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Stephen with Doug Ford announcing the construction of the new York University Medical School



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Stephen with Doug Ford and Mayor Pellegrini opening the new Zancor Centre in King Township



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King's Community Newspaper

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The King City Library and Seniors Centre was one of 12 buildings across Canada to receive the top architecture award by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada. Joining her were architect Alar Kongats and Mayor Steve Pellegrini.

Photo by MS Anne-Marie Brisson, Rideau Hall © OSGG, 2025

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## King centre recognized with design award

By Mark Pavilons  
Editor

King City's library and seniors centre has been recognized for its stunning architecture.

The facility was awarded Canada's top architecture award by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, at a ceremony at Rideau Hall last week.

The King City building was among 12 projects from across Canada recognized for its "exceptional, innovative and outstanding design."

Mayor Steve Pellegrini was on hand for the ceremony, swelling with pride that King has yet another feather in its cap.

"Receiving this prestigious award is a testament to the architectural brilliance and visionary design of the King Township Public Library's King City branch and Senior's Centre," Pellegrini said.

Designed by the talented team at Kongats Architects, this building is more than just a structure; "it is a symbol of our community's commitment to innovation, inclusivity and sustainability."

The mayor added that the jury's recognition of our

library and senior's centre as a multigenerational hub highlights its role as a place where people of all ages can come together to share stories, knowledge and experiences.

"The design of this facility, resembling an open hand, beautifully captures the essence of King's community spirit," he said.

"The alternating intimate, wood-lined study rooms and light-filled reading areas offer a harmonious blend of spaces that cater to diverse needs while providing stunning views of our natural surroundings.

"The use of stone, wood and glass not only enhances the building's aesthetic appeal but also underscores our dedication to environmental sustainability.

"I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Kongats Architects for their visionary design, the Canada Council for the Arts for their support, and the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada for recognizing our project.

"I also want to thank the residents of King Township for their unwavering support and engagement throughout this journey.

See 'Facility' on Page 3

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	Business	Page 8	
	Sports	Page 15	
Classifieds	Page 17		
			 <p>History of King book set to launch. See Page 10</p>

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**Upcoming Meetings**

**COUNCIL MEETINGS**  
**Monday, February 24**  
 6 p.m. - Council  
**Monday, March 03**  
 6 p.m. - Council Public Planning  
**Monday, March 17**  
 6 p.m. - Council

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

**COMMITTEES AND BOARDS**  
**Thursday, March 06**  
 6 p.m. - Heritage Advisory Committee

Virtual  
**Wednesday, March 19**  
 6 p.m. - Committee of Adjustment

Hybrid meeting (in-person/virtual participation, live-streamed).  
 Visit: [king.ca/cofameetings](http://king.ca/cofameetings) for more information.

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

**Recent Planning & Heritage Notices**

- **Notice of Complete Applications (Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments) - 2072-2096 King Road and 31 William Street** (File Nos. OP-2024-05 & Z-2024-15)

View full planning and heritage notices at [king.ca/news](http://king.ca/news) and subscribe to receive these notices by email at [king.ca/subscribe](http://king.ca/subscribe)

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  - Communications Summer Student
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  - Recreation League Convenor
  - Parks Seasonal Worker
  - Parks Summer Student
  - Summer Camp program coordinators, counsellors
  - Outdoor Program Facilitator (Contract 4 & 6 months)
  - Inclusion Facilitator
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  - Attendant II - Facilities
- View job postings at [king.ca/employment](http://king.ca/employment)

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Reserve your FoodCycler at [king.ca/FoodCyclerPilot](http://king.ca/FoodCyclerPilot)



**2025 Volunteer Appreciation AWARDS**  
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**2025 Summer Camps Guide**

Registration for summer camps opens at 7a.m. on **February 24**

view online at [king.ca/camps](http://king.ca/camps)

**Cold Creek Maple Syrup Fest 2025**  
 Saturday, March 1  
 10 am to 2 pm

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

**2025 Taste of KING**  
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Funding partly provided by:





## Facility a 'vibrant, welcoming hub'

From Front Page

"As we celebrate this achievement, let us continue to cherish and utilize this incredible space, ensuring it remains a vibrant and welcoming hub for generations to come."

The local facility was designed by Kongats Architects and Alar Kongats was on hand to receive the award.

"The Governor General's Medal In Architecture awarded to the King City Public Library and Seniors' Centre at Rideau Hall by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon is wonderful recognition for such an impactful building that fosters community spirit, engagement and lifelong learning across multiple generations. It is a project that clearly demonstrates the social value of architecture," Kingats said. "Kongats Architects is so proud to have been given the opportunity to work on the project and to have accepted the award together with Mayor Steve Pellegrini and King City Public Library CEO Adele Reid."

The Governor General's Medals in Architecture and Landscape Architecture are presented by the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects, and the Canada Council for the Arts.

The biennial awards recognize and celebrate outstanding design in recently completed built projects of any size, type and geographical location by Canadian architects.

The competition continues a tradition initiated by the Massey Medals in 1950, providing an important source of understanding of the nature of Canadian architecture and the regional, cultural, and historic forces expressed in the built environment. Outstanding design considers exemplary approaches to sustainability, and the support and advancement of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

"The Governor General's Medals in Architecture celebrate and commemorate projects and architects that embrace and exceed the highest standards

of the profession," said Jason Robbins, FRAIC, President of the RAIC. "This year's recipients continue a long-standing tradition of design excellence, making a significant impact across all aspects of our lives. The awarded projects demonstrate exceptional careful consideration of people, place and purpose, and further contribute to the growing Canadian culture of design. Each and every project shows how architecture can be a positive force that is inclusive, sustainable, and capable of change in individual lives and communities. Your dedication to design excellence creates a better world for all."

Michelle Chawla, Director and CEO of the Canada Council for the Arts said: "Each of the architectural teams from across the country that is being recognized deserves our thanks and appreciation for their exciting and exceptional works, as well as for their unique contributions to the architectural landscape of Canada."

The library and seniors centre opened during COVID, in November 2021.

Construction of the 21,000-square-foot (1,951-square-metre) building on King Road began in 2018. The bright, modern facility is nestled in the hillside across the road from King City Secondary School.

The Library Branch building includes meeting and study spaces, a reading lounge, book and out-of-the-box collections, public-use technology, children and teen areas and a Make-It Lab. The Seniors' Centre includes rental space, community space and program areas.

The building also has a host of environmental features, including efficient heating and cooling; energy-saving LED lighting; exterior window glazing; electric vehicle charging station, and a storm water infiltration system.

The cost of the construction was \$11.2 million. Funding sources include \$5.4 million from development charges, \$3 million from Township debenture, \$1.6 million from parkland dedication and \$200,000 from Township funds.



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# Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

## Are we accidental-like, or is there more to this?

*"By the grace of God, I am what I am."*  
Think about this for a moment. The odds of any one of us being here today is roughly one in 400 quadrillion. Sheer chance, or by the grace of a supreme deity?

As I sat in my car at a stoplight, I saw a small piece of oddly shaped paper spiralling across the road, blown by the wind.

I realize this tiny bit of paper was not a sentient organism, but it was an analogy on life.

As Forrest Gump put it: "I don't know if we have a destiny, or if we're all just floating around accidental-like on a breeze, but I think maybe it's both."

Hopefully there's more than just the wind blowing us oddly shaped people through our journeys.

In those few brief seconds, I pondered existence, and the meaning of life. Okay, these are not things that can be adequately contemplated in just a few minutes.

And yet, this subject occupies my mind and it tasks me, almost like Captain Ahab's whale. But mine is not a tale of revenge or obsession.

It's one of uncertainty, of the circle of life so to speak.

If we are blowing around "accidental-like" then we have no purpose, no meaning, no control. I doubt that's the case, for many reasons.

First, we beat almost impossible odds to have been created in the first place. To defy these mathematical numbers, there must be some rhyme or reason. We must be part of some massive, universal plan, a huge puzzle in which we are all pieces. As most of us know if a



**Mark Pavilons**

puzzle is missing just one tiny piece, it's incomplete.

If we are not meaningful, essential and otherwise vital, our lives – and the lives of all of our ancestors who fought to survive and continue the line – were all for naught. Do you believe thousands of generations and their contributions were for naught?

I don't think so.  
Okay, the paths of our families, maybe two or three generations past, may not have been amazing, monumental or noteworthy. However, one of those generations of young men and women lived through the Second World War, a time few of us can imagine.

From front-line soldiers, and war-torn European civilians, to those left

to toil on the home front, those people faced challenging times to say the least. The situation demanded everything they had, and so many sacrifices were made. Many future generations were nipped in the bud, with the loss of potential fathers and mothers.

They, too, should be remembered for their existence and meaning.

The immortal words by Robert Binyon in "For the Fallen" ring true:

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

"Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn."

But we will remember them, not just the fallen, but all who follow.

I don't know if that was part of the grand scheme of things, but who knows?

For me, I am thankful that "I am what I am."

My parents were teens during the war and suffered in their own ways. They saw enemy soldiers, bombings, death and lived through dangerous situations, food shortages, and loss. They were among Canada's post-war immigrants who left everything behind to start a new life here.

I often think about how close I came to not being here today. I would not exist – and by extension my children, either – had my parents not survived, thrived and overcome almost unfathomable odds. Strangers from different countries came together in Canada, met, were married, assembled a life together and had children.

What are the odds? Was it by chance, accidental-like, or destiny?

Maybe a bit of both.

When you struggle with health issues – any life-threatening condition – you are always pondering mortality, and what awaits in the great beyond. If you're religious, you have some rather soul-affirming words to comfort you. If not, your imagination swirls with

thoughts and images. White lights, or darkness? Eternal lightness of being, or mere nothingness?

Such is each of our destinies.

One has to weigh one's life and contributions in order to help make sense of it all. Some don't get a chance to grow and mature, and others outlive their family members. Many die far too young.

I came across a song that piqued my interest recently. The tune, "More To This," by Marc Scibilia, notes when the time comes all that we are falls into mystery:

"My neighbour says that this is it,  
"My daughter says we live again,  
"Most the time I'm somewhere in-between."

"Don't you dare,  
"Tell me that there  
"Ain't more to this,  
"More to this ..."

There's much more than we know right here, right now. From the microscopic worlds beneath the soil to the atmosphere that keeps our planet safe, miracles abound. More to this? You bet!

I believe there's way too much in terms of perfect harmony – from our strands of DNA and sharing a joke with a dolphin, to watching a bumble bee fly – to be accidental-like. No, my friends, these are intricate, complicated, planned wonders – marvels beyond our comprehension.

Just as humans occupied this perfect sphere of ours, what about other life forms spread throughout the universe? What are their origin stories?

Did they arise through cosmic dust blowing around accidental-like, or were they given purposeful life by some extraordinary power?

Maybe a little of both.  
Have faith my friends. More to this? I really hope so.

### Homelessness

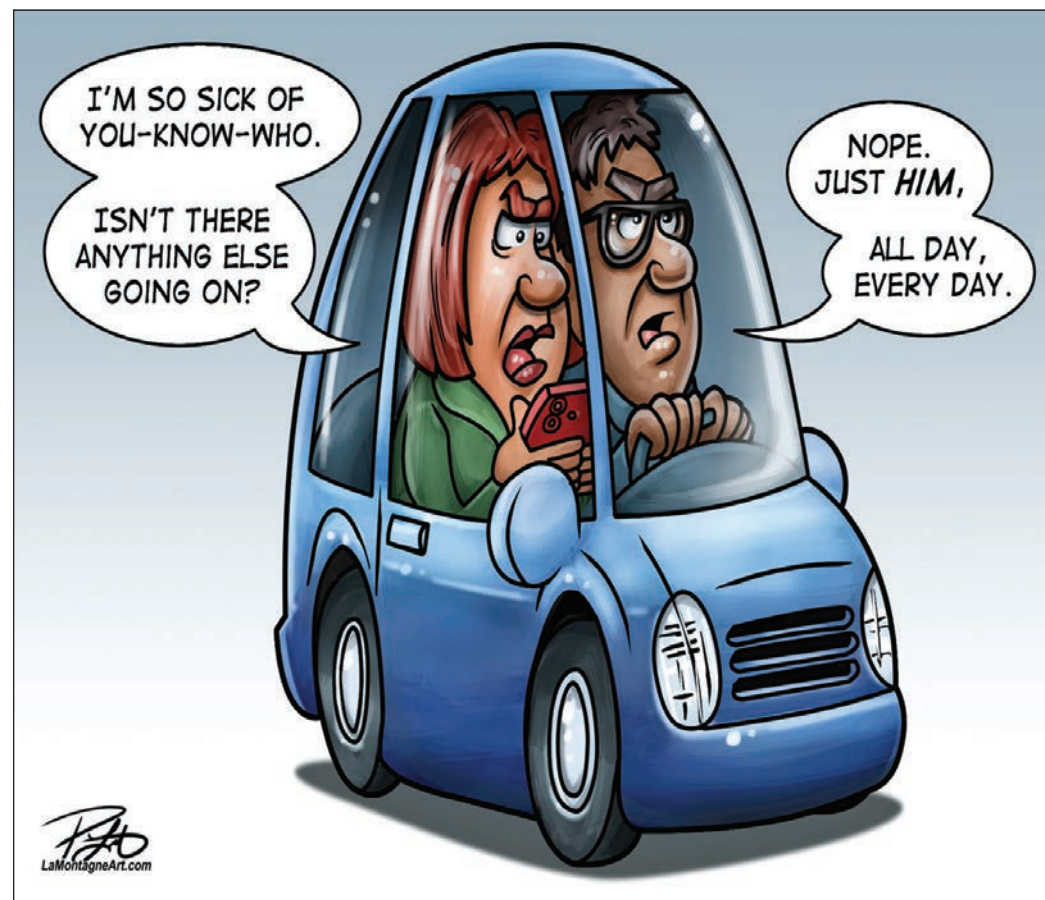
## York Region receives federal and provincial funding to support homelessness

York Regional Council received an update on federal and provincial government funding to support housing and homelessness.

On Jan. 27, the Provincial Government announced \$75.5 million in Provincial Encampment Response Initiative and Last Mile funding. York Region will receive \$1.4 million between November 1, 2024, and March 21, 2025, for Encampment Response Initiative actions and \$3.98 million for the same period in Last Mile Funding.

On Jan. 22, the Honourable Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, announced the federal government would provide \$91.5 million in Unsheltered Homelessness Encampment Initiative funding to Ontario 10 municipalities. York Region will receive \$10.8 million over a two-year period, and as part of the federal funding agreement, the Region will match the investment.

This much-needed funding will help create new emergency and transitional housing spaces, renovate existing spaces, increase drop-in programs and boost homelessness prevention activities.



### Quote of the Week

*"People only see the decisions you made, not the choices you had."*

— Anon.

### Trivia Tidbits

**King Station was built in 1853 and is the oldest surviving train station in Canada.**

**Letters to the Editor**

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please submit your comments / thoughts / ideas to [editor@kingsentinel.com](mailto:editor@kingsentinel.com), including your name and telephone number.

**KingWeeklySentinel WEBPOLL**  
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Results from last week's poll:  
**Are you concerned about the "trade war" started by the U.S.?**

a) Yes ██████████ **100%**  
b) No ██████████ **0%**

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

**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION**

*Did the snow dampen your Family Day activities?*

a) Yes  
b) No

*Go to our website and cast a vote!*

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# King-Vaughan candidates discuss issues, platforms

By Mark Pavilons  
Editor

## King-Vaughan Votes 2025

The King Weekly Sentinel reached out to local provincial candidates, asking them about the top issues. Their responses appear in alphabetical order.

What are the top issues facing Ontario and how will your party address them?



Stephen Lecce, PC

“Our province is facing an unprecedented threat – President Donald Trump has made it clear that he will stop at nothing to get what he wants, even if it means turning on the United States’ closest friend and ally. His repeated threats to impose devastating tariffs on all Canadian exports are real, as we’ve seen with his snap 25% tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum exports that put hundreds of thousands of Ontario jobs in danger, many of which are right here in the Township of King and Vaughan.

“I went to Washington with Premier Ford to deliver a clear message to U.S. lawmakers: Canada is not for sale.

“The next four years will bring shifting goalposts, constant chaos, and an economy under attack. That’s why it is more important than ever that our government secures a strong, stable, four-year mandate from the people – one that outlasts the Trump administration. This election is about protecting Ontario and standing up for our sovereignty and economic future.

“Our plan is focused on protecting families, building Ontario’s economy and infrastructure, and keeping our communities safe.

“At a time when Donald Trump’s tariffs are putting so many of our jobs in danger, we are fighting the job-killing Liberal carbon tax that is driving up costs for businesses and families, keeping our economy competitive. We’re committed to supporting the most at-risk sectors by investing tens of billions of dollars to help companies re-tool and keep their workers employed. We’re cutting red tape and streamlining approvals to get major projects built faster – including new and upgraded non-emitting nuclear power and critical mineral projects in the North—to ensure Ontario can generate clean, reliable, and affordable energy to power our economy.

“At every turn, we are lowering the cost of doing business in this province so Ontario remains the most competitive jurisdiction for investing and creating jobs. This is critical to protecting our economy from President Trump’s

mission to undercut Canadian jobs and investment.

“Under the previous Liberal government, Ontario lost over 300,000 manufacturing jobs – many of which fled to the United States. Our government will not let that happen under the Trump administration. Since 2018, we’ve secured \$45 billion in new investments to bring Canada’s first electric vehicle and battery plants to Ontario, creating thousands of good-paying jobs and positioning our province as a global leader in auto manufacturing.

“We are investing \$1.5 billion to train 600,000 workers in the skilled trades so more Ontarians can access high-demand jobs and build our economy.

“We’re investing nearly \$200 billion in new roads, highways, and public transit infrastructure projects to reduce gridlock, connect communities, and create construction and skilled trades jobs. Close to home, we’re getting shovels in the ground for Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass, while upgrading the King City, Rutherford, and Maple GO stations with hundreds of new parking spaces and making two-way, all-day GO train service a reality. We are committed to building a new GO station in Kleinburg-Nashville to support families across the Highway 27 corridor, including Nobleton and beyond.

“Protecting Ontario also means protecting our community from violent and repeat criminals. Strengthening bail laws, building new jails, and hiring more police officers is how we crack down on violent crime and keep offenders off our streets. We’re clearing illegal encampments from public parks. We are also outright banning drug injection sites near schools and daycares to ensure your kids come home safe and sound—a critical priority I championed in government.

“I was also proud to invest in families by announcing the construction of Canada’s first medical school dedicated to graduating family physicians next to Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital. Moreover, I delivered three long-term care projects to our community for over 600 seniors and established our first Youth Mental Health Hub to provide compassionate, wrap-around support for our kids.

“This election is about protecting Ontario: building a strong economy, defending our jobs, making life more affordable, and keeping our families safe. This is our moment as a province and country to protect our economic future while embracing our history, values, and our flag.

“Canada is not for sale. Not now, not ever – and only the Ontario PCs have a plan to protect Ontario.”

Ann Raney, Green

“To have a resilient economy Ontario needs first to have a resilient people. Currently, Canada’s income inequality is at the highest level on record and Ontario is the most unequal province. The Ontario government total spending per capita is at levels not seen since the depression, before World War Two. This is not reflective of a resilient society.

“Despite spending less on its people, Ontario has a relatively high debt burden from frequent and relatively large deficit budgets (Financial Accountability Office of Ontario, April 10, 2024).



Governments from this time forward must not assume that interest rates on the provincial debt will remain low but plan to start paying down the debt, refraining from wasteful spending that is not for the betterment of all Ontarians in the long view.

“We need everyone in society to feel healthy, strong, and connected. It has been years since Ontarians, and Canadians, have witnessed responsible long-view leadership which is urgently required to meet the needs of the moment.

“The Greens have a budgeted plan how to fund closing the income gap, strengthen the bonds between us and help to get people back on their feet. Some of the revenue streams are mentioned below. One is to ask those with higher incomes to pay a little more.

“Despite an unnecessary, very early, snap winter election, the Green Party of Ontario released their fully costed platform on Feb. 13. Here is my brief of three topics of note.

“Housing – The Green plan is to build homes in people-centred neighbourhoods, not sprawling over farmland or destroying nature.

“The Green Party of Ontario, GPO, will address this several ways including ending the Land Transfer Tax for first-time home buyers and offering zero-interest \$25,000 for homeowners who wish to add a rental unit to their primary residence. In addition, the GPO will

remove development taxes on housing less than 2,000 square feet that are built in urban areas while reimbursing the lost revenue to municipalities.

“The GPO will legalize more types of homes, update the Building Code to allow for more efficient housing to be built more efficiently, require municipalities to permit pre-approved housing designs for more affordable development and partner with non-profit and co-ops to build housing faster.

“The Green plans will fix an unfair rental system, build 2 million new homes over 10 years within urban boundaries to create thriving, walkable, affordable, people-centred neighbourhoods with schools and parks nearby, and a corner store down the street.

“Health – First, we must take care of the people who care for us.

“The GPO will address this in ways that include improving working conditions, especially in rural areas, in order to attract, train, and retain doctors, nurses, paramedics, and personal service workers. Improvements will be implemented whether at a LTC home, or a community clinic which might be a nurse-practitioner-led clinic, perhaps a new rural hospital, or at your home. The plan includes anchoring within primary care the home care and community care system while reducing the administrative burden on primary care doctors.

“The GPO will end the privatization of our healthcare system, prioritize a preventative approach to healthcare and try to solve problems before they begin by addressing the social and environmental determinants of health. The plan includes building good healthy not-for-profit homes for seniors and phasing out for-profit care because for-profit LTC homes spend 24% less per year on care for each resident than non-profit homes.

“Additionally, the GPO will double the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and Ontario Works rates as a first step to implementing a Basic Income, and tie future increases to inflation. The Greens will reduce the stress for 3 million Ontarians with disability and fulfill the overdue promises in the Accessible Ontario Pledge.

More on Page 6

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Gillian

**VOTE Gillian Vivona**  
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LIBERAL ONTARIO

Authorized by the CFO for Gillian Vivona Election Campaign



# Candidates outline programs and spending

From Page 5

“Education – The number one way to invest in our children’s future is by properly funding schools, teachers and education workers.

“The GPO has many actions to accomplish this which include immediately increasing funding for schools by \$1,500 per student to make up for cuts since 2018, double the number of students that can access the Student Nutrition Programs expanding it to be province-wide by 2030, and hire more teachers and educational assistants to reduce class sizes. In addition the GPO will speed up maintenance and repairs, including for accessibility, for Ontario public schools and adopt a Standard of Good Repair, and reduce care wait times for children with autism and special needs.

“Some of the other actions that the GPO will take include bringing the Arts and physical education back to the curricula, invest in quality professional development for educators, provide funds to school boards to ensure access to mental health supports, and work

with the federal government for access to \$10 a day, quality child care in every community.

“To encourage students into post-secondary programs in careers experiencing shortages, the GPO will implement a dedicated tuition waiver and incentivize part-time enrolment to increase those who wish to up-skill while working.

“Additionally, the GPO will immediately reverse the cuts made to OSAP by converting loans to grants for low and middle income students and eliminating interest charges on student debt and immediately return to an enrolment-based funding model for universities and colleges, increasing per student funding by 20% with annual increases matching inflation.

“If you are wondering where the money will come from to pay for the GPO platform’s operational spending and capital costs, please look online at [gpo.ca/platform](http://gpo.ca/platform) to access both the platform document and the three page spreadsheet of the platform’s full costing.

It may be of interest to some that

the estimates of revenues over the next four years for cancelling the 413 and the Bradford Bypass highways is \$10.0 billion and for cancelling the spa and parking garage at Ontario Place is \$2.2 billion.

“Greens may not form government, but the purpose of our detailed platforms and costing is to show all what is in the realm of possible and why it is necessary I, Ann Raney, and all Greens elected to the Ontario Legislature will work diligently and across party lines to make Ontario fair and prepared for what is to come.”

Contact Ann at [annraney@gpo.ca](mailto:annraney@gpo.ca) or 416-825-4275 or visit [gpo.ca/candidate/ann-raney/](http://gpo.ca/candidate/ann-raney/)



Gillian Vivona, Liberal

“Over the past two years, I’ve criss-crossed this riding knocking on doors, meeting with community groups and participating in local activities. I’ve listened closely to the residents of King-Vaughan. What they’ve told me loud and clear – and now backed up by extensive provincial voter polling, is that there are three top issues they are facing every day.

“Their top concern by far is the state of our public Health Care system. They know we have excellent medical professionals but the whole system is stretched beyond capacity. There are 57,119 people without a family doctor in King and Vaughan. Families are playing the waiting game for their care: waiting for appointments, waiting in hallways for hospital care (2,000 people a day!), waiting for surgeries and procedures, waiting for referrals to specialists, waiting for cancer care and hip replacements and waiting for their loved ones to get a space in long-term care (48,000 waiting).

With increased privatization under Doug Ford, many have shared that they felt forced to pay for care out of pocket to avoid long delays, or from fear of not getting the service they need when they need it.

“We have a focused plan to fix our ailing health care system; ensuring that every Ontarian has a family doctor through hiring over 3,300 physicians, opening 2 new medical schools and

fast-tracking international physicians, and we’re ensuring care when families need it – on evenings and weekends.

“Another constant theme I am hearing is the unaffordability of homeownership and the high cost of rent. Young people are losing hope that they can ever buy a home because the price of an average Ontario home has increased by nearly 45% since 2018, and rents have increased by 45% in York Region. Meanwhile, Ford has done nothing to spur housing starts which have plunged by 15 percent in 2024 – the lowest in 70 years. That’s just unacceptable.

“We, however, have a plan to make home ownership more affordable and bring back hope to those who thought it was out of reach. We will eliminate the provincial Land Transfer Tax for first-time homebuyers, seniors downsizing, and non-profit home builders (for an average saving of \$13,500), scrap Development Charges on new middle-class housing (saving as much as \$170,000 on a new home) and introduce fair, phased-in rent control to make renting more affordable.

“The third issue that I hear from young couples to seniors is that life is unaffordable, and they are struggling to even cover basic needs such as groceries. That’s not surprising considering under Ford; economic growth has slowed to a crawl at 0.3% while unemployment has increased to a whopping 7.4%. The situation is even more dire for our youth as their unemployment rate is 17%!

“A very worrisome sign is that only 16 per cent of businesses have confidence in Ontario’s economy – a record low. We must ask why economic growth has stagnated under Ford. While Ford is wasting billions of taxpayers’ money on gimmicks and bad deals, like a private spa at Ontario Place and putting beer in corner stores a year early, families have gotten further behind.


“The Ontario Liberals have a clear, strong plan to re-energize our economy and give all families a boost to get ahead. We will cut the small business tax rate by half, saving up to \$18,000, allowing for increased investments in advanced machinery, new hires, and business expansion. We will also lower the personal income tax rate for middle class Ontario families by reducing the tax rate on taxable income between \$51,446 - \$75,000 by 22 per cent. A third measure is to eliminate the 8% HST on heating and hydro bills for everyone. These three key initiatives will put more money back into people’s wallets. More details on our plan can be found at my website at [votegillian.com](http://votegillian.com)

“Over and over, people are telling me the same stories of their frustrations with healthcare, housing and affordability. They are expressing fear and worry about their futures. I am listening, and Bonnie Crombie and our Liberal team are ready to respond with a plan that Puts Ontarians First.

“Here are our plans to put Ontarians first: For further information please contact Anna Bortolus, Team Vivona at 416-885-7707 (personal cell).

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## King

### 7-Day Weather Outlook

From Thursday, February 20 to Wednesday, February 26

THURS 20TH	FRI 21ST	SAT 22ND	SUN 23RD	MON 24TH	TUES 25TH	WED 26TH
Scattered Flurries High -11C° Low -14C° <1cm Wind NW 25k	Sun/Clouds High -9C° Low -11C° - Wind NW 13k	Sun/Clouds High -6C° Low -7C° <1cm Wind SW 20k	Scattered Flurries High -3C° Low -5C° <1cm Wind SW 9k	Light Snow High -2C° Low -2C° 1-3cm Wind S 17k	Light Snow High 0C° Low -9C° ~1cm Wind N 18k	Partly Sunny High -3C° Low -0C° - Wind NW 16k



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# Celebrate a volunteer making a difference in King Township

Help celebrate the unsung heroes in King Township – those who make the community a better place through their tireless work and selfless actions – by nominating them for a Volunteer Appreciation Award.

Last year 10 individuals were recognized for their contributions to making King an exceptional place to live. Their areas of volunteering included youth sports, arts, charity and community events, libraries and the King Township Food Bank. Read more about last year's recipients' profiles – including Citizen of the Year Ivan Rappa's – at [king.ca/AwardRecipients](http://king.ca/AwardRecipients).

Nominations for the 2025 Volunteer Recognition Awards are now open. The nomination categories for King citizens are:

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

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

**Senior Citizen Award of Merit** – An award given to a Senior Citizen to recognize and honour special contributions to the senior's population.

**Lifetime Achievement** – An award to recognize outstanding citizenship within the community, with many years of dedicated service and devotion to the residents of King.

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

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

Nomination forms can be submitted online at [king.ca/awards](http://king.ca/awards). All online submissions will automatically be sent

## Nominations for Volunteer Appreciation Awards open until March 9

to the Township Clerk's Office.

Hardcopy versions can be submitted in-person or mailed to the Township of King at 2585 King Road, King City, L7B 1A1.

The deadline to submit a nomination is 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 9, and the award recipients will be selected by Council.

Award recipients will be celebrated during a special, invitation-only ceremony for family and friends, to be held at the King Township Municipal Centre on Thursday, May 1 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The awards ceremony will come during National Volunteer Week from April 27 to May 3 and recognizes the vital role volunteers play in strengthening our community. Volunteering not only enriches the lives of those who give their time but also creates a more connected and supportive community for all.

For details, including a link to the nomination form, visit [king.ca/awards](http://king.ca/awards).

Additional information about the award nomination process can be provided by the Clerk's Division at 905-833-5321 or email [clerks@king.ca](mailto:clerks@king.ca). For additional information about the event, contact the Event's Division at 905-833-5321 or email [events@king.ca](mailto:events@king.ca).

"Volunteers are the heart and soul of our community. Their selfless dedication and tireless efforts make King Township a better place for all. I encourage everyone to nominate those who have made a significant impact, so we can celebrate and honour their invaluable contributions," said Mayor Steve Pellegrini.



## Lecce joins team in U.S.

Stephen Lecce was in Washington D.C., along with Doug Ford and premiers from across Canada, meeting with elected and administration officials amid President Trump's ongoing tariff threats. "I was in Washington, D.C. with Doug Ford to make the case to the U.S. that to win against China, we must fight together, not against each other," said Lecce, PC Candidate for King-Vaughan. "This is Canada's moment to protect jobs, strengthen our economy, and boost 'Made in Canada' while securing a prosperous future for workers and families through our largest trading relationship with the U.S. We made abundantly clear that Canada is not for sale."

# Resident asks for ceremony to be open to the entire public

By Mark Pavilons  
Editor

While lauding King Township's annual Volunteer Appreciation event, a long-time resident is asking council to make it fully open to the public and not just an invitation-only event.

Bruce Craig submitted his letter to council, making the plea.

"Volunteer Awards have been a marvellous tradition in King Township over many years, a time when the community recognizes our volunteer heroes and comes together to celebrate in an annual public event," he said.

He noted that in 2019, he received a Volunteer Award, and he was grateful to have a number of family members and friends come to celebrate. "It was truly a special and memorable evening as it has been for many other award recipients."

Over the years, many community and family members have enjoyed coming out to the Awards Night and connecting with others as a great number of King Township volunteers, including volunteer organizations, have been recognized. Often a respected member of a Township organization receives an award and several members of the organization attend the Awards Night to join in the celebration.

Craig noted that five years ago, COVID interrupted this tradition for 2020 and 2021, and when this event was renewed in 2022 and 2023, attendance

for the Volunteer Award Celebration was limited to invited guests.

A good number of King residents expressed their concern to Council and Staff in 2023, and yet in 2024 the Volunteer Awards Night was again organized as an invitation-only event, and was "not truly a full community celebration."

"This is the one time in the year when the whole King Community can come together to recognize and celebrate the wonderful service of King's citizen volunteers. It is a time that showcases and affirms volunteerism in King, and contributes to building a closer sense of community. Let's reinstate this long held tradition, and welcome the whole community!"

Mayor Steve Pellegrini said while it may be invite only they don't keep anyone away. Some recipients have large families and want to bring more people and that's okay.

Councillors asked staff to look at options for the future. But Chris Fasciano, King's director of community services, noted it may be too late for this spring's event, but staff will review it.





## The Common Sense Conservative Plan:

-  **Axe the Tax**
-  **Build the Homes**
-  **Fix the Budget**
-  **Stop the Crime**



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KING-VAUGHAN



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## Registration for King's summer camps opens Feb. 24

Life is more fun at summer camp, and King Township has lined up more than 40 different ones for young campers to choose from.

Parents can start planning their summer by browsing the new, interactive 2025 Summer Camps guide, now available online at [king.ca/camps](http://king.ca/camps). Whether your child is a baker or builder, an artist, actor, animal lover or fan of superheroes, secret agents, science and sports, there's a summer camp experience waiting for them! Registration for residents opens at 7 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 24 on the Township's online recreation registration system at [townshipofking.perfectmind.com](http://townshipofking.perfectmind.com).

The summer camp season begins on Monday, June 30 with camps running for one-week sessions until Friday, Aug. 29 at various recreation facilities located in Nobleton, Schomberg and King City, including the new Zancor Centre. The zero-carbon facility features state-of-the-art amenities including two NHL-sized ice rinks (skate and hockey camps) a six-lane lap pool, a leisure pool, an athletic fieldhouse with artificial turf (basketball, volleyball and pickleball camps) and acres of green space for outdoor play. Zancor Centre campers over the age of 7 will enjoy dedicated recreational swimming times.

Camps are categorized by areas of interest to make the search easier for parents and kids. Choose from camps for ages 4 to 13 in the categories of arts and culture, culinary, sports, science and technology, the outdoors and spe-

cial themes, as well as leadership training for youth ages 14 to 16. In addition to specialized programming, children at all camps enjoy traditional camp activities including sports, arts & crafts, water play and pizza lunch on Fridays, available for all camps with the exception of We Be Tripping, for an additional cost of \$10.

Many camp classics are making their return by popular demand, including: Cooking, Summer Sizzle, We Be Tripping, and Cold Creek Conservation Area's flagship Outdoor Adventure Camp. In addition to this, King's summer camps team has been busy planning several new and exciting options. Here are some highlights:

**Amusement Park Tycoon:** from mesmerizing ferris wheels to heart-racing rollercoasters, design an amusement park attraction using motors, gears, axles, and more. Delivered in partnership with Robthink. For ages 7 to 9.

**Camp Swifties:** shake it off with music inspired crafts, games, karaoke, and water play. For ages 7 to 9.

**Learn to skate:** beat the heat, hit the ice learning basic skating skills including balance and coordination. For ages 4 to 6.

**Mini Homesteader:** garden, bake, and learn about sustainable living. For ages 4 to 6.

Camp sites include the following locations: Zancor Centre, Nobleton Community Centre & Arena, Trisan Centre, Schomberg Community Hall, King Township Municipal Centre, King Heritage and Cultural Centre, and Cold

Creek Conservation Area. The types of camps vary by location. The camp day runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with flexible drop-off for campers starting at 8:30 a.m. and pick-up ending at 5 p.m. Busing is only available for field trips for select camps.

All camp staff are certified in Standard First Aid, CPR-C and HIGH FIVE® Principles of Healthy Child Development and have received a clear Police Vulnerable Sector Check. All summer camp staff attend comprehensive training sessions prior to the summer camp season and wear many hats throughout the summer as they maintain safety and supervision of campers, organize

and lead group activities and mentor youth working as camp volunteers. Inclusion support staff for children ages four to 15 with disabilities is provided free of charge to Township of King residents, pending availability.

For more information about summer camps, view the 2025 Summer Camps Guide at [king.ca/camps](http://king.ca/camps).

To ensure a seamless registration process, parents are encouraged to make sure all personal information on their online registration account is up to date prior to Feb. 24. If you require assistance creating an account, call ServiceKING at 905-833-5321 or email [camps@king.ca](mailto:camps@king.ca).

## Winter edition of Taste of King nears

For two delicious weeks, savour exclusive prix fixe lunch and dinner menus plus special promotions at some of King's best restaurants during the winter edition of the bi-annual, 2025 Taste of King event. The two-week culinary celebration runs from Saturday, Feb. 22 to Saturday, March 8 and spotlights the Township's renowned restaurants and many hidden gems in King City, Nobleton and Schomberg.

From fine dining to causal bites, indulge in the best local dishes and seasonal specialties. Restaurants include Locale, Diner King, Route 27 Gastropub & Venue, Historia Cantina, Craft Kitchen & Beer Bar, Port Soiree, Holland Marsh Wineries, Pine Farms Orchard, The Roost Café, Si, Lo So, The Schomberg Pub & Patio, Misoya Sushi, Tat Doner and more. Participating restaurants and menus continue to be added to this event and are available at [king.ca/TasteOfKing](http://king.ca/TasteOfKing). Secure a table

in advance by making a reservation online or by calling the restaurant directly.

Partly funded by Central Counties Tourism, Taste of King provides economic support to local businesses during the slower seasons – fall and mid-winter – while offering foodies a chance to discover new favourites and revisit beloved spots. The inaugural Taste of King event ran Oct. 26 to Nov. 9, 2024, and featured 14 diverse eating establishments. This events puts King on the map as a destination for food lovers while also supporting the Township's agricultural sector as many of the featured menus incorporate fresh, locally sourced ingredients from King's farms, including those in the renowned Holland Marsh.

To participate in a future Taste of King event, local restaurants, cafes and bakeries are invited to email their expression of interest to [ecdev@king.ca](mailto:ecdev@king.ca).

## Mayor wants to review procurement

By Mark Pavilons  
Editor

As Canada braces for impending tariffs from the U.S., many are contemplating a "buy local" approach to shore up the local economy.

King Township's mayor wants to review its procurement policies to ensure the municipality is "shopping locally."

Mayor Steve Pellegrini wants to ensure the municipality does business with as many local and Canadian companies as possible, in light of potential tariffs from the U.S. He told his fellow councillors and staff recently that he wants to "get out in front" of possible tariffs as threatened by U.S. President Donald Trump

He said he doesn't want municipal projects to get held up or delayed by potentially harmful tariffs "if we're caught up in a trade war."

He is asking staff to put the issue on their "radar" and connect with regional partners to ensure major purchases and contracts are with local or Canadian companies.

## Chair and vice chair re-elected at AGM

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board members and staff closed out the business of 2024 and officially launched the business of 2025, with the re-election of the chair and vice-chair.

Annually, the Board of Directors elects these positions. Barrie Councillor Clare Rieppma and Oro Medonte Mayor Randy Greenlaw, were re-elected to the positions of chair and vice-chair, respectively. They expressed their gratitude to the rest of the Board for their continued trust and support.

Another key highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Christa Sharp, Manager, Restoration, who provided an update on 2024 accomplishments under the Conservation Authority's restoration program, as well as upcoming projects for 2025.

Ms. Sharp spoke about the critical, on-the-ground improvements her team worked on within the Lake Simcoe watershed, such as stormwater retrofits, low impact development features, community action projects, wetland habitat creation, and agricultural projects. These projects resulted in 33 hectares of land being restored within the watershed, with 75% of them increasing biodiversity, and 73% addressing climate change stressors.

Ms. Sharp concluded her presentation by looking forward to the year ahead, mentioning that there are over 45 projects in progress for 2025.

Chief Administrative Officer Rob Baldwin further reiterated the importance of advancing innovative research to better understand and address environmental challenges, including climate change and biodiversity loss. He also introduced a year-in-review video compilation, highlighting noteworthy achievements.

To view the 2024 Year-In-Review video the metrics and infographic, please visit: <https://lsrca.on.ca/index.php/home/annual-reports/>

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# Southlake pioneers 4D technology for complex cardiac cases

Southlake Health is leading the way in cardiac care by pioneering the use of 4D intracardiac echocardiogram (ICE) catheters, a new tool that provides real-time images of the heart for some of the most complex cardiac cases in the province.

Not yet approved for regular use in Canada, hospitals must receive "Special Access" authorization from Health Canada to use the Nuvision 4D ICE catheter for specific patients. Southlake is the second hospital in Ontario and one of the first four hospitals in Canada to use this technology, building on its international reputation for ground-breaking procedures and innovative solutions.

Typically, physicians who require a 3D image of the heart use transesophageal echocardiograms (TEE), a procedure during which a thin tube is guided down the esophagus to take pictures of the heart. The Nuvision 4D ICE catheter is next generation technology. A small catheter with an ultrasound sensor is inserted from the leg into the heart to generate real-time images of the valves and other structures. This advanced technology provides higher quality, real-time images, allowing physicians to instantly see the heart in 3D so that patients who cannot use TEE can still undergo life-changing cardiac procedures that help them avoid recurrent heart failure and other complications.

"When a patient comes to Southlake

for cardiac care, they're trusting us with their hearts, a responsibility that our team takes incredibly seriously," said Warren Cantor, MD, Southlake Health. "Special access to cutting-edge technology like the 4D ICE catheter enables us to offer treatment options to patients who otherwise have little to no options, improving their quality of life. We are honoured to play a key role in bringing this technology to Southlake and Canada."

Last fall, the Regional Cardiac Program at Southlake received a referral from a cardiologist in Windsor. Their patient, Nancy Skinner, was seeking treatment for tricuspid valve regurgitation (TVR), a form of heart valve disease in which the valve between the two right chambers of the heart does not fully close. Moderate to severe TVR is a serious condition that requires treatment, including surgical valve repair or replacement, to ensure enough oxygen rich blood flows through the heart.

However, Nancy was not a candidate for surgery and complications with her heart valve prevented clear imaging of the valve with TEE. This imaging is necessary to ensure a safe and successful procedure, and patients who cannot have TEE or have inadequate imaging with the tool are ineligible for procedures like a transcatheter tricuspid valve repair, leaving them with limited care options. Nancy and her cardiologist needed more options to address her heart disease. Undeterred, Dr. Cantor, an international expert in acute coronary syndromes, and the cardiac team at Southlake turned to global solutions in the Nuvision 4D ICE catheter.

"Over the last century, Southlake Health has built a proud legacy of leading edge care, close to home to save patients from travelling into Toronto," said Derek McNally, Executive Vice President, Clinical Services and Chief Operating Officer, Southlake Health. "Our world-class team at the Regional Cardiac Centre continues to lead ground-breaking research and techniques, ensuring patients from York Region to Muskoka, and beyond have access to the best care possible."

With the 4D ICE catheter's real-time imaging, Dr. Cantor was able to repair the patient's heart valve using a minimally invasive procedure. This helped relieve the patient's symptoms and im-



prove her breathing. Today, she is doing much better.

"I feel like myself again," said Nancy. "Dr. Cantor and the cardiac team at Southlake Health gave me another chance at life and went above and beyond to do so. I am so thankful for their resourcefulness in getting this new technology."

Southlake's Regional Cardiac Program is home to one of two Structural Heart Programs in Ontario and one of four in Canada. The program uses minimally invasive procedures to treat conditions that affect the heart's structure, including the valves, walls, muscles, and blood vessels. Today, Southlake is one of the highest volume centres in Canada for transcatheter mitral valve repair, providing care to patients from York Region, Simcoe County, and beyond. The team at Southlake works with patients to provide the best care possible, which in some cases includes cutting-edge transcatheter procedures that are not available many in other cardiac centres.

"Southlake's deep commitment to patients pushes our team to continuously raise the bar for leading edge cardiac care, even when that care is complex," said Elizabeth Lalingo, Director of the Department of Cardiac Health, Southlake Health. "Every patient who walks through our doors can be confident that they're receiving comprehensive care that is cutting-edge on the world stage."

As a Level 7 Regional Cardiac Pro-

gram, Southlake's contributions to advancing cardiac care extends far beyond operating and procedure rooms. The highly skilled team of medical staff and staff provide almost every type of cardiac care, with the exception of heart transplants, to patients who no longer need to travel far distances to Toronto.

As leaders in their fields, the team actively participate in ground-breaking research and are often the first to perform leading edge procedures in Ontario, Canada and even the world. Southlake continues to collaborate with international experts to enhance cardiac care and improve patient outcomes globally.

Southlake's Regional Cardiac Program is the fourth largest comprehensive heart program in Ontario, providing advanced cardiac care close to home to thousands of patients from York Region to Muskoka, and often receiving referrals from other cardiologists throughout the province.

Southlake is the regional hub for emergent heart attack care, meaning if a patient is having a heart attack, they'll be brought to Southlake for treatment no matter which hospital is closest in the region.

Southlake is known internationally for its research and innovation in cardiac care. Its recent accomplishments include becoming the first hospital in North America to successfully implant 1,001 sutureless heart valves.

## York expanding its rapid transit

York Region needs more rapid transit.

Jane Street, from Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Drive in Vaughan, is one of the Region's busiest transit routes and York Region Council is investing in the preliminary planning and engineering for bus rapid transit (BRT) along this key corridor.

Jane Street BRT will support housing growth as it materializes along this corridor with 45,000+ active development applications and an expected increase of 30,000+ more people and 64,000+ more jobs by 2051.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) and 30% Preliminary Design for this critical project is under way and York Region's Rapid Transit Corporation is looking to raise awareness and get public feedback to help shape the future of this important rapid transit corridor. Once this work is completed, the project will be in a stronger position to receive funding from senior levels of government to complete detailed design and construction.

The EA will take approximately 18 to 24 months to complete and will provide insights into the project's potential impacts and benefits, with minimal public disruption expected - they will be keeping residents informed every step of the way.

For information on pop-up sessions and public engagement opportunities, visit <https://yrrtc.ca/events>

Frequent public engagement sessions will be held in and around the Jane Street corridor, with the first open house in this spring. They want to hear from the public and encourage everyone to participate.

### York Region receives funding to support housing, homelessness

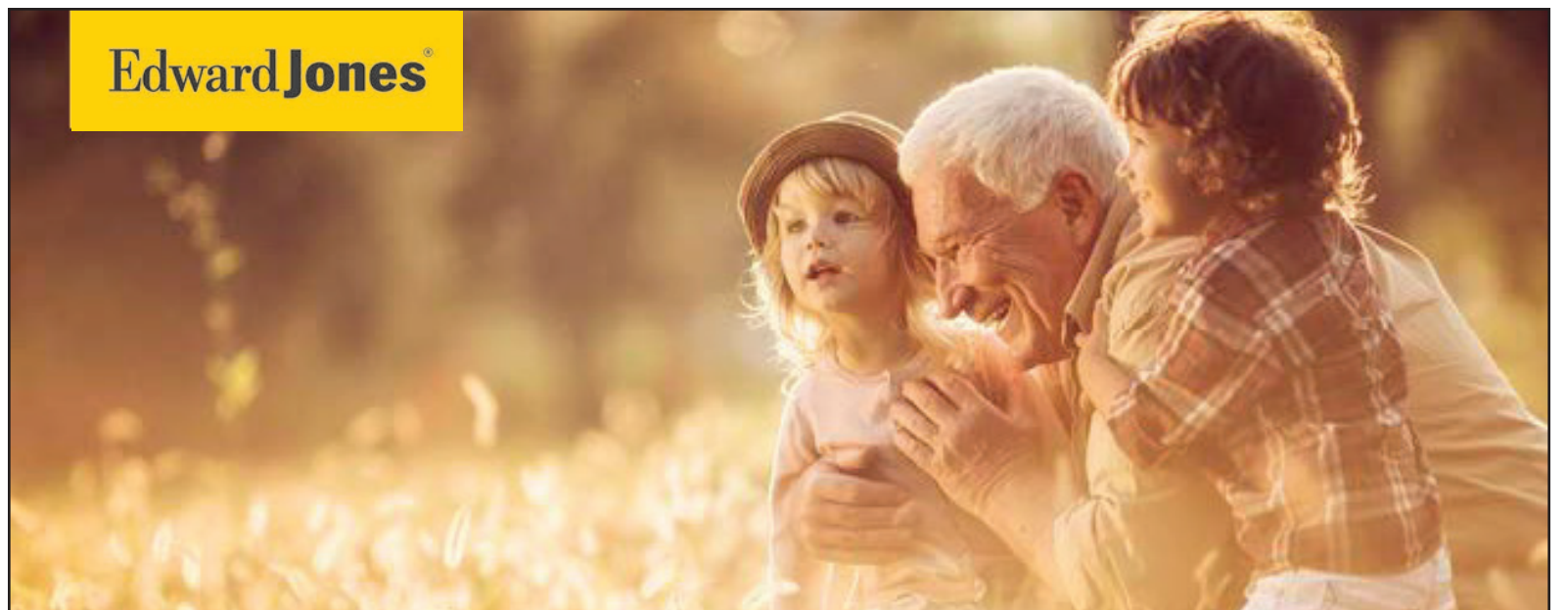
York Regional Council received an update on federal and provincial government funding to support housing and homelessness.

On Jan. 27, the Provincial Government announced \$75.5 million in Provincial Encampment Response Initiative and Last Mile funding. York Region will receive \$1.4 million between November 1, 2024, and March 21, 2025, for Encampment Response Initiative actions and \$3.98 million for the same period in Last Mile Funding.

On Jan. 22, the Honourable Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, announced the federal government would provide \$91.5 million in Unsheltered Homelessness Encampment Initiative funding to Ontario 10 municipalities. York Region will receive \$10.8 million over a two-year period, and as part of the federal funding agreement, the Region will match the investment.

This much-needed funding will help create new emergency and transitional housing spaces, renovate existing spaces, increase drop-in programs and boost homelessness prevention activities.

Edward Jones



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[edwardjones.ca/r-payne](https://edwardjones.ca/r-payne)





## Radium Girls on stage at The Country Day School

By Meghan Weinroth

It's 1926 and radium is thought to be a miracle cure.

Teenager Grace Fryer has joined the United States Radium Corporation as a dial painter in Orange, New Jersey. With two brothers fighting overseas, she wants to do her part to support the war effort.

Along with her friends Katherine Schaub and Irene Rudolph, Grace painted hundreds of watches and military dials with radium each day at work.

Ten years later, after many of the women began mysteriously falling ill, including herself, Grace courageously took a stand in court and fought the U.S. Radium Corporation – demanding they cover the women's rising medical bills

and acknowledge the dangers of working with radium to implement safety measures for future employees.

Arthur Roeder, the new president of the U.S. Radium Corporation, wanted only the best for his company and his family. But when rumours spread about a mysterious illness plaguing his dial painters – both past and present – he must defend everything he has worked for.

Radium Girls is a fast-paced, heartfelt production about the events of the real Radium Girls in Orange, New Jersey. Taking place in the 1920s, it explores topics such as love, loss and greed. With a cast of eight members playing over 30 different characters, this show is one you will not want to miss.

There will be three performances

of Radium Girls in The Country Day School's Paul C. Duckett Theatre on Feb. 27 and 28 at 7 p.m., and March 1 at 1:30 p.m. Purchase your tickets today at <https://www.cds.on.ca/tickets>.

*Meghan Weinroth is a Grade 11 stu-*

*dent at The Country Day School and will be performing multiple roles in the upcoming production of Radium Girls. She is also a Student Communications Liaison in the Office of Community Relations.*

## Highly anticipated History of King book launches in April, coincides with King's 175 Anniversary

The King Township Historical Society is proud to announce that local author Ann Love, in tandem with dedicated researcher Sharon Bentley, have submitted the final manuscript of their highly-anticipated 476-page book, *The History of King Township: A Community Shaped by the Land*, for publication in late March.

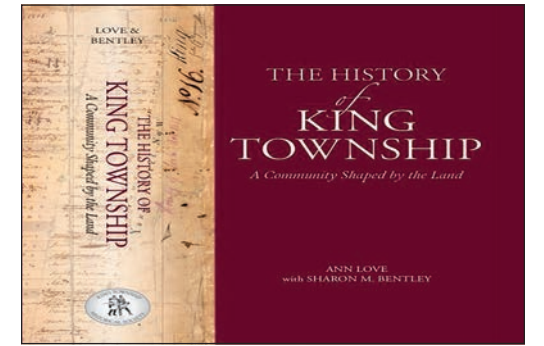
Their book launch is set for Thursday, April 24, from 4:30-6:30pm at the King Township Municipal Centre; serendipitously coinciding with the celebration of King Township's 175th anniversary year.

Six years in the making, and significantly delayed due to closures during the pandemic, this labour of love traces the formation of King Township's unique natural landscape and narrates the adventures of those who have made King their home.

The writing team looked for connections between the people and the land over time with the underlying question – why has so much of the township's countryside survived into the 21st century given its proximity to Toronto?

The authors unearthed fresh stories as well as new insights to enliven familiar tales. The book considers hundreds of generations of First Peoples who managed the land in strategic and subtle ways. What mechanisms of colonialism were applied in King Township and how did they affect King's First Peoples and landscape? Who were the early settlers and their descendants and how did their values, imaginations and stories impact the township? Finally, the book considers the 20th century influx of city folks, many of whom shared with long-time residents a determination to keep King Township a green, living community.

Beautifully crafted with high-quality paper, a hardcover, and surveyor Stegmann's 1800 map of King beneath the dust jacket, *The History of King Township: A Community Shaped by the Land* will be available for pre-order online starting in early March for \$30. It will then officially debut at a public book launch at the King Township Municipal Centre on Thursday, April 24 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the same price and later



retail for \$50 at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre (King Museum) and various local shops and cafes.

Donors who have contributed \$250 or more will receive a free autographed copy. Local volunteers, realtors, ASK and King Chamber of Commerce members will also be offered the book at the wholesale price. It is the perfect gift for long-time King residents, as well as newcomers.

Ann Love, M.A., Past President of the King Township Historical Society (KTHS), wrote this book for the KTHS. She has lived in the township for 60 years and is co-author of more than 30 books, including *Rewilding: Giving Nature a Second Chance* and *Pandemic Survival: It's Why You're Alive*.

Sharon Bentley, B.A., LT, KTHS Board Member and retired Deputy Chief Librarian of the King Township Public Library, unearthed, compiled, and indexed the research for this book.

Interested in learning more? Please contact the KTHS at [kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:kinghistoricalsociety@gmail.com) or visit [www.kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com](http://www.kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com).

The KTHS dates back to 1972 when a group of dedicated residents, with interests in preserving the history of their township, gathered to form the King Township Historical Society. In 1981-1982, the KTHS was incorporated by the Ontario Historical Society under a Provincial Letters Patent. Their goals and objectives are to encourage research into the history, to secure and preserve an accurate account of the progress and development, and to promote public interest in the history of King Township. More information may be found on our website at [www.kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com](http://www.kingtownshiphistoricalsociety.com).



## 90th birthday celebrations for beloved volunteer

Friends, family and fellow volunteers gathered at Laskay Hall Feb. 4 to celebrate the 90th birthday of beloved volunteer Elsa-Ann Pickard.

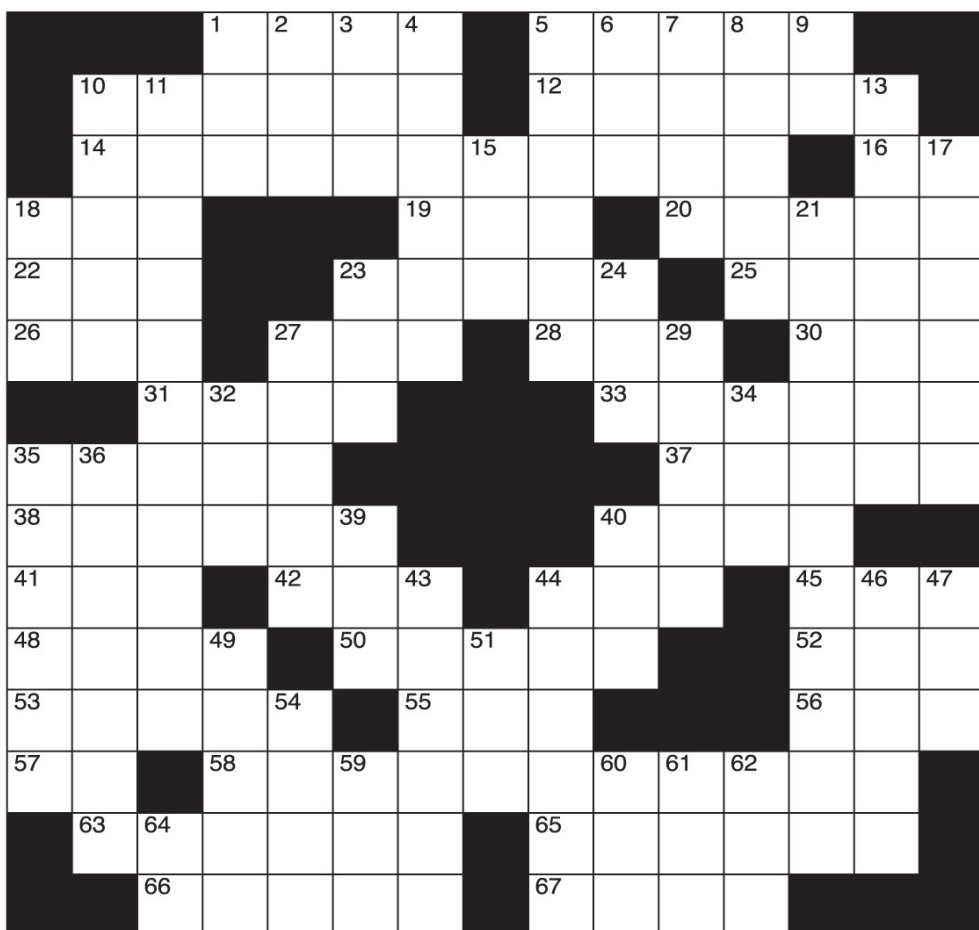
Elsa-Ann, who thought the Museum Board was holding a small tea for her, was surprised by a hall full of guests, including Mayor Steve Pellegrini, Councillor Debbie Schaefer, husband John, daughter Heidi, daughter-in-law Katie and son Michael, who had travelled in from Ottawa.

Pickard is a long-time volunteer at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre (formerly the King Museum) and is a recognizable face for all who visit. Since she moved to King in 1985, Elsa-Ann has been dedicated to the support and preservation of local history. Serving considerable time on both the King Township Historical Society Board and the King Township Museum Board, she was also responsible for establishing the King Township Archives (along with Virginia Atkins).

Elsa-Ann still serves on the Museum Board and volunteers twice a week at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre, conducting archival research and supervising other volunteers. She also belongs to a book club, sewing club and the University of Toronto Women's Club and credits keeping busy to her longevity! If you see Elsa-Ann this month, be sure to wish her happy birthday, or drop by the KHCC to say hello!

## CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 252310 • Solution in Classifieds



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Tropical Asian plant
- 5. Yankees' slugger
- Judge
- 10. Helps to preserve food
- 12. Plant disease
- 14. One who predicts
- 16. Equally
- 18. Burundian franc
- 19. Pouch
- 20. Arizona city
- 22. Surround
- 23. Hard, heavy timber
- 25. Witnessed
- 26. They \_\_
- 27. French river
- 28. A way to drink
- 30. Small constellation
- 31. Peruse a written work
- 33. Type of hound
- 35. Plant of the goosefoot family
- 37. Evade or escape

- 38. A way to confine (abbr.)
- 40. Volcanic crater
- 41. Weekday
- 42. Women's service organization (abbr.)
- 44. Local area network
- 45. Sensory receptor
- 48. Posted
- 50. Tibetan pastry
- 52. Licensed for Wall Street
- 53. Very willing
- 55. Golf score
- 56. Consume
- 57. Touchdown
- 58. Tends to remind
- 63. In a way, smoothed
- 65. Poke holes in the ground
- 66. Herbaceous plants
- 67. Taiwanese river

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Body art
- 2. Boxing's GOAT
- 3. Film for posterity

- 4. Prayer
- 5. Calculating machine
- 6. Keyboard key
- 7. Outburst
- 8. Man-eating giants
- 9. New Hampshire
- 10. Type of sword
- 11. Counting
- 13. Pants style
- 15. Political action
- 17. U.S. government committee
- 18. Civil Rights Act
- 21. Contractors take one
- 23. Spanish soldier
- 24. A person's brother or sister
- 27. Expressed pleasure
- 29. Song of praise
- 32. Shock treatment
- 34. Patti Hearst's
- 35. Counteract
- 36. Goes over again
- 39. Popular Dodge truck
- 40. Male adult
- 43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
- 44. Rope used to lasso
- 46. Become less intense
- 47. Subway rodent
- 49. Lead alloy
- 51. Japanese honorific title
- 54. Advise someone
- 59. Famous NYC museum
- 60. Ocean
- 61. Cathode-ray tube
- 62. Cologne
- 64. It starts with these two

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



# Operation Apple marks its 10th anniversary

By Mark Pavilons  
Editor

A volunteer mission in Mexico recently marked its 10th anniversary, and a King resident has helped in its resounding success.

“Operation Apple” acknowledges its tenth anniversary by having firefighters unite with police officers to hand out apples to local Chapala children.

A retired police officer from King has decided to share his knowledge and expertise with Mexican law enforcement personnel. Doug Ransom has done some ride-alongs with the Chapala Police in Mexico and helped launch the program.

His connection with that area dates back to 2014, when Ransom was a Metro Toronto Police officer. He helped teach Chapala officers principles reflective of policing in Toronto, and it became apparent that the local police needed strategies to improve its rapport with the public. The small gesture of handing out apples to children has blossomed and spread throughout the community.

“Out of that need, I came up with a strategy whereby local expat organizations would fund the acquisition of boxes of apples and uniform police officers would hand them out to kids on ‘Three Kings Day’ or what is referred

to elsewhere as the Epiphany, which is the last day of the Christmas season in Mexico,” Ransom explained.

Once again this year on Jan. 6, Three Kings Day is a major gift-giving day given it mirrors the three Wise Men arriving in Bethlehem with gifts for the new born, Jesus.

Operation Apple again took place in Chapala on this very special day. This year marks the 10th anniversary that this annual public relations event has taken place. Unlike other years, this year, members of the Chapala Fire Department joined police officers from Chapala Police to hand out the apples.

The smiles on children’s faces and the gratitude shown by their parents and older siblings, were an indication that this is a program that is appreciated by all who participate, Ransom noted. As these community heroes distributed apples to local children to celebrate Three Kings Day, it was apparent that these efforts are appreciated by the community. The main street near the Malecon was the perfect location as families gathered in the Mexican sun to enjoy the closing days of the 2024/2025 Christmas Season.

Many thanks go to police officers Mayele Sevilla and Josue Ceja Palacio from the Chapala Police Service and Lieutenant Rafael Suarez and Para-



medic Juan Hosa Raco from the Chapala Fire Department for the enthusiastic manner they greeted and presented apples to the many young children who played a part in this year’s celebration.

A special thanks goes to “ANAVETS,” the Canadian Army Navy Air Force Veterans Organization who financed the cost of the apples for a second consecutive year.



WELCOMES YOU TO THE 20TH ANNUAL  
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KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE

## BEATING *the* WINTER BLUES

Do these colder months make you feel like hibernating? You’re not alone. Join us at the Amica Aurora Promenade Presentation Centre (or online) for an inspiring session by **MY RECREO’s Victoria Muir-Burcea.**

In her presentation, *The Gifts of Winter: Embracing the Season of Renewal*, she’ll show us that winter offers unique opportunities for nurturing our body, brain and mindset, as we explore ways to stay energized, healthy, and motivated.

Enjoy light refreshments and enter for your chance to win a door prize!

**| WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26 ■ 10:00 – 11:30 A.M. |**

Presentation Centre: 14785 Yonge St. (beside the LifeLabs)  
*In person or on Zoom (by preference or if in-person session is full)*

PLEASE RSVP BY FEBRUARY 23 TO LESLEY or LADI  
AT 905-726-2220 (Zoom link provided upon RSVP).

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FOR CHILDREN (AGES 7-14) COPING WITH GRIEF

**March 10 - 14, 2025, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

Hosted at Doane House Hospice, 17100 Yonge Street, Newmarket except for Wednesday, March 12, when the camp will be hosted at Margaret Bahen Hospice, 653 Queen Street, Newmarket (beside Southlake Regional Health Centre).

This week-long camp offers a safe place for children to express themselves through art-making and group activities. Together, they'll learn ways to better cope with their loss, navigate the ups and downs of grief, and honour their loved one(s).

For more information, please contact Doane House Hospice Art Therapist Cynthia Gardner, at [cgardner@myhospice.ca](mailto:cgardner@myhospice.ca) or **905 967 0259 ext. 155**

*This program is provided free of charge. (Donations are always gratefully accepted)*



653 Queen Street, Newmarket ON L3Y 2J1 | [donations@myhospice.ca](mailto:donations@myhospice.ca) | 905-967-1500 ext. 135

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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 lead the service this morning continuing with a new series entitled, "The ABCs of Discipleship." This Sunday's letter is G for "Giver," from Corinthians 9.1-15.

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](http://stpaulsnobleton.ca) or on our YouTube channel each Sunday at 10 a.m., or on demand at [youtube.com/stpaulschurchnobleton](http://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://stpatrikssc.archtoronto.org/>

St. Mary's Mission: <https://stmarys-no.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](mailto: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

Please register for each program you plan to attend. Materials and food are purchased according to the number of people registered.

All Educational Thursdays are \$1 for members, and \$2 for non-members.

Indoor Bocce is now available every Thursday, upstairs in the large room in the Nobleton arena from 10 a.m. to noon.

February 13 - Art with Angela. Learn the technique of painting 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.

March 6 - The History of Tattoos and their Artistic Expression. Presented by Sapphire. Tattoos have gone through movements and trends. Come out and listen to this information.

March 13 - Ageism and Abuse Elder Prevention. Presented by Yellow Brick House. Learn the relationship between ageism and how it is impacted by abuse in this interactive workshop.

March - 20 The History of the King Heritage & Cultural Centre. Learn about the museum in King and the re-

search that they do and the history of this centre. A representative from the museum will do a presentation.

March 27 - Spring Floral Painting with artist Angela Del Borrello. Step by step instructions will be provided by Angela on how to do an acrylic floral painting. Cost is \$10 which includes all materials. Registration required by March 24.

### Nobleton Lions

At our January 28 meeting, Mark Pavilons, editor of this newspaper, was presented with the Helen Keller award in recognition of his contribution to the life of our community through the many articles and pictures featuring the work of the many non-profit organizations active throughout King Township. We are privileged to have the King Weekly Sentinel keep us so well informed and engaged in making King an even better place to live.

Poker players mark your calendars for Friday, Feb. 28 for the Texas Hold'em Poker Fundraiser at the Nobleton Arena. A buffet dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. with poker under way at 7:30. For tickets, which must be purchased in advance, first come, first served, please contact Lion Rick Zuzek at 416-859-1922 or any other Nobleton Lion.

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 MacBain at [nobletonlionjerry@outlook.com](mailto:nobletonlionjerry@outlook.com)

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.NobletonLionsClub.com](http://www.NobletonLionsClub.com). You may also follow us on Instagram at [nobleton.lions.club](https://www.instagram.com/nobleton.lions.club)



### Flag Day marked

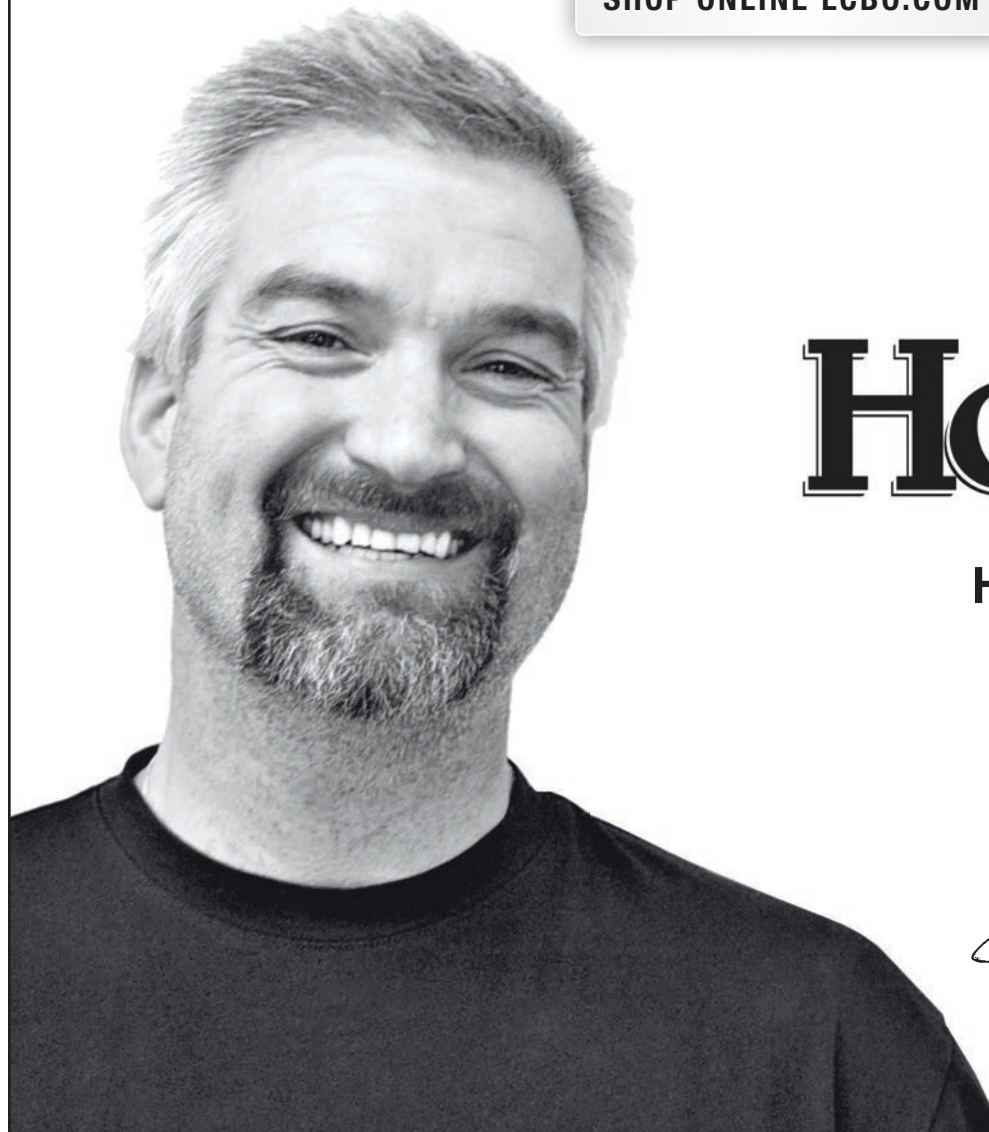
National Flag of Canada Day, Feb. 15, was celebrated coast to coast. At the stroke of noon on February 15, 1965, Canada's red and white maple leaf flag was raised for the very first time on Parliament Hill. On the same day in 1996, National Flag of Canada Day was declared. Our national flag is a symbol that unites Canadians and reflects the common values we take pride in — democracy, inclusion and equity. This year marked the 60th anniversary of the flag. King Mayor Steve Pellegrini posed for the symbolic photo in Ottawa and King-Vaughan MP Anna Roberts celebrated with Canadians. "Canada's flag is a symbol of freedom and democracy. Never in our history has it been more important to fight for it today," said PC candidate Stephen Lecce. "After a successful breakfast, I presented our hosts Sony and Minu a Canadian flag — thanking them for embracing the best of our country."

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# ON FEB 27 VOTE TO PROTECT ONTARIO

**President Trump's threats are putting hundreds of thousands of jobs at risk. Doug Ford needs a strong mandate from the people for his plan to protect Ontario.**



## Building Ontario's Economy

We've secured over \$45 billion in new investments in the first electric vehicle and battery plants in Canada, creating thousands of jobs. We're investing more than \$200 billion in our plan to build roads, highways, transit and other infrastructure projects. We're investing \$2.5 billion to train more than one million people for better jobs and bigger paycheques in the skilled trades. We're putting more of your money back in your pocket with \$200 taxpayer rebate cheques.



## Protecting Workers

President Trump's tariffs will devastate Ontario's economy. We'll do whatever is necessary to protect people's livelihoods, including by investing tens of billions of dollars to keep people working. We'll provide funding for impacted businesses to retool so that they can attract new customers and meet payroll. We'll invest more in building infrastructure to create jobs and retrain workers to find new opportunities.



## Keeping Us Competitive

We're fighting the job-killing Liberal carbon tax and urging the federal government to cut red tape and streamline approvals to get big things built, including speeding up construction of new and upgraded nuclear power plants and critical mineral projects in the Ring of Fire region in Northern Ontario. We'll keep lowering the cost of doing business to make Ontario the most competitive place to invest and create jobs.



## Cleaning Up Our Streets

We're protecting families and children by banning drug injection sites near schools and daycares and clearing out encampments from public parks with new investments in shelters. We're cracking down on violent and repeat criminals and building new jails to keep them behind bars.



## Delivering Better Care

We're investing \$1.8 billion more to connect everyone in Ontario to a family doctor and primary care, alongside \$50 billion to build 50 new and upgraded hospitals. We're leading the largest medical school expansion in a decade to train more doctors. We've made it more convenient to connect to care, with over two million visits to local pharmacies for common ailments, saving you time.



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# King Weekly Sentinel

Sports • News • Community Events  
Classifieds • At Your Service



## 12UA Rebellion captures King Challenge Playoff Cup

By Jim Stewart

The 12UA King Rebellion Head Coach Joey Altomare is preparing his hockey team for the final weekend of their regular season and is confident his surging team will perform well in the upcoming OMHA playoffs.

The veteran rep coach has been pleasantly surprised by his team's performance in 2024-25 in what he considered to be a rebuilding year: "This is a newly-built 'A' team. It was supposed to be a development year and we would have been satisfied with a .500 record with all the new players on the team, but we've surpassed our goals and we're in third place in our league."

Coach Altomare praised the myriad components of the team that have contributed to a successful season thus far: "I couldn't ask for a better coaching staff. We've got a great set of parents and an outstanding group of players. They're great kids on and off the ice."

After winning the King Challenge Playoff Cup Championship Jan. 19 with a decisive 4-1 win over the Clarence-Rockland Crush, Coach Altomare believes his third-place squad is heading towards the final weekend of the regular season and into the playoffs with a full head of steam.

The personable rep coach stressed the significance of winning a local tournament – set mostly in King Township – as a key source of momentum for his young club: "Home town tournament wins are very important. It hits home and it's sentimental for everybody involved. I mean, who doesn't want to win their own tournament?"



The King Challenge Playoff Cup featured preliminary match-ups at the newly-opened Zancor Centre in King City – home of the OJHL King Rebellion – and Westwood Arena in Etobicoke, home of the OJHL Toronto Patriots. In addition to the host club, the tournament included teams from Mississauga, Willowdale, and Clarence-Rockland.

In the championship game on Sunday afternoon in Nobleton, the Rebellion avenged an opening round 2-1 loss to the Crush to capture the championship. Sebastian Bella powered the King offence with three goals including the tournament-winning goal at 2:37 of the second period.

After a scoreless first period, King lit the lamp three times in the middle

frame with a pair of goals from Bella and one from James Sacilotto. The Rebellion carried a 3-1 lead into the third period and Bella completed his hat trick at 10:38 to crush any comeback attempt by Clarence-Rockland.

Bella led his team in tournament goals scored with five. Marcel Altomare, Francesco Ieraci, and Stefano Cancellara fired four goals each over the five-game tournament to provide the Rebellion with a well-balanced offensive attack that cranked out 26 goals. King accrued a 4-1 record and starting goaltender Jake Racco allowed only 4 goals and earned two shutouts in five games.

Coach Altomare offered this assessment of his team's performance: "Everyone put in an exact effort. Everybody did their job and played their role. It was a complete team effort. Everyone worked hard and, most importantly, everyone had fun. Winning is always a bit more fun. It was an incredible weekend of hockey and the boys gave it everything they had. To see the team come together and pull off this victory is something truly special."

Team sponsor Dave Damen concurred with Coach Altomare and added that the 12UA Rebellion squad "showcased determination, skill, and teamwork, and overcame each opponent on their path. Each game tested their resilience, with standout performances from players stepping up in key moments. Whether it was clutch goals, stellar defensive plays, or crucial saves between the pipes, the Rebellion proved why they deserved to hoist the Championship Cup."

King started the tournament with an emphatic 9-0 win over the Mississauga Erindale Spitfires on Friday morning. The game featured a natural hat trick by Marcel Altomare to spur the Rebellion's attack. King jumped out to a 3-0 first period lead on goals by Massimo Saccucci, Francesco Ieraci, and Bradley Costa. The Rebellion offence erupted for five goals in the middle frame. Altomare fired a pair of goals

two minutes apart to give King a 5-0 lead. Ieraci's second goal of the game at 9:46 provided his club with a six-goal margin. Stefano Cancellara scored less than two minutes later and Altomare completed his natural hat trick at 6:10 to give King an insurmountable 8-0 lead after two periods. Sebastian Bella closed the scoring at 1:42 of the third period and Jake Racco earned his first of two shutouts in the tournament.

Game 2 for King was the polar opposite to the Game 1 blowout. After trailing the Willowdale Hawks 1-0 after two periods of play on Friday night, the Rebellion's high octane offence shook off its nocturnal slumber. A three-goal rally with less than three minutes to play in the final period salvaged a gutsy 3-1 victory. Ieraci tied the game with 2:45 left on the clock and Cancellara fired the game-winner at 1:59. Saccucci provided an insurance marker with three ticks left on the clock to punctuate the comeback win by the "The Cardiac Kids from King."

On Saturday morning in Game 3, a pair of goals by Adam Halderson and Samuel Leblanc gave the Clarence-Rockland Crush a 2-0 lead after the first period. Cancellara's third of the tourney at 2:18 of the middle frame pulled the Rebellion to within one of the Crush, but King dropped its only game at the Challenge Playoff Cup in what turned out to be a sneak preview of the championship final.

In the semi-final playoff on Saturday evening, King bounced back from its narrow loss to Clarence-Rockland by shutting out the Spitfires 9-0. Game 4 was eerily similar to Game 1. The Rebellion established a 4-0 lead after one period with goals from Ieraci, Simon Samaroo, Altomare, and Sacilotto over a five-minute span. Three minutes into the second period, Bella made it 5-0. Samaroo fired his second goal of the game and David Filippo gave King a 7-0 lead at 6:45. Cancellara closed King's four-goal outburst at 5:17 and netminder Racco replicated his Friday night performance against Mississauga.

## Rebellion win in Buffalo

By Jim Stewart

The playoff picture for King's Junior A team became much clearer on Thursday evening after the Rebellion edged the Junior Sabres 3-2 in Buffalo at the Lecom Harborcenter.

With the timely road win, King (21-23-1-5) pulled six points ahead of the Georgetown Raiders (18-25-2-4) in the two-horse race for the final OJHL West playoff spot.

Ninth-place Georgetown has faltered down the stretch. The Raiders' 2-1 loss in Pickering on Tuesday, 7-4 loss in Collingwood on Friday, and 5-3 loss to Buffalo at home on Saturday enhanced the Rebellion's playoff chances.

Although Georgetown has one game in hand on King, the Raiders face a slate of playoff-bound opponents down the stretch – Buffalo, Toronto Patriots, Stouffville, Milton, and Niagara Falls (twice) – as well as pesky tenth-place Oakville. To complicate matters, the struggling squad has won only once in January and February. The Raiders' record in 2025 is 1-12, including two recent losses to last-place Caledon.

By comparison, King has cobbled together a 7-5 record in 2025 and closes its regular season schedule with two games versus 11th-place Mississauga, two games against third-place Milton, and one each versus eighth-place Pickering and the fourth-place Patriots.

Rebellion Head Coach Mark Joslin has been pleased with his team's recent performance and noted the significance of Thursday night's victory in The Queen City: "It was our biggest win of the year – a fun bus ride home for the boys. We were lucky there were no weather issues in Buffalo."

Seven minutes into the first period, the Junior Sabres opened the scoring when Brody Seitz beat King goaltender Tre Altman, but Rebellion forward Sam Black fired his 12th of the season at 8:55 to pull his team into a 1-1 tie. Black's third goal in his last five games was assisted by Jacob Xu and Antonio Cerqua.

Although the home side took a 2-1 lead into the first intermission when Matthew Lee scored his 16th at 14:39 and Buffalo outshot King 16-9 in the opening frame, Coach Joslin pointed to

the growing resilience of his Rebellion squad: "The guys stayed positive on the bench. We've stuck together through difficult times. We've been striving for a common goal and stuck to our systems in Buffalo."

Coach Joslin's charges responded actively to a challenging road game scenario by firing 18 shots on Sabres' netminder Dylan Groves during the second period. Rugged Rebellion power forward Kyle Baston tied it 2-2 when he beat Groves at 10:19. Aidan Russell and Justin Pavese earned assists on Baston's 12th of the season.

Gritty Rebellion forward Milo Tian's unassisted goal at 3:15 of the final frame was the game-winner. Coach Joslin noted that "It was his biggest goal of the season. Milo had just blocked a shot, got up, and scored for us. The guys were sacrificing their bodies by blocking shots and his blocked shot really picked up the team. Milo did all the right things on that shift and deserved that goal."

The Rebellion preserved their precarious one-goal lead in the third period because Altman turned aside all 11 shots he faced from the Junior Sabres (28-19-2-1). The acrobatic netminder stopped 35 of the 37 shots he faced to earn the key road victory and raised his SV% to .926 – 5th-best in the OJHL.

Coach Joslin complimented his starting goaltender's performance in Buffalo and described his two months of development in King since being traded by the first-place Leamington Flyers: "Tre had a lot of confidence when he got here. He's had to learn to adjust to more scoring chances on a younger team, especially after he left the most experienced defensive corps in the league. Tre also had to get to know his newer d-corps and he's living up to his reputation for being a big game goalie. He's been making key saves for us and he's so focused in terms of the way he prepares himself mentally for games. He's an all-pro goaltender."

The Rebellion's Saturday evening game in Mississauga was snowed out along with three other OJHL games and will be rescheduled. The Chargers (14-32-0-4) provide the opposition in King's next home game on Friday, Feb. 21. Puck drop at the Zancor Centre will be 7:30 p.m.

## Cougars edged 2-1 by Eagles

By Jim Stewart

In a sneak preview to a prospective East Orr playoff series, the first-place Clarington Eagles needed a shootout and some puck luck in the third period to edge the Schomberg Cougars 2-1 at the Trisan Centre on Thursday night.

The Eagles (34-6-1-0) avenged a 5-0 home ice drubbing delivered by the Cougars (23-15-2-1) on December 12. Since that loss, Clarington has squandered a sizeable lead in the standings and entered Thursday night's game tied with the red-hot Georgina Ice for first-place. Georgina has won fifteen in a row and has not lost since Dec. 13.

On Thursday night, the rugged Cougars put forth a strong performance against the powerhouse Eagles who are ranked #3 in the 63-team PJHL.

Cougars' Head Coach Stan Kondrotas acknowledged that his team matches up well versus Clarington: "We've played them tough all season and we're confident against them. There was a

lot on the line for them tonight and we were missing some key players tonight – Duggan, Furlano, and Longland – who will be ready for the playoffs and will make a difference."

The Cougars' veteran NPL line, comprised of Anthony Nascimento, Jordyn Palazzo, and Carlo Lioni, opened the scoring with 32 seconds left in the first period. The pugnacious Palazzo, who delivered hard hits all game-gently tapped in his own rebound past Eagles' goaltender Braeden Derks after receiving a sweet goalmouth feed from Nascimento. The Captain of the Cougars notched his 14th of the season and Nascimento earned his 20th assist.

Coach Kondrotas praised his trio of three-year vets: "Teams have to be aware of Palazzo's hitting and skating. When Lioni's staying involved and Nascimento's skating to his abilities, this is an exciting line to see."

The quartet of officials worked diligently to keep a lid on the game.

More on Page 16



## King's Corners

King City United  
By Sheryl Sinka

We hope everyone had a happy and safe Family Day weekend and hope that you are now shovelled out. Sunday, Feb. 23, Rev. Bruce Roffey will be returning to preside over worship.

All are welcome on Sundays at 10 a.m. and we invite all to join in some fellowship time in the auditorium following the service for conversation and company.

The date for the Annual General Meeting at King City has been set for March 2 immediately following the worship.

## Cougars edged

From Page 15

The only eruption in the game involved Schomberg's rugged defenseman Michael Ciaravella and Eagle Trent Gaylor mixing it up at centre ice by the benches, but the officials intervened so quickly that no haymakers were exchanged and both willing combatants were given 10-minute misconducts to lower the temperature of the building.

The Cougars held their precarious 1-0 lead due to the second period heroics of goaltender Nicolas Morvan. "Mo" held the fort while Schomberg was getting outshot 15-4 during the middle frame. The only puck that eluded Morvan was during a goalmouth scramble. Schomberg's stellar netminder made a point blank save, but Brock Mathieson nudged a dribbling puck just past the goal line to pull the Eagles into a 1-1 tie at 6:42 of the second period.

Coach Kondrotas praised his goaltender's efforts: "Out of all the guys I've seen this year including at the All-Star game, Morvan has proven that he's one of the top goalies in the league and has shown everybody what he can do. He made some ridiculous saves tonight just as he did at the All-Star game. The great thing about Morvan is he gets into their heads. Mo will be our guy heading into the playoffs."

After Morvan repelled 14 of 15 shots in the second period, he kept the visitors off the scoresheet in the final frame to force overtime. The PJHL's Goaltender

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 to make an effort to contribute to the King Township Food Bank. Information is available at [kffb.ca](http://kffb.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.

der of the Month for January made 35 saves versus the high-flying Eagles and improved his SV% to a stellar .931, tied for 7th in the league.

The Cougars came to within micrometers of scoring the winning goal with 4:23 left in the third period when Henry Kotyk's blast from between the circles beat Derkes cleanly, but it clanged off the crossbar, evoking a collective groan from Schomberg fans in attendance.

The game turned into a chess match in the waning minutes of regulation and overtime. The shootout order featured Cougar Ethan Tierman who lost control of the puck pulling to his backhand, Eagle Kyle Shepherd's shot being repelled by Morvan's kick save, Cougar Carlo Lioni missing high over the net, Eagle Nate Burelle rifling a snapshot home, and Anthony Nascimento's deke being foiled by Derkes to save the victory for Clarington.

After a spirited effort for four periods versus the visitors, the Cougars' performance in the shootout was at best anticlimactic. However, Schomberg finished the regular season 2-3-1 versus Clarington while Georgina split its season series with the Eagles 3-3.

When Coach Kondrotas was asked to look ahead into the playoffs, he praised both clubs but saw the Ice as a tougher match-up for his squad: "Georgina is much deeper and much more skilled team than Clarington. Against Georgina, we have to play our game and not get distracted. With Duggan, Longland, and Furlano back in the lineup for the second round, we'll be a playoff-ready team when we have to face Clarington or Georgina."

## 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 YouTube.

We invite everyone to the next Open Closet Outlet on Saturday, March 15 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Restrictions apply. For personal use only.

Please visit our website for links and further information: [www.kingbiblechurch.com](http://www.kingbiblechurch.com)

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

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

Thursday, February 20 - 10 a.m. - Annual General Meeting - This meeting updates members on actions of the board over the last year and approves the slate of officers for 2025. There will be information on the results of the recent survey and what is ahead for Township Seniors. Our guest speaker, Dena Silverberg from Older Adults Centres' Association of Ontario, will discuss the topic "Social Prescribing for Older Adults." Refreshments will be provided following the meeting. Please register at 905-833-6565.

Friday, February 21 - noon (note the new starting time) - Potluck Lunch. Each attendee is asked to bring either a main course item or a dessert to share. This is an opportunity to relax and enjoy good food and good company.

Wednesday, March 5 - 1:30pm - Belly Dancing - This is an opportunity to hear the history of belly dancing, view some of the interesting accessories, learn some basic moves and then dance! What do you need - comfortable clothes and shoes and a triangular or rectangular hip scarf if you have one. Modifications will be provided for participants with canes or walkers. Please pre-register at 905-833-6565.

Friday, March 7 - 10am - Presentation by Hospall - Michelle Frauley will discuss the specialized Private in-Home care that the service provides for your loved ones - where they feel most comfortable, safe and independent. Refreshments provided. Please pre-register by calling 905-833-6565.

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. - Crochet class.

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 [kingcityseniors@gmail.com](mailto:kingcityseniors@gmail.com)

## York Pines United

This Sunday's service at 11 a.m. will contain a memorial for our former music director, Ted Anderson. Feel free to join us for coffee at noon.

If you like to sing, please consider joining our church choir. You don't have to read music to participate, and our choir director, John Clements, is very talented. Choir practice is Thursdays at 7 p.m.

"In Winter I Get up at Night" by Jane Urquhart (originally of Saskatchewan) is the subject of the next Book Club meeting on February 24 at 10 a.m. Contact the office at 905-727-8118 or [yorkpinesuc@gmail.com](mailto:yorkpinesuc@gmail.com) to participate remotely. It is not necessary to have read the book so if you don't have time to read it, come and hear about it.

Our next Fellowship Lunch is on Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 12 p.m. at In This Corner in Schomberg. Come and bring a friend. Let the office know if you plan to attend by calling 905-727-8118 or emailing [yorkpinesuc@gmail.com](mailto:yorkpinesuc@gmail.com).

Could whoever borrowed our snow shovels from the front porch please return them. God bless you!

More on Page 17

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# King's Corners

From Page 16

## Sacred Heart Church

Holy Name School Mass Friday, Feb. 21 9:30 a.m. in the School Gymnasium. Adult Faith & Educational Meeting & Pot-Luck Supper Saturday, Feb. 22 after 5 p.m. Holy Mass. Theme entitled "The Bible Fatherland." All Welcome to join us.

You are cordially invited for Coffee and Friendship after 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. after Holy Mass in the Parish Hall provided by Adelia Dos Santos. If your family would like to participate by bringing baked goods, kindly contact Nadia Pascuzzo at npascuzzo@archtoronto.org

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

## St. Andrew's By Kathy Patterson

All are welcome to join us this Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for Morning Worship

and to stay for coffee time afterwards. Our Pastor is the Rev. Alison Agnew, who continued with the Book of Exodus, chapter 17 which has many relevant points for us today.

Life Connect is on Wednesday at 7 p.m. Call Kathy at 905-833-0391 for directions to Renate's house. We have a great time discussing questions from the sermon, growing in friendship and learning more from God's Word.

The King Churches "Souper Bowl Challenge" ended last Sunday, Feb. 9. A photo was taken of our donation to the King Township Food Bank. What a blessing!

Our Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) is February 23 after our morning worship and pizza lunch! We hope you will join us as we review our 2024 reports and look forward to God's blessings and guidance as we move into 2025.

## All Saints Anglican Church By Patrick Gossage

Choral Evensong March 2, at 4:30 p.m. - Join us for a beautiful service of Choral Evensong. This is a lovely service of prayer and chant. All are welcome. We especially invite other churches to join us for this event and for other choirs

to come and participate. If you would like to be a part of this service, please contact Ernesto De Luca through the church office!

Pancake Supper Tuesday, March 4, 5-7:30 p.m. - We feast before we fast! Join us on Shrove Tuesday for our Pancake Supper and feast on pancakes and sausage. If you can't dine-in, you

can always Take-out and pick up your food to eat at home. Please pre-order for take-out by emailing the church office. Everything is by donation.

Friday Morning Prayer Group - Our Friday morning prayer group meets online via Zoom for 30 minutes of prayer and reflection. To receive the Zoom link contact the church office.

## Nobleton & Schomberg United Churches

By Nancy Hopkinson

On Feb. 23, we are pleased to have Rev. Evelyn Mclachlan. Last Sun. Feb. 16, we was cancelled (snow) and missed guest speaker Phil Mannell. Hopefully, there will be another time for us to hear Phil's message.

The famous DiFebo Pasta Dinner is on Friday, March 14 at 6 p.m. at Nobleton United Church. The meal includes pasta with meatballs, salad & dessert. It is a great time to socialize. The cost is \$25/adult, \$10 for 10 years and under, free for those under 5. Seating is limited. Contact Linda Olsen at 437-552-0442

to reserve your seat.

Games Night is rescheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. at Nobleton United Church. Bring your friends and your favourite game or join someone else's game. Rev. Richard is bringing crokinole. We can set up ping pong for those interested.

The Joint AGM is on Sunday, March 2 at St. Mary Magdalene Church. There will be a joint service at Schomberg at 9:30 a.m. The AGM will likely start about 10:30 a.m. After the AGM, we will have a light lunch together.

The next Community Pot-Luck Lunch is Wed. March 5 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.

Schomberg United Church is hosting the World Day of Prayer at St. Mary Magdalene Church on Friday, March 7 at 1 p.m.

# Classifieds

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Unfortunately deadlines do not allow us to take ads after 5:00 p.m. on Monday. When there is a holiday Monday, the deadlines will be Friday at 5:00 p.m. All ads must be paid in advance by deadline or the ad will not run. WE ACCEPT VISA, MASTERCARD, AND AMERICAN EXPRESS PAYMENTS OVER THE PHONE

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# Scoop from Schomberg

By Susan Heslop

I hope everyone had a wonderful Family Day but I fear it was mostly spent digging out after we faced "Snow-mageddon" over this past weekend. I know at 65, that's the most snow I've seen fall in one storm in a very long time. We spent Sunday clearing our driveway multiple times, and to be honest we've run out of space to pile the snow. I hope everyone was able to get out and get their space cleared, but if you need help, reach out to the community as I know there are those willing to help dig you out. Let's hope for an early spring and a very hot summer. We sure are going to need it after not only the weather, but what's been happening in the world these days.

Just a reminder to check your furnace vent pipe and clear it from snow, with this weather is very important that it's clear.

Cold Creek Maple Syrup fest is back! Make sure to check it out on Saturday, March 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. You can

get more info at [king.ca/events](http://king.ca/events).

King is offering "RecPass" which gets residents unlimited access to drop-in recreational programming. Check out the list of at [king.ca/recreation](http://king.ca/recreation).

Schomberg Horticultural Society is looking for new members and invites everyone to come out and "Learn to Grow a Dream Garden" on March 25 at the Schomberg Community Hall at 7:30 p.m. The cost of membership is \$20 each or join as a family for \$30. Who doesn't want a dream garden, I know I do and if you're like me and got one of the food recyclers from King, this is a great way to use all that compost you've made.

### 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. We've been having a record turnout lately, so feel free to join, we can always add more tables.

### Schomberg 55+

If you're a local business and would like to sponsor one of our events, please reach out to me at [spporter5952@gmail.com](mailto:spporter5952@gmail.com) or Lynn Bird at [klbird@hotmail.com](mailto: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 out. If you're not a member, you can sign up at Trisan or one of our meetings.

Due to popular demand, we have now added "Hong Kong Mahjong" to the mix of activities for our 55+ crowd here in Schomberg. It will take place every Wednesday from 3:00 to 5:00 at the Schomberg Community Hall.

King is sponsoring workshops for seniors in partnership with "Service Canada." The Schomberg workshop is on March 5th, at the Schomberg Community Hall from 1:30 to 3:00 and will cover "Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security." It will cover information on how to apply, common questions,

and application if requested. The workshop is free, and you can register online at [seniors@king.ca](mailto:seniors@king.ca) or call 905-855-6565.

Monday, February 24 - 10 a.m. - Workshop - making a Newfoundland Ugly Stick. Registration is required by Feb. 17.

Monday, March 3 - 10 a.m. - Speaker - Alex Krutow-Asteri Family Foot Care. Balance, stairs and all things Chiroprody.

Wednesday, March 5 - 1:30 p.m. - Speaker - Service Canada - Pension benefits and tax filings.

Monday, March 10 - 10 a.m. - Speaker - Joseph Sharon - curious musical instruments.

Monday, March 17 - 10 a.m. - Ugly Stick Awards and East Coast Music sing-along with the Tightly Wound Ukulele Band.

Annual fee is \$20 per person for residents, and \$25 per person for non-residents.

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 [spporter5952@gmail.com](mailto:spporter5952@gmail.com) or 416-460-5952.

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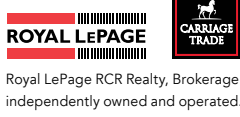


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# Home interior trends on the rise

Trends that seem ubiquitous one day can seemingly vanish before the sun rises again just 24 hours later.



That's especially true in the digital age, when overnight celebrities and viral videos can be on the tips of everyone's tongue before being forgotten entirely when the next online sensation emerges in an increasingly rapid news cycle.

Home trends typically benefit from a longer shelf life than viral videos and other fads that originate on the internet, and that's something renovation-minded homeowners should consider when improving their homes. Homeowners preparing to do just that can consider these notable trends, which the online renovation experts at Houzz suggest will be particularly popular in the year ahead.

### ROUNDED FURNISHINGS

Houzz noted that gentle curves and rounded edges embody the organic modern styles that many current homeowners love. Rounded dining tables and similarly circular coffee tables may merit consideration among homeowners who want to embrace popular trends.

...Homeowners who want to upgrade their home interiors can consider the latest trends and choose those that align with their own personal tastes...

### ARCHES

Houzz cites arches among the more popular modern trends, and the experts at Better Homes & Gardens note that this unique, eye-catching style has been gaining popularity for several years. Better Homes & Gardens suggests that part of the appeal of arched doorways could be their deviation from a more traditional door shape. That uniqueness draws the attention of residents and visitors alike, and Houzz notes that arched windows, cabinets and even millwork details are part of the pivot toward arches.

## From blank canvas to cozy retreat: Tips for personalizing your new home

(NC) Moving into a newly built house is the perfect opportunity to start from scratch and create a space that reflects your lifestyle and taste. Here are five easy ways to transform a new build into your dream home:

### MODIFY THE LAYOUT

Many new builds, like the ones in Calgary's Alpine Park, offer pre-planned options or customizations for flex spaces like a den or an additional room. Turning this area into a dedicated crafting room, home gym or office is a great way to make your house work for you.

### ADD STYLISH LIGHT FIXTURES

Lighting is key to setting the mood in any room. Consider upgrading to a statement chandelier, pendant lights or sleek wall sconces. Layering lighting and adding timers or dimmer switches can go a long way towards creating the perfect ambiance for every area of your home.

### STOVE ALCOVES

If it's a touch of history homeowners want, kitchen range alcoves might be just the project for them. Range alcoves call to mind an earlier time when wood-burning stoves were commonplace. The report from Houzz notes that range alcoves immediately draw attention, which undoubtedly adds to their appeal.

### WOOD FOR WARMTH

Homeowners who hear "wood and warmth" might think of fireplaces, but Houzz reports that wood

elements are being incorporated into interior designs as a means of giving homes a more cozy vibe. Ceiling beams, trim, wall paneling, and cabinetry are utilizing wood to add warmth to a home.

Trends come and go, but home trends typically have more staying power than styles that emerge in other arenas. Homeowners who want to upgrade their home interiors can consider the latest trends and choose those that align with their own personal tastes.

### CREATE CUSTOM CABINETRY

Tailor your kitchen cabinets to suit your needs and vision, whether that means open shelving, handy built-in pantry cupboards or even two-tone finishes for a more personalized look. You can also organize your cabinets by creating custom storage solutions with interior shelves and hanging rods where you need them.

### EXTEND YOUR LIVING SPACES

Think of your backyard as an extension of your living or family room. By adding a deck or a pergola, you can create an area that doubles as a relaxing oasis or additional entertainment zone that you can enjoy in multiple seasons.

### ELEVATE THE DETAILS

A fireplace can be a cozy focal point in your living room, vaulted ceilings with faux beams bring a timeless

aesthetic, or unique tile designs can reflect your personality in the kitchen or bathroom.

Learn more about how you can make your new build feel uniquely yours at [alpinepark.ca](http://alpinepark.ca).



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# Luxury REAL ESTATE: What buyers really want in 2025

The luxury real estate market is evolving rapidly, and 2025 brings a new set of demands that go beyond traditional opulence.

Today's luxury homebuyers seek more than just grand spaces—they want homes that enhance their lifestyle, embrace cutting-edge technology, and align with sustainability. Here's a look at what buyers are truly after in the luxury market this year.

**1 SMART HOMES AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY**

In 2025, luxury homes are expected to offer seamless integration of technology for convenience, comfort, and security. Smart home systems that control lighting, temperature, entertainment, and even security features are in high demand. Homebuyers are looking for systems that are intuitive and easily managed remotely, making daily life simpler and safer.

Popular tech features include:

- Smart security systems: Cameras, facial recognition, and automated security.

- Home theaters and immersive tech: State-of-the-art AV systems for ultimate entertainment.

- Health tech: Air filtration and water purification systems that improve well-being.

**2 WELLNESS-CENTERED SPACES**

The wellness trend is growing, with more buyers seeking homes that prioritize physical and mental well-being. This includes dedicated fitness areas, such as home gyms or yoga studios, and spa-like bathrooms with steam rooms or saunas. In addition, homebuyers are looking for features that improve air and water quality, such as advanced filtration systems and sustainable materials.

Key wellness features include:

- Private gyms or yoga studios designed for personal fitness.
- Luxury bathrooms with spa-inspired elements, like soaking tubs and rain showers.
- Energy-efficient, breathable spaces designed for comfort and health.

**3 SUSTAINABILITY AND ECO-FRIENDLY DESIGN**

Sustainability is becoming a major factor in the luxury real estate market. Wealthy buyers are increasingly drawn to homes that minimize their environmental impact without sacrificing style. Solar panels, energy-efficient appliances, and sustainable building materials are becoming standard features.

Eco-friendly upgrades include:

- Solar power and renewable energy to reduce carbon footprints.
- Green building materials, like reclaimed wood and non-toxic paints.
- Water conservation systems, including rainwater harvesting and greywater systems.

Sustainable homes offer not only environmental benefits but also lower long-term operational costs, making them highly attractive to today's conscious buyer.

**4 PRIVACY AND SECLUSION**

As privacy concerns grow in a hyper-connected world, luxury buyers are increasingly prioritizing homes that offer complete seclusion. Gated estates, sprawling properties, and secluded locations are highly sought after, as they allow buyers to retreat from the public eye.

Key privacy features include:

- Private, gated entrances that limit access to the property.

- Large estates with expansive grounds for maximum seclusion.

- Security systems designed to ensure total safety and privacy.

**5 CUSTOM DESIGN AND UNIQUE FEATURES**

While luxurious finishes and expansive floor plans remain important, 2025's buyers are seeking homes that reflect their individual tastes. Customization is key—whether it's bespoke furniture, unique architectural elements, or personalized design features, luxury buyers want their homes to be one-of-a-kind.

Customization options include:

- Bespoke interiors: Tailored finishes and design elements that reflect personal style.

- Unique architecture: Homes with distinctive, often cutting-edge designs.

- High-end materials: Custom cabinetry, marble countertops, and rare wood finishes.

**6 OUTDOOR SPACES FOR ENTERTAINMENT AND RELAXATION**

Luxury homes are no longer just about indoor comfort—they're about creating expansive outdoor living areas for relaxation and entertainment. Buyers are looking for homes with outdoor kitchens, pools, and lavish entertainment zones that rival resort-style amenities.

Desired outdoor features include:

- Outdoor kitchens and dining areas perfect for entertaining.
- Infinity pools and hot tubs with stunning views.
- Fire pits and lounge areas for cozy gatherings under the stars.

These features transform outdoor spaces into an extension of the home, offering both leisure and luxury.

Navigating the luxury real estate market requires a deep understanding of the unique needs and desires of both buyers and sellers. Whether you're looking for a smart home with cutting-edge technology, a private sanctuary with wellness features, or a sustainable, eco-friendly property, partnering with the right professionals is key.

At the Michele Denniston Real Estate Group, we specialize in the luxury market and have the expertise to guide you through every step of the process. We understand the nuances that make luxury properties truly stand out and are dedicated to helping you achieve your real estate goals with confidence. If you're ready to explore the best of luxury living, give us a call at 416-433-8316 or send us an email at [michele@micheledenniston.com](mailto:michele@micheledenniston.com) —we're here to help you find the perfect home or sell your property to the right buyer.



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# The benefits of neutral colours



Homeowners make many notable decisions when designing their home interiors, with some choices proving more bold than others. The decision to decorate with neutral colours might not be the boldest move homeowners can make, but there are numerous reasons to stay neutral with a colour scheme.

**VERSATILITY:** Neutral colours afford homeowners endless opportunities to play around with textures, patterns, furnishings, and more. For example, a neutral colour on a living room wall can ensure a boldly coloured couch or chair won't contrast with its surroundings. In fact, there's no end to the options homeowners have to customize the look of a room with bold features or furnishings when neutral colours feature prominently in the space.

**FLEXIBILITY:** Neutral colours are more flexible than bolder alternatives because they likely won't require a complete overhaul of a room when homeowners want to spice things up with new features and furnishings. That flexibility will be appreciated by homeowners who like to experiment with a new vibe or look in their homes.

**TRENDY:** Neutral colours are not as vulnerable to trends as other design choices. Neutral colours are effectively their own trend and won't get in the way of homeowners who want to change things up. But unlike other trends that must be replaced when homeowners grow tired of them, neutral colours can remain thanks to their compatibility with so many styles.

**TRANQUILITY:** Homes are often characterized as their owners' private sanctuaries from the hustle and bustle that goes on outside those walls, and neutral colours are often lauded for the tranquil vibe they help to create in a space. Neutral colours are soft, and that can lend a serene and calming atmosphere to the interior spaces of a home.

**BRIGHTNESS:** Neutral colours are lighter in tone and thus pair well with natural light. That mixture can amplify brightness within a home and give it an uplifting vibe that residents and guests alike will appreciate.



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# Soak up these *luxurious* bathroom features

**K**itchens and bathrooms are two popular areas to address when renovating a home. Modernize Home Services says 26 percent of sellers make bathroom improvements to their homes before listing. Midscale bath remodels will net a return on investment of about 64 percent, while a luxury bathroom overhaul has an ROI of about 57 percent.

When considering bathroom renovations, homeowners may want to include some unique features that can add style and function, not to mention some much-deserved luxury. With that in mind, the following are some luxurious features to consider.

**HEATED FLOORS**

There is something to be said for stepping out of the shower and being met with warmth underfoot. Heated floors are not just for people who live in cold climates, either. When the air conditioning is pumping on hot days, tile floors can feel chilly. Heated floors are also aesthetically appealing because homeowners don't have to factor in baseboard heaters or forced-air vents.

**STEAM SHOWERS**

There are many different steam showers on the market, and each can turn regular showers into steamy spa-like enclaves. A steam shower is similar to a sauna and utilizes a steam generator to produce steam in a single area, advises Badeloft® Luxury Bathrooms.

**SOAKING TUB**

Although the majority of people shower as part of their daily hygiene routine, a deep soaking tub separate from the shower is ideal for those who enjoy a good bath.

**LUXURY MIRROR**

Upgrading the bathroom mirror to one that offers features like defoggers, integrated lighting, and a dimmer setting can elevate the bathroom.

**FLOATING VANITY**

A floating vanity is mounted directly to the wall to leave space underneath. Better Homes & Gardens says a floating vanity can lend an airy feel to a bathroom.

**FRAMELESS SHOWER**

A frameless (glass) shower door is not only luxurious but also functional for people who want to age in place. With no edge or lip to step over to enter the shower, anyone with mobility challenges can walk into a frameless shower safely.

**WATER CLOSET**

If space allows, separating the toilet in a water closet from the rest of the bathroom space affords even more privacy. Plus, in couples' bathrooms, a water closet enables two to use the bathroom at the same time for different functions.



**WALK-IN-CLOSET**

Relocating the bedroom closet right off the owner's bathroom affords an immediate opportunity to dress comfortably, thus streamlining a morning routine.

Bathroom renovations are worthwhile investments. Choosing some unique upgrades can enhance the design and function of these important spaces.

...Midscale bath remodels will net a return on investment of about 64 percent...



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# The house that built me (and you!)



By Julien Laurion  
Real Estate

And that's exactly why I do what I do.

If you don't know me yet—hi, I'm Julien Laurion, and I live and breathe houses. Real estate? Check. Contracting? Absolutely. I don't just help people buy and sell homes; I help them build them, fix them, love them. It's all connected. Because when you think about it, every home is a story in the making.

**THE STORIES OUR HOMES TELL**

Some people look at houses as square footage and listing prices. I see the hidden potential. The bones of a place. The stories waiting to happen.

There was a house I walked into last year—gorgeous from the outside, but inside? Oh boy. The previous owner had a thing for 90s wallpaper, shag carpet, and enough wood paneling to make a cabin jealous. The new buyers, a young couple, first-time homeowners, had a vision. They wanted bright, open spaces, modern finishes—something that felt like them.

Most realtors would hand them the keys, wish them luck, and be on their way. But me? Nah, I had my tool belt in the truck.

Together, we mapped out a plan. Knocked down a wall. Refinished the floors. Brought in light, life,

and a little bit of magic. Fast forward six months, and they sent me a picture—Christmas stockings hanging from the fireplace we built together. That's what it's all about.

**NOT JUST BUYING A HOUSE—BUILDING A HOME**

See, real estate and contracting aren't just two separate businesses for me. They're puzzle pieces that fit together perfectly. Maybe you are looking to sell, but your kitchen needs a facelift to get top dollar. Maybe you just bought a fixer-upper and need a game plan. Maybe you love your home but dream of a bigger deck, a finished basement, or a kitchen that doesn't scream 1995 called and wants its cabinets back.

That's where I come in.

Most people dread home projects—contractors who ghost them, budgets that spiral, timelines that drag on forever. I get it. That's why I built my business differently. Straight talk. Clear plans. No nonsense. Whether I am helping you find your dream home or transform the one you've got, I make it easy, maybe even a little fun. (And if nothing else, you will at least get a few good dad jokes along the way.)

**SO, WHERE IS YOUR STORY HEADED?**

If you're thinking about buying, selling, or fixing up your space, I'd love to help. Because at the end

of the day, it's not just about houses— it's about the people who live in them. It's about the memories made, the milestones celebrated, and the life that happens between the walls.

So, whether you need a new front door, a new kitchen, or a new set of keys, give me a shout. Let's write the next chapter together.

After all, every great story starts with home.

Julien :-)

You ever drive past a house you used to live in and feel that pull?

**THAT LITTLE VOICE** in your head saying, Hey, remember me? The porch where you sat with a coffee, watching the world go by. The basement where you tried (and maybe failed) to build something awesome. The kitchen where you somehow burnt toast but still made a lifetime of memories. Houses aren't just structures. They are the background to our lives, the silent witnesses to our best moments, our worst days, and everything in between.

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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**\$4,498,888**


**99 BIRCH AVENUE, RICHMOND HILL**



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**\$2,798,888**

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**\$2,148,888**


**SHOW STOPPER CUSTOM HOME, BIG BAY POINT**



Discover paradise with this 4+2-bed, 6-bath luxury property at Big Bay Point. Nestled between a deeded beach on Lake Simcoe's Kempenfelt Bay and vibrant Friday Harbour, enjoy resort-style living with forest views, an outdoor kitchen, fire pit, cedar sauna, gym, and pergola. Entertain or unwind in a spacious 3242 SF home with a 4-car garage, dual driveways, and room for recreational toys. Embrace a dream lifestyle!

**\$1,888,888**


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**\$1,198,888**

**2 BED 2 BATH 1280 SF PENTHOUSE IN RICHMOND HILL**



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**\$888,888**





# What is a quiet room?

**H**ome for most people is a sanctuary that offers comfort, familiarity and a place to gather with family and friends. Although home can be a welcoming place, with so many people in the average household humming along from day to day, it may not always be the most serene setting.

From teenagers playing video games to video meetings in a home office to dogs barking at the postal worker doing daily rounds, there are plenty of potentially distracting sounds in and around a home. Lawn care workers with mowers and blowers may also contribute to ambient noise. A dedicated quiet room can be beneficial for anyone, and most especially for people who experience sensory issues.

### WHAT IS A QUIET ROOM?

A quiet room is a space where a person can enjoy peace and quiet in a distraction-free environment. According to designer Rachel Cannon, "A quiet room is a sanctuary from the stimulation and overwhelm

that we encounter every day." A quiet room may go by various names, including a mindfulness room or cozy cove, but the common goal is to remove as many sensory distractions as possible so that an individual can disconnect from the outside world and reap some calming benefits. According to School Specialty, LLC, an education resource provider, schools are now providing quiet rooms for over-stimulated students, and homeowners can take similar cues to create these relaxing retreats at home.

### HOW TO CREATE A QUIET ROOM

The first step in establishing a quiet room is to identify a location that is far away from the main action of the household. A bedroom, basement, nook in the garage, or even an attic can be a good spot for a quiet room.

Soundproofing the space can make it even more inviting. Sounds will bounce off of walls and floors, but acoustic panels can help muffle noises. If acoustic

panels are not in the design plan, thicker draperies, wallpaper, carpeting, and wall art can help counteract echoes and noise infiltration. Soft furniture can also absorb sound.

Small rooms work better as quiet spaces, as such areas can feel more cozy. Less is needed to decorate the space if it is on the smaller side. Bring in warm, soft lighting and soft decor. A sound machine playing favorite ocean or natural sounds can also mask outside noises even more.

Establish rules that govern how the quiet space is to be used. When someone is inside the area, they should not be disturbed. If possible, use the quiet room during naturally quiet times of the day. Keep the room stocked with books, journals, crafting items, or whatever it is you need to unwind and relax.

Quiet rooms can be special retreats that homeowners use to escape the hustle and bustle of a household.

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## WALK-OUT BASEMENT WITH IN-LAW SUITE



Lovely updated 3 + 1 bedroom home in the heart of Aurora Heights features finished walk out basement in-law suite including enclosed hot tub/spa room. Open concept kitchen/family room w/ cozy fireplace walks out to 2 tier covered deck with outdoor gas fire bowl. Contemporary renovated baths, upgr flooring, inviting front porch, dbl garage all within steps to nature trails and parks & short stroll to Yonge St. **\$1,398,000**

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**6 FORTUNA CIRCLE**

Welcome home to 6 Fortuna Circle - a beautifully appointed Briar Hill bungalow tucked away on a quiet circle. This home is all ready for you – move in and unpack. This home has been professionally painted throughout and tastefully renovated and updated - including the kitchen, the primary ensuite, the main floor powder room, updated lighting, ceiling fans and window coverings throughout – to name a few. Contact me for our private tour before it's gone.  
*Offered at \$819,000*



**50 HILLCREST DRIVE**

Absolutely stunning home in the "AWARD WINNING" community of "Briar Hill". This open concept bungalow is finished with all the upgrades you would desire in a home and is complete with a professionally finished lower level with walk out doors to patio and amazing gardens. The double car garage and larger double wide driveway allows lots of room for your guests to park. Enjoy access to 36 holes of golf, 2 scenic nature trails, and a 16,000 sq. ft "COMMUNITY CENTER" filled with an abundance of activities and events. Don't wait until Spring to book an appointment, DO IT NOW, as this home will not disappoint. *Offered at \$1,087,000*



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# Popular types of lighting that can complete home decor



Many components come together to create a home interior that is welcoming and comfortable.

**L**ighting is an important part of any design and plays a key role in home decor. Lighting can change the atmosphere of a room with the flip of a switch. Through lighting, one can make a space seem more cozy or even make small spaces seem more expansive.

Homeowners should not underestimate the power of lighting in their homes. In addition to making spaces functional and more attractive, lighting can affect personal well-being, as a well-lit room can benefit mental health. The following are various types of lighting and how they can work best in a home.

### AMBIENT

Ambient lighting is blanket lighting that is used to evenly illuminate a room. Fixtures like overhead lights, floor lamps and more provide enough light for people to function safely indoors. Ambient lighting is the foundation for every interior lighting scenario, and ambient lighting fixtures should be featured toward the center of the room and closer to the ceiling to disperse light more efficiently.

### TASK LIGHTING

Task lighting is lighting directed toward a specific area to give more detail to objects. Close-range work such as crafting, reading, cooking, and desk work requires task lighting so projects are effectively illuminated. Task lighting can be installed anywhere a person requires direct, intense light to see details. This means lights can be under cabinetry or on a desk for reading mail or homework.

### ACCENT LIGHTING

Accent lighting balances lighting and spotlights certain points in a space. For example, accent lighting can be utilized to highlight collectibles or artwork. Accent lighting may call attention to entryways, plants, fireplaces, or other points. Accent lighting typically adds character to a room and is not necessarily bright enough to sufficiently illuminate a space.

### DECORATIVE LIGHTING

Decorative lighting is used exclusively for aesthetic purposes. It adds style and drama to spaces. Decorative lighting fixtures include pendants, sconces, chandeliers, and more. Decorative lighting may also be whimsical, such as fairy lights strung in a child's bedroom or neon lights in a home bar or sports room.

Separately, these lighting options may not be enough to suit your needs. But when combined, these types of lighting help to establish an interesting and functional home interior design that fits with a person's lifestyle and needs.



### MARKET UPDATE – JANUARY 2025

#### AURORA

AVERAGE SALES PRICE

**\$1,501,173**

AVERAGE 29 DAYS ON MARKET

NUMBER OF SALES

**26**

95 NEW LISTINGS

SALE TO LIST RATIO

**99%**

YEAR OVER YEAR % CHANGE

**-0.35%**

#### KING

AVERAGE SALES PRICE

**\$1,863,150**

AVERAGE 59 DAYS ON MARKET

NUMBER OF SALES

**10**

55 NEW LISTINGS

SALE TO LIST RATIO

**94%**

YEAR OVER YEAR % CHANGE

**3.54%**

\*The statistics provided were obtained from the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board's Market Watch JANUARY 2025; Summary of Existing Home Transactions for All Home Types, JANUARY 2025 + Focus on the MLS Home Price Index for Composite, JANUARY 2025 for York Region's Aurora and King

Presently, inventory still points to a Seller centred market, even though the market is not always reacting as such. In some stances, multiple Offer strategies are just starting to work again, as there are a number of spillover Buyers from 2024 and those with intentions to move in 2025. 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  
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**CHATEAU-INSPIRED LUXURY WITH POOL**

Nestled on a premium lot in the prestigious Fontainebleau 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.



**ELEGANT EXECUTIVE HOME IN PRIME LOCATION**

Welcome to this immaculate executive home with a 3-car garage and EV port on a premium fenced lot. Enjoy a chef's kitchen, coffered-ceiling living room, main-floor office, and a spa-like primary suite. The finished walkout lower level features a gym, rec room with fireplace, second office, and ample storage. Prime location near top amenities!



**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 views. Close to Yonge Street, schools, trails, and amenities, offering modern elegance and unparalleled convenience in a serene setting.



**LUXURIOUS 'FERNBROOK' EXECUTIVE HOME**

This brand-new luxury home features \$200K+ in upgrades on a prestigious Princeton Heights lot. Enjoy a chef's AyA kitchen with premium appliances, a family room with a gas fireplace, and a covered loggia. Upstairs, 4 spacious bedrooms with ensuite and a lavish primary suite with a spa-like bath. Prime location near Yonge St, transit, shopping, golf, and top amenities!



**PRESTIGIOUS CUSTOM HOME, 82X150 FT LOT**

Welcome to a custom-built residence in St. Andrews-Windfields, Toronto. Highlights include soaring ceilings, a grand foyer, spacious bedrooms, and a walk-up basement with bars, sauna, and floating stairs. Nestled on an 82x150ft lot near top-rated schools, parks, and transit, this luxury home offers endless renovation potential. Envision your dream here!



**FERNBROOK HOME WITH \$200K UPGRADES**

This meticulously designed home boasts \$200K+ in upgrades, an AyA chef's kitchen with marble countertops, a great room with a gas fireplace, and an elegant dining area. Featuring 5 spacious bedrooms, each with an ensuite, plus a main floor bedroom and office. Steps to Yonge St, transit, shopping, golf, and top-tier amenities. Luxury living at its finest!



**BRAND-NEW EXECUTIVE HOME, LAKE WILCOX**

Brand new executive home being built on a 150' lot in Lake Wilcox. This 4+1 bedroom, 5-bath home offers a chef's kitchen with custom cabinetry, quartz counters, and premium appliances, plus 10' main floor ceilings and elegant finishes. The finished lower level features a rec room, gym, wine cellar, and separate entrance. Walk to Lake Wilcox Park!



**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.



**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!



**TRANQUIL BACKSPLIT WITH SCENIC YARD**

Discover this 4-level brick backsplit home in Ballantrae, Whitchurch-Stouffville. Boasting 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, and oversized windows, it's filled with natural light. Highlights include a functional kitchen, family room with fireplace, and a primary bedroom with balcony views. Conveniently located near schools, parks, and essential amenities!



**LUXURIOUS EXECUTIVE HOME IN VAUGHAN**

Welcome to this stunning 4+1 bedroom, 4-bath executive home in Vaughan's sought-after community. The gourmet kitchen boasts Viking and Miele appliances, granite countertops, and a spacious island. Enjoy the open-concept family room, luxurious primary suite, finished lower level, and private backyard. Ideally located near parks, schools, Maple GO, and more.

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