

#### Hikers brave the cold

Some 11 people braved the -16 starting temperature for a beautiful day on the trails at Cold Creek Conservation Area recently. Local residents were led by members of King Township Oak Ridges Trail Association.

## King looking for input on Official Plan

MPP Lecce

announces

'Fortress

Am Can'

program.

See Page 6

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

The review is happening now because Ontario's Planning Act mandates a review every five years, recent changes in regional planning shift- nity Centre & Arena, Nobleton, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., ed responsibilities to local municipalities and the review will extend the planning horizon to 2051 to align with long-term needs.

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REGULAR

FEATURES

Editorial

**Business** 

Classifieds

Sports

Choose from one of the following sessions (all feature the same content):

Wednesday, Jan. 22. King Township Municipal Centre, King City, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., with a presentation at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 29, Dr. William Laceby Commuwith a presentation at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, visit speaking.king.ca/ our-king-official-plan-review.



#### **STEPHEN LECCE** 🚳 MPP for King-Vaughan





points to failures.

See Page 7

Flight PS752

anniversary

marked, MP



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#### Making life better in King

0-0-0

### Upcoming Meetings

#### COUNCIL MEETINGS

Monday, January 27 6 p.m. - Council

Monday, February 03 6 p.m. - Council Public Planning

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



KingTownship has a variety of **sports** leagues for adults to perfect their game or try something new this winter.

- Pickleball: Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday from 8-10p.m.
- Ultimate frisbee: Tuesday from 7:30-9p.m.
- Women's Ice Hockey: Sunday from 11a.m.-2p.m.

## **King RecPASS**

Buy online or in-person

#### One pass. Countless ways for you or your family to play!

Get unlimited access to drop-in recreational programming

For use at all King Township recreation facilities. Amenities vary by location.

For more information, visit king.ca/RecPASS

#### Update on water bill payments due on December 18, 2024

The mailing of the water bill due on **December** 18, 2024 (for the period of September to October 2024) was delayed due to the Canada Post strike and—as regular service resumes residents may just be receiving this bill in the mail now.

The penalty for late payments has not yet been applied and residents who have missed their payment are encouraged to pay the amount owing (without the 5% late charge) immediately.

At King Township's upcoming Council Meeting on Monday, Jan. 27, a report will be presented recommending waiving the late fee for P5 billing. This is pending Council approval. Water bills for the sixth period (November to December 2024) will be issued the week of January 20 and due February 26.

### king.ca/WaterBilling





March 22 I 12-5p.m. **Trisan Centre** 

XING

For more information, visit **king.ca/seniors** 

Ontario 🕅

## king.ca/leagues

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- Fitness Attendant
- Recreation League Convenor
- Inclusion Facilitator
- · Aquatics Leadership Instructors

Aquatics Lifeguard/Instructor

AquaFit Instructor

#### View job postings at king.ca/employment



## 2051 Official Plan Review

**Shaping Our Future** 

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

Questions? email policyplanning@king.ca

#### 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.

Join us! King Township is reviewing its Official Plan to guide growth to 2051,

#### 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 Laceby Community Centre & Arena 15 Old King Road, Nobleton



SCAN HERE to visit the Official Plan Review webpage



ZANCOR



#### **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

905.833.5321

serviceking@king.ca

2585 King Road King City, ON, L7B 1A1

XING

## Zancor opening features Mayor's breakfast, tours, programs and Rebellion hockey game

Jan. 26.

King Township residents and visitors are invited to attend the official opening of Zancor Centre: Canada's first zero carbon, combined aquatics and ice sports facility, located at 1600 15th Sideroad in King City. The free event runs from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will feature a ribbon cutting ceremony, the Mayor's Pancake Breakfast, recreational swimming, skating and sports, facility tours, and a King Rebellion Ontario Junior Hockey League (OJHL) game.

The official opening celebrations will kick-off at 9 a.m. with a ribbon cutting ceremony and welcoming remarks. Starting at 10:30 a.m. and running hourly until 2:30 p.m., visitors can go on staff-led facility tours to view the facility's state-of-the-art amenities. Other scheduled programming available for all ages includes the following:

Mayor's Pancake Breakfast from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Recreational swimming at 11 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Regular pool admission guidelines apply.

Recreational skating from 11:30 a.m. to 1:20 p.m.

Recreational sports from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with dedicated times for soccer. badminton, lacrosse, basketball, pickleball, sports play group and Robothink. Indoor shoes required.

King Rebellion vs. Caledon Admirals OJHL game with a puck drop at 3 p.m. Admission is free with a non-perishable food item or monetary donation to the King Township Food Bank.

Capacity restrictions apply to all drop-in programming. View the full program schedule online at king.ca/ ZancorCentre.

King Township's new recreation facility, which broke ground in April 2022, sits on 25 acres at the southeast corner of Seneca's King Campus and features 124,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor state-of-the-art amenities. Highlights include:

Two NHL-sized rinks: the JTF Homes Arena (home rink of the King Rebellion Junior A Team) and the Country Day School Arena.

Aqua Tech Solutions Aquatic Centre: a 25-metre, six-lane lap pool that's 3-metres deep and a 1-metre-deep leisure pool with teaching steps for toddlers and a hydrotherapy section for adults and seniors. Plus: universal changerooms with private stalls, washrooms ic centre (Aqua Tech Solutions Aquatic and showers providing an accessible, Centre); and, the athletic centre (Mufamily-friendly changing area, including a stroller parking lot just outside. Municipal Maintenance Athletic Centre: an artificial turf field (for soc- ture needs and maintenance of the facer and lacrosse) backed by a playing cility.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, surface with marked game lines for basketball, volleyball, pickleball and badminton—all surrounded by a 3-lane running track with a fitness area including cardio and strength training equipment.

> Barrier-free, universal washroom with private, fully enclosed stall toilets and sinks.

> The King City Lions Community Room and the Gord Orr Community Room, multipurpose spaces ideal for fitness classes, recreation programs and private rentals (includes a shared kitchenette).

A large, fully enclosed outdoor courtyard with direct access to community rooms and pool.

During the project's design phase, King conducted extensive public engagement opportunities, including Public Information Centres and a dedicated webpage on SpeaKING, to learn which types of amenities are preferred by residents and community user groups. More than 1,000 engagement touchpoints were generated to help determine the facility's amenities and programming.

Construction of the \$86-million. multi-partner facility was made possible with funding support from the provincial and federal governments, as well as Seneca Polytechnic and the development community. The Government of Canada invested over \$21.1 million in the centre through the Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Plan. The Government of Ontario provided \$17.6 million. The Township of King provided over \$20 million, mostly through development charges, with another \$16 million contributed by developers as community benefits. Seneca Polytechnic and King have signed a 99-year lease agreement for the land at a cost of \$1 per year.

In July 2024, Zancor Homes became the naming rights partner of the multi-use recreation facility, originally named the Township-Wide Recreation Centre. The developer has a long-standing history of supporting community services and events in King through donations and sponsorships and paid \$1.5 million for the rights, which will last 15 years. Ten-year partnerships were also secured for the naming rights of the two ice pads (JTF Homes Arena and the Country Day School Arena); the aquatnicipal Maintenance Athletic Centre). Funding from all naming rights totals \$2.7 million, which will go towards fu-

In January 2024, the Zancor 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). 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. Learn more here.

"This is a momentous occasion for King Township. The Zancor Centre is a testament to over 20 years of vision and planning, originating from the 2004 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The cost of this project was \$86 million with only \$678,000 in tax-supported funding, less than 1 per cent paid for by property taxes," said Mayor Steve Pellegrini. "The extensive consultation process allowed us to adapt and enhance the original design ensuring the facility is a vibrant recreation hub that meets the diverse needs of our community. We are proud to open Canada's first zero carbon, combined aquatics and ice sports facility, and we look forward to welcoming everyone to the official opening celebration on January 26."

Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, noted: "This new facility in King City will bring people together, promote healthy lifestyles and foster a sense of community. Working with our municipal partners across the province, our government is investing in new and upgraded recreation centers, strengthening local economies and building the infrastructure our growing province needs."

"At long last, the Zancor Centre has corCentre.

officially opened its doors to King families, supported by a \$17.6 million investment by the province. I am proud to have fulfilled my commitment to our community by securing the largest provincial infrastructure investment in King's history to build this state-of-theart recreation centre. This is another big win for our kids and the entire community," noted Stephen Lecce, MPP King–Vaughan

Anna Roberts, MP King-Vaughan, offered her congratulations to King Township, all of the partners, contributors, and residents who have made the Zancor Centre a reality.

"This is an important, state-of-theart facility that will allow residents to build community relationships and be physically active. I look forward to the residents utilizing all of the activities available such as the pools, running tracks and cheering on our great King Rebellion in the NHL-sized ice rinks." she said.

"When Mayor Pelligrini reached out to talk about the possibility of locating a state-of-the-art recreational facility for the residents of King Township on Seneca Polytechnic's King Campus, it was a slam dunk. Seneca is delighted to support our neighbours by providing the land for the beautiful Zancor Centre, and we're proud to be part of this great and vibrant community," added David Agnew, President, Seneca Polytechnic.

For more information about the Zancor Centre, including recreation programs and swim lessons, facility rentals, employment and advertising opportunities, visit king.ca/Zan-

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### *Register for ebilling to get your* property tax bill by email

Property tax bills are mailed twice a year, once in January and once in June. Each tax notice has two due dates on it. King Township residents can expect to receive their 2025 interim tax bill in mid-January, with the first installment due on Feb. 19.

Register for the Township's e-billing service to receive an electronic version of your property tax bill directly to your email. Avoid missing a payment by signing up for automatic withdrawals through the Township's Pre-Authorized Debit Program (PAD).

Download the ebilling and PAD enrollment forms at king.ca/propertytaxes.

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## **STEPHEN LECCE MPP for King-Vaughan**

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StephenLecceMPP.ca

## WORKING FOR YOU

## Editorial, Letters & Opinion

"A newspaper is not just ink and paper; it is the heartbeat of a community."

## Humour makes my world go 'round

"If I can stay funny, I can stay alive." Jamie Foxx

While I'm nowhere near the comedic talent of one of the most talented men on the planet, I am a funny guy. That's funny haha not funny strange. Okay ...

Jorge Garcia once said that mixing humour and harsh reality is a very human behaviour - "it's the way people stay sane in their daily lives."

As complicated as humans are, I have aways found humour to be a rather simple thing. It levels the playing fields, all the time. It has the ability to bring people together - even a room filled with strangers.

Modern neuroimaging studies have shown that mirth lights up our brains like a proverbial Christmas tree. Not only that, a good laugh has some very measurable short-term effects. It can stimulate our organs by increasing our intake of oxygen-rich air. It activates our stress response and soothes tension.

According to the Mayo Clinic it can also improve our immune systems, relieve pain and improve our mood. The bottom line – laughter really is the best medicine.



#### **Mark Pavilons**

Now, we can't all walk around high on laughter; it's not practical. But merely taking time to laugh at a joke or meme can ease our troubled minds and daily journeys. I've read that laughing for roughly 15 minutes a day is as beneficial

#### Editorial *Economics, not rhetoric, will trump Trump*

There's no fire along the longest unprotected border in the world.

Political experts say President-Elect Donald Trump likes to start fires and then look like a hero when he douses the flames.

Such is the rhetoric surrounding America's biggest trading partner and ally – Canada.

His threats for a substantial tariff and references to using "economic force" may be ridiculous, but we need to sit up a take notice. Canadian politicians and conglomerates have to speak out and take action.

While spouting off is his "thing," at some point the movers and shakers in the U.S. will have to remind the new president about the economic realities of their first association might be entertainbiggest ally.

More than \$2.6 billion a day in goods and services trade cross between us every day.

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) entered into force on July 1, 2020, replacing NAFTA as the free trade agreement for North America.

The USMCA generates job opportunities, improves worker protections, increases agricultural trade, produces new investments in vital manufacturing industries, protects intellectual property rights, creates enforceable labor and environmental standards, and enhances and extends digital trade protections.

The United States and Canada enjoy the world's most comprehensive trading relationship, which supports millions of jobs in each country. Canada and the United States are each other's largest export markets, and Canada is the number one export market for more than 30 U.S. states. In addition, Canada is the single largest foreign supplier of energy to the United States. Canada holds the world's third largest oil reserves and is the only non-Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) member in the global top five. Canada and the United States operate an integrated electricity grid under jointly developed reliability standards. Uranium mined in Canada helps fuel U.S. nuclear power plants. Officials reestablished the Cross Border Crime Forum in 2022, furthering law enforcement cooperation to counter cybercrime, foreign interference, domestic and foreign terrorism, human trafficking and smuggling, firearms violence, as well as to increase access to justice. So, in effect, we are already meeting Trump's goals, and governments here have vowed to up our game. Canada is a major supplier to the United States of many critical minerals and has the potential to become a major supplier of more. The United States and Canada cooperate on efforts to support a more secure supply chain for critical minerals through a bilateral working group and joint Action Plan. In their Roadmap for a Renewed U.S.-Canada Partnership, President Biden and Prime Minister Trudeau agreed to strengthen the joint Action Plan to target a net-zero industrial transformation, batteries for zero-emissions vehicles, and renewable energy storage. Will Trump undo all of this? Unlikely. Harsh economic realities will win out.

as a long walk.

It's like a mini-puzzle for our brains, with the punchline serving as the satisfying solution.

As research in this field has evolved. so too has our understanding of humor's key components. Today, psychologists recognize that humour involves cognitive, emotional, and social elements. It's not just about the content of a joke, but also about the context in al equilibrium. which it's delivered, the relationship between the joke-teller and the audience, and the cultural norms that shape what we find funny.

door for any knock-knock joke, our brains balance cognition and emotion. When we find something funny, we experience a range of positive emotions - joy, amusement, surprise, and sometimes even a touch of mischievous delight. These emotional responses are humour in everything, and "the minute what make humour such a powerful force in our lives.

tween cognition and emotion in humour isn't always straightforward. soring" comedy and moving away from Sometimes, we might understand a joke on a cognitive level but not find it particularly amusing. Other times, we might Humour has to be spontaneous, reflect laugh at something without fully under- life, and be hard-hitting at times. What's standing why it's funny. This complexi- wrong with making you laugh and think ty is part of what makes humour such a at the same time? rich area of study for psychologists.

of times when one of my humourous hole. It doesn't really matter how I endout of context. Alas, such is the plight my ladder, the only way I can climb out. of the whimsically inclined.

good barb or comment slide. It's in my nature. And our dogs and their antics make me laugh every day.

ment or amusement. But from a psychological perspective, humour serves beyond simply making us laugh. It's a my chemo-induced hairstyle. If clownble of cutting through tension, building all set. bridges between people, and even sharpening our cognitive abilities.

One of the most well-known func- Pleasant chuckles my friends.

tions of humour is stress reduction. When we laugh, our bodies release endorphins - those feel-good chemicals that act as natural painkillers and mood elevators. But the stress-busting power of humour goes beyond just the physical act of laughing. The ability to find humour in stressful situations can provide a psychological buffer, helping us gain perspective and maintain emotion-

Far from being a frivolous activity, engaging with humour can actually make us smarter! Humour often involves making unexpected connections be-In order to get it, or even open the tween ideas, which can enhance creativity and problem-solving skills. When we "get" a joke, we're essentially solving a cognitive puzzle, and this mental workout can help keep our brains sharp.

What can I say? Sharp as a tac I am.

Bianca Del Rio once said that there's you find it, the better life is."

I'm sure every comedian will agree Interestingly, the relationship be- and no topic is taboo. There's been a lot of talk and discussion about "cen-"woke" behaviour.

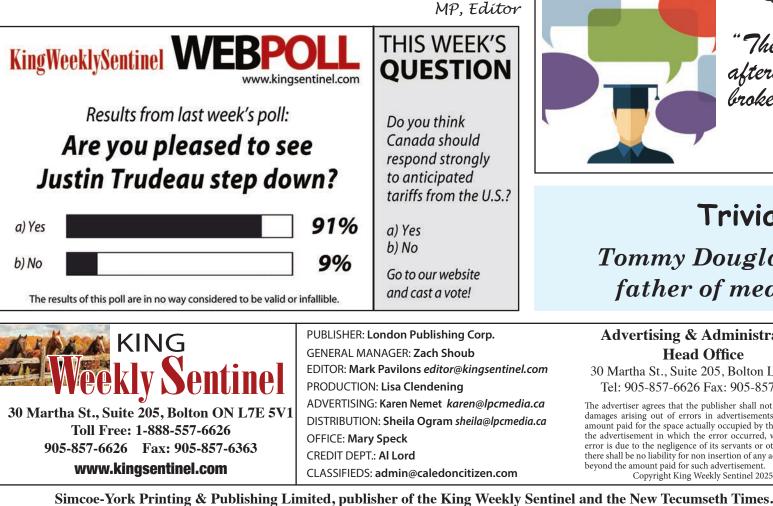
I think when you do that, all is lost.

To me, humour is like a shovel, dig-I can't accurately count the number ging my way out of a dark and dreary outbursts were misunderstood or taken ed up in this void, but jocularity is often

When one is stricken with a life-al-I seldom let the opportunity for a tering ailment or disease, humour becomes even more important. During my time so far "coping with cancer," I must say that a few wisecracks have saved When we think about humour, our me from misery. I've lived my entire life with playfulness in my heart, why give it up now?

I've even welcomed the odd one-liner a multitude of functions that go far from my family members, remarking on "Swiss Army knife" of the mind, capa- ing around could lead to a cure, I'd be

I will continue to fight the dark shadows with my balloon sword until it pops.







#### 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.

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**Published every Thursday** 

## We can all take part in the great transformation

#### By David Suzuki

The odds are stacked against people standing up for the planet's interconnected life-support systems. We don't have the wealth of billionaires, oligarchs and industrialists or their armies of lobbyists. We don't have their massive resources, connections and influence over news media, politicians and governments.

We're also overwhelmed by public apathy, fuelled by mis- and disinformation, distraction and fear.

Many people understandably believe the fossil fuel industry's relentless public relations campaigns. For decades,

#### The Environment

the sector has lied about evidence even its own scientists confirmed: that burning oil, gas and coal traps solar radiation under a blanket of emissions, heating the planet at accelerating rates.

The results are unfolding as predicted, often faster. Weather events have become more unpredictable and extreme, with increasingly intense and frequent storms and storm surges, droughts, floods and heat domes. This fuels massive wildfires, harms agriculture, displaces people and animals, overwhelms infrastructure, raises sea levels, de-

#### Ontario needs to get serious about protecting and restoring nature

Ontario Nature, Nature Canada and 58 of their partner organizations wrote an open letter to Acting Minister McCarthy (Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks) and Minister Smith (Minister of Natural Resources) requesting that the Government of Ontario commit to protecting and restoring nature. Biodiversity loss and climate change are international crises that require effective cooperation between all levels of government.

Provincial governments ultimately play an equal role as the federal government, especially since 87% of Ontario's land mass is provincial Crown Land.

In June 2024, the federal government released the 2030 Nature Strategy as an important step in addressing biodiversity loss and meeting Canada's international commitments. The Government of Ontario has participated in recent federal-provincial-territorial meetings on nature and the Ontario Biodiversity Council developed a provincial Biodiversity Strategy.

This strategy contains many of the same targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss as the national strategy and international framework. Yet, Ontario lacks a coordinated implementation plan.

In November 2023, the governments of Canada and British Columbia, and the First Nations Leadership Council signed a tripartite framework agreement on nature conservation, which commits to halting and reversing biodiversity loss. The Government of Quebec released its 2030 Nature Plan earlier this year. To date, the governments of Ontario and Canada have signed a \$10 million agreement over three years to support the expansion of protected areas in Ontario. This agreement does not commit Ontario to the national and international targets and is a disappointing investment to meet the challenge of biodiversity loss.

While other provinces are making significant progress to achieving one of the hallmark targets, protecting 30% of lands and waters by 2030, Ontario remains at about 11%. This is compared to around 20% of British Columbia, 17% of Quebec and 16% of Alberta protected.

"The Government of Ontario needs to demonstrate national leadership and commit to a coordinated and consistent plan to achieve established targets to protect and restore nature," said Tony Morris, Ontario Nature's Director of Conservation Policy and Campaigns. The government's own protected areas working group reported that Ontarians overwhelmingly support creating more protected areas and addressing environmental issues like wildlife protection and climate change.

The Government of Ontario must recognize the vital importance of nature to the province's overall well-being and long-term sustainability. Ontario Nature calls on the government to commit to a plan that will protect and restore nature.

stroys homes and buildings, melts glaciers, dries up waterways and creates water shortages. If we keep heating the planet at this rate, we'll likely alter or collapse important oceanic and atmospheric systems such as the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation and jet streams — with calamitous consequences.

Industry has also stoked fears that the necessary transition to cleaner energy will cause job losses and economic hardship. No matter how quickly renewable energy and storage technologies improve and prices drop, industry spends billions to convince us that fossil fuels are necessary and solutions unrealistic. For corporate executives and investors, profit trumps everything, including survival.

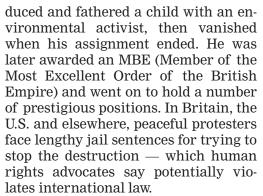
It's more challenging to get the truth across — that conservation, efficiency and renewable energy not only create jobs, better working conditions and economic opportunities, but also cleaner air, water and land and improved human health. They also keep the planet from overheating!

Many people don't think much at all about industry, politics, economics or the climate and biodiversity crises. Who can blame them? Times are crazy, with growing polarization, political turmoil and wars. And many people are struggling to make ends meet. It's no wonder they bury themselves under distractions, from consuming drugs and alcohol to scrolling incessantly on devices to buying stuff they don't need.

It's all designed to give a small number of people power over the rest of us, so they can continue to enrich themselves and their families and friends. Government — the instrument they use to maintain the status quo and impose rules and regulations that benefit them should represent the people and our interests, not deceive us or lull us into complacency for the benefit of plutocrats and polluting industries.

Even in democratic countries where freedom of speech and the right to protest have long been important facets of society, governments are enacting laws to restrict nonviolent protests and are cracking down on those who stand against destructive industries for planetary health and the future of humanity.

In one disturbing but not isolated example, a British undercover cop se-



In Canada, governments have sent soldiers and militarized police to attack land defenders from Wet'suwet'en territory in B.C to Kanehsatà:ke and Kahnawà:ke in Quebec.

As the Guardian reports, "The crackdown against activists has intensified amid increasing death and destruction from extreme heat, floods, drought and sea level rise, with mounting evidence of collusion between corporate lobbyists, lawmakers and state security forces."

It's worse under openly repressive regimes, where activists are often murdered.

People have the power, though. We just have to choose to use it. Apathy is the enemy. We can stand with land defenders, march with climate strikers, write letters, sign petitions, attend local government meetings, get active in politics, learn, vote, dance, have conversations with family, friends, neighbours and colleagues, make positive changes in our own lives and spread some good energy.

Those bent on destroying nature may have wealth and power, but we have numbers and we have truth and love, the most important forces of all!

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

#### Correction

In the Jan. 9 issue of the Weekly Sentinel, an article on the Zancor open house mistakenly pegged the cost of the new facility at \$100-million. In fact, the centre cost an estimated \$86-million. The Sentinel apologizes for the error.





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The Province has responded to concerns from south of the border with a strong energy plan.

Premier Doug Ford outlined Ontario's plan to achieve Am-Can energy security and power economic growth on both sides of the border as part of Fortress Am-Can, a renewed strategic alliance between Canada and America that is a beacon of stability, security and long-term prosperity.

"The Am-Can Growth Plan harnesses our province's abundant energy resource so that we deliver energy security and economic prosperity for families on both sides of the borders," said Stephen Lecce, MPP for King-Vaughan and Ontario's Minister of Energy and Electrification. "By leveraging our nuclear energy advantage and proven technologies, we can displace reliance on undemocratic regimes as we generate more clean power for our economy and the world. Our nations built the most enduring economic partnership on the planet, and now more than ever we must remain partners in the fight for Am-Can workers."

The United States and Canada are tors in the G7, Ontario is uniquely poeach country's most significant trading partners, representing trillions of dollars in annual economic activity and millions of jobs on both sides of the border. Fortress Am-Can will leverage Ontario's unique advantages to help America bring jobs back home as it decouples from China, including by enhancing and building out the integrated Am-Can energy and electricity grid to encourage more exports of Canadian energy and electricity to the U.S.

"With a new administration set to take office in the White House, our government has an ambitious plan to build up Fortress Am-Can to usher in a new American and Canadian century defined by unprecedented growth, job creation and prosperity. We can only do so by working together and respecting each other," said Premier Doug Ford. "Fortress Am-Can should be powered by Am-Can energy of every type that's produced, consumed and creates jobs in every region of both countries. With our fleet of nuclear power plants and the first small modular nuclear reac-



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sitioned to power the future of Fortress Am-Can."

With the province already delivering on its ambitious energy vision, Ontario's Affordable Energy Future, the province is building out its safe and affordable nuclear fleet, including the first small modular nuclear reactors in the G7, competitively procuring new energy resources and building thousands of kilometers of new transmission lines. This diverse supply mix, including nuclear, hydroelectricity, energy storage, hydrogen and renewables, natural gas and other fuels can power good jobs, economic prosperity and protect national security interests shared between Ontario, Canada and the United States.

As part of building Fortress Am-Can, Ontario is recommending the following additional measures:

Enhance and build out the integrated Am-Can energy and electricity grid to encourage more exports of Canadian energy and electricity to the U.S., including Ontario's clean nuclear energy, to power economic growth on both sides of the border.

Establish a cross-border working group with U.S. and Canadian lawmakers alongside energy and security experts to ensure both countries adhere to best practices for power system security against foreign interference, cyber attacks, terrorism and extreme weather, among other threats.

Achieve Am-Can energy security sooner by streamlining the approval of new small modular and large nuclear reactors, while respecting duty to consult obligations and protecting safe operations.

Develop new and reinforce existing electricity transmission interties and natural gas and oil pipelines between Canada and the U.S. to promote the flow of energy across borders.

Establish a cross-border working group with U.S. and Canadian lawmakers and industry experts to align regulations and eliminate red-tape that slows building cross-border energy infrastructure, including for transmission lines, interties and pipelines.

Promote Ontario and Canadian nuclear expertise by establishing a new small modular and large -scale nuclear reactor partnership with the U.S., including with key states and local or regional energy and electricity authorities.

Expand the production of life-saving, cancer-fighting medical isotopes at Ontario's growing fleet of nuclear reactors to support improved cancer patient outcomes in Canada and the United States.

Complement the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve and further enhance Am-Can energy by rebuilding and enhancing America's Strategic Oil Reserve to protect both countries, businesses and every-day families from the high-cost consequences of global oil price manipulation.

Ontario's electricity system is among the cleanest in the world, powered by a diverse supply mix including nuclear, hydroelectric, renewables, natural gas and biomass.

Ontario is a stable and secure source for the critical minerals and clean, affordable energy that will fuel North America's economic growth, while reducing dependence on countries that don't share our democratic values or national security objectives.

Ontario has called on the federal government to address U.S. economic and security concerns, including by matching U.S. tariffs on China, banning Chinese software in cars on Canadian roads, delaying the implementation of the digital services tax and presenting a credible plan to meet and exceed Canada's two per cent NATO defence spending commitments.

If Ontario were a standalone country, it would be the U.S.'s third-largest trading partner with a near-perfect balance in two-way trade totalling CAD \$493 billion in 2023, employing millions of workers on both sides of the border.

Ontario is the number one export destination for 17 U.S. states and number two to 11 others. Every day, more than nine million Americans wake up, go to work and earn a paycheque to make something that's sold to a customer in Ontario.



#### eather Outlook

#### From Thursday, January 16 to Wednesday, January 22

THURS 16TH	Fri 17th	SAT 18TH	SUN 19TH	Mon 20th	TUES 21ST	WED 22ND
	23		2		-	
High -7C°	Mainly Cloudy High -2C°	High -1C°	Clouds/Sun High -14C°	A Few Flurries High -14C°	Sun/Clouds High -16C°	Partly Sunn High -12C
Low -5C° <1cm Wind SW 11k	Low -1C° ~1cm Wind S 22k	Low -16C° - Wind NW 20k	Low -19C° - Wind N 10k	Low -21C° <1cm Wind E 6k	Low -18C° - Wind SW 23k	Low -13C ~1cm Wind SW 18



### **The King Weekly Sentinel**

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Stephen Lecce, MP for King-Vaughan and Energy Minister, joined Premier Doug Ford in announcing "The Am-Can Growth Plan" to harnesses Ontario's abundant energy resource to deliver energy security and economic prosperity for families on both sides of the border.

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## Anniversary of PS752 tragedy marked; still no closure

#### By Mark Pavilons Editor

The passage of time does not heal all wounds.

For families of victims of Flights PS752, a lack of closure means their pain continues.

The fifth anniversary of one of the worst tragedies and acts of aggression saw numerous vigils held across Canada, and in Ontario. Family members carried posters with photos and names of those killed in the crash.

Ukraine International Airlines Flight PS752 was shot down by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in Iran Jan. 8, 2020, killing all on board, including many Canadians.

Former Nobleton resident Shahin Moghaddam lost his wife Shakiba, and their son Rossitin.

Of those 176 murdered, 55 were Canadian citizens and 30 were permanent residents, two of whom were Nobleton.

King-Vaughan MP Anna Roberts wondered if it could have been prevented.

"Back in 2018, Justin Trudeau and

his Liberal Government voted for a common sense Conservative motion to list the IRGC as a terrorist organization. It wasn't until June 2024 that he finally implemented this motion. It took the Liberals six years to list the IRGC as a terrorist organization. As a result of the Liberal party's inaction and delay, the IRGC has been able to grow stronger," she said.

"They have been allowed to fundraise, recruit and operate in Canada while terrorizing countless Canadians of Iranian descent who fled to Canada in order to escape the IRGC. Reports indicate there are now 700 agents of the Iranian regime operating in Canada, and that the Iranian regime has hired members of the Hell's Angels in British Columbia to assassinate persons in North America.

"The IRGC is a crucial part of the Iranian regime and is key to its continued existence. They have openly declared their support for organizations that are already listed as terrorist organizations in Canada, such as Hezbollah and Hamas. In fact, just weeks before the October 7 attacks on Israel, Hamas

his Liberal Government voted for a terrorists received training from the Houthis who continue to fire missiles at ships carrying humanitarian aid and

"It is unacceptable that it took six years for the Liberal Government to finally act, and only after years of Conservative calls for action."

Roberts attended the memorial service for the victims of PS752.

"I stand with those who have lost loved ones and fear for their lives. Conservatives will protect Canadians and stand with the people of Iran in their fight for freedom."

"At 6:12 a.m., Ukrainian International Flight PS752 took off for Kyiv, starting like any other. Seven minutes later, it ended in horror," said The Hon. Pierre Poilievre, Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada and the Official Opposition.

"These were our people, and it is our duty to honour their memory and ensure that justice is served for their murder. Yet the tyrants in Tehran have learned nothing and continue to fund chaos, terror, death and destruction at home and abroad.

"Their terrorist network spreads violence across the world, including the Houthis who continue to fire missiles at ships carrying humanitarian aid and killing civilians. Here in Canada, their thugs intimidate the families whose relatives they murdered.

"Conservatives reaffirm our commitment to defund and dismantle the Iranian regime's terrorist network. We will expose and expel those working for foreign dictatorships and make our country a safe place for all Canadians."







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## **Business, Finance** & Real Estate



## King Township celebrates major accessibility milestones

www.KingChamber.ca

Your Voice for Business in King

#### **By Mark Pavilons** Editor

Boosted by a diligent group of volunteers, King Township is making great strides in enhancing accessibility across the community. This was highlighted in the newly released 2023 Accessibility Status Report. This report, part of the Township's 2018-2025 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, underscores significant achievements in removing barriers and promoting inclusivity for all residents.

Key achievements in 2023 included:

Comprehensive training: Provided ongoing training for all employees and volunteers on the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, Integrated Accessibility

Standards Regulation and the Ontario program and physical enhancements to Human Rights Code.

KING

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Policy reviews: Regularly updated policies and procedures to maintain the highest standards of customer service and accessibility.

Accessible public spaces: Implemented accessible features in parks, recreational trails, public-use eating areas, outdoor play spaces and facilities, including the new Zancor Centre.

Inclusive programming: Offered adaptive sports and outdoor activities, such as wheelchair basketball, sledge hockey, and programs at the Cold Creek Conservation Area.

Library enhancements: Increased accessible features and services at the King Township Public Library, including adaptive technology, a homebound



### **Company proud of camera image**

This lunar image, taken by Canadensys Aerospace Corporation Camera, was selected as 2024 Space Exploration Image of the Year by The Planetary Society.

library facilities.

Planning and development: Promoted accessibility policies in new developments through the Planning Division, ensuring sustainable and inclusive growth. This included universal accessible metric targets designed to evaluate the sustainable performance of new development in the Township.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee reviewed 22 planning applications in 2023 in relation to accessibility and carried out accessibility audits of two Township facilities, the Pottageville Pavilion and Schomberg Community Hall

Curb-side service continued to be provided to King's citizens who can't access the Municipal Centre for services such as commissioning of documents.

Assistive Listening Devices were made available to people attending Council and Committee meetings at the King Township Municipal Office to amplify the sound system to help them to hear the meetings better.

King Township continues to align its efforts with the 2023-2026 Corporate Strategic Plan, focusing on enriching community well-being and becoming an age-friendly community by 2026.

For more information and to read the full report, visit King Township's Accessibility page.

The multi-year Accessibility Plan runs through 2025 and annual updates show its progress. Staff noted the plan "continues to meet or exceed its requirements" under the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (I.A.S.R.).

In 2013, King was required to modify how it prepared and developed its Accessibility Plan for the Township. Specifically, the I.A.S.R. requires the Township to establish, implement, maintain and document a multi-year accessibility plan, which outlines the Township's

strategy to prevent and remove barriers, meeting its requirements under the regulation. It also mandates that the Plan be reviewed and updated every five years and be made available to the public.

Township staff worked with the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) to develop the 2018 - 2025 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. This was received and approved by council on October 7, 2019.

The 2023 Accessibility Status Report was prepared in cooperation with several divisions across the Township to provide an accurate and fulsome summary of King's accessibility accomplishments. The draft report was provided to the AAC to receive the committee's input prior to bringing the final report to council for consideration.

Councillor Debbie Schaefer lauded the volunteers on the committee for their consistent drive and enthusiasm.

"It's good to see what a diligent group of volunteers accomplished," she said.

King has taken to improve accessibility in the community and to ensure the province's target to have an accessible Ontario by 2025 is achieved.

The pandemic in 2021/2022 shifted priorities for all and impacted implementation/timelines of certain accessibility enhancement projects. Notwithstanding, King continued to reinforce its commitment to its vision, mission and values by ensuring significant compliance actions were still accomplished in 2023.

"King continues to integrate accessibility planning into business practices, policies, processes, and programming across all departments/divisions," staff noted in their report. "This 2023 Accessibility Status Report has been developed in consultation with King's Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) and Township staff and has been designed and developed to be an accessible document for persons with all abilities."

**KING TOWNSHIP & KING THEATRE COMPANY** 

Canadensys, a Bolton-based aerospace company, has delivered dozens of its programable NISA lunar cameras to customers around the world. Nine Canadensys cameras are already on the lunar surface, and another 40 are manifested on various upcoming lunar missions.

"We were thrilled to learn that an image taken by one of our cameras on the way to the Moon was selected by the Planetary Society as the Space Exploration Image of the Year!" said the company.

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

**Application for Zoning By-law Amendment** 125, 137 & 145 Dew Street, King City

A Public Information Session has been scheduled to inform and seek input from the public regarding a recently submitted application for Zoning By-law Amendment for the lands located at 125, 137 and 145 Dew Street in King City. The subject lands are located on the south side of Dew Street, west of William Street. The purpose of this information session is to share details about the proposed townhouse development and to give you an opportunity to offer any comments or feedback. Please join us to learn more about what is being proposed and to ask any questions you may have.

The Public Information Session will be held:

Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 6:00pm to 8:00pm Drop-In Open House / Information Display Only King City Public Library 1970 King Rd, King City, ON L7B 1K9

If you are not able to attend, comments may also be provided in writing, quoting File No. Z-2024-11 and forwarded to the Township of King Planning Department.





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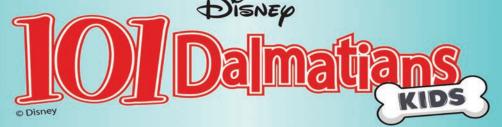
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## Schomberg's Don Dippo appointed to the Order of Canada

#### **By Jim Stewart**

Former Schomberg resident Don Dippo is enjoying retirement life in British Columbia where he has rejoined his children on the West Coast.

"We moved out to Comox Valley two years ago. All four of our children had relocated to BC so the move made sense to us. It's great to see our two grandchildren regularly, instead of on Zoom. We've seen more of them in two years than we saw in 10 years."

The devoted family man can rest on his laurels out in Lotus Land after an award-winning career at York University's Faculty of Education. Especially noteworthy during his decades of refining teacher candidates at York was an innovative international program that Dippo developed and launched in 2013. "Borderless Higher Education for Refugees" provided teacher training for residents of the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya. It was designed to ameliorate living conditions at the world's oldest and largest encampment.

The crescendo to Dippo's distinguished career in education occurred on Dec. 18, 2024. After decades of increasing access to education for children in Toronto, Eastern Africa, as well as South and Central America, the engaging professor was notified by phone by the Governor General's Office that he had been appointed to the Order of Canada. At first, the self-effacing Dippo thought he was being pranked by the caller and his immediate reaction was disbelief: "The call came out of the blue. I was waiting for them to ask for my bank account information and my password so I would be able to access the award. When the caller from the Governor General's office asked me if I would like to accept the Order of Canada, my response was 'Really? Do people really choose to decline?""

In fact, members of Dippo's family were more excited than the recipient himself. The veteran educator joked that "My daughter was even more impressed that I would be joining the same Order of Canada class as Ryan Reynolds and liked this new company I would be keeping."

Dippo and Reynolds, along with Murdoch Mysteries author Maureen Ann Jennings, and Hockey Night in Canada broadcaster Scott Oake, will be among the 88 appointees from the Class of 2025 to be feted in Order of Canada ceremonies later this year.

Since its creation in 1967, more than 7,600 people from all sectors of society have been invested into the Order. Dippo – caught up in the moment of recognition and its historical significance – noted that "To be appointed to the Order of Canada will be otherworldly."

Although Dippo is excited about his upcoming ceremony, he maintained that he did not seek such notoriety and observed that "you're happy to teach without acknowledgement and teaching in the BHER program had a profound impact on me as well as my colleagues. They brought back great classroom teaching strategies from Kenya regarding oral culture. It was a life-changing thing for the faculty involved. More than 20 other faculty members over 10 years went to teach in the program. The best part was that half our students finished the program and became better teachers. They let go of the rote learning and corporal punishment that were the two methods of education. This made teaching more pleasurable for them and parents and kids were more satisfied with the program."

It's evident that the York instructor and his colleagues in the BHER program were hard-wired to serve. Dippo delineated his reasons for developing Borderless Higher Education for Refugees: "Like most teachers, the satisfaction didn't come from recognition. When our first cohort of 59 Dadaab students received their Certificate in Education and brought their expertise back to the schools in the refugee camp, I felt the kind of satisfaction you take from the success of your former students.

"As the program developed, we were asked to offer degree programs which were also completed by half of our candidates. It was so exciting to see this kind of accomplishment from a teaching point of view. Our students went back to Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya as trilingual teachers who got jobs immediately and improved the education system in all three countries."

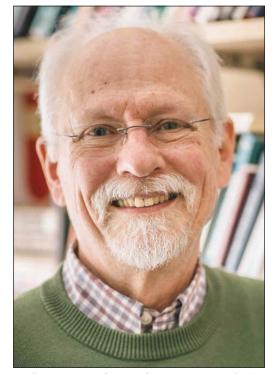
The challenge that Dippo and his team undertook in 2013 at the Kenya-Somalia border was truly daunting: "We were approached by national education authorities to improve the education system in Dadaab. There were only three high schools for 500,000 refugees and the NGO wanted to improve the quality of education being delivered. So much of the education system was built on rote and punishment which made for joyless teaching and learning."

Another significant complication was funding: "Since universities don't have a mandate to do charitable work, we had to get grants and sponsors to launch the program. We established an organization that linked York University with Kenyatta University, Windle International Kenya, Lutheran World Federation, and UNHCR Kenya. We were able to secure grants from 2013-2022 for the program."

Dippo visited familiar territory when his team developed curriculum for the teacher education program: "We created a standard for elementary school teaching programs and were able to use the old one-year program we had at York. We redesigned the courses, especially in Math, Science, and Social Sciences. Our planning team immersed ourselves in the cultural history of Kenya and Somalia to connect to the candidates in the program. It was really satisfying to see our first two cohorts graduate with Certificates in Educational Studies from York University and they returned to Kenya to make the education system better."

Dippo's goals were clear when he and his team at York University set up the BHER program – "to make educational programs where refugees need them"





and, as stated on the BHER website "to create justice, sustainability, and peace in Kenya, Somalia, and the surrounding Eastern and Central African region."

Prior to his relocation to Canada's west coast after a lifetime spent in the GTA and two years before being appointed to the Order of Canada, Dippo was presented with the Minister's Award of Excellence in the category of "Equality of Opportunity" on January 28, 2022.

The newly-transplanted resident of Comox Valley, British Columbia reflected on not only his career at York U, but on the joys of raising a family in the village of Schomberg during simpler times: "We raised our kids in Schomberg. We had the ravine behind our house which was a great area for the kids to play and explore. They were 'feral' children who stayed out and played until it was dark. You didn't worry about them, there were no supervised play dates, and the community was very safe to raise kids."

Whether it was in Schomberg in the 20th century and Comox, British Columbia in the 21st century, Dippo's connection to his children is evident. His ability to find balance between family life and professional life has been impressive as his appointment to the Order of Canada would suggest – especially if, during his retirement, he's associating with celebrities like Ryan Reynolds.





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## Winter skies bring bright planets into view

#### By Gary Boyle

Canadian winters can be quite harsh at times. Between the bone-chilling cold and piles of snow, this time of year plays host to the bright winter constellations.

Orion – the Hunter is the most recognized pattern in the entire sky. The three stars appearing in a row signifying his belt, lie on the celestial equator meaning both the northern and southern hemispheres can see this group of seven stars portraying the Hunter battling Taurus the Bull.

Early sunsets allow one to begin star gazing and photographing the sky after dinner compared to around 10 p.m. in summer. Along with these seven bright suns, other constellations around Orion also display brilliant stars. In all, a dozen bright points of light reign the sky. Hanging down from the belt stars namely Alnitak, Alnilam and Mintaka is the imaginary sword. That misty patch of light is the Orion Nebula, a region of gas and dust located about 1,500 light years away and measures an estimated 24 light years wide. Keep in mind one light year measures close to 10 trillion kilometres. Within this region, new stars are being created as pockets of gas and dust slowly condense and collapse onto themselves. As the star grows, so does its internal pressure and temperature until the star lights up in a thermo-nuclear reaction.

Amongst the brighter constellations

**Backyard Astronomy** 

of Auriga, Gemini, Canis Minor and Major as well as Taurus are two brilliant planets. First is Jupiter located high in the night sky in the constellation Taurus. Jupiter is presently around 632 million kilometres or 35 light-minutes away whereas the orange-coloured star named Aldebaran to the lower right is 66 light years from us. This star is referred to as the "angry eye of the bull" and is a foreground star of the much farther star cluster called the Hyades situated 154 light-years away. The Pleiades of "Seven Sisters" is a fantastic sight in low power binoculars and in mythology is the "heart" of the Bull.

Moving east we come to the constellation Gemini consisting of the bright stars Castor (51 ly) and Pollux (33 ly). Below and lining up with these two suns is Mars. Referred to as the red planet, it appears bright orange and will be close to Earth on January 16. This close approach occurs every 26 months thus allowing a good opportunity to see Martian surface features with a telescope. On the night of January 13, Mars will either be occulted and hidden by the moon for up to an hour or have a very near miss, depending on where you live in North America.

And let us not forget the planet Venus now in the lower western sky. It sets around 8:30 p.m. local time. To the upper left is the planetary jewel of the



sky, Saturn. Taking on a yellowish hue, nist for the Royal Astronomical Society Saturn is now 83 light-minutes away. Venus and Saturn will be in conjunction (appearing closest in the sky) on the night of January 18. Today's astronomy apps will help you identify the planets and learn the constellations. The night sky is a place of wonder that can be enjoyed all year round.

Known as "The Backyard Astronomer," Gary Boyle is an astronomy educator, guest speaker, former monthly columof Canada as well as a STEM educator. He has been interviewed on more than 60 Canadian radio stations as well as various television stations across Canada and the U.S. In recognition of his public outreach in astronomy, the International Astronomical Union has honoured him with the naming of Asteroid (22406) Garyboyle. Follow him on Facebook and his website: www.wondersofastronomy. com



## Winter sowing: harnessing the season for a head-start on gardening

The Nobleton and King City Garden Club is presenting an online seminar on "Winter Sowing: Harnessing the Season for a Head Start on Gardening." It will be presented via Zoom on Monday, Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Winter sowing is a simple, eco-friendly method of starting seeds outdoors uring the colder months. By planting seeds in recycled containers, such as water jugs or clear plastic bins, you create mini-greenhouses that mimic natural conditions. The seeds remain dormant until temperatures rise, germinating when the time is just right. This method reduces the need for indoor grow lights and space, while also producing hardy seedlings acclimated to outdoor conditions. It's a low-maintenance, sustainable way to jumpstart your garden and is perfect for cold-hardy flowers, herbs, and vegetables. Plus, it's a great way to reuse materials and embrace nature's timing! Anna Santarossa will guide you through the entire process, sharing the techniques that have worked for her. Members of the King City & Nobleton Garden Club can attend for free. Guests pay \$10. To join the Garden Club the yearly membership is \$30. This entitles you to admittance to all meetings, including expert guest speakers, member events, flower shows, and discounts.

### **ASK hosts talk**

It was a fantastic day when Arts Society King (ASK) hosted more than 30 of its 45 Studio Tour King artists for a photo shoot and a talk on social media. Lunch was delicious, too. Save the date – April 5 & 6 for a the studio tour taking place at 6 public locations and 5 home studios.

Contact them at nobletonkingcitygardenclub@gmail.com for more information.

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			'												chemistry	62. Facial body part	28. People of	elongated fish
															31. More pleasant-	63. Russian river	southeastern Burma	54. Type of sword
															tasting	64. Urinates	29. Small amount	55. Scottish tax or levy

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

## Scoop from Schomberg

#### **By Susan Heslop**

I long for the mild winter of 2024, as you likely know I'm not a fan of the cold and for those lucky enough to be enjoying a sandy beach somewhere in this chill, I'm very jealous.

I'm going to join the aquafit at the new Zancor Centre, it's not the sand and sea but at least it's water. If you haven't signed up yet, King is offering "RecPass" which gets residents unlimited access to drop-in recreational programming – including swimming, skating, shinny hockey, sports and access to sports equipment and classes, "RecPass" is valid at all King Township recreation facilities. Available for sale in person or online at king. ca/RecPass. There are also lots of new activities added to the King rooster, check out the list of at king.ca/recreation.

Everyone is invited to the official opening on Jan. 26, from 9 a.m to 6 p.m. The event will feature a ribbon cutting ceremony, Mayor Pellegrini's Pancake Breakfast and end the day with the new King Rebellions Junior hockey team taking the ice.

The Zancor Centre boasts two NHL sized rinks, a fitness Centre, a turf field, a running track, and a six-lane lap pool. It also has community rooms for classes, recreation programs and private rentals.

King Township also has an "On-Request flexible ride-sharing service." Rides when you need them within designated service areas throughout King Township – no application needed. You can travel between addresses or connect with YRT routes where direct transit isn't available. The hours are Monday to Friday from 5:30 to 9 a.m. and out. If you're not a member, you can

4 to 8 p.m. You can book your trip one day ahead on the YRT On-Request app or call 1-844-667-5327. For more information, visit yrt.ca/OnRequest.

#### Schomberg Euchre Club

The Euchre group is open to all, and is 7 to 9 on Friday nights, at the Trisan in Room A. The cost is \$10 for the evening or pay monthly for \$20. All welcome, all ages, men, women, all you need to know is how to play (no beginners please), how to laugh, enjoy an excellent group of people and not take the game or yourself too seriously.

#### Schomberg 55+

King Seniors are working hard organizing an exciting event for all our members, and the best part is that it's free. Please mark your calendars for March 22, from 12 to 5 p.m. for our "Maritime Kitchen Party" at the Trisan Centre. The event will include lunch and we'll you'll entertained by "The Flailing Shilaleighs" a local Celtic band specializing in East Coast, Irish and catchy original tunes, there is also a rumour that our own "Tightly Wound Ukulele group may be joining in to entertain. Space is limited and registration is open now, so call Alicia at 905-833-6565 or reserve online at King.ca/seniors to reserve your spot. You aren't going to want to miss this!

If vou're a local business and would like to sponsor one of our events, please reach out to me at sporter5952@gmail. com or Lynn Bird at klbird@hotmail. com. We are always looking for local sponsors.

Bridge will continue each Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. at Schomberg Community Hall

Our Tightly Wound Ukulele club will now meet at 3 p.m. on Thursdays. If you're interested in learning to play and you're a member, feel free to come

#### Tech programs for seniors

King seniors are invited to get tech savvy! King Township is offering four unique cyber security and safety workshops at the Zancor Centre for ages 55+.

Safe Internet Use: Thursday, Feb. 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Recognizing & Avoiding Scams: Thursday, Feb. 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Securing Your Devices: Thursday, Mar. 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Password Management & Security: Thursday, Mar. 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost per workshop is \$12 for residents. Pre-registration required.

sign up at Trisan or one of our meetings.

Monday, January 20 – 10 a.m. – The Colours of Gillian Vivona. Learn about your colour pattern and how knowing can help you better interact with those around you.

Monday, February 3rd - 10am our very own Carol Hindley presents "A Member's Life Story" this is a project Carol has taken on to create our members life stories from a questionnaire she developed. They are always so interesting, and you're always amazed to hear about the lives our members have lived.

Monday, February 17 – Speaker – Ian Hamilton, author of crime/mystery.

#### Nobleton & Schomberg United Churches

#### By Nancy Hopkinson

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.)

The 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 all.

Rev. Richard has saved some turkey and is proposing a special "Lucky Pot" soup on Thurs. Jan. 23 at St. Mary Magdalene Church. Everyone is encouraged to contribute to this soup -veggie, pasta, or bread/crackers/butter/fruit.

Games night is coming up on Tues. Jan. 28 at 7 pm at Nobleton United Church. Bring a game and some friends. If you need a ride, please let Richard tact our churches phone 905-859-3976.

Best known for Ava Lee: a crime series that follows Ava Lee, a Chinese Canadian forensic accountant whose job it is to pursue bad debts.

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

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

Please reach out with your events, stories of happenings or anything you would love to see here sporter5952@ gmail.com or 416-460-5952.

know and he will make sure that you get there.

The next Community Pot Luck Lunch is Tues. Feb. 4 at 11:15 a.m. at St. Mary Magdalene Church. Lunch is at 11:50 a.m. Remember to bring something to share for the meal.

The next Seniors Lunch at St. Mary Magdalene Church is Tuesday, Feb. 11. Please arrive at 11:15 a.m. so that the program can start at 11:30 a.m. The entertainment is guest singer/actress Nancy Chapple Smokler. She will help us celebrate Valentine's Day with her musical talents. Nancy performs regularly with Theatre Georgian Bay and is Board President at South Simcoe Theatre in Cookstown. The meal is pork tenderloin with apple marinade, and apple chutney, with rice, peas, buns. The dessert chocolate cupcakes and ice cream. Please let Sheila Kelly know (905-939-2315) if you plan to attend, as space is limited. The meal can be delivered, if you prefer.

Committee Reports are due. Sharon requests that we get them in ASAP for the 2024 Annual Report. The AGM is after Schomberg United's regular 9:30 am service on March 2nd with a short break for a light meal first.

On Wednesday mornings, we have a Zoom Coffee chat (10 to 11 a.m.). We talk on a huge variety of topics, mainly current events. You are welcome to join us. Just send me a message nancykhopkinson@gmail.com to request the link.

Schomberg United Church meets at St. Mary Magdalene Church, lower level, 116 Church St., Schomberg. It is accessible. Nobleton United Church meets 6076 King Rd., Nobleton. It has a wheelchair ramp and a chair lift to go up the 7 steps to the Sanctuary. To con-



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DINNER SHOWS STARTING AT \$95

SHOW DATES JAN 30 - FEB 2

#### **PROFESSIONAL BROADWAY PRODUCTION**

COMMUNITY THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE PRESENTED BY BELLVUE ENTERTAINMENT & DREAMTHEATRE PRODUCTIONS



Shirley Loureiro as Anna and John De Pinto as the King; Alexandra Felicia as Lady Thiang; Courtney Pan as Tuptim

Bellvue Entertainment ,in conjunction with Dreamtheatre Productions is jumpstarting theatre at the Vaughn Metropolitan Centre (VMC).

With the launch of the King and I production (at Bellvue Manor ,8083 Jane St.), it will provide community theatre, at the professional level.

The Cast is highly experienced – a number of actors are currently on stage in Canada and the US.

Combined with a live Orchestra, the audience will be totally immersed in auditory and visual experience typically only available at high end theatre.

Those who choose the dinner/tickets show will also have the culinary experience Bellvue is known for.

With 5 shows over 4 days, patrons will have a wide range of options and price points to experience theatre at its best!

The King and I is one of Broadway's best-known shows. The great Actor, Yul Bruner, starred in the original Broadway production and the movie.

Order your tickets now for a delightful and exciting theatre experience!

Tickets can be ordered at: Bellvue.ticketsauce.com

## King Weekly Sentinel Sports • News • Community Events Classifieds • At Your Service



## Lessard, Kotyk, and Scott provide three-point performances in Schomberg's 6-1 win over Port Perry

#### **By Jim Stewart**

Three-point efforts by William Lessard, Henry Kotyk, and Jonathan Scott were at the heart of an emphatic offensive display on Thursday night in Schomberg's 6-1 win over Port Perry at the Trisan Centre.

In the defensive end, Cougar netminder Nicolas Morvan stopped 39 of 40 Lumberjack shots to earn First Star of the Game honors. "Marvelous" Morvan raised his save percentage to .928 – ranked 13th in the 63-team PJHL.

The five-goal victory avenged a 4-3 loss to the Lumberjacks on December 22 and moved the Cougars back into third place over Port Perry in the East Orr Division.

After a scoreless first period during which Morvan made 15 saves, Cougars' veteran forward Matthew Lychek lit the lamp at 12:13 of the middle frame with helpers from Kotyk and Schomberg's leading scorer Luke Szabo.

Schomberg took a 2-0 lead when Andrew Watt beat Lumberjacks' goaltender Daniel Giusti with 1:32 left in the second period. Watt's second of the season was assisted by Lessard and Michael Ciaravella. Morvan repelled 15 more shots in the middle frame to keep Port Perry off the scoreboard.

The Cougars' power play converted for the first time in four opportunities two minutes into the third period. Joey Furlano's persistence paid off when he hunted down his own rebound in the slot and one-timed it past Giusti to put Schomberg up 3-0. Scott and Kotyk earned assists on Furlano's seventh of the season. The aggressive power forward described his goal and the importance of Schomberg's improving power play: "The play developed off the halfwall. I was able to dig the puck out and took a pair of nasty slashes on my way to the net. The slashes made me want to score even more and I was able to get it past him. We've been struggling on the power play recently so it was nice to get a goal. It's important that our power play is productive, especially heading into the playoffs."

In addition to a better-functioning power play, the Cougars' penalty-killing combos showed flashes of offensive brilliance. After a pair of point blank kick saves by Morvan at 16:20, Reece Muir took a cross checking penalty to provide the Lumberjacks with the man-advantage. On the ensuing PK, Lychek stole a puck from the Port Perry defensive pair at the blue line, broke away from the lumbering Lumberjacks, and fired a breakaway snap shot that beat Giusti, but not the crossbar.

Seconds later, the Cougars' PK cashed in on their next scoring chance when Lessard caused havoc in the Lumberjacks' zone. Lessard induced a turnover with ferocious forechecking, pivoted





The "Caledon Connection" – William Lessard (7) and Joey Furlano (3) – scored a short-handed goal and a power play goal, respectively, in the third period as the Cougars beat the Lumberjacks 6-1 in PJHL action.

toward the Port Perry net, and buried his own rebound on what was ostensibly a 1-on-4 goal. Scott earned the assist on Lessard's scintillating shortie who described the success of Schomberg's aggressive shorthanded tactics: "We were under their skin. I could see it in their eyes. They were panicking with the puck in their own end and I was able to steal the pass and put away the rebound." Lessard also complimented Morvan's performance as the basis of the Cougars' PK success: "He really kept us in this game, especially early. He made some great saves when we were killing penalties and throughout the game."

Morvan's brilliance between the pipes was evident in the waning moments of the third as he delivered a range of fine saves. However, with 3:39 left in the game, the Lumberjacks broke Morvan's shutout when Kyle Bailey lifted a rebound over the sprawled netminder who had just repelled the Port Perry power play with two spectacular sliding saves. The Cougars' offence replied 57 seconds later with a dramatic goal by Captain Jordyn Palazzo. The speedy centre electrified the crowd and his teammates with arguably the prettiest goal of the evening. Palazzo took a pass from Szabo, won a neutral zone puck race, skated to open ice, and blasted a 7:30 p.m.

clapper past Guisto high blocker side from between the circles for his 13th of the season. Szabo earned his 20th assist on Palazzo's crowd-pleasing goal that TKO'd Port Perry.

In a game-closing display of forechecking and marksmanship, Lessard stole a puck and fed Kotyk at the blue line. The Cougar defender's shot from the left point sailed through a sea of green and gold-clad Lumberjacks and Scott deflected it past Giusti with 53.6 seconds left. Lessard, Kotyk, and Scott each earned their third points of the game on the Cougars' sixth goal – a tidy statistical ending to an entertaining PJHL contest at the Trisan Centre.

Lessard noted the importance of the win after three consecutive losses to Port Perry, Little Britain, and Georgina: "This gets our momentum going again. We were moving our feet tonight

Michelle O'Brien, Gina Strano, Joanne Anderson and Kim Baldesarra of King Team 1 currently sit in 1st place of the Women's Mini Majors League. The top placing secures them a spot in this year's playoffs.

#### King team earns 1st in the Majors

#### By Shellee Morning King Curling Club

This month's Mini Majors game was held in Orangeville last Friday, and both King teams were anticipating some great curling.

Michelle O'Brien who's turn was to Skip, led team mates Kim Baldesarra, Gino Strano and Joanne Anderson in their game against Orangeville to a 7-3 victory. Orangeville earned 3 points in the first but O'Brien and her team collected a point in the next 3 to tie the game.

A solid performance by Vice Gina Strano, and the front end of Baldesarra and Anderson allowed the come from behind win. With only one more game in the regular round robin King 1 sits in first place and has secured their berth in the Majors playoffs.

In her debut as Skip for King 2, Lynda Thompson called a strategic game for her squad of Sandee Fennell, Pauline Van Roon and Linda Similas. Midway thru the match and facing 4 Orangeville counters, Thompson executed a perfect take-out to earn the point and the end, but it would be Orangeville that claimed the victory in the hard fought battle of the board.

King Curling Club will be hosting the league's next game that is scheduled for Feb. 5.

With the club now back in full motion from the Christmas break, so has the return of the echoing calls of the hurry hard and the thunder of rock impact. This past week curlers witnessed erratic scoring, precision angle takeouts and next to impossible draws to the button.

The start of the week began with the Men's League drawing the undying attention of Team Pelland's 5-0 record. Skip Sylvain Pelland and his crew of Trevor Battershell, Anthony Strickland and Fausto Mussato are keeping the likes of Teams Campbell and Inglis in their rear view mirror as they are tied for 2nd place. Teams Barber and Sheardown share 3rd place overall.

In the Women's League, Skip Shellee Morning, Kim Battershell, Kathryn Markle and Sue Burman are maintaining a narrow lead for first place over Teams Gorsline and Hamilton who are one point back and tied for 2nd. Team Stronach sits alone in 3rd for the overall standings.

King's Mixed League, which has become very equal in its parity while remaining true to its competitive nature, was also lucid on the scoreboard. Skip Mark Inglis, Veronica Wilson, Greg Switzer and Christine Warner have remained in the top position for most of the season while Team Pelland has consistently been breathing down their neck in 2nd. The 3rd position has seen a shuffle of teams throughout the season with Team Morning currently holding the spot.

Each week is a new game where there are no guarantees for the win.

throughout the game and winning races for the puck."

Furlano echoed his teammate's insights: "It was a good bounce back win for us. It was nice to get back in the win column. It puts us back into third place."

The third-place Cougars (16-13-2-0) host the sixth-place Little Britain Merchants (12-16-0-1) on Thursday (January 16). Puck drop at the Trisan Centre is 7:30 p.m.

#### Rebellion sweeps crucial weekend series with Niagara Falls to extend winning streak

#### By Jim Stewart

The King Rebellion extended its winning streak to four games by edging the Niagara Falls Canucks 2-1 in OJHL action at the Nobleton Community Centre on Sunday afternoon.

On Friday night in Niagara Falls, Marshall McCharles fired two goals to lead the Rebellion to a tidy 3-1 win over the Canucks.

Both regulation victories were crucial to the Rebellion's playoff aspirations. With the away-and-home sweep versus Niagara Falls, King moved back into eighth place in the OJHL West and pulled to within four points of the sixth-place Canucks.

Rebellion Head Coach Mark Joslin described the weekend sweep of the Canucks as "Incredible. We knew we had to win both these games. It's hard to sweep a home and home series with a team ahead of us in the standings. We played the right way all weekend."

Coach Joslin applauded the performance of goaltender Tre Altiman who was brilliant in the two-game series: "We brought Tre here to be our main guy. He's brought so much confidence with him. Tre's played great for us and he's come from a winning tradition in Leamington."

In addition to the fine play of Altiman, Coach Joslin acknowledged the positive response of his team to recent sweeping changes to the Rebellion roster: "Despite all the tumultuous changes, the chemistry and culture is at the best point it's been all season. There's a sense of calm in that there will be no more changes. We're going to fight together to the end."

Another factor that has lifted team spirit, according to Coach Joslin, is the recent move into the Zancor Centre: "Certainly, it's nice to settle into our own home rink and our own dressing room. We're happy to be practicing there and we're looking forward to playing in front of a big crowd at the Zancor Centre for the grand opening on January 26 against the Admirals."

On Sunday, rookie centre Owen Barfoot opened the scoring at 12:29 of the first period with assists earned by Aidan Russell and Ryan Fairbairn.

Mikhail Zakharov's 10th of the season, assisted by Rebellion leading scorer Marshall McCharles, proved to be the game winner when he beat Canucks' goaltender Mikeal Kingo with three seconds left on the clock.

The Rebellion just missed going up 3-0 to open the third period when Sam Black's wrist shot from between the circles beat Kingo, but not the crossbar, at 17:55.

Altiman kept the Canucks off the scoreboard with an array of pointblank, athletic stops in the final frame – notably a big skate save at 11:00 and a blocker save at 8:12. However, with 3:47 remaining, Niagara Falls forward Maximus McGuire fired a snapshot *Cont'd on Page 13* 

### King's Noah Landry races to 2024 Goodwood VLR Junior Kart Championship and Villanova College's Honor Roll

#### **By Jim Stewart**

VLR Junior Kart Racing Champion Noah Landry reflected on his accomplishments on and off the track during our pit stop recently.

For Landry, capturing prestigious, national-calibre racing championships and earning great grades in school continues to be a winning one-two combination for the 13-year-old from King City. The Grade 9 Honor Roll Student - who is excelling in the STEM program at Villanova College - has adjusted to both his new academic challenges as a high school freshman and the elevated level of rigor he experienced on the track this past season.

The articulate high-performance student-athlete, who turned 14 on Christmas Day, offered a concise and upbeat summation about his transition to high school: "I've adapted well. The biggest change was getting used to a 5-period day. I earned a 91% first term average. My highest marks were in Geography with a 98% and 94% in Math. My lowest mark was 84% in French."

Despite his lowest mark being in French, Landry is no slouch when it comes to learning languages. He is fluent in German and takes classes in the language of Goethe, Hesse, and Nietzsche at St. Theresa of Lisieux CHS in Richmond Hill on Saturday mornings

In addition to deepening his appreciation of German language and culture, Landry has embraced Villanova College's EV Battery Project as part of his STEM program. Designing an Electric Car is this year's goal for these aspiring scientists, technologists, engineers, and mathematicians. Landry is working on the design team and has been tasked with creating the steering system of the vehicle – a pivot steering

system to which he is accustomed when he hurtles himself around a kart track at 95-110 km/h.

Landry will travel at even greater speeds when he competes at the International Racing championships in Orlando where he noted he'll be "racing much faster in Florida this month. We'll move from vehicles that travel 95-110 km/h to 120-125 km/h. We have five races in January and five races in February. The tenth race will have to be in Texas since the track that was supposed to host the race was destroyed by a hurricane."

The accomplished racer, who won the Goodwood Briggs Junior Championship in 2023, described the thrill of winning the VLR Championship this summer: "They were my first championship races in a new class. I was leading the final race and, when I looked in my mirror during the last lap, I saw that the second-place driver's throttle broke. I realized I had won the race at that point."

Landry explained the progression he would like to make as he moves up the divisions of kart and car racing: "If I'm good enough, I want to compete in Indy Car. Last year, I won the Briggs Championship and in 2024, I won the KART VLR. Next year, I'll be competing in ROK GP in Formula 3000 then Formula 2000 (Radical). The next phase after that for me will be Indy Lights - the final step before being a Full Indy racer."

Landry discusses a prospective U.S. academic destination at the University of Richmond when he has completed his studies at Villanova College and acknowledges that "the University of Toronto could be an option, too," but his focus is set on the here and now - his upcoming 10 races in Florida and Texas in the first eight weeks of 2025: "Next year, we'll be involved in car tests and



will be racing "Radical" cars at Mosport and in Toronto."

John Landry, Noah's father, notes that there will be other changes to logistics starting in 2025: "We can no longer do all the work ourselves on the newer, faster cars that Noah is racing so we're flying a mechanic down to Florida. We've hired one of the best-known mechanics in Canada. Dale Bonham has a shop in Goodwood where he serves as the in-house mechanic at the race track. We're glad to add Dale to our racing team."

of vehicles driven by his son in 2024 as he presents colorful photographs of the Goodwood Kart champ in various races this summer: "You can see the variety of karts he is in. Intrepid, Exprit, Briggs, and Vortex motors were all driven this racing season."

It's clear that Noah Landry, John Landry, and Dale Bonham will be a Canadian racing team to be reckoned with at the International kart racing championships in Orlando in January as the checkered flag comes down on another victorious season on the track Noah's dad also points to the range for King Township's fastest teenager.



SCHOMBE





### Altiman was hot for King

#### From Page 12

high glove side past Altiman to convert Ben Taylor's pass and narrow King's lead to 2-1.

It was the only shot to elude Altiman and the agile netminder made a spectacular sliding game-saving stop with 13.4 seconds left to repel the black-clad Canuck attackers. Altiman stopped 33 of 34 shots to earn the W.

With the pair of wins over Niagara Falls, the stingy Altiman raised his SV% to .928 and lowered his GAA to 2.21 - moving him into fourth-placein both key metrics in the 24-team OJHL. The former Learnington Flyer discussed the significance of the sweep of the Canucks: "It was very important for us. The team has really come together and to get four points this weekend really helps our playoff push. We're really comfortable together."

Altiman noted that the winning streak is having a positive impact on his teammates: "Our confidence is high right now. We know that when we play our best, we can beat all the teams ahead of us in the standings. All the guys who have arrived through trades want to prove something to their new teammates. We're a younger team now after all the changes and the older guys are trying to show the ropes to the younger guys. The guys are playing well together, and they're playing our systems that the coaches have put in place."

The exhausted netminder described the Rebellion's 3-1 victory over the Canucks on Friday night as "a gutsy win"

and noted that his teammates played with a sense of urgency in Niagara Falls: "We had to get points in Friday's game and we won the big puck battles all night." Altiman won his fair share of puck battles, too - turning aside 38 of the 39 shots he faced at the Gale Centre.

On Friday, veteran Rebellion forward Marshall McCharles set the tone for the weekend by scoring 54 seconds into the game in Niagara Falls. Jacob Xu and Artem Narbekov earned assists on McCharles's crucial marker.

Antonio Cerqua's ninth of the season, with helpers from Black and Captain Jake Anderson, put the Rebellion ahead 2-0 at 9:44 of the middle frame.

McCharles tallied his second goal of the game at 10:14 of the third period to give the visitors a three-goal cushion and some breathing room. Narbekov and Zakharov earned assists on McCharles's team-leading 17th of the season.

In a script that he would replicate on Sunday afternoon, Altiman kept the Canucks off the scoreboard until 18:24 of the final frame when Parker Forlin fired his 32nd goal of the season on a Niagara Falls power play.

The Rebellion's next home game is versus Stouffville Spirit on Sunday, Jan. 19. Puck drop at the Nobleton Community Centre will be 7 p.m. It will be King's final game of the season at the venerable arena before moving into the state-of-the-art Zancor Centre for their Grand Opening game versus the Caledon Admirals on Sunday, Jan. 26 at 3 p.m.

Sale Prices in effect January 16 to January 22, 2025



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

### King's Corners

#### **King City United By Sheryl Sinka**

Last Sunday, Rev. Bill Fritz gave an inspiring message on forgiveness. Through Jesus and his sacrifice we are a forgiven people, through our own forgiveness of those we have been wronged by, we may receive the Grace of God. Though difficult to manage sometimes, our acts of forgiveness free our hearts and allow us to embrace peace, love and God's grace.

All are welcome at worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. This Sunday, Jan. 19 Rev. Andrew Lee will be presiding and there is a fellowship time in the auditorium following the service. For any pastoral care needs please contact Rev Andrew Lee through the church office. Sunday School takes place during the same hour and for information on the Sunday School please contact Sheryl Sinka at 416-450-0140.

We encourage all this season to make an effort to contribute to the King Township Food Bank. Information is available at ktfb.ca The donations to the King Township Food bank continue to be needed in greater quantities than ever before and the community can make a significant difference if it works together to continue to support the Food Bank and the families that access this much needed service.

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

#### **King Bible Church**

Join us on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. for our Sunday Worship service!! Pastor Mark Nowell will be speaking on "Greater - The Book of Hebrews." We will also be streaming the service online at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook and You Tube.

We invite everyone to the next Open Closet Outlet on Saturday, Jan. 18 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Restrictions apply. For personal use only.

Please visit our website for links and further information: www.kingbiblechurch.com

If you have any questions please email: Lisa Lethangue (lisa@kingbiblechurch.com), Administrative Assistant, King Bible Church, 1555 King Rd, King City, 905-833-5104.

#### King City Seniors (55+) **By Carolyn Kanitz**

Friday, January 17 – 10 a.m. – Lawyer David Struthers will discuss the importance of wills and estate planning. He will explain how to go about making your plans and the importance of regularly reviewing your documents. Refreshments will be available thanks to our volunteers. Pre-register by calling the Centre at 905-833-6565.

Friday, January 31–10 a.m. – Presentation – We will have an opportunity to learn about alternative therapies to keep us healthy. Refreshments will be available so please register by calling the Centre at 905-833-6565.

Friday, February 7 – 10 a.m. – Vaughan Community Health will discuss 'Fatty Liver'. Information will be provided on the causes, prevention and how to deal with issues arising from it. Refreshments will be provided. Please register by calling 905-833-6565.

Thursday, February 20 – Annual AGM – more information to follow.

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

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

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

Tuesday mornings: 10 a.m. - Line Dancing.

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

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

Wednesday afternoons: 1 p.m. -Bridge.

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

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

Friday mornings: 9:30 a.m. - Art Class (2nd & 4th Friday of the month unless otherwise noted).

Friday afternoons: 1 p.m. - Progressive Euchre.

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

#### **York Pines United**

Last Sunday, Rev. Andrew told us about meeting former president Jimmy Carter at a conference. This Sunday, Lesley Morris will be with us to lead the service at 11 a.m. Feel free to join us for coffee at noon after the service.

Ayed is the subject of the next Book Club meeting on Jan. 27 at 10 a.m. You don't need to have read the book to join in. Contact the office at 905-727-8118 or yorkpinesuc@gmail.com to participate remotely.

Our next Fellowship Lunch is on Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 12 p.m., location TBA. Come and bring a friend. Let the office know if you plan to attend by calling 905-727-8118 or emailing yorkpinesuc@gmail.com.

#### **Sacred Heart Church**

Adult faith educational meeting and pot luck will be Jan. 18 after 5 p.m. We will begin with a Pot-Luck Supper followed by a meeting on St. Thomas Aquinas and his teachings. Frank Donato and Michael Pallotto will be the speakers for the evening.

Many thanks go out to all who purchased the Sacred Heart Church designed Christmas Cards; and to Nadia, Justine, Christiana, Lurdes for dedicating their time in selling and packaging. Also, to Anita Prospero and Robert Pedretti for providing Coffee & Friendship served after Sunday's Holy Masses.

Exposition and Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament each Friday begins at 3:30 p.m., Holy Rosary at 5:30 p.m. Benediction at 6:30 p.m., Celebration of Mass at 7 p.m.

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

#### St. Andrew's **By Kathy Patterson**

St. Andrew's invites you this Sunday to our Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m. Stay for our Monthly Fellowship Meal following the morning service. We're having a Potluck Lunch and hope you will join us!

Our Pastor, the Rev. Alison Agnew, resumed her Sermon series from the Book of Exodus. We looked at Exodus 13:20 - Exodus14 last Sunday - wellknown chapters about God's Plan for His people, when He parted the Red Sea. How is that relevant for us today as we go into a New Year?

You can hear her message on You-Tube by going to our website and clicking on the YouTube frame. (standrews-kingcity.ca)

Life Connect is on Wednesdays at "The War We Won Apart" by Nahlah 7 p.m. Alison will send the questions about Sunday's sermon at the beginning of the week. Call Kathy at 905-833-0391 for directions to the host's house. It's a wonderful time when we are able to review the sermon, ask questions, hear answers, grow in friendship and learn more from God's Word.

The "Souper Bowl" challenge is on again this year! We're collecting donations for the KTFB: tins of soups, chunky soups, stews, ravioli, and crackers. There's a bin in the church narthex, ready to receive your tins and crackers up to February 9 (The Super Bowl).

For Pastoral Care please call the church office to speak with the Rev. Alison Agnew: 905-833-2325.

#### **All Saints Anglican Church By Patrick Gossage**

Beloved of God – sermon by Rev. Erin Martin on Luke 3 story of John the Baptist foretelling coming of Holy Spirit:

"People in those days came from all over to be baptized by John THE Baptizer. After Jesus's baptism while he was praying the Holy Spirit descended upon him and a voice proclaimed, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' That moment, that naming, was really the launching point for Jesus's life and ministry. It equipped him to go and do the things he'd come to do. Beloved became the name that he carried with him into his life and it was the name he gave to all those he met, healed, and included.

"Baptism is an important moment in our lives because in that moment God names us Beloved too. It sets the work of God in motion in and through us. It commissions and empowers us for ministry. It's a naming of who we are. For many of us it may not feel like a particularly earth-shaking moment. It's likely we don't even remember our baptism, because a good many of us were baptized as babies. And yet I hope we have some awareness that in our own baptisms, something very significant and sacred happened and that we have been identified as God's Beloved and marked as Christ's own forever. Baptism is probably the most important event in our Christian lives.

"Henri Nouwen wrote 'Jesus heard that voice when He came out of the Jordan River. I want you to hear it too. It's the voice that tells us, 'You are my precious child. I love you with an everlasting love."

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#### Nobleton Notes

#### By Angie Maccarone

#### St. Paul's Church By Linda Blydorp

We invite you to join us in person for worship this Sunday at 10 a.m. Our Pastor, Jeff Loach, will be leading the service this morning with a new series, "The ABCs of Discipleship." This week's message is entitled "Branch" and will be focusing on John 15:1-17.

We offer children's ministry and nursery during the service. If you can't make it in person, our live-streamed broadcasts are available directly on stpaulsnobleton.ca or on our YouTube channel each Sunday at 10 a.m., or on demand at youtube.com/stpaulschurchnobleton.

Our Junction Ministries serve our children's and families each Sunday. FirstLink is our staffed ministry time with our youngest attendees, and Junction is an age appropriate time of teaching with our elementary aged children.

Our mid-week LifeConnect small groups are an opportunity to connect with others and grow in faith. Groups meet for discussion, study, and prayer throughout the week.

Students in Grade 7 to 12 are invited to our YouthConnect every other Friday. Join us as we explore questions about life, faith, and Jesus with the youth Alpha program.

#### St. Mary's Church

Winter coats, snow pants, hats and mittens drive: The Knights of Columbus are hosting this drive. There is a box in the foyer of the church. Church is open all week from 9 to 5 so please drop off your gently used items.

Browse our websites:

St. Patrick's Parish:

https://stpatrickssc.archtoronto. org/

St. Mary's Mission: https://stmarysno.archtoronto.org/

If there is anything we can do to support you, please call the parish office on 905-859-5522 or email us at: stpatandstmarysc@archtoronto.org The Parish Office will remain open from Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

#### Nobleton Seniors (55+) **By Joanne Bailey**

Educational Thursdays – Members

\$1, non-members \$2.

Please register for each program. Call 905-833-6565, email seniors@king. ca or online at www.townshipofking. perfectmind.com

January 16 – Heart to Home. Presented by Teri. An explanation of this service to seniors. Meal options will be explained. Sample foods will be provided to enjoy. Register by January 13, to be included in the food sampling.

January 23 – Nobleton Pharmasave. Learn about the services the pharmacy provides beside prescriptive drugs. Information hand-out will be prepared by the pharmacist Matt & presented by Joanne. Services available, blister packs for medication, medication review, blood pressure, compression stockings and more.

January 30 - HosPall Private Homecare. Presented by Michele Frauley CEO. "Coping with Loss & Embracing Change with Aging." Michelle will explore the stages of grief & practical self-care tips. Register by January 27. Snacks & refreshments provided by HosPall.

February 6 – Older Adult Fire Safety & Fall Prevention. Presented by Heather Watson, Community Resilience Officer, King Fire/Emergency Services.

Learn about escape planning, mobility concerns, accidents in the home, lithium and ion batteries, and more.

February 13 – Art with Angela. Learn the technique of paining a planter pot. Once painted you will take your pot home. Cost TBD, which include all materials and instructions. Register by February 10 so materials can be purchased.

February 20 – Osteoarthritis, presented by the Arthritis Society of Canada. Learn about the impact of OA if left unattended. Discuss the management of OA to improve your quality of life. This presentation will be done on zoom.

February 27 – Crime Prevention. YRP, Presented by Constable Danielle Froud. Topics will include fraud & scams, distraction thefts, vehicle safety, and information on the Community Safety Data Portal.

#### **Nobleton Lions**

The Lions continue to welcome new members with a heart to serve, both men and women. You may join us as a guest by contacting Lion Jerry Mac-Bain at nobletonlionjerry@outlook. com

More on Page 16

## Classifieds Phone 905-857-6626 or 1-888-557-6626

or email admin@caledoncitizen.com

#### **201 APARTMENTS** FOR RENT

#### 505 GENERAL HELP WANTED

505 GENERAL HELP WANTED

NEW TWO-BEDROOM apartment for rent with laundry and two car parking. Utilities included. No pets, no smoking. 1st/last Available required. January 15th, 2025. \$2100.00. Located at 9th line in Bradford. For more information please call 905-960-0661 or 905-960-0697

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(We thank all those persons who apply; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted)

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Classifieds next page

### Nobleton Notes

#### From Page 15

We meet at 6:30 p.m., with dinner at 7, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from September to the end of May at the Old Community Hall, just north of the arena. The next meeting is on January 28.

To view more information about how the Nobleton Lions engage with both the local community and the wider Lions International worldwide community, please visit our website at www.Nobleton Lions Club. You may also follow us on Instagram at nobleton.lions.club

#### **Book club**

The Nobleton Book Club is resuming its in person, monthly discussions of books at the Nobleton Library, located on 8 Sheardown Drive. Our schedule of meetings is on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the program room.

The Nobleton Book Club has been meeting regularly for over the past 12 years; new members are always welcome to join! Whether you have read the book or not, come by and check out these very interesting, lively and entertaining discussions. All these titles are available to borrow, for free, through the Nobleton library and other King Township libraries. If you have any questions, call Heather, our facilitator, at the Nobleton Library at 905-859-4188. Come and join this group of Nobleton readers.

Here is the reading list for the Nobleton Branch Book Club for 2025:

Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025, Forager by Michelle Dowd.

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, Tom Lake by Ann Patchett.

Wednesday, April 9, 2025, Crow by Mary Kathleen Grissom.

Wednesday, May 14, 2025, Yellow Face by R.F. Kuang.

Wednesday, June 11, 2025, Someone You Know by Catherine Fogarty.





#### **KCSS** spreads cheer

The holiday spirit was alive and well King City Secondary School. Special thanks to Andrea Covent and the Social Responsibility Club for hosting a gingerbread decorating contest to raise food and funds for the King Township Food Bank. And thank you to all the staff and students who participated and helped make the campaign a sweet success. Over \$700 was raised, along with 9 boxes of non-perishable food items collected! Here's to spreading holiday cheer and making a difference, one gingerbread house at a time! Deeply grateful for your support. Shown here is KTFB President Geoff Simpson with fellow volunteer Meline, accepting the cheque from Christopher and fellow members of the Social Responsibility Club.

#### **708 OBITUARIES**

#### Beechey: Deborah Leah

Suddenly at her home in Alliston, on Friday, January 3, 2025. Debbie Beechey (née: Smith) in her 72nd year, cherished mother of Denice McKibbon (Jeremy), Patrice Smith (Jim), and Keith Beechey (Trinda). Predeceased by her loving partner Rick Bergin. Dearly loved grandma of Caitlin, Nicholas (Karlie), Austin, Pryce and Kira, great grandmother of Adeline. Forever in the hearts of her many siblings, extended family, friends, and neighbours. She will be sadly missed by her 'pretty girl' Lelo. A Memorial Visitation was held at Rod Abrams Funeral Home, 1666 Tottenham Rd., Tottenham 905-936-3477 on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 from 6pm to 8pm. A Celebration of Deborah's life was held on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 from 10:30am until 1:30pm in the funeral home's Cliffside Hall, with Spoken Words of Remembrance at 11:30am. For those who wish, donations in Deborah's memory may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society. Online condolences and memories may be left for the family at www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com.

#### *Rowley: Raymond*

Peacefully with the love of his family by his side, at Matthews House Hospice Alliston, on December 31, 2024. Ray Rowley at the age of 91 years, beloved husband of Edith Rowley (née: Crawley). Loving father of David, John (Darleen), and the late Marilyn Rose (Robert McGovern). Sadly missed by his 10 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren & 2 great great grandchildren. Dear brother of Jean (the late Bill), the late Elwood (the late Jackie), Norma, Bill (Mildred), Lorna (Hank), the late Donna. Forever in the hearts of his extended family and friends. The Rowley Family would like to thank all of the incredible staff at Matthews House Hospice in Alliston, your caring and support are very much appreciated. The family received friends at Rod Abrams Funeral Home, 1666 Tottenham Rd., Tottenham, 905-936-3477 on Thursday, January 2, 2025 from 2-4pm and 6-8pm. Funeral Service was held in the chapel on Friday, January 3, 2025 at 4pm. A Reception followed in the funeral home's Cliffside Hall. Private family interment was held. In memory of Ray, donations to Matthews House Hospice would be appreciated. Condolences and memories may be left for the family at www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com.

#### **708 OBITUARIES**

#### Skeates, Douglas Alan (Doug)

Passed away at Matthews House Hospice in Alliston, on January 3, 2025 at the age of 93, beloved husband of Anne Elizabeth Grant (Wilson). Loving father of Diana Elizabeth (Braden), Robin (Lisa), Geoff (Dana), Karen-Anne (Tom), Colin (Yuka), and grandfather to Christopher (Whitney), Sarah (Josh), Scott, Chelsea, Jaysen, Ryan, Kirra, Jay and Ai, great-grandfather to Sofia, Lucas, Jackson and Isabelle. Forever in the hearts of brother Robert (Bob) Skeates and nephew Dwight (Neil), and of his extended family and Church friends and forestry colleagues. Pre-deceased by parents Fred and Marion.

The Skeates Family would like to thank the extraordinary staff of Stevenson Memorial Hospital and of Matthews House Hospice in Alliston for the devoted care and support.

Arrangements entrusted to Rod Abrams Funeral Home, Tottenham. An Honouring of Life service will be held at Tottenham United Church (26 Mill St E) on Saturday, February 15 at 2pm with a reception of fellowship to follow, also at TUC. If desired, a donation may be made in Douglas Skeates' name to My Sister's Place 'Trees for Shelter' program, to Matthews House Hospice or to the Ontario Conservation Council. Online condolences and memories may be left for the family at

www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com

#### **709 IN MEMORIAM**



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#### **612 AUCTIONS/FLEA MARKETS**



### JANUARY 23RD – 24TH **HOWIE MEYER'S 'LIFETIME OF FUN' AUCTION – PART II.**

Explore this second installment of Howie's passion for collecting the finest toys & collectibles from the mid to late 20th century. Whether it's a pinball machine or toys from brands such as Hubley, Lincoln, Marx, or Schuco. This is more than a collection, it's a voyage through time! Be sure to mark your calendars.

Preview this collection on Jan 23rd & 24th, 10am-4pm, or call for an appointment on another day. Pickup and preview at our Home Office Base, 438280 4th Line, Melancthon L9V 1S9 (North of Shelburne). Lots begin closing at 5pm on Jan 23rd & 24th.

Featuring: Gottlieb Top Score Pinball Machine; Marx Tin Litho Barn with Animals; Real Good Toys Front-Opening Country Victorian Doll House; Williams Fastball Pinball Machine; S.S. Kresge Fold-Up Service Station; Paris Champion Fastrack Sled; Marx Friction Powered Jet Plane; Marx Toys Litho Tin Army Tank; Push Button Old Fashioned Loco Train; Aladdin Popeye Metal Lunchbox; a variety of aircraft and circus themed toys; a selection of pressed steel vehicles from brands such as Structo; Lumar; Buddy L; along with diecast cars from Hot Wheels; GMP; Gearbox; Minichamps and so much more.



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#### **UNCLAIMED OPP ITEMS** PERFUMES, APPLE WATCHES, BURBERRY **ON LINE AUCTION SALE** THURS. JAN. 23RD AT 7 PM VIEWING JAN 23RD 11 AM - 2 PM PICK UP SAT. JAN. 25TH 10 AM - 2 PM PICK UP AT 12 BALSAM LANE MULMUR L9V 3G9

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#### Shirley Noreen Sheardown

June 17, 1943 - January 7, 2025 Following a lengthy illness, Shirley Sheardown of Schomberg, Ont. Passed away in her 82nd year.

Dear sister of Helen (late Jim) Connell, Ann (Ron) Bowles, John (Helen), Lorna (late Murray), Jelly and Walter (Grace)

She is predeceased by Olive (late Lorne) Metcalfe, Jim (late Connie), Hugh (Mary) and her parents Hugh and Mable (Clarkson) Sheardown. As well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Cremation has taken place. As per Shirley's wishes there will be no funeral service.

Arrangements are entrusted to Rod Abrams Funeral Home Tottenham. For those who wish, donations in Shirley's memory to the Kidney Foundation would be appreciated. Memories and condolences may be left for the family at www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com.

#### **804 SERVICES**



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www.aatoronto.org

Elizabeth Dean

August 26, 2008 – January 18, 2024

Remember Me

Remember me with smiles not tears For all the joy through the years Recall a closeness that was ours, A love as sweet as fragrant flowers.

Do not dwell on thoughts that cause you pain, We will see each other once again. I am at peace... try to believe, It was my time... I had to leave.

But what a view I have from here, I see your face, I feel you near. I follow you throughout the day. You are not alone along the way.

And when God calls you... you will be Right by my side... right here with me, Till then I will wait by heaven's door, We will be united evermore.

Beloved daughter to Brad and Meghan Dean, loved little sister to Connor Dean Cherished granddaughter to George and Lorie Dean, Margaret and Murray Crawley. Missed dearly by all her aunts, uncles, cousins and extended family and friends.

Fly free with the Butterflies our sweet,sweet baby girl...



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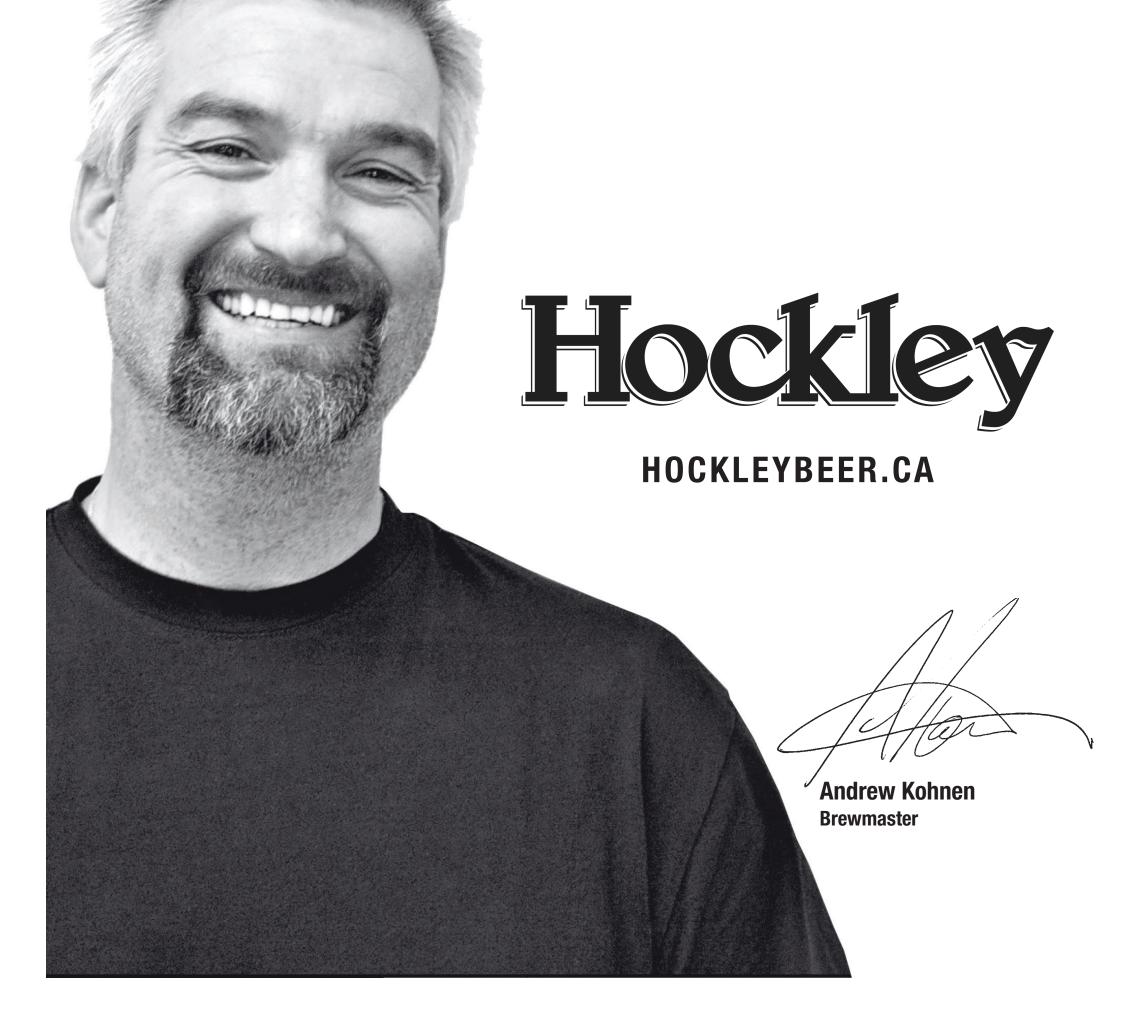
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Mark Sciulli is a trusted and experienced mortgage broker with access to over 100 financial institutions and private lenders. He can help you find the perfect mortgage solution based on your current financial situation and your home buying goals.

Working with the Rock Mortgage Company based in Stouffville, Ontario, Mark engages with his clients, then starts the search for a lender that will produce the best results for someone seeking to buy a home or property.

"As a mortgage broker, I help people who are buying homes find alternative ways to get the financing to ensure they get the home of their dreams," Mark

explained. "We work for the client, not the bank."

Finding a lender when you decide it's time to buy a home means a potential home buyer may have to go to a lot of work visiting different institutions to find out what they can be approved for when it comes to getting a mortgage. This is a time consuming and often frustrating venture.

A mortgage broker will do all the legwork for you. They also have the experience and knowledge to be able to focus on finding the right lender for your situation.

"There are different types of lenders out there than your typical bank branch where you walk in off the street," Mark explained. "Each branch wants to sell you the product they have and want to push. We work for over 100 banks and institutions so we want to send you to the one that's better for you."

Prior to finding an appropriate lender, Mark will meet with his clients and find out what they would like to achieve and discuss the possibilities based on each client's situation.

"To start, I sit down with the client and have what I call, 'a free analysis." Mark said of how he starts helping clients. "We go over their income, what their

down payment. One of the big benefits is once we figure out where you are, we put you through a credit check just once - and we can use that credit check at multiple institutions."

Using the single credit check avoids having a client get this done every time when they speak to a new lender. Having repeated credit checks can actually be detrimental to a person's credit history.

There are several institutions which may provide a suitable mortgage to an approved buyer. These include your standard large bank, smaller banks, credit institutions, and other private lenders.

"We tailor our search to what you are looking for," Mark explained. "Quite often people ask for the best rate. I tell them, it's not just about the rate, it's about which product will work for you. If someone is looking to buy a home or purchase a property, I would 100 per cent, recommend meeting with a broker first. I can provide you with other options rather than just walking into your local bank branch."

Dealing one-on-one with a bank branch, can be a frustrating experience - especially if you are turned down and have to start a new search. A Mortgage

goals are, and what they want to achieve, and their Broker can evaluate your current situation and make educated decisions to point you in the right direction for a successful outcome.

> Mark's focus is on York Region and the GTA, however, he is available to help clients around the province.

> He can help you with property purchases, both residential and commercial, re-financing, HELOC, pre-approval, construction financing, bad credit solutions, and private mortgages.

> Mark's clients routinely recommend him to family and friends as a professional and highly knowledgeable broker who has his client's best interest at heart.

> Mark Sciulli is an experienced and knowledgeable broker who offers a variety of choices to meet the individual needs of clients while providing helpful advice and personalized service to ensure a seamless and stress-free experience.

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> > Written by Brian Lockhart



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:905.898.1211 c:416.520.3651 anitakotsovos@gmail.com www.AnitaKotsovos.com



## **MAKING SENSE OF REAL ESTATE OFFER CONDITIONS:** A Must-Read for Buyers and Sellers

In today's real estate market, understanding the conditions within an offer is essential for both buyers and sellers. These conditions — ranging from financing to inspections - can determine whether a deal goes through or falls apart. Here's a breakdown of some common conditions in real estate offers and their implications.

#### **FINANCING CONDITION**

The financing condition is one of the most common clauses in an offer. It allows the buyer a set period to secure a mortgage. If the buyer is unable to get approved for a loan, they can back out without losing their deposit.

While this offers protection for buyers, it can pose a risk for sellers. If the financing falls through, the seller may lose a potential buyer. In competitive markets, some sellers may request buyers waive this condition to strengthen their offer, but this adds financial risk for the buyer.

#### PHOME INSPECTION CONDITION

The home inspection condition is another key clause. It gives the buyer the right to have the property inspected by a professional. If the inspection uncovers major issues, the buyer can either renegotiate the price, request repairs, or release the deal without penalty.

For sellers, an inspection may bring up issues that delay the sale or lead to price reductions. In a competitive market, some buyers might waive this condition to make their offer more appealing. However, this increases the risk of unexpected repair costs for the buyer.

#### **(3)** SALE OF BUYER'S PROPERTY (SBP) CONDITION

The Sale of the Buyer's Property (SBP) condition has gained popularity recently, especially as the market has shifted toward being more of a buyer's market. In a buyer's market, with more inventory and less competition, buyers have more leverage and are more likely to include this condition, giving them the option to back out if they cannot sell their current home in time.

For buyers, this condition offers flexibility and protection, allowing them to avoid being locked into a deal if they can't sell their existing property. In competitive markets, sellers may be reluctant to accept offers dependent on another sale. To mitigate this, buyers and sellers often include an escape clause.

An escape clause allows the seller to continue marketing the property while the buyer attempts to sell their current home. If the seller receives a better offer, they can invoke the escape clause, giving the buyer a short window (typically 48-72 hours) to either remove the SBP condition or walk away. In this scenario, buyers typically receive their deposit funds back, ensuring they don't lose their initial investment. This gives the seller the ability to accept other offers while still keeping the deal open with the original buyer.

#### **4** DUE DILIGENCE

Due diligence refers to the buyer's opportunity to thoroughly investigate the property before finalizing the purchase. This period allows the buyer to check legal details, review property disclosures, and assess issues like zoning laws or potential development plans.

While this is often covered by the inspection and appraisal conditions, it can extend beyond those processes, giving the buyer a chance to back out if serious issues arise during their investigation.

#### **5** APPRAISAL CONDITION

The appraisal condition ensures that the property appraises for at least the purchase price. If the appraisal comes in lower, the buyer can renegotiate the price or back out of the deal.

For sellers, a low appraisal can be challenging, potentially leading to price reductions or the deal falling apart. In some cases, buyers waive the appraisal condition to make their offers more competitive, but this can be risky if the property doesn't appraise for the agreed-upon price.

#### **6** ESCALATION CLAUSES

An escalation clause can be included in competitive markets to automatically increase a buyer's offer if a higher competing offer is received. This clause increases the buyer's offer by a specified amount (e.g., \$5,000) up to a set maximum price.

While this can help a buyer win a bidding war, it's crucial for them to understand how the escalation works and ensure they're not overpaying for the property. For sellers, an escalation clause simplifies negotiations and can ensure they get the highest possible price for their home.

The conditions in real estate offers play a crucial role in determining the success of a transaction. Whether it's securing financing, conducting inspections, or managing the sale of another property, these conditions offer protections and opportunities for negotiation. Clear communication, realistic expectations, and a solid understanding of these conditions are key to a successful real estate transaction.

At the Michele Denniston Real Estate Group, we're committed to helping you navigate Ontario's real estate market. Whether you're buying or selling, we offer expert guidance to ensure a smooth, successful transaction. For personalized advice, contact Michele at (416) 433-8316 or michele@micheledenniston.com.









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## Ways to lower your mortgage payments

(NC) The high cost of living is having an impact on a lot of people's finances. If you're struggling to pay your mortgage, know that you're not alone and that there are ways to help reduce some of the stress.

t's important that you talk to your bank as soon as possible if you're having a hard time making your mortgage payments so you can discuss your options together.

#### **RENEGOTIATING YOUR MORTGAGE**

You may be able to renegotiate your mortgage agreement. You could, for example, convert your variable interest rate to a fixed interest rate. This option could help lower your payments if interest rates are too

high. Also, knowing what your payments are every month could help reduce some stress and help you better manage your money.

#### **SKIPPING A PAYMENT**

Your bank could offer you a "skip a payment" option. Certain banks also call this option "payment pause," "miss a payment," and "take a break." Your bank allows you to miss a maximum number of mortgage payments each year. If you have made any prepayments toward your mortgage, your bank could apply these amounts to cover your skipped payments. If not, they would defer your payments so it would take longer for you to pay off your mortgage entirely.

#### **GETTING A MORTGAGE PAYMENT DEFERRAL**

With a mortgage payment deferral, you enter into an agreement with your bank. This agreement allows you to delay your mortgage payments for a specific period, usually up to four months. After the deferral period ends, you continue making your mortgage payments. Just like the "skipping a payment" option, you'll need to pay the amount you deferred down the road, so the time it takes to pay off your mortgage will be longer.

#### **EXTENSION OF AMORTIZATION**

Extending your amortization period lowers your mortgage payments. Keep in mind that the longer you take to pay off your mortgage, the more you'll pay in interest. Think twice before extending your amortization to lower your payments. The interest costs that you'll need to pay will be higher. This may add up to thousands or tens of thousands of dollars over time.

There are many more options that could be available to you. What's important is to consider how these options will affect your financial situation. You may end up paying more to pay off your mortgage and it may take you longer to do that. Your bank is required to provide options that are appropriate for your situation. If none of the options seem right, you may consider selling your home and buying a cheaper one or opt to rent instead.

Learn more about mortgage relief options at canada. ca/money.

www.newscanada.com

#### 6 easy hacks to save energy at home

(NC) Saving energy doesn't need to be complicated or expensive. With a few simple upgrades and changes in daily habits, you can make your home more energy efficient and help lower utility bills.

#### EMBRACE NATURAL LIGHT

Take advantage of natural light during the day. Open curtains and blinds to let the sunshine in. You won't need to turn on as many lights, plus it will make your home brighter and more inviting. Keep in mind, this can heat up your home on hot days, but the extra heat is a good thing as the weather cools down.

#### LIGHT THE WAY WITH LEDS

When you do need to turn on lights, choose energyefficient LEDs. They use less energy and last significantly longer than traditional incandescent light bulbs. By switching to LEDs, you can reduce both your energy use and the number of bulbs that end up in landfills.

#### ADJUST YOUR THERMOSTAT

Save energy without sacrificing comfort. During cooler months, lower your thermostat by a degree or two and put on an extra layer of clothing. In summer, raise the temperature a bit and use fans for added cooling. Also consider a smart thermostat to automatically adjust temperatures based on your schedule.

#### **4** UNPLUG AND POWER DOWN

Many electronics and appliances use standby power - also known as phantom power - even when they're turned off. It's a good idea to unplug them when not in use to reduce energy waste. Also think about using power bars with switches to easily turn off multiple devices at one time.

#### **5** SEAL ENERGY LEAKS

Are your windows or doors drafty? Use inexpensive weatherstripping and caulking to seal up gaps. This simple step can keep your home better insulated and temperatures more stable. That way, your heating and cooling systems don't have to work as hard to keep your home comfy.

#### **(6)** TAP INTO LOCAL PROGRAMS

Check out programs that help homeowners reduce energy use, such as Home Efficiency Rebate Plus. A partnership between Enbridge Gas and the federal government, it offers rebates for energy-efficient home upgrades, such as insulation, windows, doors and more.

Find more information at enbridgegas.com/herplus.

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### What to expect when doing a kitchen renovations

ritchens are often described as the most popular room in a home, and that's not mere conjecture. A 2022 survey from House Digest asked participants to identify the room they consider most important in their homes, and roughly 41 percent chose the kitchen.

Residents tend to congregate in kitchens in the morning and then again in the evening when meals are prepared and, in homes without formal dining rooms, eaten. With so much time spent in the kitchen, it's no wonder that the 2022 U.S. Houzz & Home Study: Renovation Trends found kitchens to be the most popular interior room to upgrade. With so many people interested in kitchen renovations, the following are four things homeowners should know about these popular improvement projects.

#### EXPECT TO SPEND SOME MONEY

Most home improvement projects require a significant financial investment, but kitchen renovations are among the more expensive undertakings. The overall cost of a project will depend on a host of variables unique to each home, including homeowners' preferences, but HomeAdvisor estimated the average kitchen remodel in 2023 cost between \$14,611 and \$41,432. Homeowners considering an upscale kitchen remodel may receive six figure estimates for such projects.



#### EXPECT A GOOD RETURN ON INVESTMENT

If sticker shock settles in when receiving an initial kitchen remodel estimate, perhaps it can help homeowners to know that such a project may provide a strong return on investment (ROI). According to Remodeling magazine's "2024 Cost vs. Value Report," a minor kitchen remodel provides a 96 percent ROI. A major kitchen remodel mid-range (49 percent) and a major kitchen remodel upscale (38 percent) did not provide as notable a ROI.

#### EXPECT THE PROJECT TO TAKE SOME TIME

Kitchens are large rooms with a lot of components, so renovating these spaces can take some time. Estimates vary depending on the size of the room, the scale of the remodel and the materials chosen, but Angi reports a kitchen remodel for most homes takes six weeks

to four months. That's a sizeable window, and it reflects the likelihood that unforeseen issues like supply chain interruptions or the discovery of mold will arise at some point during the renovation. Though it's impossible to determine precisely how long a project will take before it begins, homeowners renovating their kitchens may want to plan for the project to take two months if not longer.

#### **EXPECT TO USE YOUR KITCHEN DURING THE RENOVATION**

If the timeline of a renovation is scary, homeowners should know they will likely be able to use their kitchen even after the project begins. Though the room might not remain a popular gathering space once the work starts, Angi notes kitchens are typically out of commission for around six weeks during a

...Residents tend to congregate in kitchens in the morning and then again in the evening when meals are prepared and, in homes without formal dining rooms, eaten...

renovation. That still requires some pre-planning in relation to meals, but it also suggests homeowners won't be without a kitchen for months on end.

Homeowners who know what to expect before such projects commence can make it through a renovation more smoothly.



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## **NEW YEAR NEW HOME NEW GOALS** Let's make 2025 all about homes



By Julien Laurion Real Estate

It's 2025, and while you're busy hitting the gym, drinking more water, and organizing your sock drawer (finally), let's not forget your biggest resolution yet: creating a home you absolutely love.

WHETHER THAT MEANS UPGRADING your living space, buying your dream property, or giving your current home a fresh start, this year is all about turning your real estate goals into reality.

And that's where I come in. With my dual expertise in real estate and contracting, I'm here to make your New Year's resolutions for your home a whole lot easier (and way more fun).

#### 2025 REAL ESTATE SNAPSHOT

Did you know the Canadian real estate market is forecasted to see a 6.6% increase in home sales this year? That's nearly half a million homes changing hands across the country. Plus, the average home price is expected to climb by 4.4%, hitting \$713,375. Closer to home in the GTA, prices remain steady, and with interest rates projected to drop, there's a golden opportunity to buy or renovate before competition heats up.

Whether you're thinking of upgrading to a bigger space, downsizing to simplify your life, or giving your current home a makeover, the timing couldn't be better.

#### WHY YOU NEED A REALTOR WHO BUILDS (LITERALLY)

Let's be honest-home buying and renovating can feel overwhelming. That's why my tagline, "All About Homes," perfectly captures what I do. As a realtor,

AURORA'S

OP SAL

\*Based on IMS Statistics, Aurora Office

I guide you through the buying or selling process with expert advice and a sharp eye for opportunity. As a contractor, I don't just sell homes-I help you transform them into exactly what you envision.

Buying a fixer-upper? Let's make a plan to turn it into your dream home. Selling a house? I can help boost its value with strategic renovations before it hits the market. Need advice on where to invest your renovation budget? I've got you covered there too.

#### **RENOVATION RESOLUTIONS MADE EASY**

Forget vague resolutions like "be more organized." How about this: "Renovate the kitchen so I never have to search for a matching Tupperware lid again." Or, "Finally finish that basement so it stops being a home for forgotten exercise equipment." Whatever your vision, I'll help you bring it to life with practical ideas, smart designs, and top-quality craftsmanship.

#### WHY WAIT? LET'S TALK!

This New Year, make your home a priority. Whether you're ready to buy, sell, or renovate, let's make it happen together. With real estate stats pointing to an exciting year ahead and my ability to handle both the buying/selling and the hammer-swinging, you won't need to juggle multiple companies

or professionals. I'm your one-stop shop for all things home.

So, let's chat. We'll create a plan that fits your goals, your budget, and your timeline. Call, text, or email me today—and let's make 2025 your best year yet.

Because when it comes to your home, it's not just about walls and floors; it's about creating a space that works for you and your family. And trust me, you deserve nothing less.

**Ready to Start?** 

I've got your back from start to finish. I'm a local Realtor who has lived in Aurora for more than 30 years and know it inside and out. With A LOT of home construction experience, I have an eye that will help you make informed decisions re: home concerns and renovations. Let me help you with your next big purchase/move. Please feel free to call or email me directly at 416-402-5530 or julien@bigtuna.ca or check out my socials at @bigtunarealty

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## Tips to make a home less vulnerable to criminals

















roperty crimes are perhaps more common than people may realize. Homeowners recognize the importance of protecting themselves, their loved ones and their valuables. Locking doors at night is one measure of protection anyone can employ, but there's a host of additional steps individuals can take to make their homes less vulnerable to criminals.

#### **EMBRACE SOME SIMPLE SOLUTIONS**

The Insurance Information Institute recommends utilizing simple security devices such as padlocks, door and window locks, grates, bars, and bolts. These devices may not prevent burglars from entering a home, but they can increase the amount of time it takes criminals to gain access. That can be enough to discourage criminals and also provide extra time for homeowners and neighbours to see and report suspicious individuals lurking around homes.

#### PERIODICALLY ASSESS **EXISTING SECURITY DEVICES**

Locks, security cameras and additional devices are effective deterrents, but only if they're working properly. It's easy to overlook security devices, but routine inspections can ensure they continue to serve as a security blanket between residents and criminals.

#### **INSTALL A BURGLAR ALARM**

Burglar alarms can be effective deterrents and even help homeowners save money on their insurance policies. The Electronic Security Association estimates that home alarm systems can save homeowners as much as 20 percent on their insurance policies. Such savings can offset the cost to purchase and install burglar alarms. Homeowners who doubt the efficacy of burglar alarms as a crime deterrent should know that a study from researchers at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte examining the habits of burglars found that 60 percent decided against burglarizing properties they learned had burglar alarms.

#### TRIM PRIVACY TREES AND SHRUBS AROUND THE PERIMETER OF YOUR HOME

Privacy trees and shrubs can make it harder for passersby to see into a home from a nearby street or

40 NEW LISTINGS



sidewalk. However, such features also can provide hiding space for criminals looking to gain access to a property. Routinely trim trees and shrubs near doors and windows so they are not inadvertently providing cover for criminals.

#### LIGHT UP THE OUTSIDE

Exterior lighting is wildly popular among homeowners for its aesthetic appeal. But lights around walkways and throughout a landscape also illuminate the exterior of a home, making it harder for criminals to get around without being seen. Spotlights and motion-detection lights can alert homeowners if someone is outside, and such lighting also can make it easier to spot criminals on exterior cameras, which can deter burglars.

There's no shortage of ways for homeowners to make their properties less vulnerable to criminals.





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

As 2025 commences, we are coming off of a more stagnant time. Pricing is down in Aurora and King quarter over quarter, despite the rate announcements. Looking ahead to 2025, there is a predicted slight increase in Quarters 3 and 4 from a pricing perspective. Spillover Buyers from 2024 are out shopping and those with intentions to move in 2025 are beginning to make their plans. Overall, inventory still points to a Seller centred market, even though the market is reacting as a Buyer centred market. For Sellers, getting on before inventory spikes in Spring will be advantageous. For Buyers, capitalizing on the opportunities in the pre-spring market could be lucrative, as days on market have crept up. Working closely with your real estate advisor to strategize your plans for 2025 is integral. In an evolving market, Key Advantage are your trusted partners for insight and support, to help you make informed decisions with confidence. If you are thinking of buying or selling in 2025, now is the time to connect to talk strategy.

- Provided by Key Advantage Team Royal LePage RCR Realty Lindsav Strom. Broker www.KeyAdvantage.ca | 905-836-1212 | info@KeyAdvantage.ca





Thinking that 2025 is the year to make the move to an award winning, adult lifestyle community? Don't wait any longer - this dazzling Dali bungalow in Briar Hill will work perfectly! This bungalow is beautifully finished and will tick so many of the boxes on your wish list. From the upgrades throughout the home, to the sought after open concept floor plan and the lower level walk out to a patio you will quickly realize that this would be a perfect new home Offered at \$839,000



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Absolutely amazing home in the "Award Winning" community of "Briar Hill". Nestled in the "Rolling Hills" of the

Nottawasaga Valley, this home has been completely renovated top to bottom and backs directly onto the Nottawasaga

Golf Course. There is no home like this & just too many upgrades to mention. Don't miss out on this home!

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Sales Representative



The dawn of a new year marks a convenient time to turn over a new leaf.

What the attention is paid to individuals' intentions to eat healthier and exercise more at the start of a new year, but those goals are not the only ways to embrace positive change come January.

A quick look around a home's interior may lead some to conclude that their home environments could benefit from a little less clutter and some improved organization. A more organized home may be easier to navigate and can even have a positive impact on residents' mental health. In fact, a 2021 study published in the journal Comprehensive Psychoneuroendocrinology found that women who cared for infants in cluttered homes experienced higher levels of physical stress than those whose homes were more organized. That study suggests an organized home is a less stressful environment, which itself can pay numerous dividends, as the Mayo Clinic notes chronic stress increases a person's

Sotheby's

INTERNATIONAL REALTY

risk for various health problems, including anxiety, depression, digestive issues, heart disease, and weight gain, among others.

With so much to gain from an organized home, individuals can consider these strategies to make interior spaces around the house less cluttered.

#### AVOID PROCRASTINATING

A weekly, if not daily, routine that involves cleaning up spaces like the kitchen and living room can ensure a home is not overtaken by clutter before residents even realize it. Each day, go through the mail and discard papers and junk mail so they don't pile up. Parents of school-aged children can organize papers kids return home with each day so all that homework and event announcements does not create clutter.

#### PURCHASE AN ENTRYWAY SHOE RACK

It might seem simple, but an entryway shoe rack can set an organized tone in a home. Whether the primary entryway is through the front door or a side door, a shoe rack just inside the door can ensure shoes are not strewn about and reduces the chances that floors are muddied.

#### CONSIDER FURNITURE THAT DOUBLES AS STORAGE

Many people utilize storage furniture so common spaces like living rooms are not overwhelmed by clutter. For example, a storage ottoman can hold blankets, pillows and other creature comforts so these rooms project a clutter-free vibe when not in use. Similarly, storage benches at the end of beds in each bedroom can help to establish a serene, clutter-free vibe, which can promote a better night's sleep.

#### **DISCARD OLDER ITEMS**

Clutter can pile up when storage areas like closets, dressers, nightstands, and home offices fill up with items people tend to accumulate over the years. For example, a linen closet can be overrun by bath towels that are rarely used, while nightstands can become junk drawers over the years. Periodically go through these areas and discard older items that are no longer used. These tasks won't take long, but can free up ample space throughout the home.

These are just a handful of the many ways individuals can effectively organize their home interiors and reap all the rewards that such efforts produce.

## Earthy colours dominate 2025

Change is in the air when a new year arrives. People often use the turn of the calendar as an opportunity to redecorate living spaces or revamp their wardrobes. As individuals narrow down their projects, they may want to incorporate a fresh and trendy palette of colours. For 2025, the options are decidedly warm, cozy and earthy.

Industry colour experts routinely recommend hues that can elevate homes, offices and other spaces. The following is a selection of shades that insiders predict will colour the world for the coming year.

#### QUIETUDE

Sherwin-Williams has named Quietude its colour of the year. This soft sage colour exudes serenity and understated luxury. Grayish-green with a touch of blue, Quietude is a soothing colour of tranquility. Sherwin-Williams also offers a Color Collection of the Year that includes Convivial Yellow, Spiced Cider, and Nomadic Desert, among others.

#### **MOCHA MOUSSE**

The title of Pantone® Color of the Year 2025 belongs to Mocha Mousse. Just as the name implies, this rich, warm brown suggests the intoxicating qualities of coffee and chocolate. It can create a feeling of comfort in any space, or even serve as the basis of a chocolate wardrobe colour palette. According to Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute, Mocha Mousse is "sophisticated and lush, yet at the same time an unpretentious classic."

#### **PURPLE BASIL**

Glidden's 2025 colour of the year title belongs to Purple Basil, a dusty, neutral violet purple hue with mauve undertones. It embraces rich, warm energy, and is equally at home in a bedroom as it is in a dining room.

#### CINNAMON SLATE

Cinnamon Slate is moody and introspective. This Benjamin Moore colour blends rich plum and chocolate brown that the company calls "adaptable, yet distinct." In fact, it is quite similar to Glidden's colour of the year, but a tad more brown in nature.

#### CARAMELIZED

Homeowners may want to consider Caramelized, an earthy terracotta brown that is Dunn-Edwards' 2025 Color of the Year. Caramelized is versatile and elegant, and it complements both modern and vintage interiors.

#### ELDERTON

Paula Taylor, Graham & Brown's head stylist and trend specialist, calls Elderton "a chameleon colour that can be sophisticated yet cozy." This medium brown is contemporary with a huge amount of depth. It may work in a rustic living room or a cozy library.



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24 Hedgerow Court, Kleinburg \$10,800,000

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**CHATEAU-INSPIRED LUXURY WITH POOL** Nestled on a premium lot in the prestigious Fontainbleau community of Oak Ridges/Lake Wilcox, this chateau-inspired executive home features a 3-car garage, 10-ft ceilings, and a gourmet kitchen. Enjoy a private backyard oasis with a heated saltwater pool. Luxurious finishes, expansive living spaces, and thoughtful upgrades make this home truly extraordinary.



**GREEN AND SMART EXECUTIVE HOME** 

Absolutely Stunning Brand new "green" & "smart" executive home in South Aurora's prestigious Royal Hill Community. This luxurious masterpiece features a gourmet chef's kitchen, spacious layouts, hardwood floors, and breathtaking



Daryl King

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LOCATION. LUXURY. LIFESTYLE. Experience luxury living at King Heights Boutique Condominiums in King City, with suites from \$534,465. Spacious 1-3 bedroom layouts feature 10' ceilings, custom cabinetry, quartz countertops, and Miele appliances. Enjoy amenities like a rooftop terrace, fitness studio, and lounges, all steps from the GO station, parks, and community center.



FREEHOLD TOWNHOME WITH DOUBLE GARAGE

Welcome to your dream 3-bedroom freehold townhome on a quiet street in Stouffville! Enjoy a spacious 3-storey layout with a double car garage, upgraded kitchen, bright open-concept main floor, walk-out terrace, and upper-level bedrooms with stunning views. Conveniently located near GO Station, highways, parks, schools, and amenities. Don't miss out!



PRESTIGIOUS CUSTOM HOME, 82X150 FT LOT Welcome to this custom-built home in prestigious St. Andrews-Windfields, Toronto. Featuring soaring ceilings, a grand foyer, custom millwork, a loft sunroom, and spacious bedrooms, this property offers exceptional potential. The walk-up basement boasts a sauna and wet bar. Located on an 82x150ft lot near top schools, parks, and transit, it's a must-see!



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,

and amenities, offering modern elegance and <u>unparalleled</u> convenience in a serene setting.



#### LUXURIOUS 'FERNBROOK' HOME IN AURORA

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



#### **TRANQUIL BACKSPLIT WITH SCENIC YARD**

This charming 4-level brick backsplit with a double garage is nestled in Whitchurch-Stouffville's sought-after Ballantrae community. With 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a bright openconcept layout, cozy fireplace, spacious kitchen, balcony, and scenic yard views, it perfectly blends comfort, convenience, and character.





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!



#### 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.

We Speak Your Language

baths, a covered loggia, and proximity to Yonge Street, transit, and amenities.



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.



**AURORA HIGHLANDS MODERN BACKSPLIT** 

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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