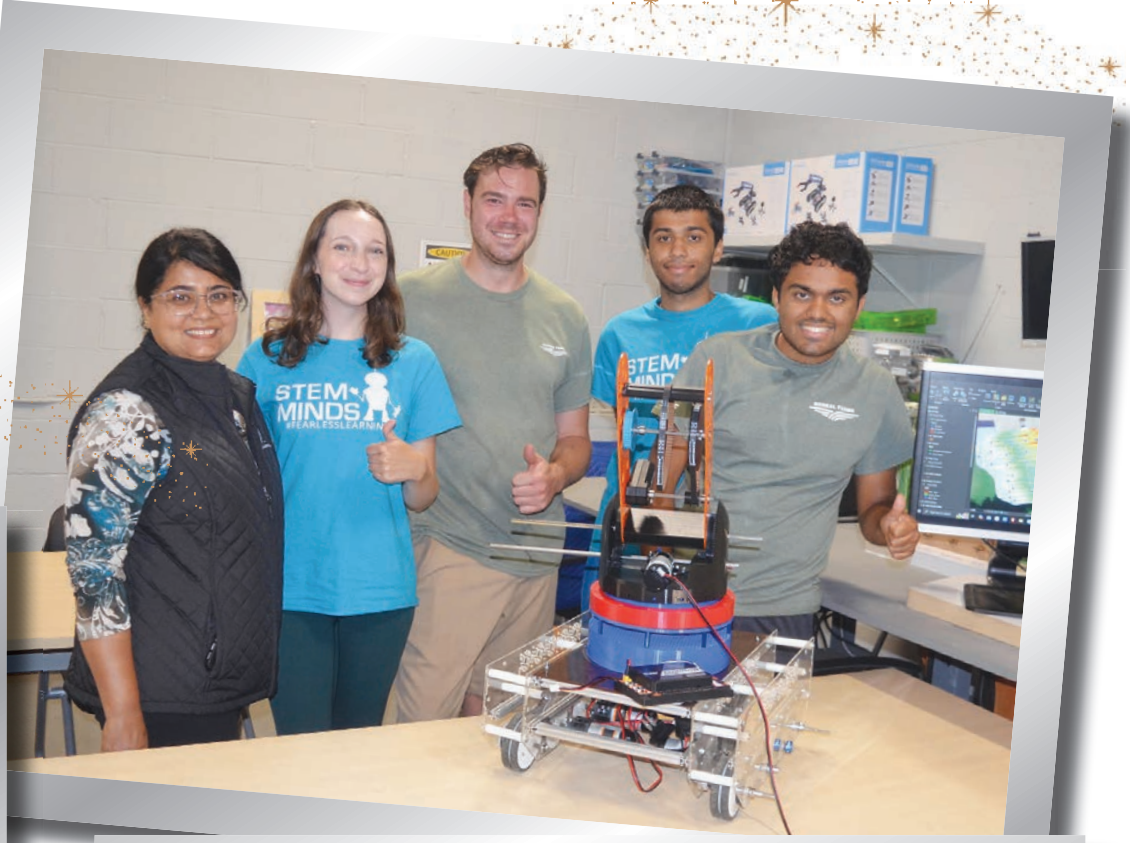
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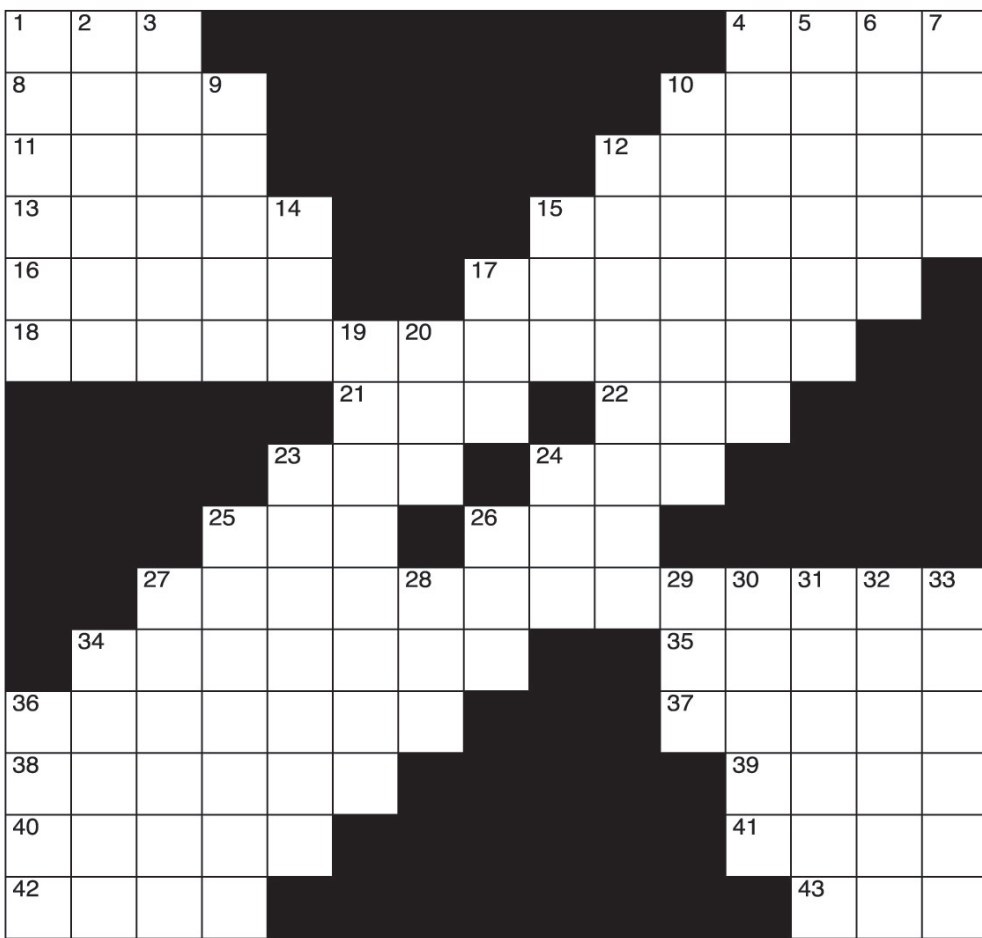


# Memorable Moments of 2024 in King



## CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 251110 • Solution on page 18



- |   |  |                               |                               |
|---|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>CLUES ACROSS</b>                         | 24. Satisfaction                       | <b>CLUES DOWN</b>             | 23. Delta is one              |
| 1. Americans' "uncle"                       | 25. A person's brother or sister       | 1. Counterbalancing debt      | 24. NE Massachusetts cape     |
| 4. Chair                                    | 26. Folk singer                        | 2. In slow tempo              | 25. Soup cracker              |
| 8. Ancient kingdom                          | DiFranco                               | 3. Glamorous city             | 26. Yes vote                  |
| 10. Egyptian city                           | 27. The Blonde Bombshell               | 4. Japanese lute              | 27. Muddy ground              |
| 11. Alaskan glacier                         | 34. Kids' school project               | 5. Makes law                  | 28. Physics apparatus (abbr.) |
| 12. One from Somalia                        | 35. Bluish greens                      | 6. Informative book           | 29. Type of drug              |
| 13. Ancient alphabets                       | 36. Classifying                        | 7. Animal's body part         | 30. German city               |
| 15. Relating to vocabulary                  | 37. Cube-shaped                        | 9. American playwright        | 31. Animal disease            |
| 16. Small mongrels                          | 38. Choo-choos                         | 10. Blood poisoning           | 32. Martini ingredients       |
| 17. Natural settings                        | 39. Indian religious god               | 12. Angels                    | 33. Get away                  |
| 18. Weekend entertainments                  | of dissolution                         | 14. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.) | 34. Spanish municipality      |
| 21. Line from which light seemingly streams | 40. French department                  | 15. Written account           | 36. Thrust a knife into       |
| 22. Your own private code                   | 41. Leak into gradually                | 17. Unwelcome pest            |                               |
| 23. Swiss river                             | 42. Foundation                         | 19. Saddle horses             |                               |
|   | 43. Midway between south and southeast | 20. Type of gibbon            |                               |

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

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September



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# MPP looks forward with 'hope' and 'optimism'

By Stephen Lecce  
King-Vaughan MPP

As we close out a strong year and look forward to 2025 with hope and optimism – I want to take a minute and highlight some of our community's greatest accomplishments this year.

Our government put forward an ambitious plan to improve our healthcare system and address the shortage of family doctors in our community. So, in addition to delivering the largest medical school expansion in decades – including by building net-new medical schools in the GTA – this past spring, we made history by delivering the York University School of Medicine, Canada's very first medical school with a dedicated mandate to train new family doctors that is set to open in 2028 at the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital, just down Jane Street. This means it is now possible for a student raised in King to go to medical school in our community and stay here to serve local families across our cherished hamlets.

Our mission is simple: to deliver better healthcare, closer to home – and we will continue to do just that.

We are also building two brand new long-term care homes, one at St. Rita at Mary Lake and another at the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital, to deliver a combined 416 net-new long-term care beds that will serve our seniors who have sacrificed so much to build this country.

Before 2018, King Township had the lowest ratio of long-term care beds to residents in the province. That was an unacceptable reality, and these new state-of-the-art facilities will ensure that is no longer the case by allowing our seniors to age in comfort close to their loved ones.

On the transit front, I've heard loud and clear from King City residents that we need to put an end to the loud horns of the GO train. I listened – and was proud to announce that we are literally getting rid of the bells and whistles at Station Rd, Dufferin St, and 15th Sideroad crossings – a big win for families living nearby. At the same time, we're upgrading the King City GO station with substantial renovations to make your commute faster and more convenient – like adding 198 net-new parking spaces, and delivering two-way, all-day train service by building a second platform and installing a second track.

This year, we've also integrated all GTA transit fares into "One Fare," saving you an average

of \$1,600 every year by eliminating double fares when transferring from the GO train to the TTC or YRT.

Recently, I was proud to provide a positive progress update to our community on high-speed internet expansion to the rural households of our Township, with the YorkNet expansion project on track to connect over 3,800 homes in York Region to reliable, high-speed internet by the end of this year. If you live on a rural road in the Township and don't currently have access to high-speed internet – chances are, you will be connected very soon.

With that said, there is one item that I know is top of mind for everyone in the Township: affordability. And it's why we've stood up for the taxpayer at every turn. Whether it's taking the Provincial Sales Tax off essential items, removing the Gas Tax to save you 10.7 cents/litre at the pumps, standing up to the expensive Federal Liberal Carbon Tax that adds 17.6 cents/litre every time you refill your car, or keeping your Hydro rates low, we will continue investing in the critical infrastructure needed to grow our province and economy – without raising your taxes.

As we end 2024 on a positive note, stay tuned for much more to come soon. In just under a month from now, we will see the new Township-Wide Recreation Centre finally open its doors to King families. Growing up as a Hockey Kid, I know very well how important access to sports and recreation is to kids and families – so I made it a personal mission to deliver this state-of-the-art recreation centre equipped with two NHL-sized ice rinks, a six-lane 25-metre lap pool and an athletic fieldhouse. This was the largest provincial investment in any community or recreation centre in the history of our province.

A parting note – thank you for your continued support, but more importantly, thank you for strong advocacy on these issues that hit home for so many. I know that by working together, we can – and will – make our community better for our families, friends, and neighbours.

My New Year's resolution is to continue standing up for common sense values: Getting tough on crime. Keeping energy bills and taxes down. Opposing the Federal Liberal Carbon Tax. And building for the future. I'm wishing every one of you all the best as we kick-off the new year.

# Memorable Moments of 2024 in King

October

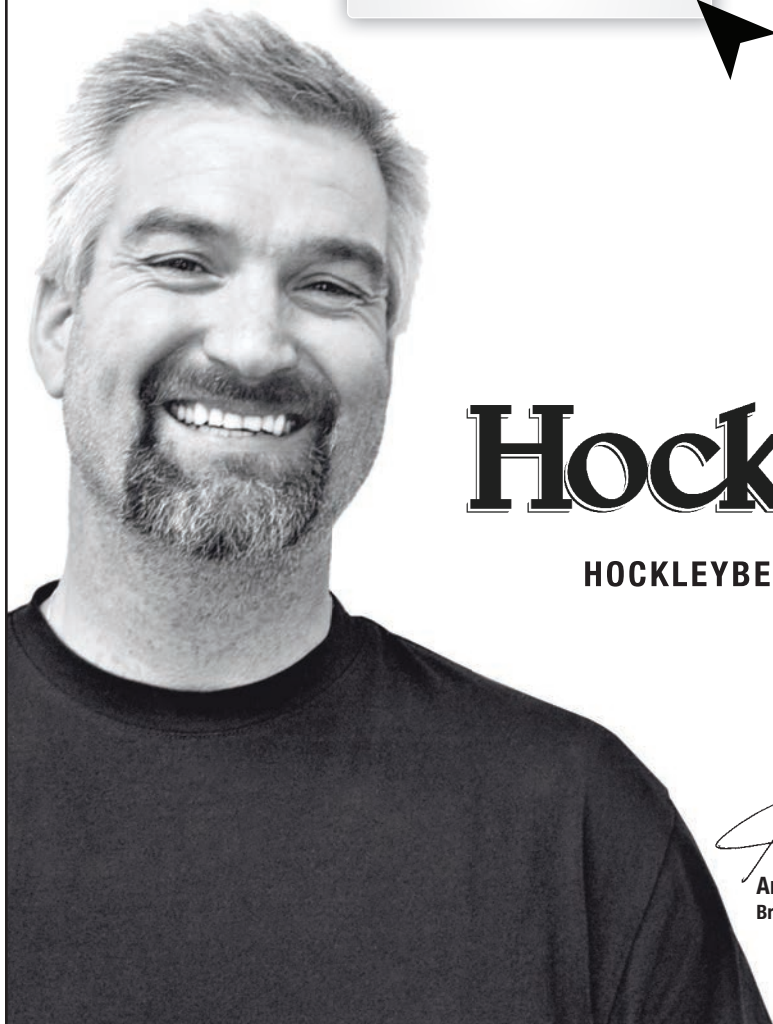


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## November



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# Memorable Moments of 2024 in King



November



## York Region launches cold weather response

**Y**ork Region issues a Cold Weather Alert for people experiencing homelessness when temperatures are forecasted to be -15°C or colder, with or without wind chill, for any local municipality in the Region.

York Region's Cold Weather Response Plan aims to ensure that people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness in York Region can access timely and inclusive supports throughout the cold weather season. The plan guides the Region's coordinated efforts to notify residents who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness to take precautions during cold weather alerts, collaborate with community and outreach services to connect people to the right supports, and expand services like seasonal shelters to keep people safe from harsh weather conditions.

The impact of cold temperatures can be extremely harmful to people staying outside for long periods of time. York Region staff work to prevent and reduce negative health outcomes through the following efforts:

~ Advising the public when cold weather is expected.

- ~ Providing supplies and educational materials.
- ~ Directing people to public spaces to stay warm.
- ~ Enhancing outreach services.
- ~ Collaborating with service providers to increase system capacity.

Anyone seeking shelter during Cold Weather Alerts can contact the York Region Emergency Housing Central Intake Line at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 76140. For a list of emergency housing locations please visit [york.ca/Emergency-Housing](http://york.ca/Emergency-Housing)

You can also visit [york.ca/Extreme-Cold](http://york.ca/Extreme-Cold) for information and tips about how to stay safe during cold weather conditions.

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# 2025

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*December*

