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King's Community Newspaper

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FREE Thursday, JANUARY 9, 2025 Volume 52, Issue 2

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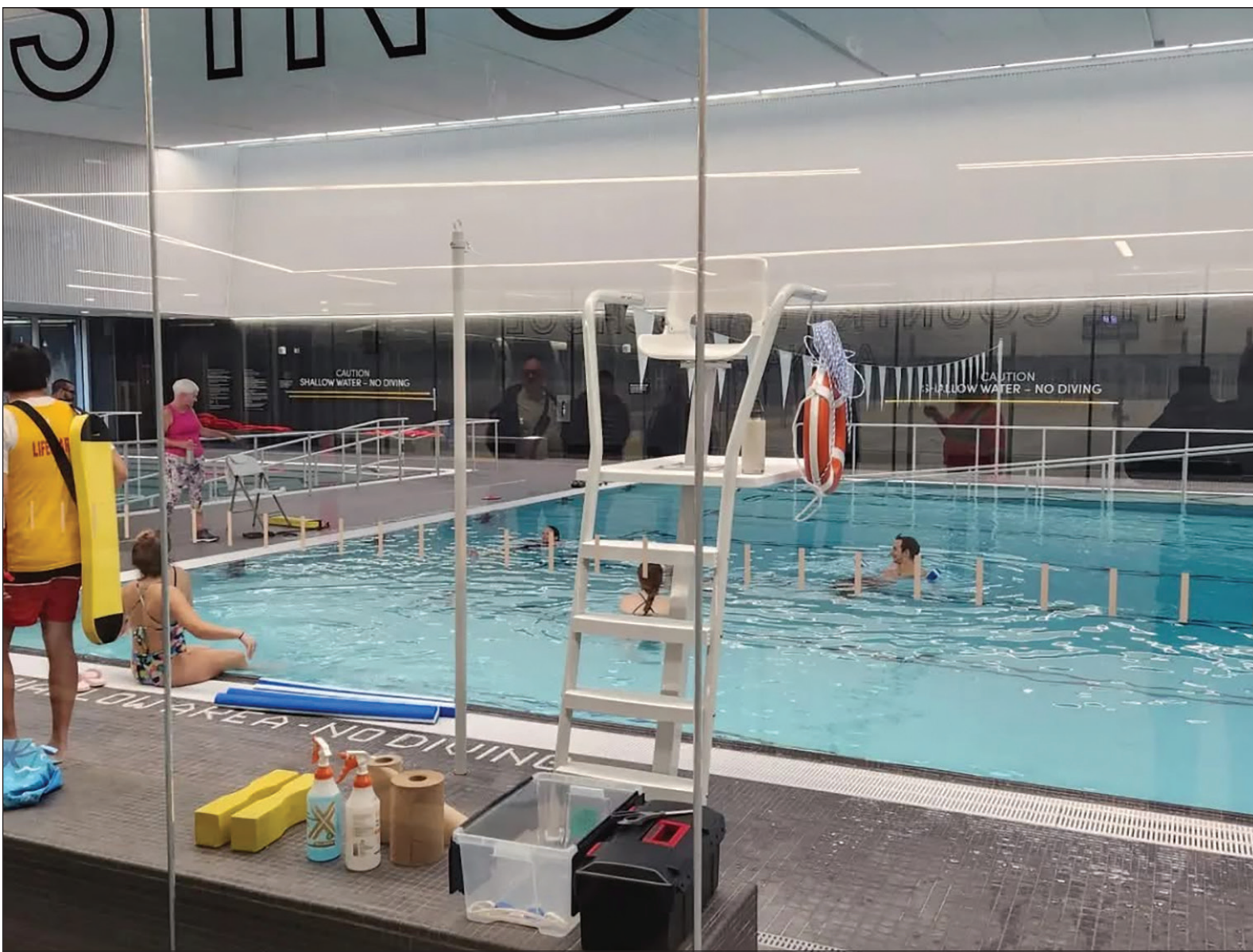
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Residents got their first glimpse of King's new, state-of-the-art Zancor Centre Jan. 4. Various drop-in programs are now in full swing. The official opening is scheduled for Jan. 26.

King's new Zancor Centre is now open

The Zancor Centre – King Township's new, multi-use recreation facility located at 1600 15th Sideroad in King City – was granted partial occupancy opened its doors to the public Jan. 4.

The facility welcomed drop-in swimming and sports programming, along with recreational skating. Admission fees vary by age and are payable at the door. Schedules can be viewed at king.ca/DropInPrograms.

A monthly RecPass, which gets residents unlimited access to drop-in recreational programming (including swimming, skating, shinny hockey, sports and access to fitness equipment and group fitness classes), is also available for sale online and in-person. The RecPass is valid at all King Township recreation facilities. For details, including fees, visit king.ca/RecPass.

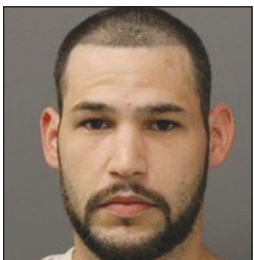

The official opening celebration is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 26 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The free event will feature a ribbon cutting ceremony with dignitaries followed by

the Mayor's Pancake Breakfast. Recreational swimming and skating, as well as sports including soccer, badminton, lacrosse, basketball, and pickleball will be available throughout the day for all ages. Capacity restrictions apply. Visitors can also go on staff-led facility tours to view the facility's state-of-the-art amenities.

Hockey fans are invited to cheer on the King Rebellion Junior A team, when they play their first game in their home rink – the JTF Homes Arena – against the Caledon Admirals. The puck drops at 3 p.m. Admission is free with a non-perishable food item or monetary donation to the King Township Food Bank.

More information about the Official Opening celebration, including programming schedules and a list of special guests, will be shared in the new year. For regular updates, visit king.ca/ZancorCentre.

See 'Centre' on Page 3

INSIDE	REGULAR FEATURES		
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	Business	Page 8	 Garden club holds AGM, notes many successes in 2024. See Page 10
	Sports	Page 13	
	Classifieds	Page 14	

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Making life better in King

Upcoming Meetings 

COUNCIL MEETINGS
Monday, January 13
6 p.m. - Council Public Planning
Monday, January 27
6 p.m. - Council

In-person at the King Township Municipal Centre and live streamed at king.ca/meetings

View full Council and Committee agendas at king.ca/meetings

Recent Planning & Heritage Notices

- **Notice of Public Planning Meeting Monday, January 13, 2025 Concerning a Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment Re: 14855 Highway 27 (File No. Z-2024-10)**

View full planning and heritage notices at king.ca/news and subscribe to receive these notices by email at king.ca/subscribe

NEW pet licensing online registration and renewal portal

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 - Automatic annual renewal notifications

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king.ca/pets

Join our team

Get paid to have fun working as a **summer camp counsellor, coordinator, or director** at recreation facilities across King Township during the **summer**.

View the job postings and application details online.



For more information, visit king.ca/employment

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



NEW ice Hockey Leagues

Hit the ice at **Zancor Centre** in one of our girls and women's only leagues, starting in February. These leagues offer a fun environment for all skill levels to enjoy the sport of ice hockey and run a **9-game season** with one game scheduled per week on the NHL-sized, JTF Homes Arena.

For more information and program details, visit king.ca/leagues

Join us! King Township is reviewing its Official Plan to guide growth to 2051, and we want your input. Attend one of three Public Open Houses to learn about the project, share your ideas, and help shape the future of our community.

Public Open Houses
 From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., with a presentation at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 16
 Trisan Centre
 25 Dillane Drive, Schomberg

Wednesday, January 22
 King Township Municipal Centre
 2585 King Road, King City

Wednesday, January 29
 Dr. William Laceyby Community Centre & Arena
 15 Old King Road, Nobleton

Learn more at speaking.king.ca/our-king-official-plan-review

Questions? email policyplanning@king.ca




SCAN HERE to visit the Official Plan Review webpage



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 - Fitness Instructor
 - Fitness Attendant
 - Recreation League Convenor
 - Inclusion Facilitator
- View job postings at king.ca/employment
- 

Official Opening of Zancor Centre
Featuring the Mayor's Pancake Breakfast
Sunday, January 26
 9 am to 6 pm

Skating • Swimming • Sports

King Rebellion vs. the Caledon Admirals
 OJHL game (puck drops at 3 p.m. Non-perishable food item for donation to the King Township Food Bank required for entry)

For more information, visit king.ca/ZancorCentre



Open house draws 150 residents to new Zancor Centre

By Jim Stewart

More than 150 visitors dropped into the Zancor Centre on Saturday afternoon to play some basketball, tear around on the artificial turf field, use the track, swim at the aquatic centre, and tour the arenas.

Most area residents explored the pristine JTF Homes Arena – the home of the King Junior A Rebellion. Club staff could be seen transporting equipment to the Rebellion’s new dressing room decorated in team colors.

Onlookers loved the centre ice score-clock, the outdoor lighting, and the NHL-sized ice surface. Seeing the electric-powered Ice Wolf put through its paces provided visitors with a glimpse of the future when it comes to environmentally-responsible ice cleaning.

Many residents expressed concerns about the lack of seating in both arenas, the shortness of the athletic field, the scarcity of pickleball courts, and the sparsely-equipped workout room.

Otherwise, good vibes were felt throughout the facility as dozens of kids and adults splashed in the aquatic centre’s pools which were lined by life-guards.

In addition to an enjoyable warm swim on a cold day, the basketball court was abuzz with riveting half-court action as a group of players from nearby high schools were immersed in a competitive three-on-three game. Others worked on their game at an easier pace at the other end of the spacious new court. All players loved the feel of the new court.

On the dark green, yellow-lined artificial turf field, kids threw Frisbees, ran around on the comfy surface, and worked on their field lacrosse skills while families used the oval three-lane

track to cart newborns around the facility.

A terrific trio of King staff greeted visitors and fielded questions about the recreation programs being offered at the Zancor Centre. The front desk welcomed a steady flow of queries and helped with access to the facility.

The grand opening of the \$100-million carbon-neutral recreation centre will be Sunday, January 26. Festivities kick off at 9 a.m., including the Mayor’s Annual Pancake Breakfast, and culminate with an OJHL game at 3 p.m. between the Caledon Admirals and the Rebellion. Admission is free at the sparkling JTF Homes Arena for King’s long-awaited “opening game” at Zancor.



Centre offers a variety of programs

From Front Page

The \$86-million facility sits on 25 acres at the southeast corner of the King Campus of Seneca and is accessible from 15th Sideroad. The Zancor Centre includes an aquatics centre with a six-lane lap pool and leisure pool, two NHL-sized ice rinks, spectator seating, an artificial turf fieldhouse with a running track, and a multi-use community space. Outdoor amenities include a large courtyard with direct access to social and community rooms, with future plans for the site including connections to the Oak Ridges Moraine trail system and outdoor sports fields.

Construction of the multi-partner facility was jointly funded by the Township of King, the Government of Ontario, the Government of Canada through the Investing in Canada Plan, as well as Seneca Polytechnic and the development community.

The multi-use recreation centre became the first combined aquatics and ice-sports community facility in Canada to achieve Zero Carbon Building Design Certification by the Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC). This certification is awarded for new constructions which demonstrate climate leadership through innovative carbon reduction strategies and optimal building performance. Innovative features designed to reduce carbon emissions include all electrical building systems to recover waste heat, daylight optimization for energy efficiency, minimal dependence on gas-fired equipment, and geothermal readiness.

Registration for the winter session

of recreation and aquatic programs at the Zancor Centre is ongoing and available online 24/7 at townshipofking.perfectmind.com.

The facility’s Aqua Tech Solutions Aquatic Centre will offer learn-to-swim lessons for all ages, based on the Ontario Lifesaving Society’s Swim for Life program which features programming for parent and tots, preschoolers, children and adults, as well as private lessons for children ages three to 12. Aquatic leadership programs to train youth for employment as a swim instructor or lifeguard are also available.

Fifteen-minute swim assessments are available throughout January, where a swim instructor will guide children through a series of in-water skills and provide parents with recommendations on the most appropriate swim level to register their child, if they are unsure. The cost is \$4 per assessment; pre-registration is required and open now at townshipofking.perfectmind.com.

View the full list of programs in the interactive Winter Recreation Guide available at king.ca/recreation.

“The opening of the Zancor Centre marks a new era for King Township. This facility is a testament to our commitment to providing top-notch recreational opportunities for our residents. This is more than just a building; it’s a place where memories will be made and community bonds will be strengthened. We look forward to welcoming everyone on January 26 to celebrate this exciting addition to our community. Together, we will create a vibrant hub for sports, leisure and community activities.”

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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

Knowledge alone isn't enough to advance our species

Knowledge itself is power, and it's also not free – you have to pay attention! Adam Grove, Canadian comedian and host of the TV quiz show Cash Cab, is my companion on quiet Sunday mornings.

I cheer for the contestants and celebrate my own knowledge of general trivia.

For some reason, we humans relish facts and factoids, even if they're elusive. We are glued to the set for shows such as Jeopardy, Who Wants to be a Millionaire and Weakest Link. Along with the brain teasers, the show hosts and contestants provide us armchair trivia buffs with endless entertainment.

Our magical brains can access, interpret, process and store limitless amounts of data. We are walking super computers, capable of millions of computations per second.

All of our brain is constantly in use and consumes a tremendous amount of energy. Despite making up only two percent of our body weight, it devours 20 per cent of our calories.

Our brains boast some 100 billion nerve cells and many more contact points between them provide our brain with capabilities that no supercomputer can match. One of its most important characteristics is its ability to learn.

It's estimated that our brains transmit 200 million million bits of information every second! Most of us can't even visualize a number that big.

While we have yet to unlock the hidden secrets of the human mind, there's no doubt we are walking, talking creative bipeds, unlike anything else in the expanses of the universe.

That makes us pretty special. And no two of us are alike. That makes us rare.



Mark Pavilons

Special, rare, capable of complex thoughts – boy, you would think we are the ultimate mammal. But alas, despite our unfathomable potential, most of us are under utilized, not unlike our robo vacuums or smart doorbells.

As the amino acids (proteins) race around our bodies, we go through life rather easily, doing most tasks without really thinking about them. A simple thought sets in motion everything from skipping and scoring goals to calculating pi or the trajectory of Mars.

Our brains, unfortunately, are limited in that we have to learn and retain knowledge. That takes a willingness on our part, and, as most coaches will tell you, practice, practice and more practice.

The very first time our ancestors drew on the walls of a cave was the first

time we used mind-expanding technology. Drawing was not only a way to communicate, it was a way to remember and unload our memories onto a vessel much more durable and reliable than our brain. Every time you write down a quick note on your smart phone, you are using mind-expanding technology that multiplies the ability of your brain to remember information, and give it some sort of context and priority.

Our vast human knowledge is not the product of a specific stream of information. Knowledge and ideas are gained and shared by some, then enriched by others, and finally passed on.

We have overcome historic limits and with the handy, dandy Internet to connect all our minds, we can share knowledge without any limits or hesitation.

The "Knowledge Doubling Curve" shows that until 1900 human knowledge doubled approximately every 400 years. By the end of World War II knowledge was doubling every 25 years. Today, human knowledge is thought to double every 12 hours.

That's a lot for our noodles to handle. And more than enough to fill encyclopaedias daily.

As an armchair fan of history and ancient civilizations, I'm fascinated by what our ancestors knew and accomplished. And, it's also a mystery how some of this knowledge was lost.

How did they build the pyramids? Why did the Mayans create pyramid-shaped temples? How did humans survive several extinction-level events and ice ages?

There are so many bucket-list worthy sites to visit, it boggles my mind. Some of my favourites include Machu Picchu, Petra (Rose City), Pompeii, Stonehenge, Angkor Wat, Mesa Verde, Derinkuyu, Göbekli Tepe – this list goes on and on. Our ancestors were a remarkable

bunch who were survivors. But they were engineers, clerics, mathematicians, astronomers and builders. Not only did they create the great wonders of the world, they left plenty of mysteries behind for us to figure out.

Strange, that given our propensity for knowledge retention, we didn't hang on to the tidbits our ancestors possessed. It would definitely come in handy these days, let me tell you.

I think the worst comment on humankind is that while we are the smartest creatures in our solar system, we don't always put our brilliance to the best use. We pervert scientific discoveries into weapons. We use new communication methods to relay TV reality shows. We build cars, smart phones, music apps and beauty products, instead of solving homelessness, sickness, world hunger, human conflict and aggression.

It seems our collective IQs do not reflect the greater good, and our memories are quite selective. We have not learned from history. We have not taken notes on human compassion. We have not pursued luminosity.

We hopelessly search for the fountain of youth, instead of finding ways to produce better food and saving our environment. We look to politicians instead of toward the skies, for answers.

Aristotle once said that educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.

I agree. Alas, there are no courses on self-esteem, compassion or emotional health in any curriculum. Maybe there should be.

Hopefully, one day our planet will unite and every country and its people will share the world's knowledge.

If we combine our talents – intellect, compassion, curiosity and desire to improve humankind – there's no stopping us.

Letter to the Editor

Trudeau's resignation changes little

After months of growing opposition to his leadership, Canadians watched an historic event as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced he will step down as leader of the Liberal Party once they choose a new leader. That means nothing has changed.

Every Liberal and NDP Member of Parliament supported Trudeau's far left agenda. They all supported quadrupling the carbon tax over the past 5 years. They all voted for, or actively supported, Trudeau's out-of-control spending, record high debts and lax immigration policies.

They all passed Trudeau's housing policies that doubled the cost of homes. All Liberal politicians helped pass catch-and-release bail and house arrest for the most rampant reoffenders, policies that increased violent crime 50%, gun crime 116% and hate crime by 250%.

Are Liberals finally realizing the error of their ways and the negative impact it has had on Canadians, or have they finally looked at the most recent polls? Will a new leader really make a difference?

From the names put forward so far, each one has actively supported these destructive policies, including Carbon Tax Carney. We believe Canadians want an election now in order to choose between:

The NDP-Liberal costly coalition that taxes your food, punishes your work, doubles your housing costs and unleashes crime and drugs in your community.

Or, Common Sense Conservatives who will axe the tax, build the homes, fix the budget and stop the crime.

As our leader has stated: "Canadians can take back control of their lives and their country. Take back control of our border, take back control of immigration, take back control of spending, deficits and inflation. Take back control of our streets by locking up criminals, banning drugs, treating addiction and stopping gun smugglers. We'll cap spending, axe taxes, reward work, build homes, uphold family, stop crime, secure borders, rearm our forces, restore our freedom and put Canada first."

Anna Roberts, MP, King-Vaughan



Quote of the Week

"The world breaks everyone, and afterward, some are strong at the broken places."

— Ernest Hemingway

Trivia Tidbits

Tommy Douglas is considered the father of medicare in Canada.

KingWeeklySentinel WEBPOLL
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THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Results from last week's poll:
Did you find the holidays:

a) Less stressful	<div style="width: 15.5%; background-color: black;"></div>	15.5%
b) More stressful	<div style="width: 23%; background-color: black;"></div>	23%
c) Not stressful	<div style="width: 61.5%; background-color: black;"></div>	61.5%

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

Are you pleased to see Justin Trudeau step down?

a) Yes
b) No

Go to our website and cast a vote!

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Plastics treaty failure shows need to curtail oil industry

By David Suzuki

The Environment

During the recent British Columbia election campaign, Conservative Party Leader John Rustad vowed to bring back plastic straws, cutlery and bags. It's an all-too-common political talking point.

Imagine knowing the world is choked with plastic pollution and getting overwrought because you can't figure out how to drink liquid with a cardboard or reusable straw, or no straw at all!

Plastic is polluting land, water and air, killing birds and aquatic life and causing human health problems. We create about 52 million tonnes of plastic pollution every year (not including what's recycled or sent to landfills and incinerators). Total production is about 460 million tonnes annually. If we continue at current rates, that will triple by 2050 and outweigh all the fish in the sea.

Because plastic is a fossil fuel by-product, researchers also estimate that by 2050, the plastics industry will consume 20 per cent of total oil production and 15 per cent of the world's annual carbon budget.

It's so ubiquitous that microplastics are now in breast milk and human tissues, including brains, hearts and testicles. Plastic particles have been found in the remotest parts of the planet, and from ocean depths to mountaintops. Massive plastic waste patches swirl in ocean gyres. We're plasticizing the biosphere and ourselves.

About 40 per cent of all plastic produced is disposable, single-use. If you

don't think plastic straws, cutlery and bags are a problem (a small but easily resolvable one), remember these items are rarely recycled and end up in the environment — in waterways, the ocean, land and air. Plastic never biodegrades; it just keeps breaking down into smaller particles. It can then enter everything from marine life to people's bodies. Recycling is only a small part of the solution; it's also critical to drastically reduce plastic production and use.

It's why, after two years of talks, the international community met last month in Busan, South Korea, for what were supposed to be the fifth and final negotiations on an "international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment."

Thanks to the 220 fossil fuel and chemical industry lobbyists (outnumbering national and scientific delegations) and governments of oil-producing nations including Saudi Arabia, Iran and Russia who attended, the talks failed. References to Indigenous and human rights were scrubbed from the final draft text and fossil fuel industry lobbyists blocked attempts to limit production.

Follow-up talks are scheduled for 2025, but industry and its government supporters aren't budging. Producing plastic is another massive fossil fuel industry profit-generator as the world transitions away from polluting, cli-

mate-altering oil, gas and coal.

Oil companies have long lied about the impacts of burning their fuels. They also lie about the plastic they produce. The treaty talks were no exception. This fossil fuel byproduct creates greenhouse gas emissions and pollution throughout its long life cycle.

California's government has even launched a lawsuit against oil giant ExxonMobil for its "decades-long campaign of deception" that's making the global plastic pollution crisis worse.

"For decades, ExxonMobil has been deceiving the public to convince us that plastic recycling could solve the plastic waste and pollution crisis when they clearly knew this wasn't possible," California Attorney General Rob Bonta said. "ExxonMobil lied to further its record-breaking profits at the expense of our planet and possibly jeopardizing our health."

Plastic is convenient because it's lightweight, durable, inexpensive, easily shaped and coloured and can be used to store many materials, from water to chemicals. But we've managed without

it for most of human history. The most commonly used plastic products have only been around for about 75 years, and North American grocery stores didn't start offering plastic bags until the late 1970s — and we now have better alternatives.

One study found circular economy principles could help resolve the issue by eliminating all problematic and unnecessary plastic items, innovating to ensure plastics are reusable, recyclable or compostable and circulating all plastic items to keep them in the economy and out of the environment.

Letting the fossil fuel industry control all aspects of our economies and lives for the sake of its obscene profits is suicidal. Plastic pollution is unnecessary and must be halted now.

We can all cut down on plastic use in our own lives, but real change must come from the top.

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

MPP Lecce announces rebates for home renovations

The Ontario government is launching new energy efficiency programs, including the Home Renovation Savings Program, to help families and businesses in King and Vaughan save money. The programs are part of a new \$10.9-billion, 12-year investment in energy efficiency, the largest in Canada's history.

"As the demand for electricity continues to rise, we're giving families and small businesses more ways to save money and energy as we launch the largest energy efficiency program in Canadian history," said Stephen Lecce, MPP for King—Vaughan and Minister of Energy and Electrification. "Ontario's new Home Renovation Savings Program will put more money back into the pockets of residents of King and Vaughan, covering up to 30 per cent of the costs on energy efficiency products. We will expand this program again in 2025, including rebates for energy efficient appliances, to further reduce energy bills and demand on the grid."

The new Home Renovation Savings Program will launch on Jan. 28, and offer rebates of up to 30 per cent for home energy efficiency renovations and improvements, including new windows, doors, insulation, air sealing, smart thermostats, and heat pumps, as well as rooftop solar panels and battery storage systems for people who want to generate and store energy at home. Later in 2025, the program will expand to include rebates for energy efficient appliances, including refrigerators and freezers.

The government's Affordable Energy Act, which came into force on Dec. 4, 2024, ensures the new Home Renovation Savings Program, and other program offerings, will be expanded to homeowners who heat their homes by pro-

pane and oil, instead of being restricted to those who heat with electricity, as it was under previous governments.

The province is also expanding the popular Peak Perks program with a new program specifically targeted to small businesses, including convenience stores and restaurants. Businesses will receive a financial incentive of \$75 upon initial enrollment in the program and \$20 per year for each eligible smart thermostat connected to a central air conditioning system or heat pump unit.

In addition to the two new energy efficiency programs, the province will continue to support 12 Save on Energy programs, including the highly popular Retrofit Program for business, as well as other programs geared to low-income households, businesses, municipalities, institutions, the agricultural sector, industry and on-reserve First Nation communities.

By 2036, it is forecasted that this expansion of energy efficiency programs will reduce the province's peak demand by 3,000 MW — the equivalent of taking three million homes off the grid. The province's \$10.9 billion investment is also estimated to result in \$23.1 billion in electricity system benefits, thereby saving ratepayers \$12.2 billion in electricity system costs by avoiding the build out of new generation.

Expanding energy efficiency programs to save families money is just one way the government is meeting the province's rapidly growing demand for electricity. Ontario's Affordable Energy Future: The Pressing Case for More Power outlines the challenges facing the province as demand for electricity continues to rapidly grow, as well as the government's all-of-the-above approach to meet this demand.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed Amateur Radio Service Antenna Systems

SUBJECT:

Type: Four Amateur Radio Service antenna systems.

Location: 3900 15th Sideroad, Township of King, ON.

Facility: The proposed structures consist of three 50-metre guyed antenna systems and one 30-metre self-supporting antenna system.

Site: The antenna systems will be located on the north portion of the subject property approximately 300 metres from the 15th Sideroad.

APPLICANT CONTACT:

Further information may also be obtained through the following contact:

Ron Vander Kraats P. Eng.

3900 15th Sideroad

King L7B 1K4, ON

416-220-9038

r.vanderkraats@utoronto.ca

ISED CONTACT:

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) is the governing body for installations of this type and can be contacted at:

ISED, Toronto District Office

151 Yonge Street, 4th Floor

Toronto, ON, M5C 2W7

1-855-465-6307

[ic.spectrumtoronto-](http://ic.spectrumtoronto-spectreoronto.ic@canada.ca)

spectreoronto.ic@canada.ca

MUNICIPAL CONTACT:

Paul Kulyk, Project Manager

Township of King – Planning Division

2585 King Road, King, ON L7B 1A1

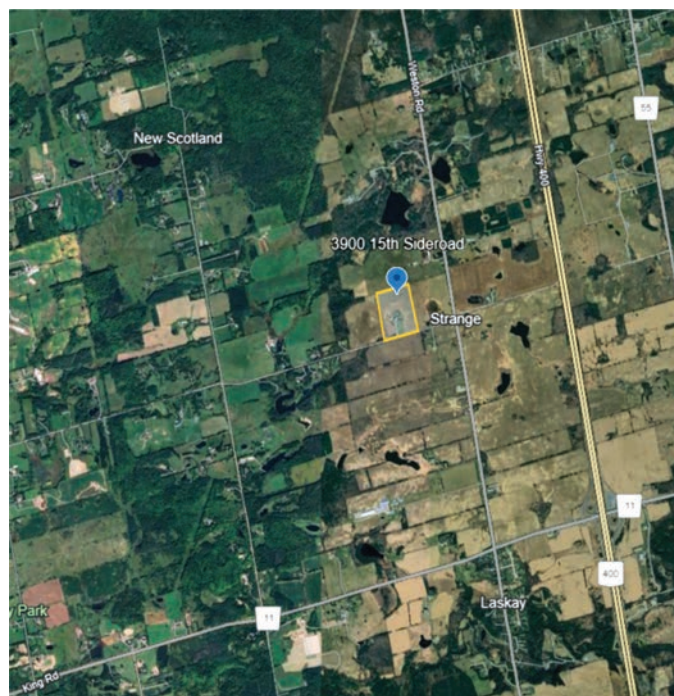
905-833-5321 ext. 4063

pkulyk@king.ca

WRITTEN SUBMISSION:

ANY PERSON may make a written submission to the individual listed as Applicant Contact by close of day February 8, 2025 with respect to this matter. Please reference site SPD-24-06 in correspondence.

SITE LOCATION MAP:



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King benefits from enhanced animal services from Vaughan

By Mark Pavilons
Editor

A new deal with Vaughan Animal Services will improve efficiency and streamline local services.

King Township enters a new chapter in its partnership with the City of Vaughan for the provision of animal services. The enhanced Animal Services Agreement will bring more efficient pet licensing to pet owners in King.

Under this new agreement – approved by Council at the December 9 meeting – Vaughan Animal Services (VAS) will begin managing pet licensing for King Township, ensuring efficient processing and compliance with the Township’s Animal Control By-law #2016-85, as amended. King and VAS have had an existing partnership since 2011.

Pet owners can register or renew their dog and cat licenses in the new online system by visiting king.ca/pets. In King, dogs and cats must wear a licence (numbered tag) on their collar at all times. Dog and cat licences expire annually and must be renewed prior to the anniversary date of purchase

to ensure the pet’s information is kept up to date. Existing registered owners will be notified via mail at renewal time through a new automatic notification. As part of the transition, all dogs and cats will be receiving new lifetime tags to replace the existing issued tag and they will begin to be issued in February.

Vaughan staff will conduct the investigations under the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program and the Protection of Livestock and Poultry from Dogs Act.

Animal control and sheltering services are provided by the City of Vaughan to the Township of King through a service level agreement. The City of Vaughan has been delivering animal services in King since 2011 and continues to achieve positive results.

In April 2024, Township staff initiated a service evaluation for King’s pet licensing program, due to the appearance of low compliance rates and resource-intensive nature of administering pet licences. The administration of the program consumes considerable Township resources given the absence of adequate and effective software to manage the volume of licenses and renewals.

As part of this evaluation, key stakeholders were engaged, including Vaughan Animal Services (the Township’s contracted service provider), King’s By-law Services and Clerk’s Divisions. Stakeholders were asked to provide feedback, recommendations, and insights on the impact of pet licensing on animal services enforcement, domestic pets, owners, and public safety in the current state. It was at this time that Vaughan Animal Services proposed that they could extend their licensing services to King and manage the program as an extension of their existing animal services. Based on King’s positive and existing long-standing partnership with Vaughan, and the benefits considered in maintaining the pet licensing program, staff continued these discussions in an effort to bring forward a proposal to Council, to take effect on January 1, 2025.

Staff recommend the service enhancements and local pet owners will be advised of the changes, which include submitting valid rabies certificates; annual licence renewals, and more.

The dog license fee will remain at \$25, but the early incentive discount of \$5 before April 15 is discontinued. Cat licences, which were previously waived since their introduction, will now cost \$25 per licence. The fees for dog and cat licenses for seniors will be reduced from \$20 to \$12.50. The cost of replacement tags will increase from \$11 to \$14.

Service animal licenses fees will continue to be waived. A new fee of \$55 was introduced for Biting or Menacing Dog Licenses.

The Township will benefit from Vaughan administering the pet licensing program in several ways, including:

No need to enter into a separate software agreement; will use Vaughan’s existing pet licensing software.

Simplified renewal process with mailed notices from Vaughan; currently, renewal relies on self-re-submission annually.

Instant, updated information for Animal Services officers; currently, pet in-

formation is exchanged bi-weekly.

Customer service completely managed by Vaughan Animal Services; currently, only one administrative clerk in King handles licensing administration and inquiries.

Staff anticipate that numerous improvements to the pet licensing process will benefit and be recognized by residents throughout the Township and staff will continue to work in partnership with Vaughan, to continually look at even more enhancements through this transition.

From here, the plan involves notifying licence holders via direct mail, updating the website accordingly, and considering attendance of Animal Services at future community events to promote licensing.

The new year will be a transition year requiring enhanced communications and outreach, and staff will continually meet with the Vaughan Animal Services project team during implementation to address issues or concerns as they arise to ensure a seamless transition.

Clerk Denny Timm said the new process won’t be cumbersome and a lot of the forms can be done online. He hopes for a seamless transition.

Mayor Steve Pellegrini said the past co-operation with Vaughan has been “awesome” and this new move is seen as a logical next step.

Pet licensing program revenue would be split 20% to the Township, and 80% to Vaughan Animal Services to cover the costs associated with service delivery on behalf of King. The reduction of revenue will be offset by the in-house resource savings from not having to administer the program and can be re-directed to other areas within Corporate Services.

This will also save in additional software licensing that would need to be acquired to if the Township was to continue to deliver the service internally. In anticipation of this change the 2025 Budget was adjusted to reflect the change in revenue anticipated with this new agreement.

King man wanted for attempted murder

By Mark Pavilons
Editor

Police are looking for a King man, wanted in connection with a Jan. 1 shooting. Investigators with the York Regional Police #1 District Criminal Investigations Bureau are seeking 33-year-old Andrew Joseph Pitre, who’s wanted for attempted murder.

On Jan. 1 at approximately 9:45 p.m., police were called to a motel in the area of Yonge Street and Queensville Sideroad for a report of a shooting. When officers arrived, they located a 24-year-old male victim with gunshot injuries. He was transported to a trauma centre with non-life-threatening injuries and has since been released. The suspect was not located at that time.

Pitre is wanted for Attempted Murder and firearms-related offences. Police have been unable to locate him and a warrant has been issued for his arrest. Investigators are releasing his image and appealing to the public for information on his whereabouts.

Pitre is considered armed and dangerous. If seen, citizens are urged not to approach him but to call police immediately.

The accused is encouraged to seek legal advice and turn himself in. Other charges include Discharging Firearm with Intent, Careless Use of a Firearm, Aggravated Assault, Unauthorized Possession of a Firearm, Possession of a Restricted Firearm and Point Firearm.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to contact the York Regional Police #1 District Criminal Investigations Bureau at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7141, or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-tips, leave an anonymous tip online at www.1800222tips.com.

Region officially welcomes Jolliffe as chair

Eric Jolliffe was welcomed as York’s new Regional Chair.

Jolliffe, who was appointed to the role by the provincial government, previously served as the Chief of Police for York Regional Police, brings a wealth of experience in public service and community leadership to this crucial role.

Jolliffe’s distinguished career in law enforcement spans over three decades, during which he demonstrated exceptional leadership and a deep commitment to public safety. As Chief of Police, he was instrumental in implementing innovative community policing strategies and fostering strong relationships between law enforcement and diverse communities.

“I am honoured to serve our community in this new capacity, and I look forward to collaborating with council members, staff, and residents to build upon the Region’s strengths and address the important work that lies ahead,” said Jolliffe. “Together, we will strive to enhance the quality of life for all our residents and ensure our Region remains a vibrant and prosperous place to live, work, and raise a family.”

In his new capacity as Regional Chair, Jolliffe will be responsible for overseeing the Region’s strategic direction, working closely with council

members to address key issues facing our community. His expertise in public administration and crisis management will be key as the Region continues to navigate complex challenges and pursue opportunities for growth and development.

“Mr. Jolliffe’s extensive experience in leadership and public service will be invaluable as we work together to enhance economic prosperity, support community well-being, and drive sustainable development across the region,” said Paul Calandra, Ontario’s Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “I look forward to collaborating with him and the Regional Council to ensure that York Region continues to thrive as a vibrant place for all residents.”

The new chair along with Regional Council would like to extend its sincere gratitude to outgoing Chair, Wayne Emmerson, for his long and dedicated service and significant contributions to the Region. His leadership has been instrumental in guiding our community through challenging times and laying a strong foundation for future growth.

“Eric Jolliffe’s appointment as the new Chair of York Region is a testament to his exceptional leadership and deep commitment to our community,” said Erin Mahoney, York CAO.

ENE
FRéSH-4
WEATHER FORECAST SYSTEM

King 7-Day Weather Outlook

From Thursday, January 9 to Wednesday, January 15

THURS 9TH	FRI 10TH	SAT 11TH	SUN 12TH	MON 13TH	TUES 14TH	WED 15TH
Mainly Sunny High -8C° Low -13C° Wind NW 20k	Scattered Flurries High -5C° Low -8C° 1-3cm Wind S 11k	Sun/Clouds High -3C° Low -8C° Wind W 15k	Clouds/Sun High -4C° Low -7C° Wind S 10k	Scattered Flurries High -4C° Low -9C° ~1cm Wind W 12k	Scattered Flurries High -6C° Low -13C° ~1cm Wind NW 16k	Scattered Flurries High -10C° Low -14C° <1cm Wind N 15k

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Community input sought at open houses on King's OP

King Township is planning growth for the next three decades and needs the help of residents and business owners to shape its future. The Township is reviewing its 'Our King' Official Plan (adopted in 2019) and has scheduled a first series of open houses throughout January to gather community input.

These open houses will focus on three key topics: Living in King, Working in King, and Moving and Connecting in King.

The review is taking place now for three reasons.

First, municipalities are required by Ontario's Planning Act to conduct an Official Plan review every five years to ensure it conforms with provincial plans and is consistent with the Provincial Planning Statement. This statement replaced the Provincial Policy Statement in October of 2024.

Second, the Ontario government recently made several changes to regional planning, including the passing of Bill 185, which removed planning responsibilities from upper-tier municipalities, including York, Peel and Halton. Those planning responsibilities now rest with local municipalities. Due to this, the Township will need to explore how York Region's most recent Official Plan (last updated in 2022) can be integrated with King's.

Third, the Official Plan Review will plan to horizon of 2051, where the

current Our King Official Plan contemplates growth in King to 2031. The Review will provide an opportunity to review the vision for King to ensure that it aligns with the Township's long-term needs.

An open house is scheduled in each village – King City, Nobleton and Schomberg – and all are drop-in style from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., with presentations at 6:30 p.m. They will cover the same materials and provide a platform for residents to share their thoughts and ideas on how King should grow.

They are scheduled for: Schomberg, Thursday, Jan. 16, Trisan Centre; King City, Wednesday, Jan. 22, council chambers in the King Township Municipal Centre; Nobleton, Wednesday, Jan. 29, Arena Hall, Dr. William Lacey Community Centre and Arena.

The Official Plan affects every resident, business, and landowner in King Township. It sets a long-term vision for the future and provides a detailed policy framework to guide growth. The current Official Plan, "Our King," was adopted by King in September 2019 and approved by York Region in September 2020. This review is an opportunity to update the plan to guide growth in the Township to the year 2051, while preserving its unique characteristics.

Key objectives of the Official Plan review:

Align with recent provincial policy

and legislation changes, including the directive to "build more homes faster."

Integrate relevant policies from the York Region Official Plan, 2022, which includes population and growth targets for King to 2051.

Ensure the vision, objectives and policies for King continue to meet the Township's evolving needs.

What will the review address?

Update the vision and policy framework to guide growth and development in the three villages of King City, Nobleton and Schomberg, the hamlets and the rural area.

Determine how to accommodate population growth and support the development of complete communities.

Address employment growth with policies for the changing nature of employment uses.

Promote the preservation of natural and cultural heritage resources with stronger policies while providing flexibility where appropriate.

Ensure the viability of the agricultural system and provide opportunities

for economic development and rural resiliency through enhanced policies for agriculture-related and on-farm diversified uses.

Revisit the Township's energy, climate change and sustainability policies to ensure they reflect current standards and prepare King for a changing climate.

These open houses will be just one of multiple opportunities to provide feedback as part of the review process.

If you are unable to attend in person, presentation materials will be available on the SpeaKING project page following the open houses.

To stay updated on future opportunities, for more information, to join the mailing list or to ask questions, visit the Official Plan Review page on SpeaKING or email the project team at policy-planning@king.ca.

For regular updates on Township programs and events, follow the official corporate social media channels on X, Facebook and Instagram or visit king.ca.

Residents' group taking Caledon to court

By Zachary Roman

A residents' group is taking legal action against the Town of Caledon.

On Dec. 9, 2024, Democracy Caledon announced it was taking legal action against the Town over its decision to "pre-zone 5,000 acres of mostly prime agricultural land for 35,000 housing units across 12 new urban development areas."

Democracy Caledon has hired legal counsel, and it filed a notice of application in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice on December 5. The Court served the notice to the Town of Caledon on December 6.

In a media release, Democracy Caledon representatives said its lawyers contend "that Caledon Council's approval of the 12 zoning bylaws does not conform to the Official Plans of Caledon and Peel Region and can be quashed for 'illegality' under section 273 of the Municipal Act."

In a media release issued December 10, Town of Caledon communications staff said the 12 zoning bylaws were enacted in accordance with provincial legislation, and that the bylaws keep with all requirements of Ontario's Planning and Municipal acts.

Caledon Mayor Annette Groves was

quoted in the release, and said "our solicitors have advised that this lawsuit is completely without merit, and the Town will be vigorously defending it."

Debbe Crandall is the president of Democracy Caledon and said if its court action is successful, Caledon will have to go back to the drawing board "to do proper planning for phased and managed growth."

She added, "a phased approach to planning would mean an orderly rollout of water lines, sewers, roads and other public services, thus better protecting Caledon ratepayers from an as-yet undetermined property tax increase needed to pay for the developers' wish list."

The Town's media release states all lands in the 12 zoning bylaws are within Caledon's urban boundary or are adjacent to existing settlement areas, and that secondary plans will be required for all the lands as "part of the Town's comprehensive planning approach."

Groves said that Democracy Caledon is circulating "fake news" to raise fears within the Caledon community.

Crandall said Democracy Caledon, through its legal action, is trying to protect Caledon's farmland and green-space, taxpayers, and democratic process.

John De Faveri named Director of Education with the York Catholic District School Board

John De Faveri has accepted the position of Director of Education and Foundation Chair with the York Catholic District School Board.

"I want to thank Mr. De Faveri for being Interim Director for the past 11 months and I know the Board of Trustees looks forward to continuing to work together with him to implement the Multi-Year Strategic Plan and the Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan," said Elizabeth Crowe, Chair of the Board of Trustees.

De Faveri has years of experience leading public and private organizations across the Province of Ontario. He started his career at St. Margaret Mary CES in Woodbridge, and went on to serve as Principal and Superintendent of Education in the York Catholic District School Board. De Faveri was also a Superintendent of Education in the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board and a Director of Education at the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board. He was also an Executive Director and Chair of the Georgina Trades Training Inc.

"Mr. De Faveri has provided great wisdom and leadership as Interim Director of Education," said Chair Crowe. "And we are confident that he is the right person to ensure the York Catholic District School Board remains the top-performing school board in Ontario."

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Zoning amendment passes, moves project ahead in King City

By Mark Pavilons
 Editor

A zoning bylaw amendment will move the Camcos (Go King Developments) project ahead.

Council approved the amendment to implement a site-specific Core Area – King City Exception Zone to facilitate the development of a 6-storey residential apartment building containing 144 units, be approved.

Camcos submitted the application for two lots at 12734 and 12750 Keele Street, located 150 metres north of the King City GO Station. The purpose of the Application is to re-zone the subject lands to facilitate the development of a 6-storey apartment building containing 144 apartment units.

Staff noted the site consists of two parcels of land that together measure 0.48 hectares with approximately 73 metres of frontage on Keele Street. The site currently supports two dwellings and a detached garage which are planned to be removed. The lands slope towards the Metrolinx rail corridor with a grade change of approximately 3.4 metres from east (front) to the west (rear).

The current proposal is for a 6-storey building containing 144 apartment units, together with two levels of un-

derground parking to accommodate 144 spaces. An additional 14 parking spaces are located at the rear of the building. Due to the sloping nature of the site, a total of seven walkout apartment units are located at the rear of the building.

The site-specific Core Area – King City Exception Zone will address yard setbacks, building height, density, parking supply, amenity space and other general provisions and definitions of the bylaw.

The new Provincial Planning Statement (PPS 2024) came into effect on October 20, 2024, and replaces the previous Provincial Policy Statement 2020 and A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe 2019. The PPS 2024 provides municipalities with the tools and flexibility required to focus on building more homes and identifies that strategic growth areas including Major Transit Station Areas (MTSA) will be a focus for development. The subject site is within King's MTSA as it is located approximately 150 metres from the King City GO Station.

Under the PPS 2024, the density target for MTSA served by commuter or regional rail is set at 150 residents and jobs per hectare. The Township is currently undertaking an Official Plan

review through which these density targets will be further assessed. Over-

all, the proposed development is in keeping with the existing and emerging policy framework in this regard.

The 6-storey apartment building, staff noted, will contribute to the minimum resident density target identified by the PPS 2024.

The subject site is also located within the Provincial Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP) area and located within a Settlement Area. Under the ORMCP, Settlement Areas are encouraged to continue to develop for a range of uses, including transit supportive densities through intensification and re-development within existing urban areas while minimizing impacts on ecological functions and hydrological features.

Due to its proximity to the King City GO Station. The proposed development will provide added residential units in the form of condominium apartments and will contribute to meeting the intensification target identified.

Staff said that overall, the proposed

development is in keeping with the existing and emerging policy framework with respect to the density targets for the Transit Station Area.

The Village design policies of the Plan identify that a high standard of design is required for all new development and redevelopment and, that compatibility and integration through transition in height, setbacks, building orientation and buffering is to be achieved with adjoining properties.

The project received support and praise at council. Mayor Steve Pellegrini was pleased that such a building comes with ample parking. He also noted that pressure is on in York to increase densities, with many nearby municipalities approving buildings much higher than six storeys.

Councillor Mary Asselstine said she would have liked some ground-floor retail use in the building. She asked her fellow councillors to push for such a consideration for future projects of this nature.

Ontario advancing work on Bradford Bypass

The Ontario government is advancing work on the Bradford Bypass through the award of a contract for tree clearing, which is now under way. Crews are clearing a path along the planned route for the highway's west section, marking another milestone in the province's plan to tackle gridlock and give drivers across York Region and Simcoe County more time to spend with their families each day.

"Gridlock is not only increasing the prices of items on store shelves – it's dramatically impacting the quality of life for families, workers and millions of people across Ontario, which is why it's so important to build critical new highway projects like this one," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. "Over the past year, we've made major progress in our plan to build the Bradford Bypass, including historic legislation that will help prioritize this project, along with key construction and design milestones. We're going to get it done so we can get drivers out of traffic once and for all."

Crews have begun removing trees between Highway 400 and Simcoe County Road 4, with work expected to be completed in the new year. This work will help streamline utility relocations and clear a path as work continues on the Bradford Bypass.

A new report from the Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis finds gridlock in Ontario is significantly impacting commuters' quality of life and costing the economy \$56 billion a year, further emphasizing the need to move forward on the province's \$28 billion plan to build, repair and upgrade critical highway and road infrastructure projects like the Bradford Bypass.

"The Bradford Bypass is a much-needed addition to Ontario's transportation network," said James Leduc, Mayor of Bradford West Gwillimbury. "This new route will ease congestion, improve travel times, and provide a safer, more efficient way for drivers to navigate our growing region. By streamlining travel for residents of Simcoe County and cottage-goers alike, the bypass will improve access to key destinations, bene-

fitting both local communities and visitors."

This latest contract award builds on substantial progress made over the last year to advance work on the Bradford Bypass. Earlier this year, the province awarded a contract for the detail design of the west section of Bradford Bypass, as well as a contract for a construction manager to join the existing design team to help ensure quality control, safety and delivery of the west section of the bypass. In July, crews began building a lane on Highway 400 that will connect to the future Bradford Bypass. A new bridge was recently completed at Simcoe County Road 4 to keep traffic moving in West Gwillimbury while Bradford Bypass is under construction.

Once complete, the 16.3-kilometre Bradford Bypass will connect Highway 404 in the east to Highway 400 in the west and will help save commuters 35 minutes of driving each way. During construction, the project is expected to support up to 2,200 jobs annually and contribute up to \$286 million to Ontario's GDP.

Kodiak Tree Services from Caledonia, was awarded the contract to clear trees for the west section of the Bradford Bypass.

Over four hectares are being removed and work will be done to replant trees once the west section is built.

The Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act received Royal Assent in November 2024. The province can now move forward to accelerate construction of Bradford Bypass, Highway 413 and the Garden City Skyway bridge twinning project.

Ontario is investing \$28 billion over the next 10 years to repair, build and expand roads and highways across the province.

Building Bradford Bypass is among more than 100 actions identified in Connecting the GGH: A Transportation Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

The Greater Golden Horseshoe is one of the fastest-growing regions in North America, welcoming more than 200,000 newcomers each year.

Register now for winter programs!

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! Learn how to swim or how to be a swim instructor and lifeguard.

Registration for the winter session of recreation and aquatic programs in King Township is ongoing and available online 24/7 at townshipofking.perfectmind.com.

Recreation programs start the week of January 13 with the exception of recreation and aquatic programs at Zancor Centre, which start the week of January 27.

The facility's Aqua Tech Solutions Aquatic Centre will offer learn-to-swim lessons for all ages, based on the Ontario Lifesaving Society's Swim for Life program which features programming for parent & tots, preschoolers, children and adults, as well as private lessons for children ages three to 12. Aquatic leadership programs to train youth for employment as a swim instructor or lifeguard are also available.

Swim assessments are available throughout January, where a swim instructor will guide children through a series of in-water skills and provide parents with recommendations on the most appropriate swim level to register their child, if they are unsure. The cost is \$4 per assessment; pre-registration is required and open now at townshipofking.perfectmind.com.

If you require assistance creating an online registration account, call Service-KING at 905-833-5321 or email serviceking@king.ca.

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Introducing the exquisite 'Fernbrook' executive home in Aurora Estates, boasting over \$200K in upgrades. Highlights include a gourmet Downsview Kitchen, elegant finishes, a main-floor bedroom, and four ensuite-equipped upper bedrooms. Conveniently located near Yonge Street, transit, and amenities, this home offers unparalleled luxury living.



PREMIUM FEATURES, PRIME LOCATION

Welcome to this stunning 4+1 bedroom, 4-bath executive home in Vaughan's desirable community. Boasting a gourmet kitchen with Viking appliances, an open-concept family room, a luxurious primary suite, spacious bedrooms, and a professionally finished lower level, this home offers elegance, comfort, and convenience near parks, schools, Maple GO, and more!



LUXURY TOWNHOME WITH ROOFTOP TERRACE

Experience luxury living at "The Bond on Yonge" in Richmond Hill. This 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom (1331 sqft) townhome boasts a 375 sqft private rooftop terrace, stainless steel appliances, quartz countertops, 9ft ceilings, and floor-to-ceiling windows. Conveniently located near Yonge Street, schools, parks, shops, and transit, it's perfect for modern, elegant living.



CUSTOM 2.2-ACRE RAVINE ESTATE

Welcome to this stunning custom-built estate on 2.2 sunny acres backing onto a private ravine. Highlights include a grand foyer, formal living/dining rooms, a spacious kitchen, luxurious primary suite, oversized bedrooms, finished basement with walk-up, and a private backyard showcasing breathtaking year-round views.



LAKE WILCOX LUXURY HOME HAVEN

Brand new custom executive home being built on a 150' lot in Lake Wilcox. This 4+1 bedroom, 5 bath home boasts upgraded features perfect for family living and entertaining. Chef's kitchen with JennAir appliances, open concept living areas, luxurious primary suite, and a finished lower level. Close to Lake Wilcox Park and trails.



PERSONALIZE YOUR EXECUTIVE DREAM HOME

Magnificent brand-new executive home by renowned 'Fernbrook Homes' with over \$200K in upgrades. Set on a large lot in prestigious Princeton Heights, Aurora Estates, this stunning home features a Downsview chef's kitchen, elegant finishes, spacious bedrooms with ensuite baths, a covered loggia, and proximity to Yonge Street, transit, and amenities.



CUSTOMIZE YOUR DREAM LAKE WILCOX HOME

Introducing an opportunity to customize your dream executive home in Lake Wilcox. This to-be-built residence is designed with 4+1 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, and a chef's kitchen outfitted with high-end JennAir appliances. Envision luxurious finishes throughout, with the chance to select your preferences to truly make it your own.



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Step into this stunning 3-bedroom backsplit in Aurora Highlands with a 6-car driveway. Featuring modern upgrades like a renovated kitchen, hardwood floors, pot lights, and spacious living areas, it's perfect for entertaining. Enjoy a private fenced backyard and convenient access to schools, parks, and amenities!

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Garden Club celebrates growth, community engagement

The Nobleton & King City Garden Club celebrated a successful year at its recent annual meeting, where Co-President Anna Santarossa presented a vibrant Year in Review. The club's 2024 accomplishments highlighted its dedication to community engagement and environmental education.

Key initiatives included the Front Garden Recognition program, which celebrated local gardeners by showcasing standout gardens in newspapers and on social media. Despite windy weather, the annual plant sale was a resounding success, combining fundraising with educational activities like a seed swap.

The club also honored members for their dedication and achievements. Service pins were awarded to Anne Vriend, Kurt Erzberger, Nancy Vassallo, Susan Sue-Ling, Jules Mauleffinch, Nancy Hopkinson, and Barbara Downey. A special highlight was the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award to Arlene Heaps, recognized for her exceptional contributions over the years.

Flower show participants were celebrated as well, with Barbara Downey

presenting the trophy to Nancy Hopkinson and expressing gratitude to all contributors. Cash prizes were awarded to Kelly Lavis, Arlene Heaps, Susan Sue-Ling, and Barbara Downey for their creativity and skill.

Looking ahead, the club is excited to welcome a new board for 2025, bringing fresh energy and enthusiasm to its programming.

The year kicks off on January 27 with Anna Santarossa's Zoom presentation on "Winter Sowing." February 24 features David Hobson's insights into the Chelsea Flower Show, also via Zoom. Upcoming sessions include Stephanie Andrade's "Kick Start Your Lawn & Garden" on March 24, Karen Stephenson's "Foraging in Nature" on April 28, Melissa Vona's "Beekeeping" on May 26, and a June 23 visit to The Giving Place Lavender Farm with Leanne. After a summer break, the program resumes on September 22 with Carly McDougall's "Sustainable Garden Hacks."

The club concluded its meeting by encouraging members to renew their memberships and continue contributing to the vibrant gardening communi-

ty. With a year of achievements behind them, the Nobleton & King City Garden Club looks forward to inspiring and connecting gardening enthusiasts

in 2025.

For more information or to get involved, email nobletonkingcitygardenclub@gmail.com.



Pins were awarded for five years of membership. Shown are (l to r) Anna Santarossa, Kurt Erzberger, Susan Sue-Ling, Nancy Vassallo, Barbara Downey and Kelly Lavis.



Arlene Heaps (left) was recognized for a lifetime achievement award. Nancy Hopkinson (right) is recognized for 20 years of service and Barbara Downey was recognized for 55 years of service.



ASK wins top honours

Congratulations to Arts Society King for winning Best in Show for Trees of Giving 2024, as determined by visitor votes with their beautiful "Twas the Night Before Christmas" tree! A big thank you to all the community groups and local businesses who participated in Trees of Giving this year! In all, \$700 was raised to send a child to camp in 2025! Shown are Rina Trimmeliti, Marina DiGirolamo, Michele McNally, Regina Jensen.

Reflections of Ourselves exhibit opens

Residents are invited to an opening reception for Reflections of Ourselves, a collaborative art project that celebrates the rich cultural heritage of Canadians and features the work of 115 artists, at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre.

Curated by artist Tracey Lawko, Reflections of Ourselves is a collaborative art project that celebrates the rich cultural heritage of Canadians.

Through the metaphor of a tree, the exhibition presents stories and traditions by members of cultural groups residing across Canada and suggests that the differences among us are like the variations in individual leaves on a tree. To date, 115 Indigenous, settler and immigrant Canadians from coast to coast have handcrafted a leaf in honour of their heritage, primarily in textile.

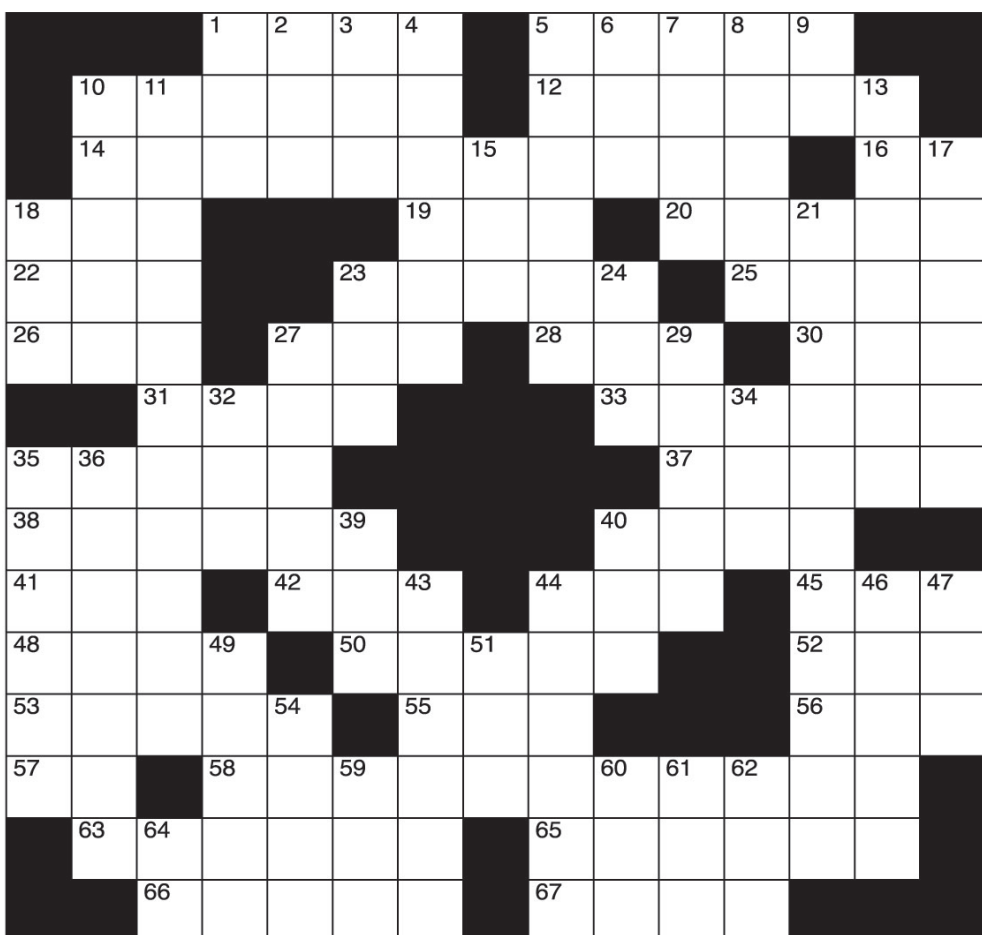
On display from January 11 to March 1, 2025 - Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., included with regular admission.

The opening reception takes place Saturday, Jan. 11 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre.

RSVP is preferred: Call 905-833-2331 or kingmuseum@king.ca

CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 251210 • Solution in Classifieds



CLUES ACROSS

1. Hand (Spanish)
5. Siskel and __, critics
10. Seaman
12. Chemical weapon
14. One who eliminates
16. They precede C
18. Baseball stat
19. Americans' "uncle"
20. Cassia tree
22. Surround
23. Crisp and Pebbles are two
25. A sudden very loud sound
26. Affirmative
27. Disadvantage
28. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
30. OJ trial judge
31. New York art district
33. Become more bleak
35. Upstate NY city
37. Clarified butters
38. One who witnesses

40. Condemn
41. __ juris
42. Natural
44. Prohibit
45. Swiss river
48. Greek war god
50. 5 iron
52. New Zealand mountain parrot
53. Scandinavian surname
55. Follows sigma
56. Doctor of Education
57. Spanish be bugs
58. One that feeds on
63. Tooth issue
65. Get into
66. Lumps of clay
67. Overly studious student

CLUES DOWN

1. Variety of Chinese
2. Boxing's GOAT
3. Japanese classical

4. Prayer
5. Inspire with love
6. Ballplayers' accessory
7. Retailer payment system
8. More raw
9. Atomic #81
10. Fencing sword
11. Hostilities
13. Sea dweller
15. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
17. Businessmen
18. Rest here please (abbr.)
21. Loud devices
23. Make a soft murmuring sound
24. One point west of due south
27. Trout
29. Type of grass
32. South American
34. Letter of the Greek alphabet
35. Not secure
36. Traveler
39. Sweet potato
40. Period after sunrise and before sunset
43. Some are choppy
44. Asian country
46. Genus of mosquitoes
47. Cool!
49. Shrill, wailing sound
51. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
54. Within
59. Unhappy
60. Decorate a cake with frosting
61. Videocassette recorder
62. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
64. It cools a home

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

Nobleton & Schomberg United Churches

By Earle Laycock

Have you ever laughed while reading the Bible? Surprisingly, this happened to me during Sunday worship when we read Luke 2:41-52. The passage tells us about the 12-year-old Jesus going with his parents to celebrate Passover in Jerusalem. Upon beginning their journey home, Jesus was no where to be found – missing for 3 days! Made me rather proud of my limited parenting skills. (I will let you read the passage to find out what happened to cause this calamity.)

Our minister, Rev. Richard Gardner, is giving us a challenge for the new year: reading the Bible in a year. You might be surprised at what you will discover. You might even laugh as I did. Signing-up is easy, just send an email to: bibleinayear2025@gmail.com It's not too late to join and you will get a daily brief on the scripture to read and its significance.

After the wonderful worships lead-

ing up to Christmas, we are resuming a more familiar schedule. Schomberg United Church worship begins at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday at St. Mary Magdalene Church, lower level, 116 Church St., Schomberg. The area is accessible. Nobleton United Church meets at 11:15am on Sunday at 6076 King Rd., Nobleton. We have a wheelchair ramp and a chair lift to go up the 7 steps to the Sanctuary. We also live-stream our worship on Youtube.com, just search for Nobleton United Church. To contact our churches, phone 905-859-3976.

Do you like to eat, make friends? Then mark your calendar. Our next free Community Potluck lunch is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 11:15 a.m. at Schomberg United. Bring a main course or dessert to share with others if you are able. Bring a friend and enjoy time together.

Our next Seniors' Lunch is Tuesday, Jan. 14 at Schomberg United. Please arrive at 11:15 a.m. so that the program can start at 11:30 a.m. The guest speaker is Schomberg's Jack Campbell. Jack will be speaking about Kim and his trip to Iceland (with lots of pictures). The meal will be "Breakfast for Lunch" with an egg dish, sausages, muffin, and fresh fruit salad. Please let Sheila Kel-

ly know (905-939-2315) if you plan to attend, as space is limited. The meal can be delivered, if you prefer.

Hey kids! Thanks for your help in producing the successful puppet show for Christmas.

Our next Messy Church is on Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 5 p.m. at Nobleton United. Families are welcome to this free event. January's theme is "New Beginnings and God's Promise to Noah." One of the activities is decorating cookies in the theme of the month. We always have at least 5 other optional activities. At 6 p.m., we talk about Noah, the Ark, and God's promise. At 6:15 p.m., we eat.

If you would like to attend or need more information, please contact Nancy at 416-316-5064 or nancykhopkinson@gmail.com. We need to know numbers to have enough crafts and food for everyone.

If you have a phone or computer, join us on Wednesday mornings for an online Zoom Coffee chat from 10 to 11 a.m. We discuss a variety of topics, including what is happening in our area and perhaps even Rev. Richard's Bible challenge. You are welcome to join us. Just send an email message to nancykhopkinson@gmail.com to request the link and/or telephone number.

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Until we talked to the staff at Margaret Bahen Hospice, I had no idea how much the hospice relies on donor support. So many of the things that brought us comfort during Lisa's final days were there because of supporters like YOU, and we are so deeply appreciative!

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Cougars blank foes to close out 2024, lose pair in 2025 opener

By Jim Stewart

Nicolas Morvan earned his second shutout in three games and veteran centre Anthony Nascimento fired two first-period goals in a dominant 6-0 victory over the Little Britain Merchants at the Trisan Centre to close the Cougars' home schedule for 2024.

Nascimento critiqued his team's first period blitzkrieg featuring three goals in six minutes: "For once, we started well. We were ready for the game right from our warmup. We were mentally-focused and physically-ready tonight."

Morvan, whose 26 saves and 1 assist earned him First Star of the Game honors, described the effort by his teammates: "We played really well tonight."

I wasn't too busy compared to other games this year. We weren't giving up the extra-man breakouts. Our defencemen weren't getting caught out of position and they pinched well all night."

As one of the veterans on the team, Nascimento explained why the Cougars have had such a strong showing in December, including a 5-0 shutout of league-leading Clarington: "We're growing together as a team. The dressing room is less divided between veterans and rookies and it's filled with more communication. A bunch of the younger guys have really matured and they have adjusted to the faster pace of junior hockey."

The cagy centre – who was selected Second Star of the Game by PJHL staff – attributed Schomberg's recent suc-

cess to the play of his starting goaltender: "He was excellent in Clarington and again tonight. Mo keeps us in games. We know that if we score the first goal and Mo does his thing in net, we have a good chance to win every game."

Both Nascimento and Morvan are big supporters of their teammates and expressed how happy they were when robust Reece Muir scored his first PJHL goal to close the second period. Morvan could not contain his joy when Muir scored the Cougars' fifth goal of the contest and skated out to join the celly: "I was so excited for him. We were all waiting for that goal, we knew it was coming because of how well he's been playing, and he scored a really nice one from a tough angle."

Nascimento also complimented the play of Cougar defenceman Carter Longland whose three-point night versus the Merchants showcased his talents as a blueliner: "Every time he's on the ice, we're better. He doesn't make mistakes out there. Carter's another guy that's key to our power play and he calms things down as our quarterback so we don't rush our passes."

Schomberg opened the game as if their fore-checkers had been shot from a bazooka. The Cougars won races to pucks and body-checked the visitors in the opening minutes of play. The Merchants – who skated into the Trisan Centre and dominated Schomberg 5-3 on September 19 – looked befuddled by the new and improved Cougars who were in full prow mode. Schomberg, winners of six of their last eight games to close 2024, pressed the Merchants relentlessly and narrowly missed some early scoring chances.

The sustained pressure by the home side led to a significant skirmish in the neutral zone between Cougars' forward Ethan Tierman and Merchants' Captain Chase Little. Tierman – giving up 30 pounds and 5" to the older and stronger Little – put up a fine effort with his dukes against the veteran leader of Little Britain. A multiplicity of punches landed on the helmetless combatants-- earning both a rousing ovation from the Trisan Centre crowd as well as five-minute fighting majors and game misconducts for their entertaining imbroglio.

Without the steadying influence of Little, myriad Merchants paraded to the penalty box and Nascimento made Little Britain pay for their truculence. On a 5-on-3, Longland kept the zone possession alive on the blue line and fed the puck to Nascimento who one-timed it from between the dots past Merchants' netminder Julian Arcella to give the Cougars a 1-0 lead at 7:26.

Five minutes later, Luke Szabo was set up by the slick stickhandling of Cougars' defenceman Henry Kotyk and the diligence efforts of Captain Jordyn

Palazzo. Szabo's quick-release wrist shot from between the circles bulged the twine behind Arcella to give the home side a two-goal advantage.

Schomberg struck again only 23 seconds after Szabo's ninth of the season. Nascimento converted a perfect pass from Kailyn Magee on a 2-on-1 and fired the puck past Arcella. Joey Furlano earned his second assist of the period to set up the breakout play and the Cougars took a three-goal lead heading into the first intermission.

Before the second period was six minutes old, the home side made it 4-0 when Longland fired a shot from the right point that hit Arcella and ricocheted into the net off Jonathan Scott in the slot.

With 2:22 left on the middle frame, Longland and Szabo figured prominently to set up Muir's first PJHL goal. The rugged defender rifled a wrist shot under the crossbar and behind Arcella from a difficult angle, evoking a spirited on-ice celebration by the Cougars as they took a five-goal lead into the third period.

Half-way through the final frame, Morvan was forced to make a calculated gamble to thwart a breakaway by the Merchants during a four-on-four sequence. The athletic netminder – channeling the spirit of the legendary Leafs' goalie Johnny Bower – poke-checked Little Britain's attacker almost 50 feet from his crease, setting in motion the speedy Palazzo who created a breakaway for William Lessard. The Cougars' rookie forward made a dazzling deke on Arcella and slid the puck under the helpless Merchants' goaltender. Morvan earned his first assist of the season on the gutsy poke check and made a spectacular save with fifty-five seconds left in the contest to preserve his shutout and the team's impressive margin of victory.

Pair of nail-biters

Unfortunately, the Cougars could not replicate their stellar year-end performance versus Little Britain in their first home game of 2025. Schomberg was edged 4-3 by the Merchants on Thursday night and lost 4-2 to the Ice in Georgina on Friday night.

Rookie forward Ethan Tierman tallied two goals for the Cougars versus the Merchants and Reece Muir added one. Veterans Carlo Lioni and Matthew Lyчек contributed two assists each in the narrow loss to Little Britain.

On Friday night at the Georgina Ice Palace, Lyчек and Lioni scored for the Cougars who trailed 1-0 after the first period and 3-1 after the second period.

Conspicuously missing from Schomberg's lineup for the consecutive losses were veteran catalysts Anthony Nascimento and Luke Szabo.

Rebellion notches 9-4 win over Caledon

By Jim Stewart

The King Junior A Rebellion opened the New Year with their own on-ice fireworks in an emphatic 9-4 thumping of the Caledon Admirals at the Mayfield Icebox on Thursday evening.

Sam Black led the Rebellion's season-best offensive performance with four points and Aidan Russell scored two goals, including the game-winner.

The win over the much-improved Admirals – coupled with a tidy 5-3 home ice victory over the Mississauga Chargers on Sunday afternoon – established a modest two-game winning streak for the radically-reconfigured Rebellion roster.

On Thursday evening in Caledon, the Admirals jumped out to an early 2-0 lead when Owen Meli and Nasser Abou-Marie scored twenty-eight seconds apart to shock and awe the visitors. However, the resilient Rebellion rebounded from their sluggish start and fired four consecutive goals before the end of the opening frame.

Ryan Fairbairn got King on the board at 12:05 with help from Black and Antonio Cerqua. All three players are recent trade acquisitions – Fairbairn and Black from the Haliburton County Huskies and Cerqua from the Aurora Tigers.

Thirty-six seconds later, Black and Cerqua set up the tying goal by Adam Smeeton, another recent roster acquisition from the Huskies.

An unassisted goal by Mikhail Zakharov gave King a 3-2 lead at 18:24.

The four-goal outburst culminated with Black's unassisted marker with fifty-four seconds left – his third point in seven minutes – which gave the Rebellion a two-goal cushion heading into the first intermission. Black's goal chased Admirals' starting goalie Calem Yorke who surrendered four goals on twelve shots.

The beleaguered Yorke was replaced by Mark Andreoli to start the second period, but the Admirals' relief goaltender faced a similar onslaught upon taking his place between the pipes. Although Henry Brady pulled Caledon to within one at 5:47 of the second period, King blitzed Andreoli and the host team with three more goals in a row to take a commanding lead.

Russell, who fired the game-winning goal versus Mississauga on Sunday, tallied what turned out to be another GWG at 6:15 with assists from Fairbairn and Simon Wang.

Owen Barfoot's second of the season extended King's lead to 6-3 with Russell and newly-installed captain Jake Anderson earning assists. With one second on the clock, Cerqua scored his eighth of the campaign and Black earned his third assist of the game to cap his team-leading four-point night.

Russell's second goal of the game at 12:05 of the final frame gave the visitors a comfortable 8-3 lead, but the Admirals replied one minute later when Clarence Allain notched his seventh of the season.

Justin Pavese's power play goal at 17:31 capped the Rebellion's nine-goal eruption. Wang and Kyle Baston earned assists to close a chippy final

period that featured fourteen penalties.

King goaltender Tre Altman – acquired recently from the Leamington Flyers and who has the fifth-best GAA in the OJHL – made 30 saves to earn the W in Caledon.

On Sunday afternoon at the Nobleton Community Centre, the Rebellion closed the 2024 portion of their schedule by beating the Mississauga Chargers 5-3 in front of a big, raucous crowd.

The Chargers limped into Nobleton on a five-game losing streak, but opened the scoring on Colin Crowley's power play goal at 3:43 which slipped past King starting goaltender James Kamakaris.

Less than a minute later, Pavese, with assists from Fairbairn and Baston, tied the game when he beat Chargers' netminder Hayden Sabourin.

King defenceman Simon Wang fired his fourth of the season less than three minutes after Pavese's marker to give the Rebellion a 2-1 lead. Cerqua and Ben Armatage provided the helpers.

The teams traded offsetting penalties to open the second frame and King capitalized on the spacious four-on-four play. Speedy Mikhail Zakharov took Marshall McCharles's feed, found open ice, deked Sabourin on a clear-cut breakaway, and slid the puck past the fallen netminder at 2:28 to stake King to a 3-1 lead.

The parade to the penalty box continued for both sides. After Wyatt Jinman pounced on a loose puck behind two King defencemen and fired his 14th of the season to pull the visitors to within one, Mississauga controlled play for the balance of the period. The Chargers took advantage of King's recurrent truculence and scored its second power play of the game when Nate Brentnell snapped the puck past Kamakaris in a goalmouth scramble at 4:23 to make it 3-3. Jinman earned his 26th assist of the season on the tying goal.

Five minutes into the final frame, the Cerqua provided an entry pass on a platter for Russell who fired one off the left wing high glove side and bulged the twine behind Sabourin to restore King's lead. The rugged power forward described the importance of his game-winning goal: "My teammates got me the puck in a great place. I haven't scored many goals this year so when I get opportunities, I have to bury my chances."

Russell noted the significance of Sunday's victory, especially in light of the roster changes: "We lost our captain and our leading scorer last week. We've lost lots of veteran players. Today's win gives us some confidence with the new guys making big contributions to the team. Everyone has to pick up the slack. Everyone has to take advantage of our opportunities. Guys like me have to score more to help the team."

McCharles helped his team finish off the Chargers with 55.7 seconds left in the contest when he slammed Baston's pass into an empty net.

The revamped Rebellion's next home game is Sunday, Jan. 12 when they host the Niagara Falls Canucks. Puck drop at the Nobleton Community Centre is 3 p.m.



Club skaters of the Month

The King City Skating Club is proud to announce the November CanSkater of the month Lily Ferritto (left) and the INTRO skater of the month Anna Xu (right).

Club has a Sturling start to 2025 curling action

By Larry Sheardown and Shellee Morning
King Curling Club

On Jan. 4, King Curling Club kicked off 2025 with a Sturling Bonspiel.

This innovative game is a new approach to the grand game, with only 2 players throwing 6 stones to their partners in a game of only 6 ends. It is a very fast game that requires excellent draw and tap weights with accuracy and strategy.

Thirty-two curlers participated in the 3-game event that provided great curling and camaraderie, with lots of laughs and fun included.

The first saw two experienced teams meet in the final, with the husband wife team of Fiore Gagliardi and Karen Gagliardi/Mellow defeating the father-daughter Team of Brad Stronach and Megan Stronach (all the way from Seattle) 6-4 in a tightly fought battle.

The second draw, where the story of King regulars, 85-year-old Roy Wright and Richard Boutin, against father-daughter team of Tony Kom-

ljanec and his 15-year-old daughter Sarah (a member of King's Junior program) grabbed the attention of the lounge gallery. An exciting back and forth game with both teams making clutch draws where after 5 ends the score was tied 4-4! Sarah made a pivotal draw with her last shot leaving Wright with a difficult take-out. His do-or-die shot made the take-out but rolled away, allowing father and daughter Komljanecs to score 3 and the win of 7-4! It was a great finish and lot of hugs and smiles from both Teams showed the true sportsmanship curling is about.

Tony Komljanec commented after the game: "As a proud father, I experienced some priceless moments at the bonspiel that a parent dreams about. All three games were undecided right down to the last rock. There were more than a few TV shots and cliff-hangers going both ways where the outcome was only told after the rocks stopped. The competition was top-notch."

As always, the success for any event is not made possible without the team

of volunteers that offer their valuable time and efforts, with not only this event but for the weekly efforts of so many that make King Curling Club the unique club that it is. Komljanec pointed out that we have a gem of

a club with dedicated members from the Learn to Curl, Youth programs, as well as a host of individuals who guide the leagues each week resulting in the camaraderie and fellowship that everyone benefits from.



Sarah Komljanec (15) and Roy Wright (85) both of King Curling Club played against each other in the Sturling Spiel. Sarah and her father Tony won all 3 games in the event with a back and forth nail-biting performance in the championship final.

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Dr. Michael Paluch, Deputy Head of School, Director of Academics



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