



King Weekly Sentinel

PROGRESS EDITION

2026

An annual report highlighting local businesses in King Township

Schomberg Foodland:

Franchise owner Ahsan Wahid is building enduring connections to the King community

BY JIM STEWART

Schomberg Foodland franchise owner Ahsan Wahid is proud of his store's growing connection to King Township: "The best part of managing the Schomberg Foodland is the community – I'm really aware of it after one and a half years of managing the store. Giving back is an amazing feeling. We ran a donation program for the community's food bank and did 300 bags in December. In total, the campaign raised \$11,000 for the food bank."

In addition to raising significant funds to help fight food insecurity in the Township, Foodland's sponsorship of a range of events over the last year is impressive: "We sponsored

the 176th Schomberg Agricultural Spring Fair and provided candy canes for the King Chamber of Commerce's float in the Schomberg Main Street Christmas Parade. We sold 90% of the tickets for the Main Street Christmas Event by helping organizers use our foot traffic in the store. We've supported Michelle McNally's King Arts Society event, and sponsored one of the featured gardens during the Schomberg Horticultural Society's event co-chaired by Beth Egan. Last week, we sponsored the Chamber of Commerce's Farm to Table Event at Sherwood Farm. We're supporting the Arts Society again this year with Patti Skrypek and will be selling tickets to Main Street Christmas again this year."



a recurrent theme at Foodland and Wahid explained how these choices are featured in his store's range of services: "Our meat is 80% cut in-house and we have Beretta Farms chicken and beef on our shelves. Our produce section features in-house made salads and fruit platters and we sell lettuce from Haven Greens. Our full service deli has a full hot food service along with pre-packaged meats and cheeses. Custom-made products are available in our Bakery with most of our items baked in-house."

Looking after his employees who support the sections of his supermarket is a significant element in Ahsan Wahid's role as franchise owner: "Compared to running a 500-employee Walmart, I'm managing a 55-person team here. One of the most satisfying parts of my job is being able to leave the team that's so well-trained so they can run the business – building this team has left me in a comfortable place. I have been able to promote from within since buying the store. Although I hired externally for our Produce Manager position, I promoted one of our meat cutters to Meat Manager, hired our Bakery Manager who had been with us on an interim basis, and promoted Cassidy – who's been here since she was eighteen years old and knows the store so well after eight years with us – to become our Front End Manager. My assistant store manager, Dave, who has been a staple in the community, has been with the store for over forty years, and my Deli Manager has twenty years of experience. I have a well-rounded team, I know their personal lives, and feel connected to our staff."

The veteran grocer grew to love working at No-Frills as a sixteen-



year-old: "I still remember when my manager complimented me on my ability to work well and fast. I'm privileged to provide the same support. We have an 18-year-old who reminds me of me. Growing talent is so important and I was happy to promote four current employees to positions of greater responsibility." Wahid's link to his promoted employees is evident when he acknowledges that "grew from a part-time employee to Manager at Walmart over nine years" and "matured in retail" as District Manager with Dollarama for five years, and learned from a stint "at Hudson Bay for three years." This array of experiences arrived with him in Schomberg when he became franchise owner of the local Foodland.

Although he derives much satisfaction working with his team at his Highway 27 grocery store, Wahid also has a busy family life and recently moved from Ajax to Aurora to be closer to work and create time for his growing family: "My wife Hajira and I are raising three children with a fourth on the way. Hajira is co-owner of the store and comes in twice a week to work, but she does a lot more from home all while keeping our house running! She is my anchor. My seven-year-old boy comes in and helps build displays. He's already told me that he wants to own the store someday. As much as my job is very satisfying, one of the best things at the end of a busy work day is going home and having my daughters run to me. Being a dad is my most important job."

Wahid credits his parents for his success in the retail business: "My parents were always about giving back, I get my compassion from my Mom, and my hard work ethic from my Dad who worked his tail off for

us."

Looking ahead, Wahid wants to build his connectivity to the local community: "We want to make more connections to the two elementary schools in Schomberg. We have three young kids so it's meaningful to me. For every major holiday, we're going to do a decorating event for kids in our bakery. Kids will get to decorate their own cake or cupcake or cookie and take it home for a loved on Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, and Father's Day."



Realty Executives Priority One Makes a New Home in King City

37 years of experience, built on trust, relationships and putting people first



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There's a new real estate presence in King City. Realty Executives Priority One has opened its doors at 2195 King Road, with Frank Covello and Giancarlo Stalteri bringing their experience and people-first approach to the community.

For Frank, Broker of Record and Owner, the new location represents another chapter in a 37-year real estate career built on trust, integrity and honesty.

One of his proudest accomplishments is that approximately 90 per cent of his business comes from repeat clients and referrals – a reflection, he says, of the lasting relationships he has built over the years.

"When clients come back to you, or refer their family and friends, it means they trusted you," Frank says. "That's something I'm very proud of."

Frank is also proud of the team and culture he has created at Realty Executives Priority One. The brokerage emphasizes mentorship, collaboration, continuous learning and strong broker support, with a simple philosophy:

"Our executives and clients are our number one priority."

That philosophy is what attracted Giancarlo Stalteri to the brokerage.

Giancarlo entered the real estate industry around 2021 and was looking for more than a place to work.

He wanted mentorship and a broker who genuinely cared about his development.

"What attracted me to Frank and his brokerage is how much he genuinely cares for his agents," Giancarlo said. "I had never met a realtor who spoke so highly of his agents and genuinely wanted them to succeed."

Today, Giancarlo Stalteri leads the new King City location, offering residential, commercial and pre-construction real estate services.

His approach to real estate is rooted in relationships. Growing up working in his family's

meat shop taught him the importance of knowing customers, understanding their needs and treating people with respect – values he continues to bring to his work today.

The King City office also connects clients with trusted professionals, including mortgage and legal services, providing additional resources through the real estate journey.

With more than 50 years of combined industry experience, Frank and Giancarlo are bringing their commitment to service and relationships to King City.

For them, real estate is about more than completing a transaction.

It's about earning trust, building lasting relationships and being there for clients long after the deal is done.

As Realty Executives Priority One makes its new home in King City, Frank and Giancarlo look forward to becoming part of the community and building relationships for years to come.



Community-builder Sabrina Garieri moves Saggio Law to 2195 King Road in King City to better serve her clients

BY JIM STEWART

Sabrina Garieri is on the move.

The charming Managing Lawyer for Saggio Law is moving her practice from 13066 Keele Street to a local landmark at 2195 King Road in King City.

She explained the rationale for the two-block trek from Margaret Black's long-time office to the heritage residence of WJ Crossley – the village's original barber circa 1888: "This feels like a new beginning, and it feels like Saggio's own space. We have a lot of legacy clients that we like to welcome into our physical office space. This location is more core for us – across from the banks, and it's easier to navigate, given the long-time construction along Keele and King Road. Our lease was coming to an end at our Keele Street location and we had the opportunity to share communal space with another young professional, Giancarlo Stalteri of Realty Executives. We have intentionally designed the space to have a warm, welcoming and comfortable environment to welcome our clients into. It'll feel like home - where we can help our clients make informed decisions, make them aware of their options, and empower them to do what they need to do. We're here to help people with big life changes."

Garieri explained the range of services offered by Saggio Law to help clients deal with those big life changes and decisions: "Real estate law, wills and estates, estate administration, family law, and general contract or corporate/commercial work."

After one and a half years as Managing Lawyer for Saggio Law Professional Corporation, Garieri discussed the most satisfying aspects of running a law firm: "Being able to help people during different transitions in their life – to break down things that are often overwhelming. It's satisfying to run my practice in a way that reflects my personal values. Our team really takes the time to put extra effort into making sure that the clients have a tailored, personalized experience. I'm also looking forward to continuing to build a team with shared values and visions. It's equally important for me to make sure that my team feels that they work with me, not for me. We are a unit and I want everyone to feel equally as valued."

That kind of connection is one of the

things that impels Garieri and it manifests itself in her support of local community initiatives: "Prior to going to Law School in Ottawa, I volunteered regularly at an 'Out of the Cold' program, and I learned the value of social agencies. We sponsor a hole annually at Sacred Heart Parish's Golf Tournament where part of the proceeds from the event go to The Blue Door charitable organization in Newmarket. As well, Saggio Law has sponsored Cortellucci Hospice fundraisers to help our local healthcare programs. We're also sponsoring Sacred Heart's Gala on October 24th. I'm on the Gala's organizing/fundraising committee and will be serving as Emcee. Prior to that, I'll be volunteering at the Smiles of Innocence Golf Tournament at Nobleton Lakes on September 17 where proceeds will be going to Sick Kids Hospital."

Garieri's business motto is "Strength in Law, Compassion in Practice" and that blend of strength and compassion is evident in the long-time King resident's actions in the community and her helpfulness as a lawyer: "I grew up here – it's my turn to leave a positive imprint on the community. I've always known that I wanted to make a difference – to be myself so I can be warm, empathetic, and open – and show my authentic values. I pride myself on being a strong advocate for my clients and dealing with clients in such a way where they feel not just heard, but understood. When people come to me and they're often quite stressed out and overwhelmed, and I try to pass on a feeling of confidence where clients feel that they can work through what is going on in their life in a step by step way, and that's been so rewarding. When I close a file, it's a good feeling that I've helped someone walk away happy with their problems solved. I want to practice that way – to bring my personal values into my day-to-day dealings. It's an open invitation to come in and visit. We're here to talk about what you need to talk about."

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‘Lighting the fires for the first time and seeing the happy faces of customers’ fuels Fireplace Stop owner Andy Leonard in his 40th year of service in Schomberg

BY JIM STEWART

The Fireplace Stop owner and operator Andy Leonard has been serving customers from his Schomberg store since 1987 and bought out a competitor in Parry Sound in 2025 to consolidate a second location.

The amiable and engaging fireplace expert explained the satisfaction he derives from looking after his customers in the store’s far-flung locations.

“To put a smile on a customer’s face is a real achievement. You deal with all kinds of personalities in any business, but we’re confident in our range of products — that they’ll look after all the different tastes of our customers. We’ve got the Buicks, the Porsches, and the Lamborghinis in our showroom. It’s also really about the people — my staff — that make Fireplace Stop what it is. We’re pleased to have twenty home-grown employees who look after our customers with installations and service our range of products properly. Specs change constantly in this business so we’re happy to be connected to a Georgian College co-op program. We’re able to bring in cutting edge, talented technicians in the fall and train them during their co-op placements,” said Leonard.

Responding to an ever-evolving economy is a requirement for any successful business and Leonard acknowledged this decade’s unique challenges.

“The only constant in the twenty-first century is change and we are living it. It’s changing all the time. The models we sell have changed so much even in five years. Each piece of equipment has its own bible and keeping up with the changes keeps us

energized. New product lines can change every six months so we keep pace with new specs and installation methods. Staying current is what creates our relationship with our clients — meeting their needs gives us so much satisfaction. We like these challenges — we built this company on that level of service that responds to change,” said Leonard.

Those myriad services are manifested in the company’s recent radio ad which is in regular rotation on local radio stations around Central Ontario. The thirty-second spot outlines home and cottage products offered at both Schomberg and Parry Sound locations, including fireplaces, fireplace inserts, freestanding stoves, outdoor living, and venting components. The company’s impressive range of brands is referenced in the radio commercial and reinforced with a visit to its expansive showroom at the Crossroads Mall at Highways 9 and 27: DaVinci Custom Fireplaces; Enviro Fireplaces; Fireplace Xtordinaire; Jotul North America; Lopi Stoves; Marquis Fireplaces; Pacific Energy; Regency Fireplace Products; Renaissance Fireplaces; RSF Fireplaces; Spartherm Fireplaces; Stuv America; Tempest Touch; and Town and Country Fireplaces. The congenial owner of The Fireplace Stop was pleased with the lively, invitational, and engaging voiceover that moves the ad and deepens the connectivity of his brand with homeowners and cottage owners across multiple regions.

In addition to connecting with prospective customers via radio waves and the company’s navigable, interactive website,



the diligent and dedicated owner is deeply connected to his community through sponsorships.

“We purchased the #1 sponsorship at a MacTier/Parry Sound Charity Walk on behalf of the Lion’s Club that will raise funds for Diabetes Canada on Oct. 3. We’ve sponsored a number of local hockey teams and individual hockey players, but the players have to come in and visit with us before any sponsorship funds are dispersed. Our company raised money for cancer research through golf tournaments for many years, but we found that that kind of fundraising got old due to so many tournaments having the same goals. Most importantly, when we have the chance to give back, we do,” said Leonard.

Leonard acknowledges at the end of a busy Friday afternoon that their customers also give back to them in meaningful ways,

it’s a two-way street of customer service.

“It’s very rewarding to help and direct our customers. They make us feel so great when we help them achieve what they set to accomplish. We build our relationships with people and enjoy showing interest in their plans and, by extension, the things they do in their own lives. We learn so much in our conversations at various stages of our installations,” he said.

Leonard concurs along with his staff: “We’re so blessed to have so many great customers and to be able to do something that we enjoy doing each and every day. It’s great to see when our clients are so ecstatic that the fireplace has become the focal point of the room. Lighting the fires for the first time and seeing the happy faces is an amazing experience for both of us. We’re making them more comfortable and they’re so happy with the installation.”



Drop by either of our locations and one of our home grown team members will be happy to help you:

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Service/Install Team — Scott Leonard, Eric Newton, Lucas Dowdle, Corey Hillier, Dan Newton, Matt Welna, Nicholas Bartucci, Michael Crane



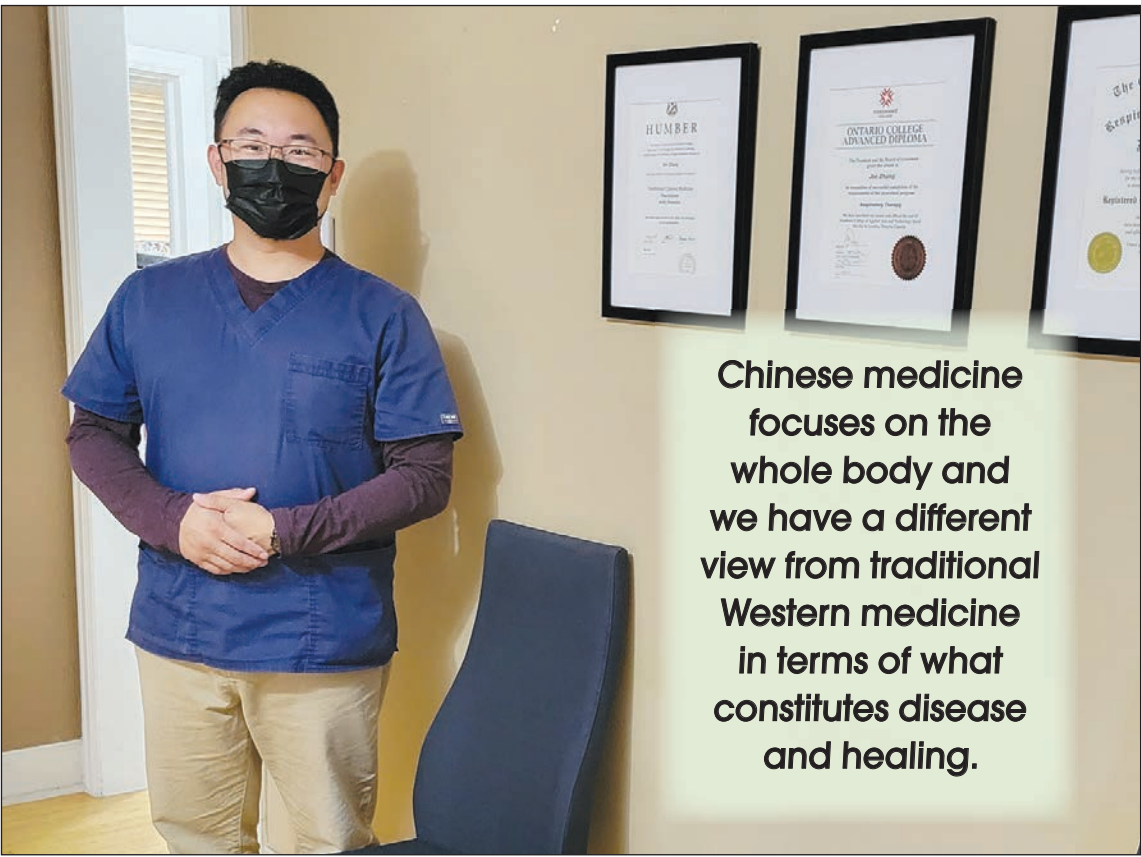
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Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM): Ontario Pain Clinic in Bolton provides natural remedies and therapies for an array of ailments

BY JIM STEWART

Joe Zhang’s TCM Ontario Pain Clinic in Bolton is an island of tranquility on a busy Friday afternoon. The soothing effects of both instrumental music and Pu Er tea complement the serene chorus of song-birds – all of which resonates in the clinic’s comfortable reception area. Amid this calming environment, Zhang explains the healing properties of the Pu Er tea he pours into two mugs for us: “It’s a Green Tea that promotes longevity, it helps with digestion, and it’s aged for easier take-in. It has a light kind of caffeine. It’s mild and subtle.” Between sips of his steaming, therapeutic mug of Pu Er, Zhang acknowledges the growing influence of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Canada: “TCM is definitely growing here. It’s starting to catch up to American standards of practice. Acupuncture, for example, is a mainstay in American medicine – it is the standard therapy for back pain and shoulder pain. It’s often the first thing an American physician will recommend to alleviate a patient’s back or shoulder pain.” The Traditional Chinese Medicine to which Zhang alludes – including Acupuncture, RMT and Tui Na Massage, Foot Reflexology, Natural Herbal Medicine, Hot Stone Therapy, Facial Rejuvenation, and Osteopathy—runs in his family.



www.ontariopainclinic.com

Zhang hails from a multigenerational line of healers all the way back to China: “My father’s side of the family has always been medicine-focused. When my parents and grandparents moved from China, we started up the TCM business in Orangeville over twenty years ago. My dad and mom opened that clinic and now we have four locations including Bolton, Shelburne, and Collingwood. I joined them after I finished my Western and specialized certification at Humber College, Fanshawe College, and the University of Toronto.” The personable graduate of a range of higher learning institutes represents the fusing of both contemporary Western medical practices and the ancient principles of Traditional Chinese Medicine: “Chinese Medicine is not conventional. It was developed in Asia and has 4000 years of medical history. It started through the work of court physicians who cared for Emperors. It’s a different way of looking at the body. It’s more of a food science – so many health problems are diet-related.” Zhang’s passion for healing is evident in our conversation and he lays the blame for numerous maladies on the North American diet: “Diet plays such a big role in life. Fundamentally, so many problems are diet or nutrition-related. Common problems – high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, rheumatic arthritis – can be traced back to diet choices over decades. Acupuncture and herbal teas are treatments for many of these and our soups have so many healing properties and nutrients.” Zhang elaborates on this vital connection: “Medicine is food and food is medicine. Our soup is used to cure us and nourish us. Soups are adjusted, depending on what people are suffering from. Here, people come to us in pain and our ingredients aid digestion, pass toxins from the system, and nourish. Chinese medicine focuses on the whole body and we have a different view from traditional Western medicine in terms of what constitutes disease and healing.”

The personable clinician emphasizes that it’s not only what people are eating that is causing problems, but it’s also when they eat. Zhang discloses his own daily approach regarding the timing of meals: “No eating after 2-3 PM, except for fruits or vegetables. No protein or carbs after that time since they tend to store in the belly area. I have a big breakfast at 9 AM, a big lunch around 1 PM, and skip dinner. Too often, our patients describe their biggest meal of the day being dinner which creates problems with digestion and causes sleeplessness.” Joe Zhang’s commitment to this regimen, as well as to his patients, is clear: “It’s very satisfying. We meet people that are not going through the best times of their life. They are in pain and in need of help. They are suffering from headaches, migraines, vehicle or sports injuries, carpal tunnel syndrome, neck, shoulder, knee, or back pain. Patients seek our help for insomnia, depression, anxiety, fatigue, obesity and weight control, high blood pressure, infertility, hot flashes, allergies, and skin or thyroid disorders. To heal them is not only about my accomplishments, but, more importantly, their accomplishments. By using a blend of Western methods and Chinese medicine, we serve our clients with care and compassion. We alleviate their pain and stress in order to restore balance. By treating the whole body and not just the symptoms, we can heal and restore their health so they can enjoy a better quality of life.” Zhang’s invitation to Friday afternoon tea encapsulated so many of his attributes as a healer and the demonstrated the calming impact he has on those searching for relief from chronic pain. After chatting with the soft-spoken, caring, and compassionate pain clinic proprietor, I was rejuvenated by the two mugs of Pu Er he’d prepared for me and was ready to tackle my final Friday field assignment in Caledon. Based on our interaction and seeing the satisfied clients streaming in and out of his clinic, it’s clear that Joe Zhang has a restorative impact on his patients in Bolton.

Female-led UROSPOT clinics help clients regain confidence and quality of life

BY BRITTANY GRENCI

Pelvic floor concerns are often something people quietly learn to live with, but two local female business owners are working to change that conversation. Casey Maracle, owner of UROSPOT Vaughan-Kleinburg, and Rose Paemurd, owner of UROSPOT Richmond Hill, are helping make pelvic health care more approachable, comfortable and accessible for women and men. UROSPOT offers pelvic floor strengthening using Health Canada-licensed and FDA-approved technology, along with education, health coaching and personalized treatment plans. The clinics work with a range of clients, from new mothers to people in their 90s, but also see many younger individuals looking for help with pelvic health concerns come

through their doors. “A lot of these issues are things people think are common with aging and after giving birth,” said Paemurd. “In reality, these are signs of weakened muscles and we have the ability to strengthen them with no downtime.” Clients begin with a complimentary consultation with a nurse who reviews their medical history. From there, they can experience the technology and choose between a physiotherapy route or a nurse-led treatment stream. Treatment typically includes six sessions along with personalized health coaching, education and nutrition guidance. Clients are also taught how to properly perform Kegel exercises at home. For Maracle, entering the business was personal. After watching her moth-

er struggle with pelvic floor discomfort, she wanted to help other women regain confidence and feel like themselves again. Paemurd was similarly drawn to the opportunity after recognizing a lack of accessible pelvic floor strengthening services in her own community. That female-led perspective brings an added layer of empathy, particularly for women dealing with pelvic floor changes following pregnancy and childbirth. For both owners, the most rewarding part is seeing clients get their quality of life back. This sentiment really hit home when the owners relayed a story of a client whose goal was to run a marathon without experiencing leakage and discomfort — and she was eventually able to do just that.

Their message is simple: people do not have to quietly suffer through pelvic floor weakness. With the right support, these muscles can be strengthened and everyday confidence can be restored. UROSPOT Vaughan-Kleinburg is located at 10513 Islington Ave., Kleinburg and can be reached at 289-657-8770. UROSPOT Richmond Hill is located at 7-11860 Yonge St., Richmond Hill and can be reached at 905-780-3268. Visit www.urospot.com for more information or to book a consultation.



BLUE MARBLE ACADEMY

Takes Student Support Beyond Tutoring

For Blue Marble Academy, helping a student succeed has never been just about improving a grade. The King City-based education company has built its approach around understanding each student as an individual – and now, it is taking that support well beyond traditional tutoring.

Founded by King Township resident Savita Despot, Blue Marble Academy is best know for its personalized, one-on-one tutoring, where students work consistently with the same instructor. The academy also offers coding and other educational programs designed to build confidence and practical skills.

Over the past year, however, Savita and her team began noticing another need among their students.

Many were leaving tutoring and heading straight to hockey practice, dance, training or another activity, only to return home later and still have homework and studying waiting for them. For young people trying to balance school, sports and busy schedules, simply knowing the material isn't always enough. They also need the tools to organize their time, manage stress, stay focused and move from one responsibility to the next.

That realization led Blue Marble to expand into executive functioning support.

Executive functioning refers to the skills we use every day to plan, organize, set goals, solve problems, manage emotions and control impulses. By incorporating these skills into its programming, Blue Marble is offering students a unique layer of support that looks at the bigger picture of their lives.

“More than 60 per cent of our students are involved in competitive-level sports, so we knew they needed support beyond tutoring,” said Savita. “They’re balancing school, training, homework and busy schedules, and we wanted to give them practical tools to manage all of those different parts of their lives.”

That need led to the creation of Blue Marble’s Athletes Lab, a unique program that brings together traditional tutoring, executive functioning strategies and sports coaching. Students explore everything from mindfulness, breathing and emotional regulation to balance and coordination. Nutrition is also part of the program, helping young athletes understand how properly fuelling their bodies can support concentration and cognitive function.

The idea is simple but valuable: give students the tools to “reset” and better manage the many demands placed on them throughout the day.

Blue Marble is also expanding that knowledge into a new Executive Functioning Certification Program for adults 18 and older. The program will train participants to support others with executive functioning while teaching strategies they can apply in their own lives. A beta program will run through November and December, with the official certification anticipated between February and May.

For Savita and her team it is another way of looking at education as a whole – supporting not just how students learn, but how they manage, adapt and thrive in everyday life.

To learn more about Blue Marble Academy and its programs, call 905-833-3233.





**THE
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ACADEMY**

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MP ANNA ROBERTS: *Representing the community begins with listening*



Five years ago this September, the people of King—Vaughan placed their trust in me and elected me to serve as their Member of Parliament. I'm forever grateful for that trust and reminded every day that representing our community begins with listening.

Our community is made up of people who show up for one another: volunteers, small business owners, caregivers, seniors, young families and neighbours who give their time to make King and Vaughan stronger. I have seen that spirit at community celebrations, local events and in the everyday conversations that help me understand what matters most to residents.

Before entering Parliament, I spent many years volunteering in our community, including at King City Lodge. That experience shaped how I approach public service: with respect, compassion and a commitment to making sure people feel heard. In Ottawa, I continue to bring your concerns forward, including in my work as Shadow Minister for Seniors. Issues such as saving you money, keeping you safe, fixing our immigration system, and saving Canadian jobs, and businesses from the threats south of the border.

Families across King and Vaughan need practical solutions to these issues, not empty promises. My Conservative colleagues and I have been calling for action now. We've tabled an economic action plan in Parliament that would lower taxes and green-light 500 projects awaiting federal approval that would help make Canada self-sufficient. We've brought forward many tough-on-crime bills that would keep repeat violent offenders, and the thieves stealing cars out of your driveways in jail, where they belong. The Liberal government has voted against all of these practical measures. These issues matter locally, where young people want a chance to afford their first home, families want to feel safe, and seniors want to remain in the communities they helped build.

But service is not only measured by what happens in Parliament. It is also about being accessible, helping residents navigate federal service issues and making sure their voices are heard on Parliament Hill and part of the decisions that affect them. If you have any concerns, please contact my office at anna.roberts@parl.gc.ca or 905-303-5000, I would love to speak with you!

As I recollect the past five years as your Member of Parliament, I want to thank everyone who has shared a concern, offered an idea, volunteered, or welcomed me into their community celebration. Your stories and thoughts guide my work. I will keep showing up, listening and advocating for King—Vaughan with the same dedication that residents have shown one another for generations.





www.annarobertsmp.ca



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(905)-303-5000

A Career Built on Trust, Experience and a Genuine Passion for Real Estate

BY BRITTANY GRENCI

For more than three decades, Gemma Barclay has been helping people turn their real estate dreams into reality. As a REALTOR® with RE/MAX Realtron Realty Inc., Gemma has built her career on something she believes matters most in real estate: putting her clients first. With 31 years of experience, Gemma has witnessed tremendous changes in the real estate industry. She has experienced shifting markets, changing technology, evolving buyer expectations and countless ups and downs in the GTA real estate landscape. Through it all, one thing has remained constant – her commitment to providing personal, knowledgeable service from beginning to end.

Gemma's real estate expertise extends well beyond traditional residential homes. She specializes in luxury properties, country homes, farms, vacant land, investments, first-time buyers, upsizers and downsizers. Her previous experience building custom homes has also given her a unique understanding of construction, design and the many considerations that go into buying or selling a property. Based in King City, Gemma has developed strong connections throughout King Township, including King City, Nobleton and Schomberg, as well as surrounding communities. She understands that every community – and every client – is different.

ent. For Gemma, being a REALTOR® is about much more than putting a sign on a property. It is about listening, advising, communicating and being there when her clients need her. Whether she is helping a first-time buyer find their first home, assisting a family with a move, marketing a luxury estate or guiding a seller through a challenging market, she takes a hands-on approach. Her clients appreciate that personal attention. Gemma believes sellers should always know what is happening with their property and buyers should feel confident that someone is looking after their best interests.

After 31 years in the business, Gemma's greatest accomplishment is not simply the number of homes she has sold – it is the relationships she has built along the way. Many clients have become lifelong friends, and past clients continue to turn to her for advice and referrals. Looking ahead, Gemma remains as enthusiastic about real estate as ever. Her philosophy is simple: provide exceptional service, share her experience and knowledge, and treat every client as though they are her most important client. For Gemma Barclay, real estate has never simply been a career. It is a commitment to people, their families and the places they call home.

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BY JIM STEWART

Owner-Operator Tony Colonna moves seamlessly from distributing drive-through packs to assembling orders to mingling with customers in his restaurant during the Friday noon rush hour at the end of August.

Simply stated, Tony is a lifer with McDonald's and a natural in the hospitality business.

He started with the company by working fries at the age of fifteen and has worked in numerous capacities for McDonald's for just over 42 years – the last 19 of which have been spent as an owner-operator.

Mr. Colonna owns six regional McDonald's restaurants. In addition to his most recent acquisition in King City on Dufferin, north of King Sideroad, Tony owns other McDonald's locations in Aurora, Oak Ridges, East Gwillimbury, and Newmarket.

The amiable restaurateur – who resides in nearby Maple – claims humorously that there's been a long-term impact on him after decades with McDonald's: "I've got ketchup in my veins."

Watching Tony interact with his staff during a busy Friday noon rush demonstrates his knowledge of business top-to-bottom as he carries takeout bags to customers, mingles with diners, assists with incoming orders, fills bags to help his young staff with a plethora of rush hour meals, and settles in for our interview. It's obvious that working in this atmosphere is a big part

of Tony's life and he sees the sky as the limit for his King City restaurant's potential: "Right now is the future – the development of the community is coming which will supply us with future customers and future employees. We're excited about the Longo's opening next door – which is just around the corner next month. The future of this area is exciting and the future of King City is bright.

Despite the slowdown in some sectors of the economy, Tony derives much satisfaction from his work: "I love working with people – I still have a great rapport with staff and customers. It's rewarding to treat people with respect. Getting to know the customers is fun. As we often say in this business, it's never the same day twice."

Tony also loves working out of the King City location so that he can keep an eye on his parents who live nearby in North York: "My dad's 92 and my mom's 83. They're still living in their home so it's nice to be able to drop in after work and give them any help they need, but they are very independent."

Like his independent parents, Tony exhibits "boundless energy" and he acknowledges some of the challenges in the hospitality industry in that "every day here is a work in progress. We're working on creating greater connection with our guests. It's getting harder to do that and to teach that to employees given the impact of social media, but we're working on eye contact

Owner-Operator Tony Colonna's claim that he has "Ketchup in his veins" manifests itself in his kindly, helpful interactions with staff and customers at King City's McDonald's

and personal connection so our guests always feel welcomed and that they're being helped."

Tony's heart is firmly entrenched in hospitality in its truest meanings and applications.

While he has a "passion for vegetable gardening and I enjoy snowmobiling in the winter," it's evident that Tony's connection to his staff and guests is what motivates him through the work day. As we move through the kitchen, we observe the diligence and efficiency of his team of workers—many of which appear to be high-school and university students.

Tony's manager Megan Keller confirms my observation: "75% of our staff is comprised of students. They're part-time employees, many of whom will be returning to high school, university, or college next week. A couple of our students who are working in the restaurant today have been with us as part-timers for almost two years."

The owner-operator interjects and praises her importance: "Megan's the leader of the restaurant. We couldn't do what we do without her. She's been with us since we started ownership 18 months ago. Megan brought eight years of experience with McDonald's when she moved to our restaurant in King City."

In addition to his connection to Megan and the team, Mr. Colonna also described his restaurant's deep links with the community: "The proceeds from McHappy Day in May – which totaled \$8400 – went to Mackenzie Health. We have an ongoing relationship with Mackenzie Health and support the important things the hospital does for our community. We're engaged in local fundraising and sponsorships of varying kinds. A percentage of all our sales go directly to Ronald McDonald House – this amount is determined by corporate headquarters."

As I enjoy my classic Egg McMuffin, a large Earl Grey tea, and a freshly-baked blueberry muffin, the restaurant re-fills with mid-day walk-in customers. A continual flow of drive-through vehicles negotiates the traffic circle that returns them to Dufferin. All are supplied with the gustatory goodies that Tony Colonna has been serving for forty-two years. It's a beehive of commercial activity – and it's clear that Mr. Colonna wouldn't want it any other way. There is, indeed, ketchup running in his veins as a McDonald's lifer.

10 Tatton Ct., KING CITY
905-833-8322
www.mcdonalds.com



Tony Colonna



Education with Balance at CDS: Discovering Passion and Inspiring Excellence for 54 Years

BY MARK PAVILONS

Education should be about building character and opening the world to students’ potential and passion.

And that theme – “Education with Balance” – is at the very foundation of The Country Day School and always has been since its founding in 1972.

King’s renowned JK-12 independent school recognizes that every student is unique, with distinct strengths and talents. Often, the students arrive not even recognizing what they’re capable of. But that’s where CDS staff and its top-notch curriculum come into play.

Encouraging students to become engaged, and finding out who they are, are integral components of this philosophy. When you encourage students to discover their passions, you spark a curiosity that naturally leads to academic success.

Dave Harvey, Director of Academics for Middle and Senior School, noted that CDS helps students build a map and explore their passions. Along with high-level academics, other pursuits like sports, arts and various extra-curricular activities (notably a world-recognized Public Speaking & Debate team and rapidly growing Model United Nations and Robotics clubs), help students discover “how they’re built.”

“Character is key,” Harvey says, adding this “balance” helps the leaders of tomorrow make sure they’re making the right career choices.

And that’s reflected in feedback from CDS grads, who often reconnect with staff, saying CDS prepared them well for what comes next in life.

There is no better endorsement.

Harvey said staff try to make sure graduates leave CDS with a sense of pride and confidence that can not only allow them to excel in a competitive world, but compete on the world stage.

Leadership skills and lending students a voice is all part of something much bigger – nurturing whole individuals.

Harvey pointed out that CDS has a Grade 11 course in wellness and happiness that explores psychological and emotional nuances in personal growth. Challenging Perceptions of Well-Being is an interdisciplinary course that examines numerous aspects of well-being, including physical, psychological, spiritual and social factors with a research component and opportunity for self-reflection.

A sense of confidence and enthusiasm are evident in the hallways of CDS. You can feel it in the air and see it on the young people’s faces.

Part of the “balance” also comes from an active and engaged group of parents.

Kim Sillcox, Director of Communications and Marketing, noted the CDS Parent Association is very active and involved, particularly with organizing social events and attending popular music and drama events. These undertakings also draw huge support from the

community at large.

While not known as a sports powerhouse, CDS encourages student participation in the 24 sports they offer and is presently building a new 58,000 square foot Athletic Centre that will be a phenomenal addition to the 100-acre campus. Students are encouraged to try a variety of sports before they graduate, both for fun and for competition. The CDS rugby program has been strong for more than 35 years and interest is now growing for volleyball and flag football. Some notable graduates have gone on to receive sports scholarships and Olympic and professional sports fame.

Harvey noted their approach in accommodating high-performing athletics has evolved to support high-performing artists and actors as well.

From taking their first step onto the soccer pitch, to passionately leading a meeting in the Social Justice Club, CDS offers a rich landscape that extends far beyond traditional academics. This diverse mix of people, ideas, and opportunities is designed to cultivate a sense of balance, transcending the confines of traditional academics and equipping students for life.

“Education with Balance” is not about doing everything, but about providing exposure to multifaceted opportunities within academics, athletics, arts, and leadership. These experiences have laid the foundation to CDS’s approach that creates adaptable, socially responsible, and successful individuals who are prepared to make meaningful contributions to society.

According to Dave Harvey, “The value of a CDS education is the result, in part, of our ability to create a culture that encourages students to draw their map, and to discover what should matter most. It’s in our student-life offerings, it’s in our Portrait of Graduate and character education, it’s prominent in our Athletics and Arts programs, and it’s especially evident in the supporting and caring culture we have worked so hard to create.”

“Our ultimate goal is that by the time each student graduates, they’ve had ample opportunity to discover uncharted lands, to question what they’ve plotted, and by doing so, strengthen and define their map’s contour lines, explore side routes and maybe even a few dead ends. That’s what Education with Balance promotes – self-discovery and, hopefully, the uncovering of new passions and directions. In other words, a maturing map that will steer them with clear direction toward what gives them meaning and hopefully leads them toward a successful future and a flourishing life.”

Yes, education is about discovery. And self-discovery is an integral part of a young person’s journey.

The balance offered at The Country Day School takes that to heart, and makes sure each student leaves with newfound awareness, inner strength and academic prowess.

Future leaders, indeed.

Meet a few CDS Alumni from King City:



Montana Mortimer
Class of 2010
*Partner, Investor Relations
Langdon Equity Partners*



Michael Rokas
Class of 2016
Senior Developer, Shopify



Jose Torrealba
Class of 2017
*Software Engineer, Goldman Sachs
New York City*



Chloë Rose Flowers
Class of 2018
*Performer, Producer, Playwright
Founder of King Theatre Company*



CDS

The Country Day School

EDUCATION WITH BALANCE

ROB PAYNE



Bringing local roots and financial guidance together

BY BRITTANY GRENCI

For Rob Payne, building a career around helping people make confident decisions feels like a natural extension of the life he has built in King Township.

Born and raised in King City, Payne has deep roots in the community. His family has called the area home for generations, and he attended King City Secondary School before earning his degrees from York and Western University. His early career took him into advertising and corporate roles with companies including Young & Rubicam, Sprint Canada, Bell, Primus, and Nestlé Canada.

But throughout those years, community involvement remained constant.

Payne became the youngest councillor elected in Ward 1 in 1988 and has since remained active with organizations including the King City Lions Club and King City Seniors Club. He also serves on the board of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, where his responsibilities include strategic decision-making, disciplinary matters and chairing the Finance and Audit Committee.

That combination of community service, business experience and financial aptitude eventually led Payne to his current role as a financial advisor with Edward Jones in Bolton, where he has been serving clients since 2017.

Today, his focus is helping business owners, retirees and families with young children make sense of their finances and plan with greater confidence, freedom and peace of mind along the way.

“I like to think of it as bringing organization to my clients’ financial lives and making informed decisions that keep them on track

through life’s opportunities, transitions and challenges,” Payne says.

That means looking beyond investments alone. Payne also works with clients on financial literacy, budgeting, aligning their wealth with their goals, values, and vision for the future and long-term planning, with the goal of helping them better understand where they stand and where they want to go.

As an advisor with Edward Jones, Rob is able to take a broad, personalized approach to each client’s financial needs rather than being limited to the products of a particular bank. This allows him and his team to look at a range of investment and financial strategies, consider what makes the most sense for each individual situation and build a plan around their client’s goals, priorities, and comfort level. Rob’s focus is not on pushing a particular product, but on helping clients understand their options and determine which path is best suited to their longterm financial picture. He also places strong emphasis on education, ensuring clients understand the reason behind the decisions they make.

For Payne, that trust is especially meaningful because many of the people he serves are from the same community that shaped him.

Even an initial meeting is designed to provide value, with no obligation to move forward. His aim is simple: help people ask better questions, understand their options and ultimately work toward greater financial freedom and peace of mind.

For those interested in taking a closer look at their financial goals and exploring their options, Rob and his team can be reached at 905-857-0874.



METRO WIDE PAVING: A Nobleton Family Business Built on Integrity and Craftsmanship

BY BRITTANY GRENCI

For nearly four decades, Metro Wide Paving has been laying the foundation for homes and businesses across the Greater Toronto Area. Based in Nobleton, Ontario, this family-owned and operated company has earned a reputation for quality, reliability, and community values that stand the test of time.

Founded in 1986 by Joe Zappia, Metro Wide Paving has grown into a true family affair. Today, Joe works alongside his son, Benny, and his two sons-in-law, Jason and Ryan. Together, they form a tightly knit team that blends experience, innovation, and family pride into every project.

From asphalt driveways to commercial parking lots, concrete sidewalks to intricate interlock designs, Metro Wide Paving has built a name as one of the GTA’s most trusted paving specialists. Their services also include excavation, grading, and gravel installation – making them a one-stop solution for residential and commercial clients alike.

One of the hallmarks of Metro Wide’s success is their ability to deliver on strict timelines. The team prides itself on coordinating smoothly with other contractors, ensuring projects stay on schedule and stress-free for clients. Jason, who oversees contractor communication, explains that this extra step makes a world of difference. By taking the coordination off of a client’s hands, the Metro Wide team allows homeowners and business owners to focus on the excitement of their finished space rather than the headaches of construction logistics.

But the company’s approach goes beyond simply delivering a finished product. For Joe and his team, value is measured in client satisfaction, long-term durability, and the re-



lationships built along the way. Their work has been recognized for consistently meeting high standards, whether the job is a small residential project or a large-scale commercial build.

For Jason, it’s the human side of the business that matters most. “The most rewarding thing about this work is helping our clients build out their vision for a project, providing them with my unique professional perspective and finally their joy and pride seeing the finished product.”

That sentiment is echoed across the entire Metro Wide team. Every job begins with an in-depth consultation, where clients are guided through options, cost estimates, and scope of work. Throughout the process, the company emphasizes clear communication, honesty, and integrity – values that have kept them a trusted name in the community since day one.

When the work is done, Metro Wide Paving doesn’t just pack up and move on. Their team remains available to address future needs, reflecting their commitment to long-term client relationships. It’s this dedication that has allowed them to thrive for nearly 40 years and continue growing through word of mouth and repeat business.

Whether it’s refreshing a family’s driveway, installing interlocking stone patios, or tackling large commercial lots, Metro Wide Paving delivers results that last. Rooted in family values and guided by decades of experience, they remain a cornerstone of craftsmanship in Nobleton and beyond. For more information or to receive a free consultation, visit metrowidepaving.ca.



STEPHEN LECCE:

Seizing the Moment

It has been the privilege of my life to represent King and Vaughan in the Ontario Legislature since 2018. Now more than ever, we have remained hyper focused on **moving with speed and ambition** to deliver legacy projects that will benefit future generations. Infusing hope and certainty into our community and the broader economy, in an ever-changing and upended world order.

KEEPING TAXES LOW

For Ontario, our focus is on affordability for families and seniors in King and Vaughan. **We cut the gas tax** by 10 cents per litre, removed the HST from new homes, **cut small business taxes** by 30%, and launched the **largest energy savings program** in Canadian history (check it out: [SaveOnEnergy.ca](#)) all designed to keep more money in your pockets.

BETTER HEALTHCARE, CLOSER TO HOME

We are also making progress on improving healthcare in our community. I am proud to announce that the King—Vaughan community is on track to **connect every resident to a family doctor or primary care team** within the next three years. That is our promise to you, which is backed by a \$3.4 billion investment from our government through Ontario’s Primary Care Action Plan. In our community, I announced over \$7 million in funding to connect over 18,000 residents to a family doctor at the Vaughan Community Health Centre and the new Mackenzie Health Academic Family Health Team.

Our government is also moving forward with a **second Southlake hospital** site just north of Highway 9, alongside redevelopment of the existing New-market hospital, which marks the second net-new hospital build in York Region since 2018 after we opened the state-of-the-art Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital.

We are supporting couples facing long waits, mental health struggles, and financial barriers to fertility services by investing nearly \$3.4 million in the Vaughan-based Generations Fertility Clinic — helping enable an estimated 336 IVF cycles for couples to start a family. This investment is part of our \$100 million commitment in 2026–27 to **expand publicly funded fertility services**, including IVF, supporting 27 clinics and helping thousands more families access treatment while reducing wait times.

I will conclude on this point with a recognition that mental health is foundational to a productive and healthy society. One of our greatest achievements that opened this year was the **Youth Wellness Hub**, the first ever built in our community, offering free wrap-around supports for young people aged 12 to 25, including mental health and substance use supports, primary healthcare, community and social supports, and more (learn more: [youthhubs.ca](#)).

TAKING CARE OF OUR SENIORS

Seniors built this country — so it’s our turn to give back. In King, the **St. Rita at Marylake Long-Term Care Home** is progressing toward its **opening next year**, delivering 160 net-new beds so seniors can receive dignified care close to their families and loved ones. This home is nestled in the rolling hills of the Moraine, providing a space defined by its tranquility, natural beauty, and modern architectural design.

In Vaughan, we announced a **new Seniors’ Village** which will include 320 long-term care beds, as well as 300 retirement home suites, built in the heart of our community beside the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital. We are moving with speed, with **construction starting this fall**, creating an integrated Campus of Care together with the hospital and future York University School of Medicine.

Finally, we were proud to fund and help open the Nobleton Seniors Active Living Centre, a bright and warm dedicated space for our aging community.

TRAINING HUNDREDS OF NEW FAMILY DOCTORS

This summer, our government announced \$55.8 million to fund the education programming for the new **York University School of Medicine**, which will be Ontario’s first medical school focused specifically on training family doctors, starting in 2028. Once built, this school will train hundreds of new family physicians — a long-term investment in the future of healthcare for King, Vaughan, and the GTA.

KEEPING FAMILIES SAFE AND STANDING UP FOR LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS

Our government listened to residents who have long raised concerns about illegal land uses impacting their families. That is why we are **cracking down on illegal trucking yards operating** on agricultural land and neighbourhoods across York Region. In response, we acted decisively to give municipalities stronger enforcement teeth and the confidence to crack down on these illegal operations with steep fines and penalties.

I also continue to call on the federal government to reinstate mandatory minimum sentencing for violent crime. The message should be clear: if you commit violent crime, you will face real jail time. At the provincial level, we have **hired additional YRP officers** and funded new drones and a new helicopter, and took additional steps to **bolster the bail system**, by requiring a cash security deposit for bail upfront — enhancing deterrents from criminality in the first place.

INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE

As our community continues to grow, our infrastructure must grow with it. In King, our government is delivering more than \$1 million in **additional funding for improved infrastructure** — new roads, bridges, water systems, broadband expansion, and other critical municipal infrastructure.

After delivering the **largest provincial infrastructure investment in King’s history** to build the Zancor Centre in partnership with Mayor Pellegrini, our government announced the transfer of **\$24 million of provincial surplus lands** to house the future Kleinburg-Nashville Community Centre, near Huntington Road and Major Mackenzie Drive.

We are also undertaking the largest expansion of public transit in North America. **Upgrades at King City GO** will enable two-way, all-day service along the Barrie Line, with trains arriving every 15 minutes. That includes additional parking and rapid EV charging stations.

We are also continuing to invest in the roads we rely on every day, so residents can spend less time commuting and more time with their families. I was proud to stand with Mayors Pellegrini and Del Duca to announce the completion of **widening Highway 400 to ten lanes** all the way from Highway 9 to Major Mackenzie Drive, and starting major construction on the Bradford Bypass. This project will connect Highways 400 and 404 to improve connections across York Region and Simcoe County, helping reduce congestion and cutting travel time by up to 35 minutes.

There is more work ahead, but the progress is real. From healthcare and seniors’ care to new roads, transit, infrastructure and community centres, we are continuing to deliver for you and your family.

I am proud of this community — how we have come together as Canadians in this difficult moment. The strong sense of patriotism, kindness, and support for local businesses reaffirms my belief that we live in the greatest community in the best nation on Earth. We are blessed in so many ways. With that said, I will keep working every day in the service of our families, seniors, farmers and small businesses that proudly call King home.



Stephen congratulating preschool graduates at a local daycare.



Stephen with Mayor Pellegrini and seniors at the Nobleton Senior Room, funded by the Government of Ontario.



Stephen celebrating Canada in King City with a local resident.



Stephen with a local cadet recruit.



Stephen greeting players from the Kleinburg-Nobleton Soccer Club.



STEPHEN LECCE

MPP King—Vaughan

MR

MENSWEAR

1-255 Industrial Pkwy S Aurora, ON L4G 3V5

Dressing With Confidence:
MR Menswear brings quality, style and heart to Aurora



BY BRITTANY GRENCI

For some men, getting dressed is simply part of the routine. For others, what they wear is an extension of who they are. At MR Menswear, owner Mike Rathke has spent decades helping men find clothing that not only fits well, but helps them feel confident walking out the door.

MR Menswear first opened in 2007, later relocating to Aurora in 2014. In 2024, the store moved into its current location at 255 Industrial Parkway South, offering a carefully selected range of men’s clothing for those who appreciate quality, comfort and timeless style.

From business and formal wear to casual pieces, outerwear and weekend apparel, the focus is on clothing that looks polished without feeling forced. For Rathke, a great

wardrobe should help a man’s outward appearance reflect the confidence, personality and sense of self he already carries within.

That philosophy is backed by decades of experience in the menswear industry, which began when he was just 15, as well as a personal story shaped by resilience.

At just 19 years old, Mike was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumour. After years of recovery, he returned to the menswear industry and eventually fulfilled his goal of opening his own store. Years later, he would once again face a cancer diagnosis and another difficult battle.

Rather than allowing those experiences to define him negatively, Mike has channelled them into giving back. MR Menswear began hosting a fashion show every other year in support of Southlake Regional Health Centre and its cancer programs. Through the events and other charitable efforts, close to \$300,000 has been raised to date.

That community-minded spirit has become an important part of the business, alongside the personalized service MR Menswear has become known for.

The store also offers wardrobe consultations for men looking to build, refresh or completely rethink their closets. Whether someone needs a few quality staples, a professional wardrobe or simply wants to feel sharper and more put together, Rathke and his team aim to take the guesswork out of getting dressed.

At MR Menswear, the goal goes beyond selling clothes. It is about helping men invest in pieces that last, dress with intention and step out feeling like the best version of themselves.

...A great wardrobe should help a man’s outward appearance reflect the confidence, personality and sense of self he already carries within.





HAHN
LAW FIRM

Hahn Law Builds on a Decade of Legal Experience in King City

BY BRITTANY GRENCI

For more than a decade, lawyer Laith Hahn has been helping King City residents navigate some of life’s biggest decisions — from buying a home or cottage to planning for the future.

Located at 21-1700 King Rd., Hahn Law has grown around a simple idea: understanding the community you serve matters. In King, where families, businesses and properties often come with their own unique needs, that local knowledge can make all the difference.

A law graduate of Cardiff University in Wales, Laith began practising in King City in 2014, first as a partner at another local firm. After five years of building his experience in the area, he branched out on his own and opened Hahn Law in 2019. Since then, he has built a strong and trusted team and expanded the practice to serve clients across a number of legal areas.

Real estate is a major part of the firm’s work, and in King, that often means much more than a typical home purchase or sale. Along with residential transactions and refinancing, the team has experience with the complexities that can come with farm and rural properties.

Acreage, severances, wells and septic systems can all add another layer to a country property transaction. Having experience with these details allows the team to identify potential issues and help clients navigate them along the way.

The practice also handles cottage purchases and sales throughout Ontario cottage country, as well as commercial acquisitions, leases and financing for local investors and business owners.

Clients can also turn to the firm during other important stages of life. Services

“We live here, we’re raising our son here, and most of our clients are our neighbours. That keeps you honest.”

include wills, powers of attorney and estate administration, along with incorporations, shareholder matters and business purchases. For family-run businesses looking ahead, the team can assist with succession planning and the transition from one generation to the next. The practice also represents private mortgage lenders across Southern Ontario.

While modern technology helps keep files moving and clients informed, Laith says relationships remain at the centre of how the firm operates.

“We live here, we’re raising our son here, and most of our clients are our neighbours. That keeps you honest,” he said.

Living in the same community as many of his clients has given him a firsthand understanding of the area and the people who call it home.

“In a town this size, people know who did a good job for them,” he said. “We want to be the firm they tell their friends about.”

That combination of legal experience and local knowledge continues to shape the practice today, allowing the team to grow while staying closely connected to the needs of the King community. For more information, visit hahnlaw.ca.



King-Jane Business Park Drives Economic Growth and Responsible Development in King Township

Global technology leader to move major operations to King-Jane Business Park in King City

A project more than 25 years in the making is beginning to take shape in King Township, with municipal officials calling the King-Jane Business Park one of the most significant employment developments in the community's history.

The momentum behind the project accelerated in September when it was announced that global technology company LG Electronics Canada will occupy nearly one million square feet of space within the business park across two buildings, becoming one of the Township's largest employers. The announcement was made during a September 3 groundbreaking ceremony attended by Premier Doug Ford and Ontario Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade Victor Fedeli. King-Vaughan MPP Stephen Lecce and MP Anna Roberts also attended in support of the project.

"King Township is committed to providing a business-friendly environment that helps companies invest, create jobs and contribute to the long-term prosperity of the community," said Chief Administrative Officer, Daniel Kostopoulos.

Located at the intersection of King Road and Jane Street with direct access to Highway 400, the facility offers exceptional connectivity to transportation networks, labour markets and regional supply chains. Long envisioned as a major employment hub, the project is the result of strategic investment and collaboration among past and current Councils, staff and development partners.

Since the adoption of the King City Communi-

ty Plan in 2000, and through subsequent planning initiatives including the Our King Official Plan, the Township has protected these lands to create future jobs, attract investment and strengthen the economy.

Economic benefits for King Township

The 105-acre employment area will contain approximately 1.67 million square feet of industrial and employment space across five buildings. At full build-out, the King-Jane Business Park is projected to generate approximately \$4 million in additional annual property tax revenue, including \$1.1 million annually for King Township, subject to MPAC assessment. This expands the non-residential tax base and reduces reliance on residential property taxes.

Of the five industrial buildings, total development charge revenue is projected to reach approximately \$70.2 million. These charges will be collected as the remaining buildings move through the development and building permit stages, with full occupancy of the site expected by 2030. This helps fund growth-related infrastructure such as roads, water and wastewater systems, parks, recreation facilities, libraries, and fire protection services.

The development supports King Township's long-term employment goals. The Township had 1,556 businesses in 2025 and is planning for approximately 17,700 jobs by 2051.

Zero Carbon Building Design

Beyond economic benefits, sustainability has been a major focus of the project's design.

The business park is being developed to meet the Canada Green Building Council's Zero Carbon Building Design Standard, making it one of the largest industrial developments of its kind in the Greater Toronto Area. Plans include electrification-ready infrastructure, heat pumps, solar-ready roof systems and future electric vehicle charging capabilities.

More than 10 acres of woodland and natural heritage features will also be retained on the site.

Supporting infrastructure will be built alongside the development, including transportation improvements, cycling facilities, multi-use pathways, landscaping and municipal servicing upgrades designed to accommodate future growth.

Why businesses choose King

King-Jane Business Park reflects King Township's ongoing commitment to supporting economic growth through efficient approvals, business-friendly processes and strategic partnerships. Municipal approvals were issued on an expedited timeline to support the project's targeted occupancy date.

LG joins a growing network of businesses investing in King Township and York Region, supported by the Township's Economic Development team through a concierge-style service that helps companies navigate approvals, identify opportunities and connect with key resources.

As part of York Region, King Township benefits from a strong and diverse business ecosystem. LG will join a regional network of more than 100 corporate and third-party warehouses and distribution centres, as well as more than 4,800 information and communications technology companies. The region's access to major transportation corridors, international markets and highly skilled talent continues to attract leading multinational companies seeking opportunities for growth and innovation.

King-Jane Business Park represents the culmination of decades of planning and investment. For residents, it marks a new chapter of economic growth, environmental stewardship and new employment opportunities closer to home.



Customers can expect commitment, dedication, and respect from The Daryl King Re/Max Hallmark Realty Team:

'Big or small, we'll sell them all.'

BY JIM STEWART

The most satisfying part of Daryl King's role as realtor is connected to three statements that he has uttered several times in his decades-long career: "When you say 'Congratulations, I sold your home' or 'Congratulations on your first home' followed by 'Thank you very much for the opportunity.'"

Steeped in these statements is an ethos that permeates his business dealings: "My father taught me at a young age about the value of respecting people. The beautiful part of my job is that I deal with people, not value. Janitor or CEO – everyone's the same – everybody's entitled to the same level of service. As I've mentioned to many people over the years, 'Big or small, we'll sell them all.' We offer a range of services from A-to-Z, but you look after that person at that moment."

It is King's treatment of clients in their moment of need that has created his team's stellar reputation for service in Toronto and across the GTA: "You need to treat people like family. My main focus in helping others – to achieve what is necessary. Treating customers one at a time and establishing how you can help them. I just helped a lady sell her home in North York and helped her move to York Region. We'll cross the GTA for our clients and help them move into a home they need at the various stages of life."

The Richmond Hill resident offered insights and historical context regarding the current real estate market in King Township and, by extension, the GTA:

"I've been doing this for over thirty-five years. It's really not a bad market—it's a different market. Unfortunately, if we do our recent history, prices crashed by 40% in 2009. During the COVID years, prices went up 40-60% which made buying a house unachievable and unattainable for many."

King acknowledges that selling homes in the current market takes extra effort in order to help prospective buyers: "Our sales reps have to work hard – that's the only way to get results. I try to give inspirational messages to my clients – to treat them well with the respect they deserve."

The veteran realtor noted that Daryl King Realty has made "365 sales to date in 2026 and thousands and thousands over our career. We've served over 300 families this year and we're going the extra mile for our customers. We continue to work harder and put in ten-hour days to make sure our customers are looked after. We're willing to work as hard as Elon Musk, who is still putting in 120-hour work weeks, despite all he's invented and all he's achieved. He's committed and dedicated."

Similarly, customers can expect commitment, dedication, and respect from The Daryl King Team when they need to sell their home or need help purchasing a home at any stage of life. King's 35-year track record of service suggests that satisfactory results in real estate sales or purchases are only a phone call or website visit away.

To contact The Daryl King Team Re/Max Hallmark Realty Ltd, call 416-726-1513 or visit homes@darylking.com.

THE DARYL KING TEAM
ALLOW US TO HELP YOU



GREGORY PERI

Residents want tax dollars spent wisely, Peri notes

BY MARK PAVILONS

Ward 5 candidate Gregory Peri has found canvassing the community “incredibly grounding.” And he’s discovered some common core truths.

He said most residents want to feel heard; to see their tax dollars spent wisely, and to know that the character of their neighbourhood isn’t lost in the shuffle of growth.

“I’ve heard real concerns about traffic and road safety, especially around speed and heavy truck traffic,” he says. “I’ve heard from older adults who want to stay in their homes and their community as they age, and from young families looking for more local programming. I’ve also heard from farming families who want to ensure their voice is part of the conversation as the Township moves forward.”

As a father raising two daughters in King City, Peri notes a lot of that feedback lands close to home.

“What strikes me most is how much people want a councillor who listens, understands who to collaborate with, and knows how to get things moving forward. With over 20 years of municipal experience, I know how to turn that resident feedback into real results.”

Peri says his main concerns track closely with what he’s hearing at the doors – infrastructure keeping pace with growth is critical. Roads, water services, and community spaces need to be planned in step with new development, not playing catch up after the fact. Accessibility is another.

“Becoming a true Age Friendly Community means residents feel the difference in their daily lives, rather than seeing it as a line item in a plan. And I want to make sure the distinct communities that make up our Township, our residential

neighbourhoods, our rural and agricultural areas, and our growing core, are all part of the same conversation, not treated as separate priorities.”

Underneath all of it, he says, is a commitment to fiscal responsibility. Every idea brought to the table needs to hold up against a simple question: Is this a genuinely smart use of residents’ money?

Peri brings more than 20 years of hands-on municipal government experience, which translates directly into the work of council.

“I understand how a strategic priority moves from an idea into a staff report, through budget cycles, and into something residents can actually see and use. Just as importantly, I understand the difference between where council can genuinely drive change and where council needs to trust staff and let good process play out. Effective councillors know they cannot, and should not, have their hands on every single decision. Knowing when to lead and when to step back is what actually gets things done, rather than creating gridlock.

“I know how to build consensus, manage budgets responsibly, and turn policy commitments into practical programs. In my career, I’ve spent years advocating for inclusive practices across an entire organization, which means I know how to bring people along on an idea, not just propose it. My time on King Township’s Accessibility Advisory Committee has sharpened that further, giving me first-hand experience working from a resident’s perspective alongside council and staff to advise and recommend real solutions.”

“I’m not approaching this role as an outsider learning the system for the first time. I already know how local government works, and I want to use that experience to work for our community.”

King City has become a real focal point for growth, and Peri sees that as both opportuni-



ty and responsibility. Development is inevitable, but the key is making sure we’re ready for it when it arrives.

“That means tying infrastructure planning directly to growth approvals, ensuring roads, water services, and public spaces are built alongside new development, not years later. As we move through the Official Plan looking ahead to 2051, I will advocate for proactive planning so residents aren’t left waiting for basic services.”

On the commercial side, Peri sees King City’s businesses as a real strength, but they need continued support to thrive alongside larger development. That means advocating for streamlined permitting processes, supporting local agriculture and agritourism, promoting community events that bring people together, and keeping our commercial core walkable and accessible as the area grows.

“Businesses do best when the community around them is thriving too, so I see infrastructure and business support as two sides of the same conversation.”

Peri also notes that not every infrastructure decision sits with the Township. Some of the roads and projects residents raise are Regional or Provincial responsibility, not municipal.



why decisions get made, so residents understand the reasoning behind them, not just the outcome. I understand that good governance means supporting every neighbourhood across the township. I want to build on the strong work council has already done, ask the difficult questions when they need asking, work closely alongside staff, and help make decisions that serve the whole Township. That’s the kind of councillor I’m ready to be, and I’m genuinely looking forward to the work ahead.”

GregoryPeri.ca
1-877-748-0117 Ext. 5



“Part of being an effective councillor is knowing that distinction and advocating at the right table, whether that’s Township council or pushing Regional and Provincial partners for action on the pieces they control.”

Peri is excited about the opportunity to turn two decades of inside municipal experience into something residents can feel directly.

“I love the problem-solving side of this work, taking a resident’s specific concern and working it through to a practical solution. I am also energized by the diversity of our Township, which spans rich agricultural land, established residential areas, and growing communities. Every part of this Township deserves a councillor who understands its specific character and genuinely engages with it.”

“Representing Ward 5 is exciting because its unique mix reflects the Township as a whole. One of the challenges I look forward to taking on is being a clear, transparent voice on how and



The Lions Den brings a true neighbourhood sports bar experience to Nobleton

BY BRITTANY GRENCI

For the owners of The Lions Den Sports Bar, opening a pub in Nobleton was never about simply filling a commercial space. It was about creating the kind of place they felt their community was missing — somewhere neighbours could meet for dinner, catch the game and feel completely at home.

The Lions Den officially opened its doors to the public on Aug. 8, bringing a new locally owned sports bar and pub to the heart of Nobleton. Owners Tom Dovgala, Robert Forletta and Rick Minicucci have been friends for more than a decade after first meeting through their sons’ hockey league.

All three are longtime business owners with an entrepreneurial spirit, but The Lions Den marks their first venture into the hospitality industry. What they may have lacked in restaurant experience, they made up for with a clear idea of the atmosphere they wanted to create.

Being long-time residents of Nobleton, the group saw an opportunity to build a gathering place designed specifically with their own

community in mind.

“We want to be very community driven and make sure this is a place where our neighbours and friends can watch the game, have a good dinner and walk home safely,” Tom said.

That neighbourhood-first approach carries throughout the concept. The Lions Den describes itself as a real Canadian sports bar rather than a franchise or a concept brought in from somewhere else. From the deep green and gold branding to screens positioned so patrons can comfortably follow the action, the space was thoughtfully designed around the sports bar experience.

The menu follows the same uncomplicated philosophy, focusing on the traditional, good-quality pub food people know and love, prepared with care.

But the owners hope The Lions Den becomes known for much more than what is served from the kitchen or shown on the screens.

Community involvement will remain a major part of the business as it grows, with plans to support and sponsor local initiatives, including minor hockey.

At its core, The Lions Den is intended to be exactly what its founders felt Nobleton needed: a familiar local spot where the game is on, the food is good and the people sitting at the next table may soon become friends.



19 Old King Rd,
Nobleton, ON L0G 1N0
Phone: (905) 859-5466
lionsdensportsbar.ca

King Animal Hospital meets huge demand with top-notch staff, services

BY MARK PAVILONS

King Animal Hospital is poised to become the “Mayo Clinic of the veterinary world,” thanks to its unrivalled services.

The facility – Canada’s largest independent veterinary hospital – operates much like a human hospital, providing around-the-clock care for animals.

The level of service and skills of staff is matched only by the incredible dedication and commitment by pet owners, according to CEO Tracy Jones.

Working at the “best job” with the “best people” at the “best facility” has been very rewarding, she says. She’s continually impressed by the engaged and committed pet owners, and the level of skill, compassion and “brain power” of the staff.

King Animal Hospital currently boasts 250 employees with 35 doctors in 14 specialties. The facility has grown exponentially over the years, to meet the incredible demand,

Caring for an estimated 30,000 patients in less than three years, they receive referrals from some 3900 veterinarians and 1,100 clinics world-wide.

Along with continual skills development, the facility is implementing “King Connects,” an innovative digital ER tracking system that operates in real time, letting owners know where their pet is and their status at all times.

AI is improving their transcribing and record-keeping systems.

By the end of the year, Jones said they hope to implement an end-of-life care program, which is not unlike hospice care for people. Plans are in the works for an external garden where pets are comfortably euthanized surrounded by nature. As well, the hospital will offer a mobile service, visiting people’s homes. The plan is to offer guidance and consultation for pet owners throughout the process.

Also in the planning stages is an equine ER.

The majority of patients are pets – dogs and cats – with another 20% made up of equine cases and are all cared for on-site which Jones affectionately calls the “Campus of Care.”

Next steps include innovation and research and ongoing knowledge exchange. Continuing education, both internally and externally, will include First Aid courses for pet owners.

The team of specialists, which include everything from cardiologists and surgeons, to oncologists and ophthalmologists, rise to meet the demand in a timely manner.

The CEO isn’t just a leading force. Jones makes regular rounds, and even visits with pet owners in the lobby area. While the environment – like any hospital – can be filled with stress, the employees rally around one another.

The facility maintains connections with both University of Guelph and Seneca College (King Campus). Shared knowledge, expertise, and helping to groom students studying veterinary care, will ensure long-term care.

While all cases are “special,” Jones cited an increase of snake bite incidents this year. Their connections, which include exotic animal shops, provide easy access to anti-venoms.

King Animal Hospital was created with a clear vision to revolutionize animal care and serve as a catalyst for knowledge exchange. Since opening in 2024, they have grown into Canada’s largest independent veterinary hospital, bringing together more than 35 veterinarians across 14 specialties to provide coordinated care for small animal and equine patients.

Their contribution to animal welfare begins with access to advanced, compassionate care. By offering emergency, special-

ty care services, advanced diagnostic imaging and rehabilitation services in one hospital, they support animals with complex needs while helping families and referring veterinarians make informed decisions. The facility’s multidisciplinary model allows specialists to collaborate across services, giving each patient the benefit of a broader clinical perspective.

Their approach recognizes that animal welfare includes comfort, dignity, clear communication and support for the people responsible for each animal’s care.

For the equine community, King Animal Hospital has developed a purpose-built hospital where horses can access advanced surgery, dentistry, ophthalmology, diagnostic imaging, and therapeutic farriery. The team works closely with referring and ambulatory veterinarians, providing hospital-based capabilities that complement the important care they deliver in the field. This collaborative model helps strengthen the overall equine care network in Ontario.

They are also helping advance veterinary medicine through investments in technology, specialist expertise and education. Advanced imaging, minimally invasive procedures, patient-specific surgical planning, rehabilitation and other evolving approaches allow their teams to manage increasingly complex cases.

Through the Knowledge Exchange Centre, they share practical learning in person with veterinarians, registered veterinary technicians, students and other animal-care professionals, helping new knowledge benefit patients well beyond the walls of the hospital.

“We are proud of the progress we have made in a relatively short time, but we see this as the beginning of a much longer journey. Our road map is focused on continuing to improve access, encourage collaboration, support the veterinary profession and pursue better outcomes for animals. That is what ‘Leading with Care’ means to us,” Jones says.

1-888-622-7345
1265 19th Sideroad, King City
kinganimalhospital.com



RE-ELECT JORDAN ALEXANDER CESCOLINI

Proven Leadership and Integrity for Ward 1



Results for Ward 1: Building a Stronger, Safer, and Vibrant King Township

Over the past eight years, it has been an absolute honour to serve as your Ward 1 Councillor. My commitment to you has always been simple: leadership built on trust, transparency, and real action. Together, we haven't just made promises—we've delivered transformational results that support our families, protect our tax dollars, and enhance our everyday quality of life. Here is a look at what we have accomplished together.



Delivering the Landmark Zancor Centre:

We brought the largest infrastructure investment in King Township's history right here to Ward 1. Opened in 2025, this state-of-the-art, zero-carbon certified facility features two NHL-sized rinks, a six-lane lap and leisure aquatics centre, an artificial turf fieldhouse with a running track, and vibrant multi-use spaces for all ages. By successfully leveraging federal and provincial grants alongside development charges and developer contributions, we kept the direct cost to King Township taxpayers down to just \$678,000.



Neighbourhood Safety: I championed King Township's first Traffic Calming Policy, bringing direct speed mitigation measures to local streets across Ward 1—including Spring Hill Drive, Tatton Court, King Boulevard, Nicort Road, Dew Street, 19th Sideroad, Banner Lane, and Elizabeth Grove—with a strong emphasis on protecting our local school zones. We also secured York Region traffic signals at Alex Campbell Crescent and Warren Road to help residents safely and easily enter King Road.



Investing in Parks & Family Spaces: Local parks are the heart of our community. I directly spearheaded the campaign to deliver a brand-new splash pad to Salamander Park, giving local children and families a vibrant, accessible place to connect and cool off every summer.



Smart Infrastructure & Better Road Maintenance:

I worked closely with York Region to implement long-awaited traffic flow improvements at the King Road and Keele Street intersection, easing morning rush-hour congestion and making it significantly easier for southbound commuters to navigate. Listening directly to resident feedback, I also successfully advocated for a policy shift to full-salt road maintenance in urban areas during the winter—eliminating heavy spring sand debris while keeping our streets safer year-round.



8+ YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY



Fiscal Responsibility & Transparent Governance:

We have balanced vital community investments with resident affordability, keeping tax increases well below inflation—including delivering two years with a 0% tax increase. Our commitment to financial integrity earned King Township the prestigious GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for five consecutive years.



Eight years of dedicated service show what we can achieve when we work together. As we look ahead, I remain committed to leveraging my experience to secure funding for outdoor sports facilities at the Zancor Centre grounds, ensuring that we build a sustainable core area with the help of resident input—including transforming the Doctor's Lane and Fisher Street area where the former King City arena currently sits. We have many exciting projects ahead, and I am committed now more than ever to serving Ward 1. Serving on Council has also given me the privilege of sharing so many wonderful community moments with all of you, such as the ones featured here. Re-Elect Jordan Alexander Cescolini for Ward 1 Councillor — Proven Leadership. Real Progress.



ONLINE ADVANCE VOTING PERIOD

Tuesday, October 13 at 10a.m. to Friday, October 23 at 8p.m.

IN-PERSON ADVANCED VOTING

- Saturday, October 10 at Trisan Centre, 10a.m. to 5p.m.
- Saturday, October 17 at Dr. William Lacey Community Center and Arena, 10a.m. to 5p.m.
- Saturday, October 24 at Zancor Centre, 10a.m. to 5p.m.

ELECTION DAY (IN-PERSON ONLY)

Monday, October 26 from 10a.m. to 8p.m. (Find your location in your Voter Information Letter)

Candidate Frank Mastromattei connecting with residents in his bid for Ward 4 council seat

BY MARK PAVILONS

You can learn a lot about a community by talking to its residents. Nothing beats boots on the ground. For Frank Mastromattei, Ward 4 candidate in the coming municipal election, talking with people on the campaign trail has been an amazing experience. “I have now connected personally with hundreds of residents across Schomberg, Lloydtown and Pottageville, and the hospitality has been incredible. I have been offered cold water on hot days, more than a few espressos, welcomed onto porches and patios, and even invited to sit down at people’s tables,” he said.

“I want people to be able to sit down, have a coffee, ask a question, raise a concern, share an idea, or simply tell me they think I am wrong about something.”

“I have heard about planning, traffic and transportation, taxes, local businesses, agriculture, protecting our rural character, and the need for better communication. “What I have learned most is that people do not expect us to agree on everything. They do expect to be heard and respected. Some of my best conversations have been with people who see an issue differently than I do.” This is all part and parcel of being an active listener. “Listening is not about waiting for your turn to speak; it is about understanding where someone is coming from and being willing to consider another perspective.” Planning responsibility is certainly important among voters. “We need to protect the character, heritage, agricultural lands, and environment that make Ward 4 special while recognizing that our community will continue to evolve. “I do not believe the answer should automatically be ‘yes’ or automatically be ‘no.’ I want residents, businesses, farmers, community organizations, Township professionals, and people who want to contribute to our community at the same table much earlier in the conversation.” And part of that means looking for opportunities to remove the barriers that sometimes develop between people before positions become entrenched. When we communicate earlier, understand concerns, and work toward solutions together, we may be able to avoid some of the lengthy disputes and costly processes that can follow, he points out. “Every dollar we can responsibly save through better collaboration is a dollar that can remain fo-

cused on serving our residents and strengthening our communities. “That does not mean everyone will always agree. There will certainly be times when the Township needs to stand firmly behind its planning principles and protect the interests of the community. But I believe we should always exhaust the opportunity to work together before we work against one another.” Transportation and infrastructure, supporting local businesses and agriculture, fiscal responsibility, and improving communication between residents and the Township are also priorities for the candidate. “He is backed by a Bachelor of Science in Community Development, experience in education and business leadership, and is currently completing his Master of Education in Adult Education. As a professor, he has also spent many years in senior business and hospitality leadership.” “Community development, to me, is fundamentally about people. My education and career have taught me how to manage budgets and operations, lead teams, solve problems, make complex decisions, and work with people who bring vastly different experiences and perspectives to the table. “Teaching has also reinforced the importance of listening, communicating clearly, and explaining the ‘why’ behind decisions. “I do not believe leadership means walking into a room believing you have all the answers. Leadership means being an active listener, asking good questions, surrounding yourself with knowledgeable people, and bringing everyone to the same table to find the best solution possible.” Admitting that Schomberg has received attention and funding in the past, Mastromattei said we should now ask, “How do we make the most of what we already have?” Schomberg has a beautiful historic Main Street, great local businesses, community events, and people who regularly bring visitors into our village. “We should continue finding ways to encourage people not only to visit Schomberg, but to stop, walk around, support our businesses, and experience the community. “At the same time, Ward 4 is much more than Schomberg. “Through my conversations with residents in Lloydtown and Pottageville, I have been reminded again just how beautiful and unique these communities are. Each has its own character, history and priorities, and they deserve the same attention, respect, and voice when decisions are being made.” Across Ward 4, practical issues such as transportation, traffic, infrastructure, and accessibility all need to be addressed, while ensuring future planning respects the character of each community. “For me, success is not measured simply by how much money we spend. It is whether the decisions



and investments we make improve life for the people who live here while protecting what makes each of our communities special.” He’s genuinely excited to help bring people together in this role. Residents, farmers, businesses, community organizations, Township staff, and people who want to contribute to Ward 4 do not need to begin every conversation on opposite sides, he pointed out. “I want to bring everyone to the same table. “I also want to change what accessibility to your councillor looks like. If elected, I will hold monthly community meet-and-greet sessions throughout Ward 4, rotating between local businesses and community locations.” He also said residents should be able to approach their councillor any time, to discuss issues or simply have a conversation. “I want people to be able to sit down, have a coffee, ask a question, raise a concern, share an idea, or simply tell me they think I am wrong about something. “Those gatherings can also provide another opportunity to introduce residents to different businesses and locations throughout Ward 4 and support the people who contribute so much to our local communities. “That is what excites me about public service: showing up, actively listening, bringing people together and working toward practical solutions for the community we all call home.”



BEYOND 20/20: The Bigger Picture of Eyecare

“Which is better, one or two?”

It’s a question familiar to anyone who’s had an eye exam. But for Dr. Sonia Postiglione, it’s just the beginning of the story. After three decades of caring for patients, Dr. Sonia knows an eye exam is more than determining if someone needs glasses. It’s an opportunity to protect vision, identify potential health concerns, and support wellbeing at all stages of life. Many eye diseases develop gradually. Glaucoma, cataracts, macular degeneration, and diabetic eye disease are among those that can cause irreversible damage before any vision changes are noticed. The eyes offer a window into our overall health. They allow Optometrists like Dr Sonia the ability to see live blood vessels and the entryway to a part of the brain. Changes in these structures can provide early detection of conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure, among other serious health conditions. Eye exams are a vital part of preventative health care.

A Lifetime of Eye Care

Patient care begins early at King City Optometry. The Canadian Association of Optometrists recommends a child’s first eye exam at six months, followed by regular eye exams throughout life. Clear vision supports learning, reading, classroom participation, and sport performance. An eye exam can

expose visual issues a child may not realize exist. Children seldom recognize when they’re having trouble seeing. In a world dominated by screens, our eyes face greater demands. Headaches, dryness, blurred vision, and eye strain are common complaints after hours of screen time. An eye exam can help determine if these symptoms are related to vision, screen habits, or something else. **A Vision for Community** Dr. Sonia’s commitment to eyecare extends beyond the exam room. In 2003 she moved to 13069 Keele Street with a dream of converting the home into an Optometry practice. In 2006 that dream came true. Today King City Optometry is celebrating twenty years of 20/20 in King City. Giving back is central to that journey. She collects used glasses for the Lions Cub who distribute them to people in need. She supports local arts, sports, and charities. In 2019 she volunteered with Broken Earth in Nicaragua, providing eyecare to hundreds of people each day. She believes healthy communities begin with people caring for one another. Ultimately, eye exams are not only about seeing clearly today; they are about protecting your vision into the future.

905-833-9808
kingoptometry.com





VILLANOVA COLLEGE:



Learning, Leading and Serving Together

Walk through the halls of Villanova College and it quickly becomes clear that learning extends well beyond the classroom. Students may be preparing for university in an Advanced Placement course, building an electric vehicle, rehearsing for a production, mentoring a younger student or preparing food for people experiencing homelessness. These experiences share a purpose: preparing young people to become leaders who serve.

Located in King City, Villanova is an independent Catholic Augustinian school for students in Grades 4 through 12. Its approach to education develops the whole person — spiritually, intellectually, physically and socially — and is guided by the Augustinian values of Unitas, Veritas and Caritas: Unity, Truth and Love. Students are challenged to pursue excellence while recognizing their responsibility to one another and the wider community.

Villanova's university-preparatory program includes enriched opportunities in STEM and Advanced Placement courses. Beyond academics, students can explore athletics, music, theatre, debate and public speaking. DECA develops business and presentation skills, while the VeC Project brings engineering, technology and teamwork together as Upper School students design and build an electric vehicle.

Students also have many ways to practice leadership. Student Ambassadors welcome prospective families, Peer Mentors support fellow students, and Student Council gives students a voice in school life. In Grade 12, the Leaders in Church and Culture course connects leadership with faith and service through hands-on outreach.

Students in the course lead Adopt-a-Senior, building relationships with older adults in the community, and Sandwich Patrol, preparing food and clothing for people experiencing homelessness in Toronto. Members of SAVI — the Student Augustinian Values Institute — organize events supporting the Rose of Sharon and other local charities. Across these initiatives, Villanova's Christian Service program encourages students to reflect on the people and communities they serve.

This commitment to serving others extends across the

entire school. One of its most visible expressions is Villanova's annual Terry Fox Run. Students and staff come together as one community to support cancer research and honour those affected by the disease. Villanova has consistently been among the top 5% of Terry Fox fundraising schools in Ontario and exceeded its \$25,000 fundraising goal again this year.

Villanova's recent campus expansion has created more space for students to learn, gather and perform. The Romeo De Gasperis Centre for the Performing Arts provides a new home for music, theatre and community events. These facilities are an investment in the experiences that help students discover both what they can do and what they can contribute.

Whether performing on stage, solving a problem, welcoming a new family or serving someone in need, Villanova students are learning with purpose, leading with character and serving with compassion.



VILLANOVA
COLLEGE

905-833-1909 • admissions@villanovacollege.ca

www.villanovacollege.org

2480 15th Sideroad, King City