



King Weekly Sentinel

PROGRESS EDITION

2023

*An annual report highlighting
local businesses in King Township*



By Jim Stewart

Julianne Boileau’s engaging nature and enthusiasm for her job have not waned after thirty-seven years of real estate success. Her motto “The best is the least I can do” is in her ads, but it manifests itself clearly in her professional and polished performance in her real estate dealings. It’s evident that Julianne Boileau sees her job as a vocation and throws herself into the fray every day to provide a special level of care for her clients. As we commence our conversation about her life as a real estate agent, she notes: “I am small enough to care and big enough to get results.”

The thirteen-year resident of Schomberg has clearly demonstrated ‘care and results’ as a “proud member of the RE/MAX Hall of Fame.” Boileau still finds her job most satisfying when “a person finds the house of their dreams. I especially enjoy the prospective excitement of finding the perfect home for my clients, especially if they have encountered frustrations looking for a home. I love their ‘Eureka Moment’-- when the client realizes he or she has bought the perfect place.”

In addition to selling and buying these ‘perfect places,’ Boileau offers an array of related services including “staging, marketing, professional photography, virtual tours, multimedia advertising, and beautiful, colourful brochures.”

The veteran real estate professional began her career in an intriguing setting: Working directly across the street from the Woodbine Racetrack. Boileau disclosed that she was working as a bartender at the same time that she had secured her real estate license. In her everyday mingling with customers at the restaurant, she began offering real estate advice and related services to the jockeys, horse trainers, and oth-

er related racetrack workers who were looking for homes in Toronto and the surrounding area. Boileau maintains that “this dynamic working environment established the foundational basis of real estate agent/client relationship, especially the trust factor that is vital to any successful agent/client relationship.”

Boileau’s business origin story reveals much about her easy-going, personable efficacy that is evident during our meeting at the RE/MAX offices in Aurora. She talks about the advantages and importance of hiring an experienced real estate agent for the biggest investment of a person’s life: “Due to my decades of experience, I can see very quickly, the positives and negatives of the house soon after I walk in the front door. I notice its features due to my thorough training, knowledge, and expertise. I can assess the condition of the home’s windows, furnace, a/c, appliances, floors, and fixtures—all the big items that are key considerations when buying or selling a house.”

The amiable real estate agent has “a special feeling for so many places in the GTA. My main focus over the last few years has been helping my clients buy or sell their home in King City, Nobleton, and Schomberg, but I’ve also helped clients sell and buy homes in Caledon, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Aurora, Uxbridge, Peterborough, Rexdale, and Mississauga as well. All these municipalities have multiple appeals and attractive qualities to draw buyers to their dream home.” It’s evident that Boileau’s warm charisma creates connectivity with her clients: “Many of my clients become personal friends, I stay in touch with

them, and often attend weddings, family gatherings, and even vacations” Boileau becomes animated when she reflects on the moments when so many of those clients with whom she has established life-time friendships bought their first home with her timely and professional assistance: “There is no better feeling than the moment a buyer says ‘Oh wow—this is it; this is the home for us!’”

As we exit the RE/MAX offices on Yonge Street, Julianne Boileau discloses that she has a host of showings that have her energized on a Friday morning. As she slowly pulls away, I catch a glimpse of the dynamic agent’s license plate—TIME-2BUY—and can’t help but marvel at the immediacy of the moment in her many real estate dealings and the expertise she provides in those significant moments for her fortunate clients.

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PLATINUM



Pet Valu in Nobleton is a Supportive and Caring Community Hub for ‘Pet Parents’

By Jim Stewart



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Charanne and Rachel Kernohan –the amiable mother-daughter team that own Pet Valu in Nobleton—greet visitors that stream into their store with neighbourly ease and familiarity. Entering their seasonally-decorated emporium located at the Nobleton Plaza on Highway 27 is a sensory delight for customers. The shop’s fully-stocked, colourful shelves feature a myriad of items that help pets and, by extension, their ‘parents’ live better lives. It’s evident that Charanne loves her work and what she enjoys most is “the people. I’m very motivated to help people with their pets’ needs.” Rachel echoes her mom’s sentiments and notes that “there’s lots of enjoyment in connecting with people who stop by with their pet. The pets enjoy the water we provide and they get a treat—that kind of connection is the most satisfying aspect of running our store. We stock a large variety of dog treats, including Northern Biscuit that are made locally.”

The Kernohan family’s hospitality and helpfulness have been on display at Pet Valu “for what will be three years in December.” Charanne mentions that their business survived the tumultuous COVID years by catering to the ‘COVID dogs and cats’ that helped comfort so many residents during the darkest times of the Pandemic.” In addition to assisting pet owners through a global health crisis, Charanne also notes some of the endearing qualities of their store: “We have an entire wall that features an array of colourful leashes. Our self-serve dog wash at the back of the store is a unique feature.”

The variety of foods on display for pets of all ilks is evident, including Performatrin, Acana, Orijen, Open Farm, GO, Royal Canin and Hills Science Diet. As a first-time visitor and long-time pet owner, I am taken by how fully-stocked yet inviting the Pet Valu Nobleton shop really is. Rachel stresses the importance of customers seeing a full store: “We keep everything packed—our shelves feature a full range of foods for pets and we offer a full range of toys to cater to all pets.”

A recent avian addition to the store catches shoppers’ attention at the Fall-themed checkout. In our welcoming moment, Rachel introduces me to a vibrant orange canary which complements the Autumn décor: “We have a new pet bird—Pretty Boy. He adds to our happy environment.” Pretty Boy definitely adds an ambience to a pet store that has its fair share of incentives in addition to showcasing beautiful feathery companions. Charanne notes that “We have a terrific Loyalty Program. When our customers buy 12 bags of select bags of food, they get the next one free as well as a 5% discount on cases of cans. The last Thursday

of every month is Seniors Day where we offer discounts to customers over the age of 60 to help defray the costs of pet ownership.”

In addition to helping pet owners with the cost of food and supplies, Charanne and Rachel are proud to point out their community involvement: “We support the Nobleton Lions Club’s annual event ‘Walk for Dog Guides’ where proceeds go to fund guide dog-training programs. We also support community groups and sports team initiatives. In the past year, we’ve donated prize baskets to the Post Office Fundraiser for Sick Kids Hospital, the King Rebellion U13 Fundraiser at Nobleton Lakes Golf Course, and the Annual Hope House Fundraiser Event that took place at Summerhill.” These charitable acts are in keeping with the supportive nature of the Kernohan family and it extends to their treatment of staff at Pet Valu: “It’s a family business,” says Charanne, “with our employees seen as extended family members.”

Another unique quality of the Nobleton Pet Valu is its status as a community hub. According to Rachel, it’s a “community meeting place for pet parents. We offer a carryout service to help all customers as a courtesy.” In addition to these special services, Charanne notes that “We receive so many compliments about our stock, variety of foods, and flavors. Most importantly, we make it a point to remember the pets’ names to provide an extra level of personal care and consideration.”

Part of that personal care and consideration is evident at the back of the store at the Nobleton Pet Valu’s colourful, clean, neat, and tidy self-serve Dog Wash area. Charanne advises that the store does not take appointments for the self-serve Dog Wash service: “It is Walk In’s only. We have 2 stations and our \$12 charge includes shampoo, towels, and a dryer. If you buy four dog washes, you get one free.” The area features stainless steel fixtures and a beautiful mural of pets, including the Kernohan family dog, Milo, to give the zone a pleasant aura.

Looking ahead to next month, Charanne notes that “October is our Companions for Change Can Drive for the King Food Bank. We have a ‘Help Fill the Crate’ initiative to support the Can Drive so that pet food can be donated to the Food Bank to help local families. We also take donations for ‘Haven of the Heart’, an animal sanctuary in Palgrave.” In addition to these initiatives, Charanne notes the Nobleton Pet Valu stocks a “large supply of Pet ID tags to create a little more security about retrieving lost pets.”

It’s evident that after one visit to Nobleton’s Pet Valu, Charanne and Rachel Kernohan are, indeed, a charming dynamic duo that is deeply committed to their community and ready to meet the needs of pets and their ‘parents’ in King Township.

Constituents feel it’s time for a change, MP Roberts says



By Mark Pavilons

King-Vaughan MP Anna Roberts is here to make a difference. The political newcomer, almost two years into her role representing King, is part of a strong Conservative team. Getting involved in numerous issues, committees and constituency work, Roberts has amassed numerous skills and knowledge, benefitting her riding.

Polls are indicating Conservative popularity is growing and Roberts attributes this to Leader Pierre Poilievre. People gravitate to him and see him as a very capable and likeable leader. He has a strong work ethic and wasn’t born with a silver spoon in his mouth, Roberts pointed out.

The Conservative Caucus, she says, is more united than ever before.

Roberts says constituents are commenting that they’re “ready for change.” Riding redistribution has been complete, and King-Vaughan, while losing some areas in the south, keeps King Township intact. The next federal election can come as soon as next spring, but isn’t mandated until 2025.

Roberts sees her role as an expanded “paid volunteer.” She’s been volunteering her entire life, and has always been a Con-

servative. Now, as MP, she can use a laser-like focus on making a difference.

And she takes on every new challenge with a high level of passion and commitment.

Roberts was passionate about working with Women and Gender Equality Canada (formerly Status of Women) on human trafficking, and took part in a cross-country tour this past spring.

“We have to stop this,” she stressed, adding she’s supporting a documentary being made on the issue and she’s preparing a Private Member’s Bill.

On a similar vein, Roberts asked pointed questions in the House, asking for an inquiry into the accusations of sexual abuse by coaches in Gymnastics Canada. The Conservatives are pushing for a national inquiry and hoping to establish standards.

As Shadow Minister for Seniors, Roberts issued, this past June, an urgent call for support for seniors in need.

She expressed skepticism over the Liberal government’s claim of lifting 1.3 million Canadians out of poverty, citing contradictory data. Roberts criticized the government’s handling of the issue and called for better support for seniors who feel betrayed and unsupported.

She highlighted a report from a National Food Rescue Organization, revealing a concerning trend. It stated that there has been a significant increase in the number of Canadians relying on food banks. The organization anticipates that over eight million Canadians will be served by food banks this year, which represents a 60% increase compared to the previous year. Of particular concern is the estimated 732,000 seniors who are expected to seek assistance.

Roberts attributed the struggles faced by seniors in accessing sufficient food to the rising inflation rate, which has been exacerbated by the Liberal carbon tax. The Liberal government’s decision to impose a second carbon tax further compounds the financial burden on seniors.

Roberts emphasized the invaluable contributions made by seniors to the country and argued that they deserve better treatment. Promising a different approach, Roberts pledged that the Conservative leader would eliminate these taxes and restore dignity to seniors.

“It’s very sad,” she said, adding the government has to take control of the situation.

Other issues that are top of mind among constituents include bail reform, crime, the housing crisis, shortage of affordable housing and Liberal gun control measures.

Roberts noted she’s heard from hunters in the riding who feel punished by the Liberal gun control measures. They also impact Indigenous communities, who live off the land.

Regarding housing, the Conservatives point to data from Statistics Canada shows that residential construction investment has declined for a fourth consecutive month, falling 4.5% in just the last month. This includes decreases of 5.8% in Ontario and 3.2% in Vancouver, two of the most overheated housing markets in the world. This means that there is a year-over-year decrease of 20%.

The Kettleby resident loves her community and connection



with King. She simply wouldn’t want to live and work anywhere else.

The MP has been busy during the summer, visiting every corner of the riding.

Now, as Parliament is back in session, she’s ready to take aim at Liberal shortcomings, and is more intent on “making a difference.”





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MP | KING—VAUGHAN

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Opening of CDS’s Burns Family Hall Creates a School within a School:

A fitting homage to the late Michael Burns and his King legacy

By Mark Pavilons

The Early Days

The idea to start The Country Day School began over a casual dinner in early 1971, where Moffat and Margo Dunlap and Ed and Daphne Eberts discussed their concerns over York Region’s decision to shut down its country schools and bus primary students to larger regional schools. Not in favour of this decision, they set about starting a local co-ed elementary school alternative, a school that stressed learning and demonstrated a commitment to teaching excellence.

They left no stone unturned, recruiting an impressive group of academic advisors, including Jack Wright, Headmaster of Royal St. George’s College, and Dick Howard, Head of the Junior School at Upper Canada College.

In spring 1971, they hired John Pratt, an educator from Bishop’s College School in Quebec (who became CDS’s first Headmaster), to conduct a feasibility study. It didn’t take long for John to demonstrate significant parent support for the establishment of a Kindergarten-Grade 8 school in King. Next, they established the CDS Foundation and set about recruiting parents and grandparents throughout King with school-aged children. Fundraising began in earnest and Charles Burns, father of Michael Burns, became the first benefactor with a donation of \$1000.

The first three teachers hired were highly talented and unique: Peter Taylor, a journalist from Rogers TV in Richmond Hill; Alison Scott, a teacher from Marin County Day School in California; and Christine De Witt, born in France, who had taught for several years at the Children’s Centre in New Jersey.

After numerous attempts to find a location were turned down, they negotiated a two-year agreement with the York County Board of Education for Eversley Public School, including the original Eversley Schoolhouse built in 1883 - SS No. 22, for \$200 a month thanks to the help of Moffat Dunlap, who was just starting his Real Estate business.

Over the next few months, the entire three-room school was renovated by faculty, parents and student volunteers. It had been a colossal community effort and a true labour of love. CDS opened its doors to 47 students on September 11, 1972.

The Successful Bid for the Property

In spring 1978, the fate of CDS was once again at stake as they learned the original four-acre rented property would be put up for auction later that year. That September, a group of CDS parents, including Michael Burns, Moffat Dunlap, Bob Sillcox, Gord Wilson Sr. and Derek Lederer, joined Headmaster Robert Ross to mastermind the bid. Michael Burns knew the auctioneer from cattle auctions. After all three bidders came in below the reserve bid, the auctioneer allowed all three to submit a final sealed bid. CDS met the reserve and was accepted as the highest bid at \$111,000. CDS’s future was secure.

The Middle Years

As one of our original founding parents, Michael Burns embraced the school and its community from the very beginning, and shared his memories of plowing and planting the front playing fields in the early days with pride. Extended family members have been attending CDS for years, including family names of Day, Phillips, McCowen, Addison, Cathers, Bahen and Kirton. Michael, his late wife Sue and sister Dinny Day, were also legendary hosts of the annual CDS Auction in their riding arena and barn for 22 years, a cherished event that continues to this day.

Present Day

Forty years after successfully bidding on the one-room schoolhouse and original property, CDS started contemplating rejuvenation and expansion of its beloved Junior School. Michael Burns stepped forth, this time as a proud grandfather of a current student and parent of an alum, to become our lead donor to the Building Magic project that CDS recently completed; a grand finale to our 50th anniversary year.

As someone who lived in King for most of his life and watched his beloved King Township and the country school he helped to secure grow and flourish to what it is today, we believe it pleased him to play a role in enclosing our beautiful Eversley one-room schoolhouse into a spectacular new entrance to our Junior School, aptly named Burns Family Hall.

Sadly, Michael Burns passed away on June 10, 2023. As his family wrote in his obituary, he “was as comfortable birthing a calf as strategizing in corporate board rooms.” Over the years, he had been very generous to our school, as well as many other organizations in King and York Region, including the All Saints Anglican Church, York Regional Police Chief’s Gala, the United Way of York Region, the McMichael Gallery and the King Township Historical Society.

Michael was a beloved member of the fabric of King Township and Burns Family Hall is a fitting legacy for one of King’s finest.

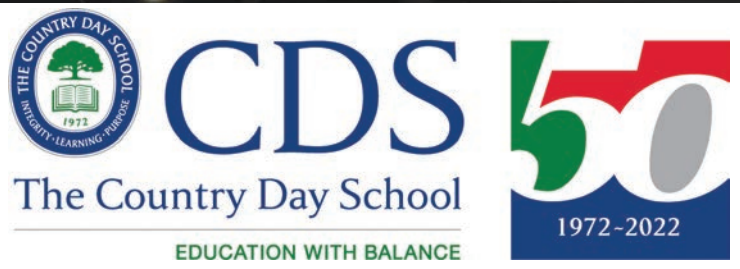


ABOVE: Michael Burns, his daughter Shelly Burns and granddaughter Lauren Kirton break ground on The Country Day School’s Building Magic campaign project in 2021.

RIGHT: Michael Burns, his late wife Sue Cathers Burns and sister Dinny Day, were legendary hosts of the annual CDS Auction in their riding arena and barn for 22 years.

BELOW: In September 1978, a group of CDS parents, including Michael Burns, Moffat Dunlap, Bob Sillcox, Gord Wilson Sr. and Derek Lederer, joined Headmaster Robert Ross to mastermind the bid for the original Eversley Public School – the rented property where CDS first got its start.

BOTTOM: The Country Day School culminated its 50th anniversary year on September 7th, with the grand opening of Burns Family Hall – a spectacular new entrance to their beloved Junior School that encloses the 1883 Eversley Schoolhouse in a “school within a school-like atrium.”



Skinprovement:

Look better and feel better with glowing skin



“When you look better you feel better, and it feels great to help people in this way...”



“Each member of our team holds esteemed certifications and has undergone extensive training...”



By Aladin Jarrah

As a child, Ashley Perri aspired to be a spa owner, helping people look and feel their best. As a teenager, she began looking into the aesthetics field by volunteering, taking courses, and working in the industry. “I came to the conclusion that I wanted to do this early on in life. When you look better you feel better, and it feels great to help people in this way,” she says. “There are so many factors that can affect the skin, which is the largest organ of the human body. By focusing almost exclusively on skin care I can make sure that I offer the widest possible range of cutting edge, safe and effective treatments.”

Skin concerns can arise from a variety of factors and often result from a combination of both external and internal factors. Two main environmental factors that contribute to this are sun damage from prolonged exposure to harmful UV rays which can lead to premature aging and an increased risk of skin cancer, and air pollution and exposure to environmental toxins which can clog pores, causing inflammation. Internal factors such as hormone changes during puberty, pregnancy or menopause can trigger skin problems such as acne, melasma or rosacea. Thyroid conditions can impact skin health, often causing dryness or changes in the skin texture. Digestive health can also manifest as skin issues such as eczema or psoriasis.

Armed with the knowledge garnered by her tireless work in the field, Perri’s entrepreneurial journey began in 2013 in the basement of her home. Pregnant with her second child, she purchased her first laser machine and started to see clients. Her effective treatments were so popular that she soon needed to expand; by 2017 her business had moved from the basement of her home to a storefront in Vaughan, and in 2021 she opened her second storefront in Schomberg.

The Skinprovement team offer a wide variety of treatments. Perri’s main focus continues to be skin care, and she offers treatments such as Microneedling, Fractional Resurfacing, Chemical Peels, as well as many other face care treatments such as dermaplaning facials, Turmeric & Gemstone Treatments, the JetPeel and Oxygen Facial, to name a few. Skinprovement also offers laser hair removal, body contouring, tattoo removal, photofacials, and other laser-based treatments.

Laser treatments are safe and effective, and Perri takes great pride in the expertise of her Laser Technicians. “Each member of our team holds esteemed certifications and has undergone extensive training to operate our state-of-the-art laser machinery. Their advanced training ensures that they have a deep understanding of the technology and can skillfully tailor treatments to meet the unique needs of our clients. This commitment to excellence translates to consistently delivering results, leaving our clients delighted with their experience and improvements in their skin,” she says.

She also offers TriBella, which is a cutting-edge treatment that combines three powerful technologies – IPL (Intense Pulsed Light), RF (Radio Frequency) and NanoFractional RF. This all-in-one approach targets a range of skin concerns, including pigmentation irregularities, wrinkles and scarring. It’s highly customizable with minimal downtime and long-lasting results and is an effective solution for comprehensive skin rejuvenation.

“At Skinprovement, our approach is to thoroughly assess each client’s unique situation. We ask vital questions to understand their medical history, lifestyle and skin care routines. By identifying the underlying causes of their skin concerns, we can create a customized plan of action that may include a combination of professional treatments and at-home skin care routines. This tailored approach ensures that clients receive the most effective solutions to address their specific skin concerns and achieve healthier, more radiant skin,” says Perri.

Perri also advises clients that there are many lifestyle changes that people can make to promote healthier skin. The list includes plenty of sleep which is when the body repairs and regenerates cells, including those in the skin. Staying hydrated is also important for maintaining skin moisture and elasticity. Eating a nutrient-rich diet from a variety of food sources provides essential vitamins, minerals and antioxidants that support skin health. Perri advocates adding Omega 3 fatty acids as they have anti-inflammatory properties that can help maintain a healthy complexion. She also recommends avoiding processed foods as they contain excessive amounts of sugar, unhealthy fats and artificial additives that contribute to skin issues. Limiting sun exposure is also crucial. Overexposure of the sun’s UV rays can lead to premature aging and skin damage. It’s important to use sunscreen and seek shade during peak hours. Lastly, establishing a skin care routine using gentle skin care products suitable for your skin type.

To assist with this, a significant portion of Skinprovement’s product selection consists of organic items. For example, they offer Eminence Organics, a highly regarded product line rooted in Hungary. What sets this line apart is that with each purchase a tree is planted, showcasing their commitment to the environment. In addition, they offer their very own Skinprovement brand, featuring a range of organic skin care products, with many holding the USDA Organic certification. Not only are these products made in Ontario and gentle on the environment, they yield great results.

Ashley Perri understands that without the support of a strong community, none of the growth of Skinprovement would have been possible. In 2016, she initiated ‘Brows for the Brave,’ a program funded entirely by Skinprovement. This initiative has provided free microblading treatments to individuals suffering from conditions such as cancer, helping them regain their confidence after hair loss. What started out as a simple contest, grew into an initiative that has donated over \$100,000 worth of free microblading treatments through this program.

Also, Skinprovement has recently funded a Critical Care Room at the new Vaughan Cortellucci hospital. She continues to support local charities, including Ernestine’s Women Shelter, Hospice Vaughan, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Waves of Change for Autism, among many others.

Her dedication to her craft, her clients and her community has garnered Ashley Perri many awards and accolades. She helps clients achieve glowing, radiant and healthy skin while giving back to the community and supporting sustainability. With two locations to serve you, Skinprovement is a clear choice for all your family’s skin care needs.





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King's Economic Development staff are outcome-driven

By Mark Pavilons

King's Economic Development staff is outcome-driven, and the efforts are paying off.

Building on significant measurable data from years of success stories in Schomberg, Economic Development staff, Jamie Smyth and Aimee Artinian-Wong, can transfer the results all across the municipality, ensuring even bigger things are yet to come.

Getting boots on the ground, leveraging funding and strong collaboration with the businesses and community have led to revitalization success on Main Street Schomberg, year after year.

Main Street – a true gem in King Township – has received significant attention through a downtown revitalization lens. Just look around the charming historic core and you'll find attractive storefronts, bustling businesses and year-round community events.

King's Economic Development team has developed new events like "Sidewalkable Saturdays" and a new favourite, Taste of Main. These events are surrounded by community support and a number of signature community lead events throughout the year that truly are a part of the fabric, beauty and culture of Schomberg Main Street.

"We need to have the tools in our toolbox... we are here to enable progress and help King prosper."

The crowds of visitors generated by such events have beneficial spin-off effects, boosting the local economy and beyond.

Artinian-Wong noted staff have gathered some very helpful geofencing (geographically specific) data from 2019 through to 2022. This helps them measure the success of their ongoing efforts in Schomberg and will be a tool to utilize when setting their sights on advancing other locations across King.

This data, along with the municipal Economic Development Plan, helps align all the goals across departments. This cross-departmental collaboration has been instrumental in boosting Economic Development's efforts, particularly with the Community Services and Public Works Departments, supporting the delivery of new events.

Schomberg, according to Artinian-Wong, boasts a vibrant and viable main street. Businesses, and members of the community are all very engaged and contribute to the character and progress of the community.

While every village and community is different, Economic Development staff will use their experience in Schomberg to bolster business in Nobleton and King City. The "lessons learned" on Main Street will be applied to complete community efforts throughout King.

Helping local businesses throughout King are the Community Improvement Plan (CIP) Grant Programs, with two streams including the Village Vibrancy and the Rural Resiliency Stream. These grants support businesses wanting to beautify their storefront or properties and attract new customers.

Smyth pointed to the success of Kinghaven Farms, which is transitioning their business model into sustainable agriculture. One aspect of their growth is their apiary and processing facility which King has been able to support through a CIP grant.

"We need to have the tools in our toolbox," observed Smyth. "We are here to



enable progress and help King prosper.

To that end, staff are developing a new multi-year Economic Development Plan and will be engaging with King's business community in the months to come. King's Official Plan and the Corporate Strategic Plan are all aligning to focus on enabling a flourishing local economy.

The Township's Policy Planners are working on an Employment Land Strategy, which will assess the supply and demand for employment-related land and uses. Smyth said going forward the new Economic Development Plan will be action oriented with deliberate efforts in attracting new business and job opportunities for our residents.

King is a bit of an anomaly and "bucking the trend," Smyth observed, referring to the local population related business growth. King is "fortunate", and staff are always there to help guide and support local entrepreneurs. Times are still challenging for businesses and staff are mindful of economic trends and impacts.

Now more than ever, the collaboration between the King Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Staff is essential. Mercedes Lato, the former Schomberg Main Street Event and Marketing Coordinator from King's Team has most recently taken on the role of Member Services Manager for the Chamber. Working together to help advance business growth in King will only be strengthened.

With a dedicated Economic Development staff developing and implementing effective programs and services, it is obvious that measurable outcomes for continued economic success will be achieved.



To get in contact with King Economic Development, visit www.king.ca/economicking
For more information on King's Community Improvement Plan (CIP) Grant Program visit www.King.ca/CIP



Michele Denniston, Broker has your real estate needs covered

By Aladin Jarrah

The Real Estate market is one everyone’s lips these days. Burgeoning interest rates and the central bank’s unpredictable behaviour are in the news on a daily basis. Inventory levels are close to historically low levels. Homeowners are struggling with soaring borrowing costs on their mortgages. The future of the real estate market is in flux. It’s at times like these that agents like Broker Michele Denniston come to the fore.

Michele Denniston has been a top producer since she first entered the field over 20 years ago and has seen her fair share of market trends. “We haven’t seen a market like this



since the 80s. Many of us thought we’d never see it again. But here it is. It calls for a realtor with an aggressive personality like mine, someone who will actively go out, advertise heavily to get that sold sign on the lawn.” She also uses the benefit of her years of experience to teach and mentor other members of her team to provide the absolute best service to her clients.

Her knowledge is immense. She has done dozens of courses and has had numerous designations. With carefully followed listings in so many geographical areas she conducts a thorough analysis of market trends, and her strong predictive abilities and sheer tenacity have ensured that her clients have the best possible support for their real estate needs.

From her Intercity satellite office in Schomberg, Broker Michele Denniston guides a talented and diverse team of real estate professionals to provide a truly full-service operation. “I know what I’m good at,” she says, “and I know what can be done better by someone else. I don’t know about tik tok and instagram, but I have colleagues who do. I’m a seller and a negotiator. We’re a team, and between us we have all the skills a client could need covered.”

Indeed, Michele Denniston’s brokerage covers all the bases. They do their own staging with their own items, there is an in-house mortgage specialist, an administrator who deals with all the paperwork and liaises with Intercity, a powerful and diverse sales team; and that allows them to focus on what matters



“We’re a team, and between us we have all the skills a client could need covered.”

most: the client.

Broker Michele Denniston says, “Gone are the days when a realtor could just hang a sign on the lawn and wait for a house to sell. Active marketing is what is needed now. A few years ago houses sold so quickly that I developed an insurance plan to protect buyers who weren’t able to get a home inspection. That’s not the case anymore, and we have had to adapt. Ag-

gressive, targeted marketing is what’s needed now.”

“We are completely focussed on working for the client,” she says. “Their needs are our needs. In today’s market there are enough things for people to worry about. I try to take that worry away, because clients know I’m working very, very hard for them.”

Michele Denniston puts her clients first but is also very protective of her team. “I don’t say people work for me, it’s not like that. We’re a team. We work hard together and help each other out with whatever needs to be done. When you all have each other’s backs, that’s when a team gets really strong, and then the magic happens.”



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MPP Lecce is Delivering for King and Vaughan Families

By Mark Pavilons



MPP Lecce meets with local, talented entrepreneurs and artists at the Schomberg Street Gallery.



MPP Lecce invests to support parents and unleash the full potential of our youth at the YMCA Ceder Glen in Nobleton



ABOVE: MPP Lecce announces York Region’s first PET-CT Scanner, now available at Southlake Regional Hospital.

RIGHT: MPP Lecce and Mayor Pellegrini at the construction site of the new King Township - Wide Recreation Centre.

As the days become shorter and the leaves begin to change colour, King-Vaughn’s MPP Stephen Lecce believes that it’s a good time to reflect and give thanks. “It’s an honour for me to represent the people of King-Vaughan in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario,” said Lecce. “I’m motivated to advance your priorities and deliver investment in our community.”

Every day, MPP Lecce says he is reminded by the gentle kindness, civic engagement, hard work and generosity of spirit of the families, seniors and young people in King-Vaughan. “This is my home. I grew up here. And I remain wholly dedicated to the community where my family continues to live.”

Lecce stated that his priorities are expanding access to quality health care in King and Vaughan, improving transit and easing the burden on residents as they commute to work or school, building new long-term care beds, reducing child care fees and taxes, and ensuring that all levels of government continue to invest in modernizing local infrastructure.

Many King-Vaughan residents work in Toronto or other parts of the GTA, so commuting times and traffic gridlock are major issues for local families, said Lecce. “For that reason, our government is investing in the Barrie Line GO Expansion, including more stations, cleaner technology, and more connections as well as all-day service, every 15 minutes, seven days a week.”

Lecce added that this year, Ontario made significant improvements to the King City GO Station that are now well underway -- including a pedestrian bridge, a new west rail platform, and an addition of 192 net new standard parking stalls and 40 net new bike parking stalls.

“These improvements are in addition to the investments I delivered at the Rutherford and Maple GO stations,” said Lecce. “We are delivering a massive expansion of parking and a modernized station for commuters.”

As the global economy increasingly becomes a digital economy, Lecce believes it’s critically important that all residents of King-Vaughan are able to access high-speed internet. He mentioned that Ontario has made a series of investments to improve internet

accessibility locally, including \$219 million to bring high-speed internet to more than 66,000 households in over 300 communities such as Kleinburg, Kettleby, and Schomberg; and \$48 million for a project by YorkNet to bring high-speed internet access to over 3,000 homes and businesses in 31 communities across York Region, including King City, Nobleton, Lloydtown, Pottageville and Nashville area.

Lecce was especially emphatic about the importance of helping local seniors. “King seniors worked hard and built our community, which is why we owe them an enormous debt of gratitude,” said Lecce, adding that the government made a \$6.4 billion commitment to build more than 30,000 net new long-term care beds by 2028, and 28,000 upgraded long-term care beds across the province.

“I promised residents that I would fight for our community and deliver investments as King has among the lowest ratios of beds to residents in the entire GTHA,” said Lecce. Last year, Lecce announced a new long-term care home that will be built on the lands adjacent to Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital that will create 256 new long-term care beds. He added that the government is committed to building a new long-term care home in King City, which is part of an overall vision “to make our community a more integrated place for families and seniors to live.”

Lecce is also passionate about environmental protection. “Living amidst some of the most beautiful natural scenery found anywhere in Ontario, King-Vaughan families have expressed support for investments that keep our community clean and green,” said Lecce, adding that he has worked with local levels of government in both King and Vaughan to expand park trails, plant and prune thousands of new trees, and protect water quality for generations.

Asked about the importance of sports and exercise to local residents, Lecce replied: “There is no question that King families deserve more opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and participate in fitness and recreation.”

Lecce emphasized that he was “proud to deliver one of the largest community center investments in the entire province -- \$17.6 million in partnership with Canada and King Township -- to build the township-wide recreation centre at 15 Sideroad and Dufferin Street.” The project is under construction and will open in 2024. It includes two NHL-sized ice surfaces, a six-lane 25-metre lap pool, a leisure pool, cycling

studio and a modern gym, a multi-purpose fieldhouse and community room, as well as baseball and soccer fields. “It will be a place for all ages to stay healthy in body and mind,” said Lecce.

The MPP for King-Vaughan also serves Ontario families as the Minister of Education. Asked about how he is delivering for King and Vaughan families, Lecce replied: “King and Vaughan parents should know that ever since we were first elected, our government has been busy updating the curriculum to better prepare students for the jobs of tomorrow. That means more of a back-to-basics focus on reading, writing and math skills, as well as financial literacy, digital fluency, an introduction to the skilled trades and the return of phonics, cursive writing, and critical thinking skills -- so kids are taught how to think, not what to think.”

For the 2023-24 academic year, the Government of Ontario is providing school boards with an additional \$700 million in base education funding this year when compared to last year, and it is adding 2,000 more math and literacy-focused teachers to classrooms across the province. “My priority has been to keep children in normal, stable and enjoyable schools -- which is the cornerstone of our policy. Stable schools, with a back-to-basics emphasis so students master the foundational skills that will help them succeed in life,” said Lecce.

By improving transit infrastructure, expanding access to high-speed internet, creating more long-term care beds, building a township-wide recreation centre and providing school boards with record-high funding and a back-to-basics new curriculum, MPP Lecce is getting results for the people of King-Vaughan.

“I say this with a profound level of gratitude and energy,” said Lecce. “It is my greatest honour to represent you in the heart of Ontario’s democracy. My work continues as does my affinity and respect for the people of King-Vaughan.”

Stephen Lecce
MPP – King-Vaughan

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MPP Lecce tours the construction of the King City Go station, with Mayor Pellegrini.



Dr. Wendy Ng, Optometrist and Owner

From Blurry to Bright: Chic Eyes' Commitment to King City's Vision

By Aladin Jarrah

Located in the King's Ridge Marketplace, Chic Eyes Optical & Optometry is dedicated to eye health for the whole family. While Dr. Wendy Ng offers top notch optometry services for all, she has developed a reputation of being a leader in children's eye care. Using child-friendly techniques, some specialized equipment, and having a wide array of fashionable frames has made Chic Eyes the destination of choice for eye care in King.

Dr. Ng explains that one of the main challenges with children is that they might not even know that their vision is blurry because they have no frame of reference if they've never had 20/20 vision before. Dr. Ng illustrates the importance of children's Vision and Eye Health Evaluations with this example: "I saw a 6-year-old for her first ever eye exam. Both she and her mom reported no issues with her eyes or vision – in fact, she only came in for an eye exam because her brother was having one. Her mother told me that she thought her daughter might have had a learning disability or dyslexia. But after getting glasses, her vision and reading ability improved dramatically, and her teacher reported that she was no longer afraid of reading aloud in front of the class. I almost cried tears of joy that day, and this case really stuck with me because it shows that vision can really impact a child's academic success and confidence!" She adds, "It's really important for parents to look out for signs like squinting, eye-rubbing and holding things closer, as it can be an indication of vision problems in children."

A full Vision and Eye Health Evaluation is a complex process, and Dr. Ng tries to transform the process into a fun game for children to hold their attention in different ways. She also has some specialized equipment that makes the process quicker and more comfortable. "Optomap Ultra-Widefield Retinal Imaging has been a game changer for my practice. It takes a panoramic image of the retina (the inside of our eye) in one quick second, covering an area that could take a minute or more to assess when using the slit lamp (the "microscope"), which is made even more difficult if the child is looking all over or moving around. It's also best to have photo-documentation that gives greater detail and that we can compare to year after year (because it's impossible for me to remember what everyone's eye looks like in a year's time) – a picture is worth a thousand words. Another new technology that makes it easier for both children and adults is the iCare tonometer for screening eye pressures. Instead of the much-hated air puff test or using anesthetic eye drops, the iCare tonometer can accurately and quickly measure eye pressure. I've done it in children as young as 3 years old – no tears!" says Ng.

Dr. Ng is a staunch advocate for annual eye exams for children to make sure that any potential problems are caught early on, so that children see better and learn better, especially because children spend so much time in front of screens nowadays. Excessive screen use can lead to myopia (nearsightedness), which increases the risk of developing eye diseases such as macular degeneration or retinal detachment in later adulthood. Says Ng, "Our goal now is to slow the progression of myopia in children, and the first step is to encourage them to spend more time outdoors – at least 2 hours a day. If a child is nearsighted, there are now new technologies and treatment plans that can help in slowing their myopic progression. I also encourage my patients, especially children, to abide by the 20-20-20 Rule, which is: every 20 minutes, take a 20 second break, by looking far away at 20 feet. It doesn't have to be exact, but the idea is that every once in a while, we're letting our eyes relax from focusing at such a short distance."

If a child needs corrective lenses, the fun part comes next: from choosing a stylin' pair of glasses to getting the correct lenses, Chic Eyes has you covered. "We stock amazing frames from brands such as Nano, Dutz Kids, and Eleven Paris Boys & Girls, which have frames that don't look like your 'typical kids frames'. They draw a lot of inspiration from adult frames, which helps encourage the child to wear their glasses more, just like their parents or favourite celebrities, and it also helps them to feel more fashionable! These frames are also durable and comfortable. Some can even be twisted in any direction and still bounce back to its original shape - practically indestructible and perfect for children!"

Whether it's for you or your children, an emergency or a routine exam, Chic Eyes Optical & Optometry is an excellent destination for all your eyecare and eyewear needs. Come here to see your best and look your best!



Chic Eyes

1700 King Rd, Unit 10, King City, ON
(Located close to Sunset Grill,
diagonally across from Starbucks)

(289) 467-6000

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ChicEyesOptical

ChicEyesOptical

ChicEyes.ca

Buzzworthy Innovations: Kinghaven Farms' Sustainable Approach to Agriculture

By Mark Pavilons

Renowned Kinghaven Farms is a favourite on the turf, rounding the bend towards sustainability.

What began as a famous, family-run thoroughbred breeding and racing farm is transitioning into sustainable horticulture, beekeeping, and all-natural, small-batch goods.

"We decided at Kinghaven to transition into a sustainable farming operation not only because we have a specific mandate to advance principles of sustainability, waste reduction, fighting food insecurity in local regions, and just helping our local community, but also because farmers need to be innovative and look to the future in today's day and age if they're going to remain farmers," said Jay Willmot, president and lead apiarist. He added in areas like York Region and the GTA, there's a lot of pressure to reduce farm space and reduce green space to build houses and expand urban sprawl.

"We've chosen this path because we want to remain a farm while also ensuring that Kinghaven is doing everything possible to achieve strong performance across a triple bottom line, supporting our local community, our planet, and our business."

To that end, the farm aims to bring fresher, better-tasting, non-GMO leafy greens, grown pesticide-free, in a more sustainable way, 12 months of the year, at affordable prices.

Recent milestones include having received their first permit for site preparation, with construction planned for the next year, and commissioning of cultivation expected in Q4 2024.

"It's been a year of planning, consulting, calculating, and designing through many iterations, and we're thrilled that everything is coming together for the greenhouse facility."

Willmot anticipates construction of the greenhouse structure to begin in October, and with such keen focus, they're actively advancing and executing their plans.

Kinghaven Farms offers raw, unpasteurized, local Ontario honey in liquid form, a collection of raw, unpasteurized creamed honey products infused with complementary flavours, and several beeswax-based products such as candles, natural skincare, wood conditioner and food wraps.



The future looks green for Kinghaven Farms.

Their monthly farm egg subscription plan and grain-free honey granola subscriptions have also been met with great enthusiasm. Willmot noted they recently launched a new creamed honey flavour, Lemon Meringue.

"It's so tasty, just like the desert, and it's been a hit at local events and farmers' markets."

Willmot is quite proud of the farm's new food-safe production facility. The products coming out of this space have been "exceptional," and a large part of that is due to the level of planning and forethought they put into the room to allow them to produce premium quality offerings.

"I love that all our food products utilize natural, raw, unpasteurized honey, and nothing goes to waste – just how nature intended it. So, we're not making 'sweets'. We produce delicious, healthy food that supports our objectives in fighting food insecurity and supporting our community with nutritional, local food options."

Kinghaven is very excited about the future, particularly about their planned indoor hydroponic cultivation of leafy greens. While "a tonne of work still needs to be done," Willmot said they chose this path to add value to the community by creating jobs and bringing this future-facing sustainable agriculture to King City in a way that hasn't been done in Canada.

"For a hot second, it will be one of the most advanced greenhouse systems in the world," Willmot notes.

Today, staff at Kinghaven are managing just under 200 bee colonies, with plans to scale up exponentially over the next several seasons. It will require a lot of expansion, new bee yards, more facilities and management on the beekeeping side.

Currently, the pure, raw honey and creamed blends are unrivalled. Na-



ture's best to be sure. Kinghaven, according to Willmot, could look at future developments in King Township or other southern Ontario locations. This means developing more value-added farm-diversified processes at Kinghaven.

"We're always looking at different technologies, such as on-farm production of green hydrogen and the synthesization of ammonia, as a pilot project for creating fertilizer for use in Kinghaven's farming operations."

"Our composting processes will continue to evolve as we start to produce used growing media from our greenhouse, which we'll up-cycle onsite for re-distribution into planting mixes and other recycled uses. In terms of creating new biodiversity in the area, planting wildflower seeds, alfalfa, and clover in our fields will help to further reduce our carbon footprint while also providing forage for our bees and other local pollinators."

"We also strive to improve biodiversity and promote the renaturalization and enhancement of our forested spaces. We're trying to advance our goals, which comes down to hard work, showing up every day, and just doing it."

Willmot pointed out that local Ontario honey is not in infinite supply, and many times throughout the year, it's just not available. But Kinghaven aims to ensure that people have access to exceptional, healthy local honey year-round. And they're achieving this reality through their apiaries and the network of local Ontario farmers they work with.

"We take pride and joy in knowing that our honey and beeswax products are consciously produced and packaged using renewable electricity from our barn rooftops. Working in the apiaries typically invokes a sense of tranquillity and mindfulness, as well," Willmot added.

"Simply put, our focus is on producing the highest quality honey. We don't put it through any rigorous chemical processes or pasteurization. We opt to maintain the honey in its natural form, just as it is extracted from the honeycomb."

In terms of their offerings, Kinghaven Farms Premium classic raw liquid honey remains a top seller, followed by Cinnamon Creamed Honey and Ginger Creamed Honey. Their grain-free Honey Granola is also a customer favourite. Willmot said they will continue to expand the creamed honey line.

Kinghaven is gearing up for the holidays, including offering businesses and individual customers several no-hassle gifting options to make their holiday shopping and delivery easy and convenient. They also provide honey favours for special events such as weddings and baby showers.

While Kinghaven doesn't currently offer official tours of the property, Willmot said they've considered offering an educational beekeeping program, allowing people to learn about apiculture while touring the bee yards. They have held a couple of events in one of the barns on the east side of the farm, and there's "definite potential" to create an event space there, but that is years down the road.

Willmot grew up at the family farm in King City, King, he noted, has been the backdrop for countless memories and experiences, and he values every minute that he gets to spend working at Kinghaven and in the broader King community. He said he also values having the opportunity to encourage community spirit by volunteering for organizations like the King Chamber of Commerce.

"I appreciate the chance to give back and serve the community. It also allows me to connect with local businesses and hear about the good things they are doing and any challenges they may be experiencing. It's a great way to stay in touch with what's happening and work with others to make our community the best it can be."

"Ultimately, contributing to building networks in the local business community helps keep everyone moving forward and raises the quality of life for everyone in meaningful ways."



The secret of success in the 70's

By Michael Presley

"BEING A PRIVATELY OWNED company does have the advantage that you can trade in whatever line of equipment you choose." This was Glenn Davis' answer to the question - how can you carry several lines of equipment without under capitalizing?

Glenn runs Nobleton Farm Service just outside of Nobleton, Ontario and his dealership is just what the area needs. It's a farm service. "We consider everybody that works here to be a service man," explained Glenn. "Whether he's servicing on the parts counter, on the telephone or on the road, he's a serviceman."

"For this reason, we carry the types of equipment the farmer is asking for and the types that are in high demand and meet a ready market," Glenn was emphatic on one point. "It's certainly not all ones, carrying several lines. For example, we carry Cockshutt tractors and we also have a line of Leyland tractors which work out of a separate center. The idea was this would give us the Cockshutt's big line of tractors and a medium and small line with Leyland, but then Cockshutt came out with the medium and small line in the Flat tractor, which we also carry and sometimes that can be a conflict. Carrying different types of equipment also means a bigger parts inventory." Besides the tractor line, Glenn also carries Gold forge equipment, excavators, loaders and any other type of machinery that he feels will sell.

Dead in chemicals too

Nobleton Farm Service has even got into the chemical business by

Glenn Davis of Nobleton Farm Service

Cockshutt Farm Equipment Centre

Still family run, Green Tractors has grown since the 1950s.

Green Tractors has a wide range of top quality farm equipment

By Aladin Jarrah

If you ever travel west on King Road out of Nobleton, you will have noticed Green Tractors. Sitting on 100 acres and offering a full range of equipment for homeowners, professionals and farmers, Green Tractors has been a Township institution for almost 70 years.

In 1956, farmer Glenn Davis was working this very property. He quickly developed a reputation as an excellent mechanic for farm equipment, so he started the company you see today, using his farm to showcase the top-quality equipment he sold.

Still family run, Green Tractors has grown since the 1950s. There are now eight other locations around the province, and the original location in Nobleton now has a large team of salespeople, parts specialists and technicians who can sell, service or repair all the equipment they offer.

Green Tractors offers a wide range of machinery. They offer farm equipment, professional landscaping and contracting supplies as well as everything a homeowner could need, from lawn tractors to smaller-scale farm equipment.

For those without the time or means to bring their equipment in for service, Green Tractors has a fleet of mobile service vehicles saving customers down time and inconvenience, especially for those who might not have trucks and trailers to bring their equipment in for service or repair. If a customer needs repair, scheduled maintenance or needs the tractor's mowing deck removed and replaced with the snow blower or plow, a courteous and highly trained service technician will come out and do that right on the customer's property.

According to Keith Davis, regular service is key to keeping equipment working at peak efficiency. As Davis says, "The most basic lawn tractor hasn't changed that much over the years, but some of the higher-end equipment has electronic fuel injection, hydraulics, upgraded lighting and a whole list of technological innovations. Whatever you have, it's important to service your equipment, typically twice a year, even if it's just lubrication and an oil change on a basic deck mower."

According to Davis, equipment prices have steadily risen since the COVID-19 pandemic, and the supply chain on the higher end machinery has had some issues, just like the automotive industry. "That has led to a lot of interest in used equipment," he says. "A five-year-old machine can still retain a significant portion of its original value, and there is a strong demand for it. All the used equipment we sell goes through the shop. We thoroughly examine and repair it, replace or service wear-and-tear parts, test it and clean it before we put it out for sale."

Green Tractors has seen a constant growth in demand, especially among customers working smaller plots of land. They have a huge inventory, from John Deere, Honda, Stihl and a number of other manufacturers. One visit to their facility will convince you that it's their sales, parts and service people who really make the difference, making shopping for and servicing your equipment trouble-free and easy.



Green Tractors Nobleton
6770 King Rd. West, Nobleton, ON
905.859.0581
www.greentractors.ca



In a world where wellness often takes a back seat in everyday life, Alexis, a young visionary from Richmond Hill, Ontario, has carved a path to well-being for women in King City. Her journey is not just inspiring; it's a testament to the power of determination, empathy, and a passion for helping others.

Alexis' personal battle with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) in 2019 marked the beginning of her quest for answers and a holistic approach to her own well-being. Her relentless pursuit of better health, coupled with her educational background in business and psychology, ignited the spark that led to the creation of Club Well, a women's only wellness and lifestyle club located at 2140 King Road.

Club Well officially opened its doors on April 15th, 2023, and has quickly become a sanctuary for women seeking holistic solutions for their mind, body, and spirit. What sets this beautiful space apart is not just its exquisite design but also the incredible team of women who share Alexis' passion and vision. They've come together to offer life-changing services and unwavering support to their members.

Alexis shares, "Through our journey opening in King City, we discovered that the town needed us just as much as we needed it. The outpouring of support received from both local residents and neighbouring businesses has exceeded our expectations, and we take great pride in contributing to the rapid growth of this beautiful town."

One of the most endearing aspects of Club Well is its intimate, family-like atmosphere. Alexis, alongside her dedicated team, treats every member as if they were family. This personal touch sets Club Well apart from large franchises, as it allows for a level of flexibility and customization that ensures each member has a truly exceptional experience.

Club Well's commitment to women's wellness encompasses a wide range of services, from movement and Pilates to nutritional guidance and advanced aesthetics. This comprehensive approach acknowledges that true wellness is not just physical but involves nurturing the mind and spirit as well.

Furthermore, Club Well's mission transcends the walls of its beautiful space; it's about fostering a sense of community and empowerment among women. Alexis' passion for holistic well-being is evident in every corner of the club, from the carefully curated classes to the welcoming and supportive environment she and her team have cultivated.

Alexis's journey from a diagnosis of PCOS to becoming a beacon of hope for women seeking holistic wellness solutions is nothing short of remarkable. Her story reminds us that adversity can be a catalyst for positive change, and her dedication to helping others achieve optimal health and lifestyle is an inspiration to us all.

As Club Well continues to thrive and make a significant impact on the well-being of women in King City, it's clear that Alexis's vision has not only come to fruition but is poised to redefine the standards of women's wellness in our community. We applaud her unwavering commitment and look forward to witnessing the continued growth and success of Club Well. Alexis and her team are not just business owners; they are trailblazers in the quest for holistic wellness. To learn more about what Club Well, visit their website at clubwellinc.com.

Empowering Women's Wellness: Club Well Sets a New Standard in King City

What sets this beautiful space apart is not just its exquisite design but also the incredible team of women...

By Brittany Greci



Let's get well together!

2140 King Road, King City, ON,
L7B 1L5 – Second Floor



Light Up Your Life with LANDO LIGHTING

By Aladin Jarrah

Whether you're building your dream home or renovating your existing one, there are dozens of decisions that go into completing an exciting project like this. And once the "bones" of your home have come together, finishes and colours selected and installed, you come to what might be the single most important factor in setting the mood that you've worked so hard to create: Lighting.

The correct lighting can transform a space, making it more appealing and functional. There are so many factors to consider when lighting a home, and this is where the experts at Lando come into the picture. One of the largest lighting showrooms in the country, Lando Lighting has been family owned and operated since 1975, so it's no surprise that the people there know a thing or two about the art of illuminating a space.

Gord and Bernadette Whitelaw originally purchased the building in the 1970s, and opened it up section by section as their budget allowed until it eventually spanned the four larger showrooms you see now. The business was taken over by their sons Paul and Brian Whitelaw in the 1990s, with the next generation of Brian's sons Nick and Matthew joining the team more recently. Add a talented and dedicated staff of six sales, office and warehouse people, and you have a dream team dedicated to their craft.

Over the 45 years the Whitelaws have been operating, fashions have come and gone, and tastes have changed. If you're looking to refresh an existing space without undergoing major upheaval, a change in lighting can make a relaxing space more cozy, an evening space more intimate, a task space brighter or an entry way more dramatic. "We've been doing this a long time," says Matthew



Whitelaw, "and it's our passion to help people set the tone of their spaces with lighting. We ask the questions customers might not think of in order to make sure the end result surpasses their expectations."

Years of experience has given the professional and courteous sales team insights into lighting a space, which allows them to guide and advise their clients when faced with the dizzying array of options. How high should my dining table chandelier be? How much lighting should I use in my kitchen, bathroom or at my desk? How about lighting the outside of my home during the long dark winter? These and other questions are easily and cheerfully answered at Lando, and the answers will vary based on your home and how you use the rooms in it. The lighting consultants might ask about ceiling height, wall colours and room usage to give you answers that are customised to your environment. They even encourage customers to bring in photos so they can visualize the space together.

In a world where so much shopping is done on-line, it's useful to have professionals who are both passionate and knowledgeable who will help you make the right choices the first time.

Having one of the largest lighting stores in Canada, as well as an extensive website, Lando is virtually guaranteed to have the lighting to suit your budget and taste. From ultra-modern to traditional, rustic to urban, discreet to showy, it's all there. Their buying power makes their pricing very competitive, and they regularly have discounted "red tag" items that offer exceptional value.

So, whether it's ceiling, wall or accent lighting you're after for your home, Lando Lighting is the one-stop-shop that delivers every time.

LANDO
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210 Clarence Street, Brampton, Ontario

905.453.6403

www.landolightinggalleries.com



Two King Township businesses come together to grow local food

By Aladin Jarrah

There's a new farm in town!

Farm Drop is a joint venture between Boreal Farms and Container Built. Together, they designed, installed, and are operating a one-acre regenerative farm producing a plethora of greens, herbs and vegetables which are sold in weekly baskets of varying sizes to residents in the community.

When Ag-Tech entrepreneur Brandon Hebor first met the owners of Container Built at the King Chamber Annual General Meeting, the four quickly began talking about the culture of food and farming across the region. Synergies collided. Fast forward a mere six months and the first regenerative farm is here to showcase the incredible possibilities.

The team has plans to expand their network of modular farming infrastructure across Canada. The purpose behind Farm Drop is to support the next generation of farmers through both infrastructure and best practices to help them achieve profitability on parcels of land as small as one acre. This first location in King is their flagship, and acts as a training center where school groups, aspiring farmers and local foodies come to learn about regenerative agriculture and local food.

Through immersive workshops, participants learn about the possibilities that regenerative farming creates, while having access to the tools and expertise to put it into practice. Regenerative agriculture has become more common in recent years and people are increasingly interested in learning more about it. The tenets of it are age-old best practices that

have often fallen away from large scale modern farms.

The six main principles, discussed at length in the workshops, are:

- Minimize soil disturbance
- Maximize crop diversity
- Maintain soil cover
- Maintain living roots year-round where possible
- Integrate livestock
- Work with as many locally-sourced resources as possible

The Farm Drop team is on a mission to establish a regional network of small-scale regenerative farms that participate as a cooperative, working together to provide a range of food baskets for families, businesses, and long-term care facilities.

Over this coming winter season, the Farm Drop team is looking to connect with families, local business owners, institutions and government to identify strategic opportunities to increase the supply and distribution of local food across the region. Since May, the team has donated over 350lbs of fresh greens and vegetables to food banks across York Region, and hopes to partner with local businesses through a 'buy one, give one' food basket program in partnership with the King Township Food Bank and the York Region Food Network.

People interested in learning more about Regenerative Farming or interested in the fresh local food baskets are encouraged to reach out to Brandon at bhebor@borealfarms.ca



About Boreal Farms



BOREAL FARMS

Boreal Farms is an Agriculture Service company that provides consulting, coaching, teaching and training services to individuals, corporations and community organizations. Since 2016 Boreal's founder, Brandon Hebor, has provided teaching and training to over 3,000 students across the GTA, specializing in immersive workshops that connect participants with food through a combination of science, technology, economics and social innovation. In addition to training, Boreal consults with developers and local government to design and activate agricultural infrastructure into both rural and urban communities - such as Thornbury Acres, Ontario's first residential farming cooperative.

www.borealfarms.ca



About Container Built

Container Built is a family owned and operated enterprise that specializes in the design and fabrication of versatile infrastructure using modular shipping containers. The team's project portfolio includes home offices, studios, pop-up shops, safe storage, tiny homes, construction offices, kitchens and garages. For nearly ten years, Container Built has been delivering top-end products to clients across Ontario and has a public showroom located on Weston Road, North of King Road. As a family-owned business, customer service and quality workmanship are fundamental to their success and the brothers are always looking for ways to innovate and provide solutions for their clients using affordable, modular infrastructure.

www.containerbuilt.ca



CONTAINER BUILT



Schomberg Village Pharmacy – Where Innovation, Vision, and Connection Combine to Generate Trust and Healing

By Jim Stewart

Anna Patrizio and Cristina Privado are the charming co-owners of the Schomberg Village Pharmacy. Both took an active leadership role during the COVID-19 pandemic to serve a stricken province and they continue to troubleshoot health crises with their innovative approaches to health care. It's evident that both Patrizio and Privado derive much personal and professional satisfaction from serving the patients that stroll into their unique pharmacy at 50 Dr. Kay Drive. According to Anna Patrizio, "The most satisfying aspect of owning and managing Schomberg Village Pharmacy is that it is a loyalty-driven business. Growing older with my patients is very satisfying. We see clients go through the phases of life right to becoming seniors and people trust us to be with them even in trying times. It's also satisfying to see our customers come to us in times of need." Patrizio's business partner and colleague Cristina Privado notes the importance of these kinds of connections: "I've seen the generational connections – the grandparents, the parents, the children, the grandchildren – it's gratifying to see these links. At Schomberg Village Pharmacy, we also have a remarkable staff ready to serve these generations and I have a great business partner that makes my journey of ownership very enjoyable."

It's evident that Patrizio and Privado are a dynamic duo so in synch that they can complete each other's sentences. Their pharmacy in the north end of Schomberg has a warm general store vibe with sundresses and other unique items for sale at its entrance. As you enter the well-stocked pharmacy, you are greeted by a pair of sunny dispositions who are clearly driven

by patient care and customer service. Patrizio notes that "Staff unity and harmony are important to us as is consistency of service. We also go the extra mile by offering unique services and methods. For example, creating our compounding lab has always been in our business plan. We finally put it all together—it cost over \$50,000 not including ingredients-- and we constructed a compounding laboratory on site. Non-sterile compounding allows us to make small batches of medication—something that is not commonly available in pharmacies. The pandemic created scenarios where we needed to create medication that was not available due to supply chain crises. We were able to provide our patients with medication that we made in our lab, especially when supplies of amoxicillin and children's Tylenol ran dangerously short for a long period of time."

"We want to change the narrative as to what constitutes a pharmacy... That was our intention – to create a warm atmosphere for our customers."

Not only have Patrizio and Privado deployed their compounding lab to create much-needed medications for their patients during daunting shortages, but they also led the way during inoculation drives during the pandemic: "We did over 5000 inoculations in our pharmacy – we were one of the first to offer COVID vaccinations and inoculated the equivalent of the entire population of Schomberg; we assisted with the wholesale inoculations at the Trisan Centre when there was a boom in inoculation numbers." Privado acknowledged that it was a challenge to open the current business in the first year of the pandemic: "We're turning five in February 2024 and we're happy to have survived the last four-and-a-half years. It's a milestone to survive the first five years of any business. It's been a test of endurance and resilience."

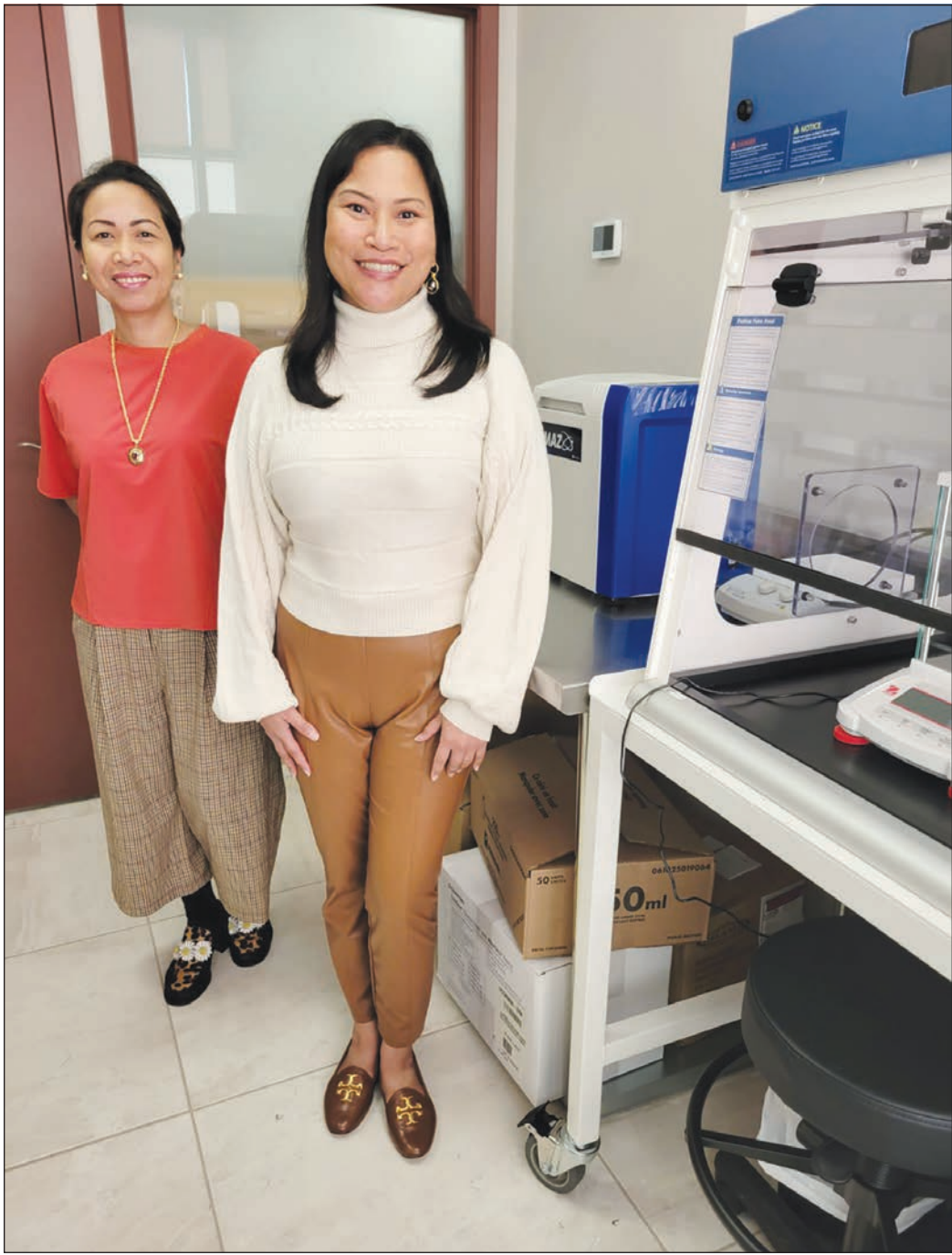
In addition to the co-owners' endurance and resilience, it's evident that innovation and training is at the heart of their successful business: "The three staff leaders all have compounding expertise," notes Privado. "Anna, Kevin, and I are all trained rigorously in compounding techniques. We have travelled to Montreal for training and completed a three-day on-site regimen as well as an on-line course for our compounding certification. Our compounding lab and expertise gives our pharmacy a unique level of service to help our patients in times of need."

The Schomberg Village Pharmacy's compounding lab is a very compelling component that reveals Anna Patrizio and Cristina Privado's commitment to patient care and their instinct as innovators to survive even the toughest business cycles. Privado offered insights into the challenges that all small business owners face: "We've been through a lot of challenges during COVID and in the post-COVID era. Pharmacies are not necessarily insulated from the economic downturns that continue to affect our country. We've made sacrifices as co-owners. We've made financial injections into the business to sustain it and maintain the great services we provide. We've embraced change and sometimes this is a labor-intensive process, but it's well worth it for us and our patients. We've also endeavored to stock unique items, especially at the front of the store, to create a wow factor. Most patients are surprised that this is much more than a pharmacy. We want to change the narrative as to what constitutes a pharmacy. We want our aisles, lighting, and fixtures to be warm. That was our intention – to create a warm atmosphere for our customers."

Despite the long hours inherent in operating a pharmacy, Patrizio mentions that "This doesn't feel like work. When you like your job, it feels more like a mission—a purpose-driven job is easier to wake up to. Cristina and I also enjoy a stimulating work environment so we actually participate in a number of university research projects with the University of Toronto and the University of Waterloo. We participate fully in the science that is at the heart of pharmacy." The congenial manager of Schomberg Village Pharmacy maintains that "In our workplace, you're always learning from somebody – it's very rewarding and fulfilling to provide people with goods and services in a dynamic community such as ours." Patrizio's partner pipes in and notes good-naturedly: "However, we don't want people coming in only when they're sick and unwell. Visit us when you're having a good day, too."

It's evident that Patrizio and Privado help their patients through bad times and good times, but most of all, they embrace change, especially recent adjustments to their job description as pharmacists in Ontario. When the provincial government created sweeping changes to the Health Care system by giving pharmacists the right to prescribe medications and do more clinical treatment, the Schomberg Village Pharmacy seized this opportunity to increase the level of care. Patrizio notes that "We were one of the first pharmacies to prescribe medications in response to minor ailments. This was in response to our increasing role legislated by the province of Ontario." Privado adds that "This helps minimize the overworked, overused hospital and clinic system. We can facilitate services to help people more readily deal with their minor illnesses. We've become much more than a dispensary and it's rewarding to provide another layer of professional service for our patients."

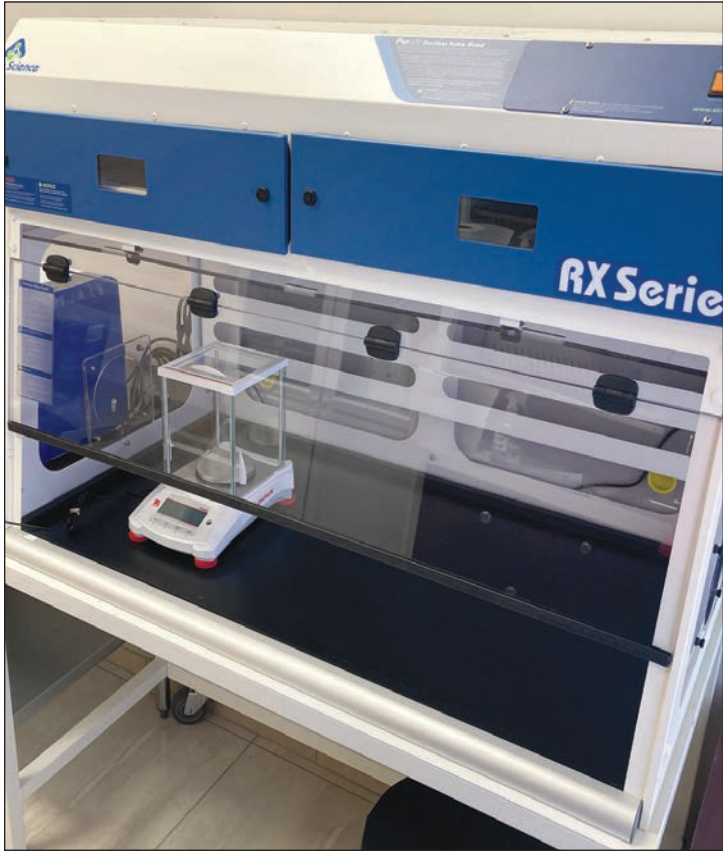
There is a genuine charismatic quality that radiates from Anna Patrizio and Cristina Privado. The co-owners of Schomberg Village Pharmacy have clearly cornered the market on caring dynamically and abundantly for patients due to their innovation, vision, and commitment to lifelong learning and professional growth.



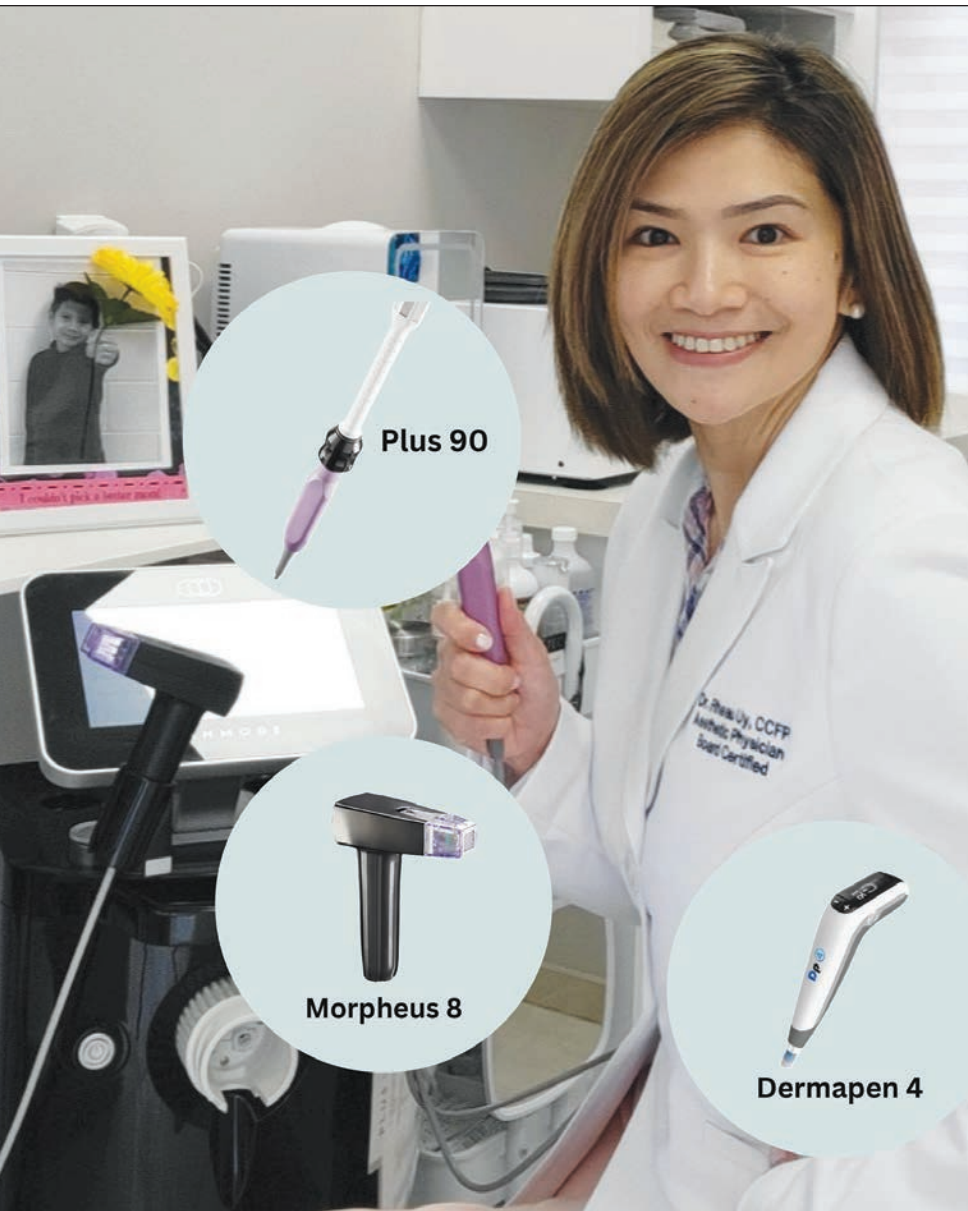
Schomberg Village Pharmacy co-owners Cristina Privado and Anna Patrizio stand alongside their new compounding lab (photo below) where their non-sterile compounding processes allow them to make small batches of medication.



Co-owners Cristina Privado and Anna Patrizio received the King Chamber of Commerce Excellence In Business Award in COVID Community Support - Small Business 2022.



Schomberg Village Pharmacy



Dr. Rhea Uy’s MD Aesthetic & Health Services Clinic Offers a Tried-and-True Range of Products and Therapies for Women’s Wellness

By Jim Stewart

Dr. Rhea Uy, the energetic Medical Director of MD Aesthetic & Health Services, finds the most satisfying aspect of her work is “seeing my patients smile with renewed self-confidence for various reasons such as feeling satisfied with the results of our procedures, being more informed, having more sense of control, and feeling heard, normalized, and less isolated in their health concerns, especially for women going through changes in different life stages.

The amiable physician, whose clinic is located in the southeast corner of the Schomberg Village Pharmacy, finds there’s a special feeling about providing her services to the Schomberg community: “I’m excited to bring into Schomberg and its neighboring communities a unique set of innovative treatments – Morpheus 8 and Plus 90 – both clinically and scientifically proven to help with “feminine” symptoms and various skin concerns from top to bottom and beyond. All interventions I offer are non-surgical and non-to-minimally-invasive, therefore costing minimal downtime to patients. I’d like to highlight that I only offer treatments and products backed by science I believe in and are approved by Health Canada and other regulatory authorities. I aim to connect more deeply to my patients and my community by offering a clinical setting that is anxiety-reducing, very accessible, and features complimentary in-person consultation services.”

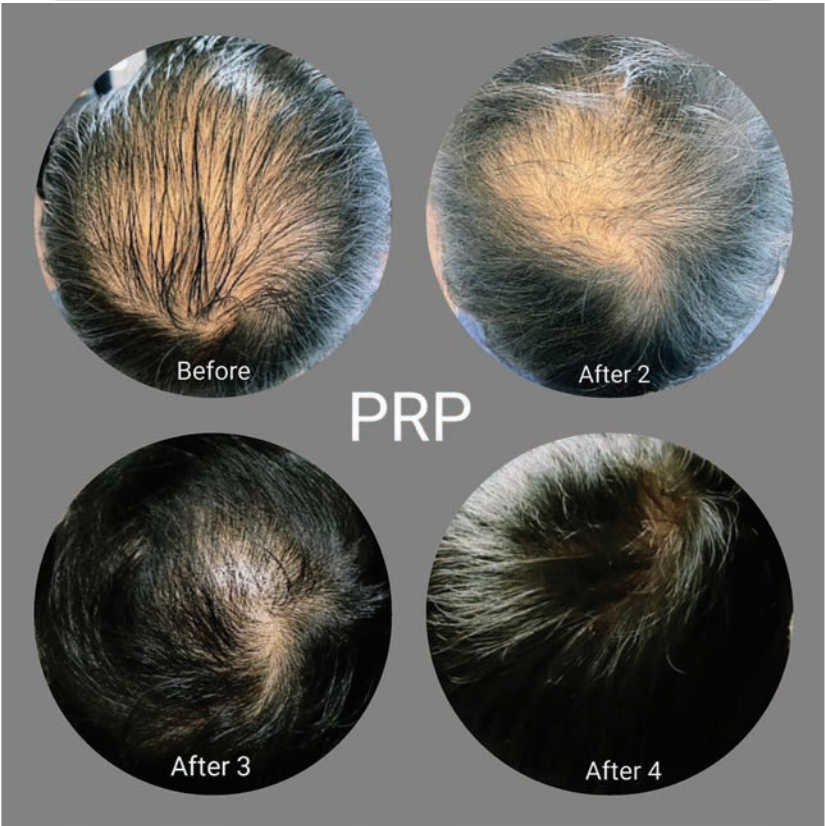
There is a soothing atmosphere in Dr. Uy’s clinic as visitors sit in a reception area where the lapping of waves is heard in the background as if one is sitting on the dock in cottage country. The setting is very warm and calming and it is easy to enjoy Dr. Uy’s delineation of the goods and services available at MD Aesthetic & Health Services. Dr. Uy maintains that she creates a climate of trust with her patients because “they can be assured that I am using the products and receiving the treatments myself.”

Dr. Uy relocated her clinic “to Schomberg from Vaughan in May 2023 and partial operations resumed in mid-July.” She is “targeting a fully-operational clinic just after Thanksgiving.” The fully-operational clinic will offer an impressive range of goods and services: Platelet-rich Plasma (PRP) therapy for hair and skin rejuvenation; Cosmetic and Medical “Bo/tox”(Botulinum Toxin A) that help with wrinkles, excessively oily skin, chronic migraines, excessive sweating, teeth grinding, TMJ pain, and spasms.

In addition to treating these conditions, Dr. Uy discussed “Collagen induction therapies (CIT) such as Microneedling, Microchannelling, Exosome, and Radiodofrequency that heal and rejuvenate the skin through our own body’s natural ability to repair itself. Such treatments help with scars, stretch marks, skin laxity, acne, rosacea, melasma, and other pigmentation issues. We also offer unique dermal fillers that stimulate your own collagen production; reticular and spider vein treatment; and Morpheus 8 - a treatment that combines advanced radiofrequency technology and precision microneedling to address a range of skin concerns by remodeling the skin.” Dr. Uy also extolled the virtues of Plus 90 for women’s overall wellness: “This radiofrequency therapy helps with a range of feminine concerns and chronic symptoms such as urinary incontinence, painful intercourse, vaginal dryness , chronic itch and burning, lack of sensation, pH imbalance, laxity issues, and mild cases of prolapse.”

Dr. Uy’s charming and energetic disposition is evident throughout her discussion of her clinic’s offerings and she invites new customers to join her in her “soft launch promotions including 30% off all treatments—both individual and package.” Dr. Uy’s “other soft launch promotions include 20% off all skin care products, as well as combo treatment packages for her new radiofrequency services, discounted up to 50% of their original value.”

There are many compelling reasons to explore the services and products offered at MD Aesthetic & Health Services as part of a visit next door to the Schomberg Village Pharmacy or a specific trip into Dr. Uy’s clinic to avail oneself of the proprietor’s caring nature, healing skills, and high-quality products and therapies that she uses herself. With a firm belief that “the key to a healthy skin lies in the harmony of self-care and healthcare,” Dr. Uy invites you “to embark on a journey with [her] to self-empowerment, where proven clinical studies guide your investment to radiant results and confidence.”



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www.mdahs.ca



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE CLIENTS AT HOSPALL

By Mark Pavilons



resource for our clients and their families. Each client has their own homecare manager assigned to be their advocate holistically with all their medical needs and other," Frauley says.

Clients are diverse in age and healthcare needs. They help clients post operatively with recovery in the comfort of their homes. They help the aging population to stay in their homes safely with holistic care support. And they help clients with palliative and end of life care in the comfort of their home working with the local palliative team of nurses and doctors from the LHIN.

COVID's long-term effects are still being felt and people who need care are feeling the pinch with hospital backlogs.

Frauley pointed out that since the pandemic, there's a sense of an "increased failure to thrive."

More and more people want to stay home and work from home if they can. Affordability is the key.

Frauley says they've seen an increase in demand in the areas of palliative and end-of-life care, post-operative care for all ages, and respite care for primary caregivers.

Private care options such as Hospall are in place to alleviate the strain on the public system and provide affordable, comprehensive, and personalized care.

This is a great option for many reasons, not the least of which is the high level of personal care.

Hospall staff can also devote all the time you need and clients have the flexibility of scheduling their own care times.

And, Hospall goes above and beyond – they match you or your loved one with caregivers based on very specific criteria to make sure it will be a good fit for the client and the caregiver to be able to form a healthy therapeutic relationship.

What more can you ask for?

Frauley says care involves much more than delivering a service.

"One of the best ways to show our compassion is to listen. I like to offer my feedback during the conversations with clients or their families or our team members. I try my best to put myself in the other person's shoes and to try to understand the other person's feelings. I find value in being an advocate for clients, families and staff and our community," she notes.

Kindness also goes a long way and there's no shortage of that from Frauley and her staff. In reality, it's worth its weight in gold.

"I have an open-door policy with our team at Hospall – friends, and our community. Being able to be trusted to keep a secret or not share what someone has shared privately with you; I take pride in this level of confidence and privacy that others around me feel that they can openly share with me, and they will not be judged or scrutinized for their feelings or emotion.

"I believe some of the best leaders are the ones who really do not have to toot their own horn. They simply are genuine people that love what they do, and it comes naturally to be who they are and the difference that they make."

Hospall's service providers are companions, personal support workers,

registered practical nurses, registered nurses and internationally trained doctors and nurses trying to obtain their registration here in Canada. All staff are qualified with designated training or certifications and CPR, First Aid training and all other related skills needed to perform their duties.

Frauley, who's been in nursing for more than 30 years, feels "so blessed to love what I do." Her multi-faceted career ran the gamut from surgical nursing to family practice and palliative care. As the CEO of Hospall, Michelle believes "making a difference in someone's life to me personally or professionally is the greatest gift of all."

Hospall Private Homecare was established in the spring of 2014. During her nursing career, Michelle saw a gap in our public healthcare system, and she felt that she could help advocate and lead in this industry.

"I have always felt that our senior population deserves the utmost respect and care for helping all of us Baby Boomers path the way in all our lives."

"I wanted to create a service that would help these gaps with advocating for clients whether at hospital level, LTC level, hospice settings or in their own homes. Think about the client who has no family or no advocate. Think about the clients that do not want to burden their own children with their decline in healthcare needs."

Michelle and Hospall has succeeded in all regards.



We Believe Life is a Gift

Providing **Peace-of-Mind** to families with health and care needs of their **loved ones** in King Township and surrounding areas.



We are a team of registered & certified staff who are passionate about the patient population. We provide Consistent Compassionate Care with a focus on Elevating and Enriching Health and Wellbeing while maintaining client dignity.

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Most of us realize that life can change in an instant, and we're not prepared for what's coming.

Caring for our loved ones is always top of mind. But what happens when we become overburdened or want the best care for our family members?

Turn to experienced, caring service providers.

Hospall Private Homecare is a shining example of making personal care all about people. According to CEO Michelle Frauley, they strive to be leaders in healthcare and homecare.

Hospall, she says, doesn't focus on quantity, but rather on servicing a smaller group, and doing a really good job.

"Our operating philosophy is to ask our team and clients ongoing to offer their constructive input. It is important to know what does outstanding service mean to your clients and their families. What does that look like to them? What makes your team members feel appreciated or that they love working for Hospall. We try to learn the 'why,'" she says.

Clients are a combination of both short- and long-term.



Hospall's employees are the single biggest asset.

"We have so many of our team members that daily go out of their way to 'look outside of the box' and make an extra effort to put a smile on someone's face; this is one of many areas where we excel as a team."

This unique culture and environment is reflected in the attention to both big and little details.

Hospall prides itself on being reliable, dependable and consistent in its continuity of care.

"Our team delivers quality care and superior customer service. We host nursing managers in the field who support the caregivers and are an amazing asset and

Elevating the King City Business landscape:

Carmelinda Galota and Unlimited HRM Solutions Inc.

By Brittany Grenci

In the heart of King City, a shining beacon of community support and professional expertise has emerged in the form of Unlimited HRM Solutions Inc. This booming Human Resources Management company, founded and led by the indomitable Carmelinda Galota, has quietly become one of the community’s most valuable assets.

Carmelinda’s journey to becoming the esteemed owner of Unlimited HRM Solutions Inc., is one that showcases both her determination and her passion for Human Resources. After obtaining her Bachelor’s de-

gree in Anthropology at York University, she further honed her skills by completing a post-graduate HR certificate with honors, seamlessly blending her love for Anthropology with the business world.

Her HR career kicked off at a distribution center in Etobicoke, where she took on an extensive range of responsibilities, showcasing her remarkable work ethic from the outset. Carmelinda continued to climb the HR ladder, amassing invaluable experience through contract positions and eventually landing a role as an HR Advisor at a international company, where she spent 8 years.

Carmelinda’s personal and professional life took a turn when she suffered a serious car accident. During her recovery, she seized the opportunity to focus on her professional development, ensuring she remained up-to-date in the dynamic HR landscape. This dedication to growth eventually paved the way for Unlimited HRM Solutions Inc..

The company’s name reflects Carmelinda’s extensive experience in her field. She has truly been a generalist throughout her career, handling all aspects of Human Resources priorities with finesse. This in-depth of knowledge has allowed her to build a vast network of connections, making her a go-to resource for businesses in need of HR expertise.

Since its inception, Unlimited HRM Solutions Inc. has seen remarkable growth, now with multiple team members operating out of a dedicated office space at 2169 King Road. Carmelinda’s love for the community far surpasses her professional life as well. She lives in King City and is active in community events alongside her children and husband. She is also involved with the King Township Chamber of Commerce, where she has fostered lasting relationships and connections.

As much success as she’s found, Carmelinda faced additional challenges recently with the loss of both her parents in 2021 and her father-in-law in 2022. Despite these hardships



and the responsibilities of being a wife, mother, daughter, and business owner, she has demonstrated remarkable resilience, guiding her business to new heights. In 2023, Carmelinda has grown her business from a work-from-home solopreneur, to hiring a dedicated team to help expand the Company to its full potential.

Carmelinda, her trusted HR assistant, David, and Marketing Assistant, Catherine, are embarking on some exciting new projects. While the company has been assisting small to medium-sized businesses since 2020, they have recently expanded into helping individuals with services such as resume-building and mock interviews, bridging the gap between businesses and job seekers.

Carmelinda Galota and Unlimited HRM Solutions Inc. are truly an inspiration to those in the community and beyond. Their commitment to professionalism, community engagement, and unwavering support for both businesses and individuals, make them an indispensable asset. As we look to the future, we can only anticipate even greater contributions to the King Township from this remarkable company and its visionary leader.



Unlimited HRM Solutions Inc.
Your Partners in Human Resources Management
(416) 399-0916



By Jim Stewart

Joel Beadle is a busy butcher, but he takes time from preparing fresh sausages and cutting steaks for his steady stream of customers to enjoy a break at The Grackle Coffee Shop – just down Main Street from Schomberg Quality Meats. Beadle is in his first month as the new proprietor after succeeding long-time owner Tony Landolfi who announced his retirement earlier in the summer.

Schomberg Quality Meats has been in business in its current location for over 34 years when the legendary Landolfi opened his doors to customers on the Canada Day Weekend in 1990. Akin to his predecessor, Beadle notes that the most satisfying aspect of operating his downtown butcher shop is “when someone comes back after visiting the store for the first time and they’re happy with what they purchased so much so that they have returned. We have a small town feel to the shop and when new customers and our traditional customers come by, it is very satisfying to look after them.”

Beadle’s customers – new and old – come from far and wide. He serves a loyal customer base that travels from Bradford, Newmarket, and Aurora to complement the numerous King residents who frequent the downtown Schomberg landmark. The youthful owner notes that “We even have regular customers from Etobicoke who pick up barbecue meats on their way to the cottage. A customer from Pickering came in yesterday for our meat pies.” When asked why this steady stream of customers are willing to travel over 50 kilometers for the products richly displayed at his 20-foot meat counter, Beadle states that it’s the “high quality meats that sets us apart. Our in-house-made products – meat

pies, sausages, Wellingtons – attract lots of customers. Our ready-made meals for the oven – roast beef, chicken schnitzel, pork schnitzel, souvlaki – are convenience products that our customers appreciate. We also do bigger orders all the time. This week, we are cutting 180 pounds of smoked chops for a church congregation in Bond Head with which we’ve had a ten-year relationship. Helping them with their fund-raising barbecue event is very satisfying.”

Equally satisfying for the amiable Beadle is to provide “a friendly personal experience when our customers open the door to our store. There will be conversations and our counter will be full of all the product we offer: chicken, lamb, pork, and beef. And we always have salmon available and sea food such as shrimp from Argentina in our freezer.” He talks about the special small town feeling that is derived from being a neighborly shop owner: “I grew up north of Schomberg. I’ve enjoyed living in small towns my entire life and I value the kinds of personal connections that take place. Being a butcher shop owner is a nice connection with people because everyone connects with food. Being able to provide food for special events in peoples’ lives connects us to those important family moments.”

As we complete our beverages at the Grackle, Beadle promotes today’s special: “I’ve just cut some great rib-eyes, but we also have T-Bones on sale for \$15.95 and chicken souvlaki for \$2.99 a skewer.” We walk up bustling Main Street and enter the store. I find the rib-eye steaks irresistible. The friendly butcher picks out two beauties for tonight’s grilling; I add a bag of Argentina shrimp and Joel picks out four Oktoberfest sausages to complete my barbecue menu for two with three canines who will also be omnipresent. Purchasing “Grown-in-King” sweet corn on the

Schomberg Quality Meats: *A Friendly Personal Experience*

“We have a small town feel to the shop and when new customers and our traditional customers come by, it is very satisfying to look after them”

way home will complete the meal.

I also add a two-pound ball of meat trimmings for my three dogs who wolfed down these epicurean butcher shop offerings the next day. Schomberg Quality Meats is renowned for this kind of broad-based customer service – both human and canine – and kids and pups receive delicious chicken fingers as treats when they come into the store. Beadle offers insights into the “raw dog food we supply – it’s 100% human grade food – all our trimmings and beef hearts go into our 2-pound balls of meat along with ground up chicken carcasses. Adding this kind of lean meat experience is such a healthy choice for our pets. We also package femur bones for dogs to enjoy.” This butcher shop in downtown Schomberg is clearly a Heaven on Earth for dogs on raw meat diets.

As Beadle prepares my shopping items for both human and canine consumption, he acknowledges his excitement about transitioning into his proprietorship at Schomberg Quality Meats: “I’m very excited on multiple levels. Going out on my own and running my own business is personally-satisfying. I’m also excited to be closer to my work and family – now we’re living closer in Bradford after living in Sioux Lookout. It’s great to be close to work and our families.”

It’s obvious that the new proprietor of Schomberg Quality Meats is looking forward to carrying on the 30-year-old traditions established by his predecessor, Tony Landolfi. Operating a friendly, family business in the heart of a small town is something Joel Beadle appreciates for the connection it creates and the personal moments he shares with his customers.



By Jim Stewart

Visitors to Cosmocare Automotive Service at 5815 King Road in Nobleton receive a warm welcome from Teresa Oppedisano, who is nearing her milestone 40th anniversary with the landmark car repair shop. Oppedisano revels in the knowledge that she and her husband Cosmo have been serving “Three generations of customers in Nobleton – that’s the beauty of a small town since so much of a thriving business is word of mouth. The best part of this business is dealing with and helping our community. We’ve been operating since 1980 and the community’s support and trust have been incredible.”

I am taken as a first-time visitor with how impeccably clean and welcoming Cosmocare Automotive’s reception area is, right down to a table that is a tribute to traditional print media – three newspapers and 18 current magazines are methodically laid out for customers to enjoy with their complimentary coffee or selected beverage. Teresa mentions to me that “she loves print media and my reading table lends an air of professionalism to our reception.” She adds that although the business has been running since 1980, their original location was just down the street at 5655 King Road which is the current location of their body shop. “We outgrew that location and moved west to set up two companies under one roof: Cosmocare Automotive where we tend to the mechanical repair needs of all makes and models and where we store winter tires in our upper floor; and, Aqua Auto Spa which features a 6-bay self-serve car wash, a soft-touch automated drive-through car wash, and a detailing service.”

A tour of the pristine repair facility reveals



the range of services that Cosmocare Automotive delivers to its customers. Teresa points out to me “The state of the art wheel balancing and alignment equipment, the two lube pits, seven service bays and hoists, and the three detailing areas.” In addition to this first floor, Teresa takes me into a large vehicle elevator with a load limit of 4536 kg (10,000 pounds). The barge-like elevator moves silently to the second floor where Cosmocare Automotive stores its customers’ tires onsite – a refreshing change from so many other automotive service centres that store customers’ tires offsite with the accompanying annoying delays regarding installation or even finding the stored tires in offsite warehouses. “We installed the elevator so we didn’t have to lug the tires and rims upstairs for storage. We have 1600 tires belonging to approximately 400 customers in this section of the facility – all ready for us to install on our customers’ cars in late fall. The tires are always in climate-controlled, indoor conditions which is better for the rubber. The area upstairs is also designated for three detailing zones.”

It’s obvious by the steady stream of satisfied customers who flow into Cosmocare Automotive on a Tuesday afternoon that customer service is at the heart of Oppedisano family’s company: “When our customers walk in our front door, they can expect honesty – first and foremost. They can also expect a familiar face and voice that knows their name. Hanna has learned the importance of those elements as our receptionist. Our industry isn’t one with a great reputation for honesty, but providing people with honest and reliable service is vital to our business model. We also feature an experienced staff – our mechanics team ranges from our youngest mechanic who is completing an apprenticeship at 28 to our oldest mechanic who is in his early 70s. Our youngest mechanics are mentored by our veteran mechanics – some of whom have been repairing cars for generations. These kinds of working dynamics are so vital to the car repair business as older workers mesh with younger workers with both groups bringing their own types of expertise to the challenges of repairing cars. We even open our repair centre to high school co-op students from Cardinal Carter CHS and King City SS to give teenage students in the community an opportunity to get experience

Trustworthy, Honest Auto Repair and Car Wash Services operated by the Oppedisano Family since 1980

in the skilled trades.”

When asked if there’s a special feeling that comes with serving a neighborhood with automotive goods and service for decades, Teresa responds thoughtfully: “We’re fulfilled in what we do. Cosmo is going to be 70 soon, but he continues to do what he does because he loves what he does. Our customers have become friends of ours over the years and this is another very fulfilling aspect of serving the neighborhoods of Nobleton since 1980.”

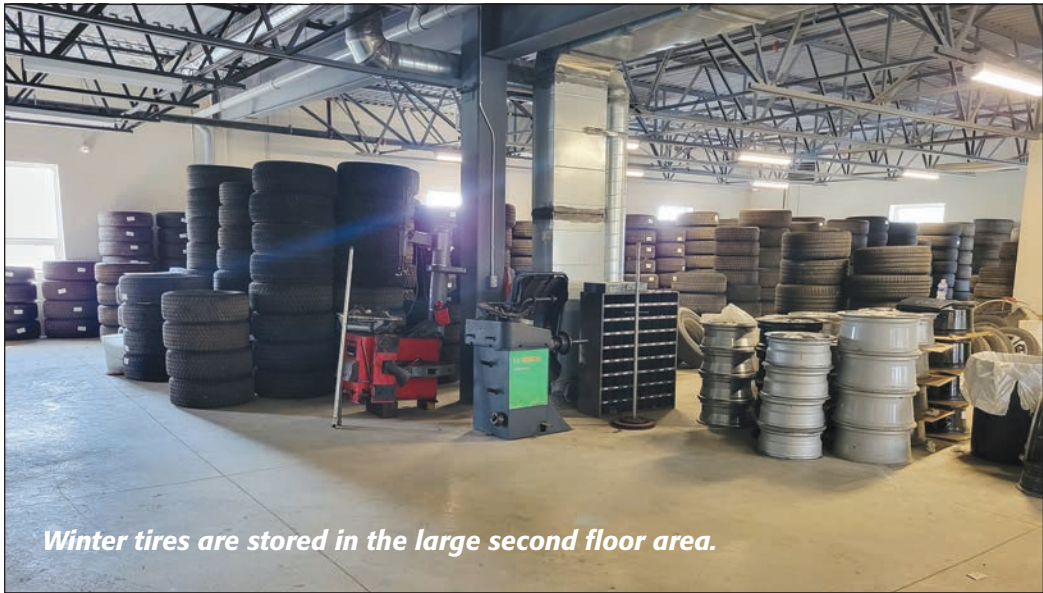
Teresa’s fulfillment as a business operator is evident and she notes that part of that timely service is providing her customers with tires for the upcoming driving challenges of the fall and winter seasons: “Winter tire season is around the corner. Tire rebates from manufacturers will be available in the next few weeks, marking the beginning of a busy time for our shop.”

As more customers file into the airy and roomy reception area of Cosmocare Automotive Service and avail themselves of Teresa Oppedisano’s hospitality and the reading table, I take my leave and drive my car through the soft touch automated car wash with very satisfying results.

My car’s inaugural visit to Cosmocare Automotive Service carries with it the “organized and clean” feeling to which Teresa Oppedisano referred. I’m left with that secure feeling as I drive along King Road that I’ve discovered a reliable and honest automotive shop close by in Nobleton that will meet my many automotive needs.



5815 King Road,
Nobleton
905-859-3848



The Blue Marble Academy takes a personalized approach to tutoring

By Aladin Jarrah

Several years ago, Savita Despot found herself at a crossroads in life. Driven by a desire for greater purpose and fulfillment, she made a decision to depart from the corporate realm and venture into the world of education. After exploring her options, she made the bold choice to chart her own course and establish The Blue Marble Academy.

Since 2013, The Blue Marble Academy has taken a unique, highly personalized approach to tutoring. “When I looked at some of the other tutoring companies, I noticed a common pattern: they typically evaluate students and place them in group settings based on their assessment results. That’s not the way I see it. Every child is different, and I prefer to

“Every child is different... We invest some time in understanding each child individually...”

take a much more personalized approach. We invest some time in understanding each child individually, including their learning style and existing knowledge level. Following this, we match them with a dedicated tutor, ensuring they receive one-on-one attention throughout their entire journey with us.” she says.

Her approach has resonated with King residents and she just moved to larger premises at 2163 King Road.

Here, she will be able to help even more kids, and is also planning on selling some amazing educational products like her own design of a body skeleton to help teach anatomy, science experiments, educational t-shirts and more. A wide ranging and oft changing series of educational products will be available to help make learning effective, and equally important, fun.

Despot is filling a growing need as kids of all ages rebound from the on-line schooling that COVID-19 imposed on us. “Some kids can learn alone on-line, but a lot of kids can’t. After the pandemic, parents understandably

sought to reintroduce a sense of normalcy into their children’s lives. As a result, education took a back seat to the revival of sports, clubs and other recreational activities that had been absent for so long. Consequently, we encountered a significant number of students, particularly those in the critical age range of 7 to 14, who were suddenly facing a curriculum lag of up to two years” she says. Parents would turn to her worried about their children’s slipping grades. The staff at The Blue Marble Academy are intimately familiar with the Ontario Curriculum, and they have helped dozens of students back onto their academic path.

“Our focus is always directly on the student. We don’t give handouts of questions and leave them to work alone. We certainly give them some autonomy, but our work is project based, and their one-on-one tutor works with them throughout the session. That builds a deep understanding of the subject matter and a sense of confidence in the students moving forward. It’s so gratifying to see.” says Despot.

The emergence of Artificial Intelligence software like ChatGPT has introduced new hurdles for students. As schools implement various strategies for the use of such software, students sometimes find themselves in the higher grades without the fundamental skills needed to write an essay or structure a paper. As Despot says, “These are some of the essential building blocks for continuing education. At The Blue Marble Academy, we help students learn how to build a narrative and organise their thoughts in a structured manner. We believe that these are tools that serve individuals not only throughout their academic journey but also throughout their everyday lives.”

The Blue Marble Academy is dedicated to assisting students in subjects such as English, French, Math, Science, and Coding, offering a consistently personalized 1:1 learning environment and maintaining an affordable rate. This passion is deeply ingrained in the ethos of Savita Despot, evident in both her work and the remarkable progress achieved by the students under her team’s guidance.



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VILLANOVA COLLEGE

A Welcoming, Warm, and Safe Academic Community Embraces Phase 3 Building Plans in its 23rd Year of Serving Catholic Students in King City

By Jim Stewart



When asked about the most satisfying aspect of being the Headmaster of Villanova College, Paul Paradiso paused for a moment and focused on “The faith response of the Catholic community when we started the school with 26 students. We promised the first graduates that they would not be in portables, that they would be housed in a building with fourteen classrooms and a gymnasium. That was Phase One. Now, as we initiate Phase Three, 23 years later it remains all about community—about offering a Grade 4-12 school to our parent community.”

The veteran educator has also derived much satisfaction regarding the longevity and loyalty of his staff: “Fifteen faculty members have been with us for over 20 years. Most of our faculty started their careers with us and have established their careers as professionals. They were told that that their voices would be heard.” Paradiso credits VC’s dedicated faculty, as well as the advantages of being a term school, with the supportive learning environment created at Villanova College. “Our teachers and students develop better relationships when they are together for ten months. As a result, we have developed a welcoming, warm, and safe community. We hear time and time again that when prospective, current and alumni families visit campus, they have a sense of warmth and comfort. We really work at making our students comfortable and we want them to know that they’re supported.”

When asked if there’s a special feeling to being a Headmaster of an independent Catholic school and providing a values-based education to students, Paradiso reflected on his twenty-three year journey. His response was warm and emphatic: “We’ve been able to stick to our mission – it’s all about Faith, Academics, and Community. Our teachers are here to serve inside and outside the classroom. All our teachers teach in their specialty areas and we’ve been able to maintain our small class sizes: no more than 20 students in senior classes and 16-20 in our Junior School.”

As exciting as the past 23 years have been for the small school that started in the local church hall to growing into a school of over 565 students enjoying a 53 acre campus, including 77,000 square feet of academic learning spaces, a 38,000 square foot athletic centre and state of the art turf field, the future is just as bright for Villanova.

The King City school recently went public with its first ever capital campaign, Building the Future Together, which will raise funds to see Project 2025 become reality. This next phase of building is actually the completion of Phase 3 of the Master Plan established in 2000 and entails a 40,000 square foot addition. This latest expansion of the already impressive campus will include a 330 seat theatre, specialty music classrooms, rehearsal spaces, a modern dining hall and kitchen, chapel, administrative offices and a new home for the school store. By 2025, when the school celebrates its 25th anniversary, students will be enjoying these new spaces.

It’s evident in our meeting that Headmaster Paul Paradiso sees his role and that of the faculty and staff at Villanova College as a vocation. Their tripartite mission – Faith, Academics, and Community – is evident all over their beautiful countryside campus beside Marylake in King City.



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