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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage. Canada
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King Township's road crews had to battle the elements to clean up during, and after last week's "Significant Weather Event."

King crews worked around the clock to clear snow

By **Mark Pavilons**
Editor
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Last week's snowstorm kept many residents at home, and those who ventured out experience some of the worst conditions in years.

The estimated 20-centimeter accumulation had King roads crews working day and night to clear streets and highways.

The Township declared a Significant Weather Event, and urged motorists to exercise caution if venturing out.

Many programs and events were cancelled and several Township facilities closed.

A fleet of 25 plow trucks, graders and sidewalk plows began road and sidewalk operations on Jan. 14, focusing on opening priority roads and maintaining passability in high-traffic areas. Throughout the day, strong winds created significant drifting, particularly on rural, open-exposed

roads, requiring repeated monitoring and additional passes.

On Thursday, Jan. 15, all roads and sidewalks were serviced, with challenges due to parked cars as well as garbage and recycle bins impeding/preventing servicing in certain areas.

Residents are reminded that on-street parking is prohibited during a Significant Weather Event to allow for snow plowing, sanding, or salting. Parking on the street any time during snow clearing is a violation, with fines of \$100, and vehicles can be towed.

The Senior Snow Removal Assistance Program also launched earlier than usual (before road plowing was completed) on the afternoon of January 15 in response to the significant amount of snowfall.

Road and sidewalk plows were out again on Jan. 16 as a much smaller weather system brought 2 more centimeters of snow on Friday afternoon/evening. Work continued on throughout the weekend.

See 'Tips' on Page 7

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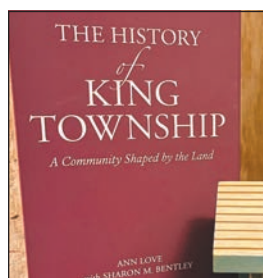
REGULAR FEATURES

Editorial	Page 4
Business	Page 8
Sports	Page 12
Classifieds	Page 14



Schaefer won't seek re-election as councillor.

See Page 3



King History book named runner-up for award.

See Page 10

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KING

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Upcoming Meetings



COUNCIL MEETINGS

Monday, January 26
6 p.m. – Council

Monday, February 02
6 p.m. – Public Planning Meeting

Monday, February 09
6 p.m. – Council

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

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Wednesday, January 21
6 p.m. – Committee of Adjustment

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

Thursday, February 05
6 p.m. – Heritage Advisory Committee

Virtual

Tuesday, February 10
11 a.m. – Accessibility Advisory Committee

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

Subscribe to receive email notifications regarding Council meetings & agendas at king.ca/subscribe

Recent Planning & Heritage Notices

- **Notice of Passing of By-law 2025-001 to Adopt Official Plan Amendment No. 8 to the Official Plan of the Township of King** Re: 117 Humber Valley Crescent, King City, ON (File OP-2025-01)
- **Notice of Passing of Zoning By-law Amendment 2026-002** Re: 117 Humber Valley Crescent, King City, ON (File No. Z-2025-07)

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

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- Inclusion Program Coordinator
- Inclusion Facilitator
- Parks Summer Student
- Parks Seasonal Worker

View job postings at king.ca/employment

Correction: Waste Collection Schedule for King Township

Please be advised there was a small error with the sequencing of yard waste collection in the **2026 Waste Collection Schedule**.

Correction: Yard waste aligns with recycling and green bin (compost) days starting the week of April 6 (after the Easter holiday) and ending the week of November 30.

Be on the lookout for your updated print copy in the mail. To avoid confusion, please recycle the existing copy that you received before the new year or picked up in-person from the King Township Municipal Centre, a recreation facility or library. Corrected copies are now available at these facilities and online.

For the most up to date information, download the Recycle Coach app.



For details, visit king.ca/Waste



King Township
Mayor's Cultural

gala

Local Legends

Thursday
Feb. 26
2026

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king.ca/events

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Explore the wintry outdoors snowshoeing at the scenic Cold Creek Conservation Area

Intro to Snowshoe Running: Sunday, Jan. 25. Learn snowshoeing basics.

Evening Snowshoe: Thursday, Jan. 29 and Feb. 5. explore the serene, snow-covered trails illuminated by the moonlight and starlit skies.

For more information, visit coldcreek.ca



Property Tax
Due Date: Feb. 17
Water Bill
Due Date: Feb. 18

king.ca/WaterBilling
king.ca/PropertyTaxes

Winter parking restrictions

On-street parking is **PROHIBITED** during a **Significant Weather Event** to allow for snow plowing, sanding, or salting.

Parking on the street any time during snow clearing is a violation, with fines of \$100, and vehicles can be towed.

For details, visit king.ca/SnowRemoval



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Debbie Schaefer won't seek re-election; will retire after 16 years serving constituents

By Mark Pavilons
Editor
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter



Long-serving councillor and cornerstone of the community Debbie Schaefer, is retiring.

Schaefer made the announcement at the Jan. 12 council meeting, noting she won't seek re-election in this fall's municipal election.

"Being the Councillor for Ward 5 has been an experience I have loved. I have won 4 municipal elections starting in 2010. During each term, I have given 'my all' while serving my constituents and the Township as a whole," she said.

She mentioned her service has been a "privilege" and this is unlike any other "job."

From the satisfaction of meeting the needs of a resident, to the frustration and disappointment of failing to do so, it's been a great experience. Schaefer took her responsibility seriously for making "policy decisions which are the foundation for King's evolution over the next 20 years." She was often the most vocal at the council table, commenting on almost every staff report, document and strategic plan.

While the makeup of council has changed in her 16 years in office, "I have always been very proud to be a Councillor of King Township. It has been a rich and personal growth experience."

The councillor did admit to having some regrets about not retiring, given some "exciting challenges" for the new council. "But I think it is time. My years of experience are of benefit, but fresh eyes can bring new questions and ideas as to how to achieve sustainable outcomes."

Schaefer said she made the announcement ahead of the May 1 deadline for candidates to register for the election.

"I'm doing so to be transparent about my intentions. I also want to alert citizens about the election schedule. I encourage those who are interested in running to not wait until May 1 to start planning their campaign. As well, there are likely people who would be effective at the council table but they may need encouragement from their neighbours and community to run.

"In Ward 5 there will be no incumbent, which is a great opportunity to seek a position at the council table. And of course election time is an opportunity to challenge an incumbent."

"I hope that the residents in Ward 5 will have some great choices of candidates on Oct. 26, election day. It has truly been an honour to have represented the residents of Ward 5 on council for the last 16 years."

Accolades from colleagues and citizens flowed in following her decision.

"Her "integrity, dedication, and unwavering commitment to this community have been truly exceptional," said Mayor Steve Pellegrini.

"Debbie has been completely immersed in her role, consistently going above and beyond to serve the residents of King with passion, fairness, and heartfelt devotion. Her leadership and her steady, thoughtful presence at the council table have made a lasting impact on our municipality.

"As Debbie and Dan begin this next chapter, I want to extend my sincere best wishes to them both. May it be

filled with happiness, good health, and well-earned time to enjoy all that lies ahead."

Ward 3 Councillor Jennifer Anstey said Schaefer "was truly an inspiration to me and a big part of why I chose to run for council.

"Even before I was elected, I admired her thoughtful, considered approach and always felt our community benefited from her voice.

"Once I joined council, that admiration only deepened. Debbie was incredibly generous with her time and experience; I sought her guidance often and was always grateful for her wise insights, her kindness, and her patience in answering my many questions.

"In keeping with her character, even her announcement that she would not seek re-election was graceful and uplifting, encouraging others to consider serving our community. I am deeply grateful for her friendship and counsel, and her presence on council will be very much missed."

Councillor Mary Asselstine said Councillor Schaefer is her friend and mentor:

"I have always admired her calm, thoughtful and respectful way of addressing issues which has influenced my own personal growth," she said.

"I commend Debbie for her transparency and early public announcement about not running for any position in the upcoming municipal election in King. In addition, her appeal to potential candidates to prepare well and take available training courses is remarkable," said Bruce Craig, member of Concerned Citizens of King Township.

"In many ways Debbie has re-defined what the role of an engaged and committed council member is and will be leaving an inspiring legacy. Her devotion, informative blog, research, learning, transparency and integrity have set a very positive example for all seeking to serve in public office. I'm confident Debbie will seek to finish the race well over the coming nine months."

Ward 2 Councillor David Boyd said it has been a privilege to work alongside Councillor Schaefer.

"Debbie has always served her constituents with passion and dedication, and holds a clear vision for the Township of King. Her impact is evident in many of our planning policies, including green building standards and initiatives that have helped reduce King's carbon footprint," he said.

"Debbie has been a true champion for King, and I am grateful for the perspective and experience I have gained during her time on council."



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

Allowing the erosion of our own civil liberties

Most of us skip along merrily in our daily lives, enjoying the rights and freedoms granted to us in this beautiful country of ours.

We are a multi-cultural mosaic – a welcoming, giving, embracing society.

We also cherish, and extend basic human rights, to all who've been denied them. We are activists, lobbyists, environmentalists, and community role models. We care about our neighbours.

While most of us may not fully appreciate the roles and responsibilities of all levels of government, we're assured that politicians and civil servants are working in our best interests.

That's the basis of our system and for the most part, it works. Okay, it may not be the best in terms of citizen access, response and timely action, but it has served Canadians and newcomers alike very well since Confederation.

But the world has changed, my friends, and our civil liberties and rights are being eroded, and chipped away, bit by bit.

It was blunt at first, with waves of in-your-face political correctness, sprinkled with apologetic measures and rhetoric.

For the most part, these measures, moves, documents and policies were needed, and long overdue.

But in some cases, we've been stripped of some very fundamental rights, some of which threaten our Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

In the past few years, books and passages have been either altered or removed, deemed by the powers that be to be either offensive, "too religious," or not inclusive enough. Symbols, even images on maple syrup bottles, got an upgrade.

In our country, school boards and other organizations have banned books, and criticized parts of the Holy Bible for their references. We now use Common Era (CE) and Before the Common



Mark Pavilons

Era (BCE) as year notations for the Gregorian or Julian calendar – equivalent to the Anno Domini (AD) and Before Christ (BC). But we avoid those religious timelines.

I get the intention behind such moves, but come on. Those who know their history know that banning books is the first step in fueling tyranny, fascism and citizen control. Yes, restricting what residents can read and know is a way to mold them, break them, bend them and make them subservient.

Similarly, statues honouring our historic figures have been removed, since they were, at one time, slave owners.

Watching our media "soften" and – in the case of the U.S. – being refused access – is not only horrible, but another step towards dictatorship.

Our federal government is taking our guns away.

Our premier is dumping perfectly good hooch on the street.

There are hundreds of examples

where the "word police" are watching, ready to swoop in and pick something apart.

Being a Boomer, I'm not fazed by these things. I grew up when bigotry, racism and sexism were commonplace. But that doesn't mean we all practiced these things. Being aware of an issue, poking fun at it, and learning how not to engage in such things is what led us into the light. How subsequent generations didn't realize this, or "get it," is beyond me.

We lived through it, experienced the best and the worst. I had thought we reached a place of common ground, flexibility, compassion, understanding and give and take.

I truly believe that deep down, the majority of citizens are kind, caring, accepting, and neighbourly.

They are not necessarily impacted by racism or sexism on a daily basis so it's not top of mind.

It becomes a bit of an issue when government moves to announce wide-sweeping changes to syntax, grammar, gender terms and religious ideals. Governments, pushed by special interest groups, want to take residents by the hand – like children – and lead them into a peaceful, non-confrontational playground where everyone gets along.

How is that working out?

Canada has become a leader in the fight for equality and righting wrongs. We have entire levels of bureaucracy dedicated to changing mind sets and behaviours.

Some mandates, policies and measures have worked. Others have not.

It's been said that the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

The recent actions by the U.S. are proof of that. Kidnapping government leaders, stealing oil and killing citizens – how is any of this in any way acceptable?

It's sad how anyone and any government can legitimize their actions, all in the name of democracy, protecting its citizens and saving the world.

I'm sure Gengis Khan, Napoleon, Hitler and Mussolini thought the same way. Can we now add Trump to that list?

They all began by substituting common sense and civil liberties with lies, double-speak, fear, and party gibberish.

And people ate it up, and went back for seconds. Some, risking their lives, opposed draconian measures in an attempt to slow the evil. Thousands of demonstrators in Iran have been killed and the regime there promises swift action and executions!

Here, we're facing new threats – economic tariffs, high costs of living, out of control grocery prices, job uncertainty and housing shortages. Yes, these are economic tangibles, but they do impact our ability to get out and protest, and act on our behalf. Many homeowners are just too stressed and tired to ensure their liberties are protected.

So, behind the scenes, bit by bit, we lose some of our power.

Government services are navigated online and only the well seasoned can handle the ebbs and currents of virtual rabbit holes. Spending a good portion of our lives on hold would test anyone's mettle.

An overburdened system – at every level – leads to fast-tracking, backlogs, inefficiencies and waste.

Few of us turn to the Charter for Rights and Freedoms for comfort. In these troublesome times, we cling to family, count our pennies and cross our fingers.

And as announcement after announcement test our freedoms, we don't even blink an eye.

Will we go down kicking and screaming, or with nary a whimper?

Education

Board students achieve above averages

York Region District School Board students achieved above provincial averages in the recently released results from Ontario's Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO).

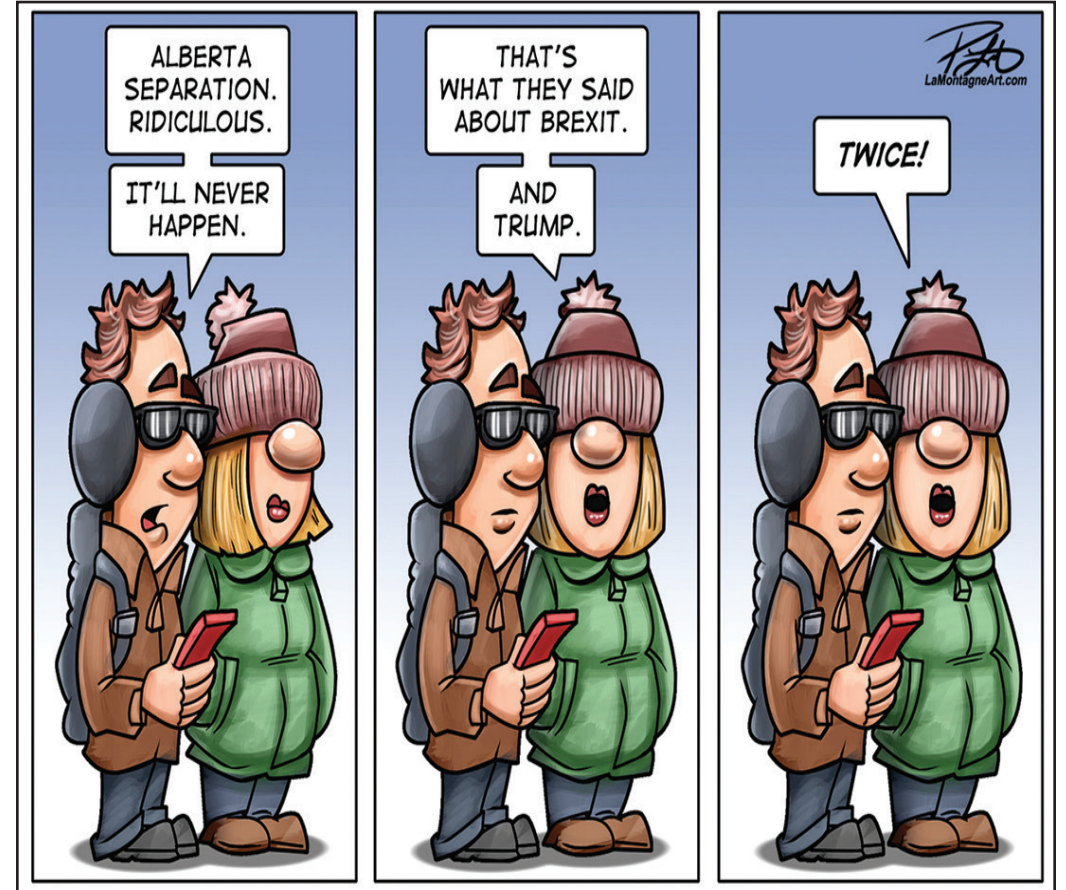
For YRDSB students in Grade 3, 77% achieved the provincial standard (Levels 3 and 4) in reading, 70% in writing, and 72% in mathematics. This compares with provincial averages of 74%, 65%, and 64% respectively.

For YRDSB students in Grade 6, 91% achieved the provincial standard in reading, 90% in writing, and 65% in mathematics. This compares with provincial averages of 86%, 85%, and 51% respectively.

In YRDSB, 9,311, fully participating YRDSB students wrote the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) for the first time with a 92% success rate, compared with an average success rate of 85% among all school districts across Ontario.

The Grade 9 mathematics assessment saw 74% of YRDSB secondary students achieve the provincial standard. This compares with a provincial average of 58% of all students in the province who achieved the standard.

"I would like to extend my deep appreciation to our students, staff, families and community partners for their immense efforts as well as their ongoing support and contributions to student achievement and well-being," said Bill Cober, Director of Education. "This important data will continue to support the work of our District Action Plan for Student Achievement, Well-being and Inclusion, which focuses on improving learning outcomes for all students. Our staff will review their school-specific data over the coming months to help inform their School Improvement Plans, with the overarching goal of supporting all learners to achieve their highest potential."



Quote of the Week

"This country is built on the backs of people who show up, 24/7, in blizzards and pandemics, to keep the lights on and the shelves full."

Trivia Tidbits

The earliest recorded baseball game took place in Beachville, Ontario in 1838.

KingWeeklySentinel WEBPOLL
www.kingsentinel.com

Results from last week's poll:

Do you support the federal government's gun buy-back program?

a) Yes **33%**

b) No **67%**

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

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Should Canada stand up to the U.S. and defend Greenland?

a) Yes
b) No

Go to our website and cast a vote!

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<p>Simcoe-York Printing & Publishing Limited, publisher of the King Weekly Sentinel and the New Tecumseth Times.</p>			<p>Published every Thursday</p>

Strong farms, strong communities: why agriculture engages with municipalities

By Sara Wood
Vice President, Ontario
Federation of Agriculture

Agriculture

This week, representatives from Ontario's rural municipalities gathered in Toronto for the annual Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference. And as we have for the last few years, Ontario farmers will be right there with them.

Some might wonder why farmers care about municipal issues – and the answer is simple: when agriculture is strong, so are rural communities.

That's because in Ontario, the agri-food sector is one of the biggest pillars of the provincial economy. We contribute \$51.4 billion in economic activity and support jobs for 867,000 Ontarians. That's about 10% of our provincial workforce. On top of that, our sector generates about \$28 billion in agri-food exports for Ontario every year.

Those are significant numbers, making agriculture and agri-food as important for investment, policy support and infrastructure as, for example, the automotive industry.

And that's what we were at ROMA to talk about.

I'm a Vice President with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), as well as a livestock and grain farmer near Stratford, Ontario. This was my fourth year attending ROMA on behalf of Ontario's farmers, carrying the message that agriculture matters and that we share common interests, values and goals with our municipalities.

A key priority for our members – and we know it is for rural municipalities too – is rural infrastructure.

This means roads and bridges, high speed internet and proper cellular coverage, as well as affordable and reliable energy. But it's also about education, health care and social supports, like schools, hospitals, long-term care and affordable housing for our rural areas.

We need services, investment and infrastructure to attract and keep people in rural communities and give strength to jobs and businesses in those areas.

The Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF), which funds rural infrastructure, has declined from \$656 million in 2005 to \$550 million in 2025. Adjusted for inflation, 2025 funding would need to increase to nearly \$1 billion to match 2005 levels. The provincial government committed to increase its funding of OMPF to \$600 million in 2026 in last fall's Economic Statement and that's a positive step – but it's not enough to meet critical rural infrastructure needs.

Just as important for farmers, though, is for municipalities to know how important agriculture and agri-food is in their communities and how they can support our sector. An example of that is through bylaws and regulations that encourage business growth and don't unnecessarily add costs or hinder competitiveness. That's another big reason why the OFA makes sure to be part of

the ROMA conference every year.

A growing agri-food sector needs stable and reliable long-term land use planning that protects farmland, supports smart urban growth (including housing) that respects agricultural and rural land, and attracts and keeps businesses from all parts of the agri-food value chain.

Agricultural Impact Assessments conducted by qualified professionals are a tool for municipalities to support land use planning, and we encourage municipalities to draw on the agri-food expertise in their own communities to establish Agricultural Advisory Committees that can advise councillors and staff on the needs and perspectives of the sector.

And finally, OFA urges municipalities not to forget agriculture when it comes to economic development.

This is about attracting and keeping farms and related businesses – from vet clinics and feed mills to farm equipment dealerships, farm supply stores and more – but also about maximizing growing opportunities presented by ag-

ritourism and local food.

The public's interest in local production, local experiences and supporting homegrown businesses has never been stronger, particularly when it comes to anything food related. Expanding agritourism and local food will diversify local economies by bringing new jobs, generating additional revenue and attracting visitors.

This ultimately supports community health and well-being with the added benefit of helping Ontarians get a better understanding of our food system and where and how to buy local. Now that's a win-win.

OFA is committed to working collaboratively with municipal leaders to build a thriving, inclusive, and resilient rural Ontario. Together, we can ensure that agriculture remains a pillar of economic prosperity and that rural communities continue to grow, contribute, and flourish.

The OFA has created many resources to assist municipalities, regions, and community organizations in supporting the agricultural sector.

Open house in February

York Region advancing solutions to address urgent housing needs

The Regional Municipality of York is developing new affordable housing and community space in the Town of Georgina, as approved by York Regional Council to address the housing crisis.

York Region recently purchased property at 187-195 The Queensway South in the Town of Georgina to provide 86 affordable housing units, including community, transitional and emergency options, and approximately 8,000 square feet of community space.

"Increasing the supply of affordable housing is a top priority for York Regional Council," said York Region Chairman and CEO Eric Jolliffe. "The Queensway South development brings together expanded housing options and a welcoming community space where people feel supported and connected. It's an exciting step forward, and when local communities and all levels of government work together, we can create a future where everyone has a safe and affordable place to call home."

Rising housing costs continue to limit options for low and moderate-income households across the Region. In 2024, York Region's subsidized housing wait list reached 18,419 households, with 4,500 new applications. The Region's current supply of 7,079 community housing units is not meeting growing demand.

"York Region is actively exploring

strategies to accelerate the delivery of affordable housing in our communities," said Town of Newmarket Mayor John Taylor, Chair of the Region's Housing and Homelessness Committee. "This initiative is part of a broader investment that promotes housing stability, and we look forward to working with the Town of Georgina on advancing our shared objective to expand affordable housing options to residents."

"Everyone deserves access to safe and affordable housing," said Town of Georgina Mayor Margaret Quirk. "We appreciate the Region's commitment to investing in a comprehensive solution in the Town of Georgina, including approximately 8,000 square feet of new community space for local community organizations to continue to support our residents. The Region's approach aligns with our local objectives and together, we are building stronger communities where everyone can thrive."

Community members are invited to learn more about the 187-195 The Queensway South project at an upcoming Community Open House.

It will be held at the Georgina Ice Palace Hall (90 Wexford Drive, Town of Georgina) Tuesday, Feb. 24, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Learn more about this project at york.ca/TheQueenswaySouth

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WORKING FOR YOU



Greenland: Maybe an invasion, maybe a backlash

By Gwynne Dyer

World Issues

The Crazy Gang is high on the “brilliant success” of their Venezuela caper and looking for new targets. Like Alexander the Great, Donald Trump weeps because there are no more worlds to conquer. But wait! Actually, there are still lots of places to conquer.

Colombia is right next door to Venezuela and the U.S. fleet is already just offshore, so how about taking down President Gustavo Petro? “He’s a sick man who likes making cocaine and sending it to the United States, and he’s not going to be doing it very long,” according to The Donald (who is lying about Petro).

“Operation Colombia sounds good to me,” Trump said. He also name-checked Mexico (“Something will have to be done about it”), Iran (“We are locked and loaded and ready to go!”) and Cuba (“It looks like it’s ready to fall”). But any of these “missions” would require lots of planning and moving military assets around. He wants another hit right now.

Instant triumphs tend to be smaller and less rewarding (arresting Russian-registered tankers in mid-ocean, for example). There is only one whole country on his list that Trump could conquer in one week from a standing start: Greenland. Which may be why Steve Miller, White House Deputy Chief of Staff, moved it to the top of the hit-list.

As a former colony that is still a self-governing part of the Danish kingdom, Greenland is not yet a completely sovereign state. But it can hold a referendum on full independence whenever its 57,000 people want, so it sort of qualifies as a country. Only a trophy country, but you would still get points for conquering it.

If I were completely ignorant of military matters, I would now copy and paste several paragraphs of White House hogwash explaining how strategically important Greenland is. I’d say that the Russians and the Chinese are casting lascivious eyes on the Arctic because there’s valuable minerals there, and the sea lanes are opening up because the glaciers are melting.

Indeed, Trump insisted that Greenland is “so strategic right now, it’s covered with Russian and Chinese ships all over the place. We need Greenland from the standpoint of national security.”

No, they don’t. Greenland is a region of zero strategic importance. I spent some time on Greenland’s west coast recently (Ilulissat), and Russian and Chinese ships were conspicuous by their total absence.

Greenland was briefly important strategically 60 to 70 years ago, when interceptors and radar stations based there might shoot down nuclear-armed Soviet bombers on their way to North America. Then the technology shifted to ballistic missiles that fly through space, and the number of troops on American airbases in Greenland dropped from 10,000 to 200.

If Washington wants to base more troops there now, it has only to ask: the treaty says it can have an unlimited number of bases and troops in Greenland. Similarly, if it wants some minerals, just negotiate a contract, start digging (and pay for them).

As for the sea lanes across the Arctic, Russia’s “Northern Sea Route,” connecting the Pacific to the Atlantic is getting busier. The Northwest Passage around Greenland and northern Canada, however, will get little traffic until the ice is almost all gone (20+ years from now), because all the remaining ice tends to get trapped amongst Canada’s Arctic islands.

On the other hand, if you just need “threats” as cover for your imperial ambitions, there are plenty of experts who can find them for you at a modest price. Trump relentlessly broadcasts their findings.

Given the servile posture (or just sheer laziness) of most American media, if Trump invades Greenland he would probably get away with it at home. However, he would not get away with it abroad.

The Russians and the Chinese would be happy to see the U.S. invade Greenland, but for America to seize the territory of a country that has been a loyal member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for 77 years is a very bad look.

“Nobody’s going to fight the United States militarily over the future of Greenland,” said Steve Miller confidently, and that’s true. American air and naval power would quickly overwhelm any attempted Danish defence of Greenland, and there’s no point in getting people killed for nothing.

However, the political and strategic impact would be immense. “If the United States decides to militarily attack another NATO country,” warned Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, “then everything would stop. That includes NATO and therefore post-Second World War security.”

A post-NATO alliance including every country except the United States

would probably reform, but the enemy would be different. That might even be enough to shock American voters into starting the fightback in the mid-term elections in November. Or am I just clutching at straws?

Michael Gwynne Dyer OC is a British-Canadian military historian, author, professor, journalist, broadcaster, and retired naval officer.

A second recycling cart can now be requested online through Circular Materials

King Township residents can now request a second recycling cart through Circular Materials by completing an online Recycling Container Request Form.

This form is available for residents who are looking to request a second 360-litre recycling cart. There is no additional cost if Circular Materials deems the volume of recyclable material generated by the residence is shown to consistently exceed the capacity of the carts provided.

This is the only size option available for a second cart and only applies to households with a 360-litre recycling cart. A second cart will not be provided to households that requested an exchange for the smaller 240-litre size recycling cart.

Given the early stage of the recycling transition across Ontario, Circular Materials is currently experiencing a significant volume of inquiries and requests, and at this time cannot commit to a timeframe for delivery of a second recycling cart.

It is recommended that households use their current recycling cart for a period of 90 days to determine their recycling needs before submitting a request for an additional cart.

It is common for households to experience significant seasonal variability



in recycling needs and increased volume over the holiday period.

All materials, particularly cardboard, must be broken down and flattened to support using recycling cart space most efficiently.

If you have questions or require support, email customerservice@circularmaterials.ca or call 1-877-667-2626.

For more information on the recycling transition, visit circularmaterials.ca/king.

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Mayor receives book marking Dalai Lama’s 90th

Tibetans and followers of His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama are celebrating his 90th birthday in 2026, a year of “compassion throughout the globe.” Thupten Wangyal, former president of the Canadian Tibetan Association of Ontario, presented the Dalai Lama’s book, “Voice for the Voiceless” to Mayor Steve Pellegrini. The book shares the wisdom, love and compassion of the Dalai Lama.

King 7-Day Weather Outlook

From Thursday, January 22 to Wednesday, January 28

THURS 22ND	FRI 23RD	SAT 24TH	SUN 25TH	MON 26TH	TUES 27TH	WED 28TH
A Few Flurries High -5C° Low -13C° <1cm	Scattered Flurries High -16C° Low -26C° ~1cm	Sun/Clouds High -16C° Low -21C°	Clouds/Sun High -14C° Low -18C°	Sun/Clouds High -12C° Low -14C°	Mainly Cloudy High -11C° Low -14C°	Sun/Clouds High -10C° Low -17C°
Wind W 22k	Wind W 24k	Wind W 7k	Wind SE 3k	Wind N 11k	Wind W 17k	Wind NW 12k

The King Weekly Sentinel

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Tips for residents during Significant Weather Events

From Front Page

Crews focused on clean-up as well as the transition to snow removal in areas where there is no snow storage.

Plowing in King occurs in priority sequence – major roads first, followed by neighbourhood roads and cul-de-sacs last – to ensure that fire and emergency services are able to drive on the roads and respond to calls.

Parking restrictions are also in effect, not just for major storms but all winter. No parking on roads is permitted during plowing, sanding or salting. Parking on the street any time during snow clearing is a violation.

Road servicing is typically completed within a 12-hour period after the snowfall is complete. It can take longer

during a Significant Weather Event.

Although crews are very conscious in following route schedules, sometimes streets may be missed. To report an oversight, call ServiceKing at 905-833-5321 or email serviceking@king.ca.

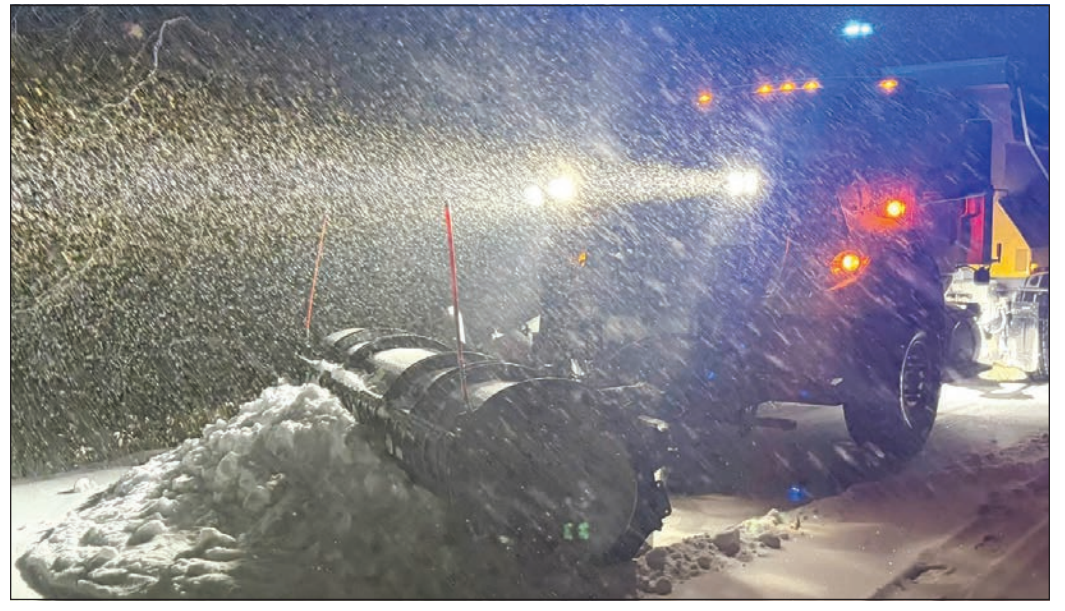
For future events, residents are reminded to clear snow early and often. Fresh snow is much lighter and easier to manage. Tackling it in stages can prevent buildup and reduce strain on your body.

Here are a few tips to help manage the snowfall safely:

Shovel in layers – remove snow throughout the storm instead of all at once.

Push, don't lift when possible to reduce the risk of injury.

Take small loads if lifting is neces-



sary; wet snow gets heavy fast.

Salt or sand icy areas to improve traction.

Dress warmly and stay visible when clearing outside.

Keep fire hydrants and catch basins clear if you're able to.

Take breaks and stay hydrated.

Use a snow blower or electric snow shovel to help clear snow faster easier.

Don't do it alone – ask a neighbour, family member, consider a private contractor, or ask a friend for help. Teamwork keeps everyone safer.

During road or sidewalk winter maintenance, residents are reminded that they assume the risk of on-street parking as King's snow removal crew are required to plow roads and sidewalks as best possible and unfortunately, will not be able to treat assets that are obstructed.

The Township is not liable for any inconvenience caused to vehicles parked within the public right of way during servicing.

Learn more about winter maintenance at king.ca/SnowRemoval.

Township, Region working through a province-wide road salt shortage

By Mark Pavilons
Editor

Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

The record snowfall last week compounded an Ontario-wide salt shortage, caused by high demand from frequent snowstorms and supply disruptions at major mines.

King entered the winter maintenance season prepared, with their material storage facility filled to capacity.

To date, the Township has used approximately 4,700 tonnes of sand and salt over its network road and sidewalk network.

Roads crew are actively monitoring inventory and taking measures to manage it, including:

Daily insights on material-application rates and totals through its AVL software Geotab; increased feedback from road patrols; continuous weather

monitoring; regular stockpile inventory checks; close coordination with plow operators.

Township staff noted crews continue to follow best practices such as spreading material efficiently, reducing dead-heading, and avoiding unnecessary treatment on bare pavement to make the most of available resources.

"We appreciate your understanding as they work diligently to mitigate the impact of this shortage while keeping safety our top priority," Township staff said.

While York Region is experiencing shipment delays for road salt, their crews continue to meet service levels through strategic planning and careful allocation of resources.

To date, this season's weather conditions necessitated increased road salting throughout York Region and Ontario.

York Region receives its road salt through a contracted supplier.

York Region is responsible for maintaining approximately 1,200 kilometres (or more than 4,400 lane-kilometres) of Regional roads that carry more than 2.6 million vehicles daily across nine cities and towns.

During the winter months, maintenance activities include snowplowing, snow removal, sanding, salting and use of salt-brine to help prevent ice buildup on roads.

Road conditions are monitored 24 hours a day by road patrols under the Region's Roads and Traffic Operations Centre.



From the Archives



Shovelling out the car, Pottageville, circa 1920s; some things never change!



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Business, Finance & Real Estate



Township adopts principles, policies in recreation master plans

By **Mark Pavilons**
Editor
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

King council has adopted the general principles and policies contained in recreation-related master plans.

The Township is moving forward on the Parks Master Plan, Trails Master Plan, and Facilities Master Plan.

Staff be directed to use the Parks, Trails and Facilities Master Plans as a reference when developing the short, medium, and long-term capital plan and to implement strategic resource and policy recommendations.

The Master Plans provide a framework and strategic direction for the Parks & Forestry, Facilities, and Community Services divisions over the next 10 years.

The update reflects population growth, new policies, best practices and trends since the previous plan, and extends the planning horizon from 2031 to 2051.

The Master Plans identified investment priority areas include expanding facilities, parks amenities and trails be triggered by population-based service levels and validated based on usage and community-specific needs.

These Master Plans are critical tools, staff pointed out, for guiding improvements related to the Capital Plan and the Development Charges By-law, ensuring alignment with growth and service needs.

The Parks, Trails and Facilities Master Plans serve as the essential road map for developing and maintaining a sustainable, functional, and optimized service network within the Township.

This comprehensive approach ensures that future infrastructure planning is coherent and fiscally responsible. This integrated report combines updates to the Facilities Master Plan (following the 2019 update), the Parks & Forestry Services Master Plan (following the 2019 update), and the Trails Master Plan (updating the 2015 Plan).

The Township last updated its Parks and Forestry Services Master Plan and Facilities Master Plan in 2019, and its Trails Master Plan in 2015. Since then, King Township has experienced significant population growth (projected to reach 51,000 by 2051), introduced new facilities such as the Zancor Centre, and faced legislative changes (e.g., More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 (Bill 23) impacting parkland dedication).

Staff noted these changes necessitated a comprehensive review to ensure service levels, policies, and infrastructure planning remain aligned with community needs and growth forecasts.

The development of the Township's Parks, Facilities, and Trails Master Plans followed a comprehensive, multi-phase process designed to ensure that recommendations are grounded in current needs, best practices, and community input. Each plan began with a review of existing master plans and relevant policy documents, followed by the consolidation of digital mapping, field investigations, and inventory assessments to establish a clear baseline of current assets and service levels.

Extensive engagement was a cornerstone of the process. The Township conducted broad consultations with internal and external stakeholders, including municipal staff, user groups, community organizations, and the

public. This included online surveys, targeted user group questionnaires, interviews, and public information sessions. The feedback gathered was used to identify priorities, gaps, and opportunities, and to validate findings from technical assessments.

The findings from these activities were synthesized and analyzed to develop prioritized recommendations for each master plan.

The result is a set of actionable, forward-looking plans that reflect both technical analysis and the voices of King Township residents and stakeholders.

The Parks Master Plan plans to: Proactively acquire and develop additional parkland – targeting at least 33 hectares by 2036 – to meet the needs of a growing population, with a focus on Community and Neighbourhood Parks. Invest in new and upgraded amenities such as sports fields, courts, playgrounds, and activity hubs to ensure equitable access and a diverse range of recreational opportunities for all residents.

Increase operational funding and staffing levels to support the maintenance and renewal of parks and open spaces, shifting toward more full-time staff and conducting regular condition assessments. Formalize partnerships and agreements with external organizations and implement robust asset management practices to ensure long-term sustainability and high-quality service delivery.

Update Park Development Standards to incorporate innovative design, climate resiliency, and accessibility. Engage the community and stakeholders in planning and decision-making, and ensure that parks remain inclusive, walkable, and responsive to evolving recreational trends and demographic needs.

The Trails Master Plan will: Focus short- and medium-term investments on enhancing local connections, amenities, and accessibility within existing trail networks, especially within neighborhoods and villages, to maximize community benefit and encourage active transportation.

Maintaining long-term goals for regional connectivity through developing of new trail links and extensions by working collaboratively with landowners, conservation authorities, and neighboring municipalities. Prioritize projects that close gaps in the network and support regional connectivity, while establishing clear design standards and partnership agreements.

Establish a dedicated trail working group, improve signage and wayfind-

ing, and implement consistent maintenance protocols. Expand marketing, events, and community engagement initiatives to promote trail use, stewardship, and awareness throughout the Township.

The Facilities Master Plan aims to: Continue to invest in the renewal, maintenance, and modernization of existing facilities (such as Zancor Centre, Trisan Centre, and community halls), while co-locating new or replacement library and cultural spaces within multi-use community hubs. Monitor facility usage and participation trends to ensure that spaces are responsive to evolving community needs and that future investments are data-driven.

Prioritize accessibility upgrades and energy-efficient improvements across all facilities, actively pursue grants to support these initiatives, and improve communication with the public and user groups. Ongoing engagement with stakeholders will help ensure that facilities remain inclusive, sustainable, and aligned with the needs and expectations of King Township residents.

The adoption of the Parks, Trails, and Facilities Master Plans will guide long-term investment in community infrastructure. These plans will inform updates to the Township's Development Charges background study and the 10-year capital plan to ensure alignment with growth and service needs. Financial considerations will be integrated into future budget processes, with funding strategies and development charge revenues helping to manage costs over time.

As new facilities are introduced, operational requirements – such as staffing, utilities, maintenance, and contracted services – will be incorporated into annual budgets to maintain service levels in a sustainable manner.

In a written submission, one resident noted the majority of the population who make up the Nobleton catchment area are not interested in the relocation of the Nobleton Library from its current Sheardown location to the Hwy. 27 and King Road area.

The current library is located in a scenic setting with trees, benches, gazebo and space for young children to run around.

The parking is more than ample as there is plenty of street parking (if overflow is required) in the neighbourhood in which the library resides.

The library is close to the public school.

It is situated in the shopping hub of the community, thereby providing convenience for those coming into town for groceries, mail, etc.

The library location on Sheardown Drive is situated in a safe, walkable area.

The members of council, in the 1980s, made a prudent decision to locate the Nobleton Public Library on Sheardown Drive. "We expect the same thoughtfulness regarding the future of the Nobleton Library now and in future."

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Convertus facility will create jobs in York, converting organic waste into natural gas

The Ontario government is welcoming an investment of more than \$165 million by the Convertus Group to build a new, state-of-the-art biofuel facility in York Region, converting organic waste into renewable energy.

Leveraging the province's skilled workforce, this investment will create 52 good-paying jobs for the local economy and further position Ontario as a leader in waste treatment, processing and renewable energy. In support of Convertus Group's investment, Ontario is providing \$2 million in funding through the Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Competitiveness (AMIC) stream of the Regional Development Program (RDP).

"Convertus's investment serves not only as a vote of confidence in our municipalities, manufacturers, and workers, but in Ontario's role as a reliable

and trusted partner for growth," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "Through the Regional Development Program, our government is proud to support a company that is increasing our resilience and self-reliance across domestic supply chains and reinforcing the province's leadership in next-generation technologies and solutions."

One of the largest North American operators of organic waste management, Convertus's new biofuel facility will be the first of its kind in Canada, using advanced technology to convert organic waste into renewable natural gas. Throughout the build and operation of the facility, Convertus will prioritize sourcing from local suppliers, strengthening the region's economy and creating new opportunities for Ontario's world-class workers.

"This investment by Convertus Group is a tremendous win for the York-Simcoe community. It brings cutting-edge technology, new jobs, and long-term environmental benefits right to our doorstep," said Caroline Mulroney, MPP for York-Simcoe. "I'm proud to see our government supporting innovative projects that protect and strengthen our local economy for years to come."

First launched in 2019, the RDP provides tailored supports to businesses and municipalities, helping them invest in the equipment, technologies and skilled workers they need to grow and remain competitive in a shifting economic landscape. To date, Ontario has welcomed more than \$2.3 billion in new investments through the RDP, creating over 4,300 jobs across the province.

"Support from Ontario's Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Competitiveness stream is helping Convertus adopt advanced technologies for the York facility," said Mike Leopold, CEO of Convertus Group. "The site will be the first in Canada to use CO2 liquefaction technology, capturing emissions and converting them into food-grade

liquid CO2 for use across multiple industries. As the premier facility of its kind in Canada, the Convertus York project will set a new benchmark for sustainable waste management and renewable energy production."

Ontario has the largest cleantech and environment sector in Canada, with over 140,000 employees, representing 40 per cent of Canada's employees in this space.

Applications for the next intake round of AMIC funding began on Nov. 4, and ends Feb. 3, 2026.

"As York Region grows, so does the need for sustainable solutions to manage organic waste. On behalf of York Region and York Regional Council, we welcome the Ontario government's investment in the Convertus Biofuel Facility, with state-of-the-art technology to process 200,000 tonnes of waste annually, produce renewable natural gas to heat 5,000 homes and cut emissions by 15,000 tonnes each year. This milestone reflects our commitment to planning a sustainable future and our dedication to building a greener, more resilient York Region," noted Eric Jolliffe, York Chairman and CEO.

Schomberg Beer Store has closed

By Mark Pavilons
Editor

Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

The Schomberg Beer Store has closed, as part of The Beer Store's restructuring.

The Beer Store made the difficult decision to close several more retail outlets last week.

"Where we buy beer and return empties in Ontario is changing. The Beer Store is modernizing operations to meet evolving consumer expectations," said Ozzie Ahmed, VP Retail The Beer Store.

"Unfortunately, this includes making the difficult decision to close retail locations. This is not a decision we make lightly, and we only make such a decision after careful consideration. During this time of change, two things will remain the same: The Beer Store will be the best destination in Ontario for ice-cold beer and home to a best-in-class deposit return system.

"We know this is difficult news for consumers, recyclers and our employees. The Beer Store recognizes the contributions our employees make to the business and in the communities where we operate. All efforts will be made to support employees through this pro-

cess in alignment with commitments and agreements."

The Province's 2024 agreement with the Beer Store required the company to keep at least 300 locations open until the end of 2025. As of 2026, the agreement states, the Beer Store can close as many locations as it chooses at "its sole and absolute discretion."

The Beer Store launched a new Empty Return Locator to make it easier than ever to find a Beer Store or alternative retailer that is accepting empties. Consumers can find the locators on the Beer Store's website. Visit www.thebeerstore.ca, in the navigation bar select 'Returning Empties.'

The Beer Store encourages customers to continue returning the more than 1.6 billion alcohol containers we process annually to one of our local TBS locations or an empty return dealer located close by. The following alcohol containers purchased in Ontario can be returned to collect your deposit back: beer, wine and spirits bottles, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, tetra packs and kegs.

All grocery stores that sell alcohol will be required to accept the return of empties and refund customer deposits. This is part of consumer retail alcohol modernization, found in the Early Implementation Agreement and provincial regulations.

King Township names new CFO

Marina Fung, CPA, is King Township's new Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer. She will take the position effective Feb. 9.

Ms. Fung brings six years of public sector accounting experience, most recently as Manager of Budget and Financial Planning for the Town of Stouffville. Her background also includes roles with Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation and five years in private accounting.

At Stouffville, Ms. Fung led initiatives such as managing \$120 million in annual operating and capital budgets, implementing service-based budgeting, and advancing Asset Management Plans. Under her leadership, the municipality earned Government Finance Officers Association awards for its budget publications.

A Chartered Professional Accountant, Ms. Fung offers King Township strategic financial planning expertise, innovation in Artificial Intelligence driven solutions, and strong stakeholder engagement skills.



"I am delighted to welcome Marina to the Township's Senior Leadership Team to lead the Finance Department. Her proven track record of innovation, strategic financial planning, and leadership will be a valuable asset as we continue to advance our fiscal sustainability and service excellence. On behalf of King Council and staff, I extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome to Marina as she joins the King team," said CAO Daniel Kostopoulos.



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Arts & Entertainment

King Township History Book named runner-up for award

The History of King Township: A Community Shaped by the Land (2025) The Ontario Historical Society (OHS) has been named a runner-up for the prestigious 2025 Best Local History Book Award from the Ontario Historical Society.

The honour recognizes the work by Ann Love and Sharon Bentley for bringing Ontario's past vividly to life.

The OHS Best Local History Book Award celebrates excellence in local history publishing, recognizing books released within the past three years that make a significant contribution to the understanding of Ontario's communities.

In November, Love and Bentley received heartfelt praise from one of their readers, King Township Councillor Debbie Schaefer, who wrote after reading their book cover to cover. In her congratulatory note, Schaefer lauded the authors' compelling blend of storytelling and scholarship, highlighting Ann Love's engaging narrative style and Sharon Bentley's rich historical insights.

"At times I just had to put the book down to ponder what I had just read," Schaefer wrote, singling out the story of the grand maple at Goldie Feldmann as a particularly memorable example of the authors' thoughtful and detailed approach. She also praised the inclusion of firsthand contributions from individuals deeply connected to King Township's history, calling it "a stroke of genius" that added sincerity and authenticity to the work.

Schaefer further noted that the book's opening sections provide an exceptional foundation for understanding the township's natural heritage, what it once was, and how it has changed over time, before concluding, "Fabulous book. Truly a standard for a history book."

This April marks one year since The History of King Township: A Community Shaped by the Land debuted at a well-attended launch at the municipal chambers, an event that fittingly coincided with King Township's 175th anniversary celebrations. Since then, the King Township Historical Society (KTHS) has sold more than 600 copies.

The OHS Best Local History Book Award was presented at the 2025 OHS Awards Ceremony Dec. 6, 2025 at the Historic John McKenzie House in Willowdale.

The historical narrative launched during King Township's 175th anniversary celebration and explores the Township's unique natural landscape and the lives of those who shaped it, from the Ice Age to present day.

The 476-page book was six years in the making, and significantly delayed due to closures during the pandemic. This labour of love traces the formation of King Township's unique natural landscape and narrates the adventures of those who have made King their home.

The writing team looked for connections between the people and the land over time with the underlying question – why has so much of the township's



Sharon Bentley and Ann Love were thrilled to have their history book named as runner-up for an award from the Ontario Historical Society.

countryside survived into the 21st century given its proximity to Toronto?

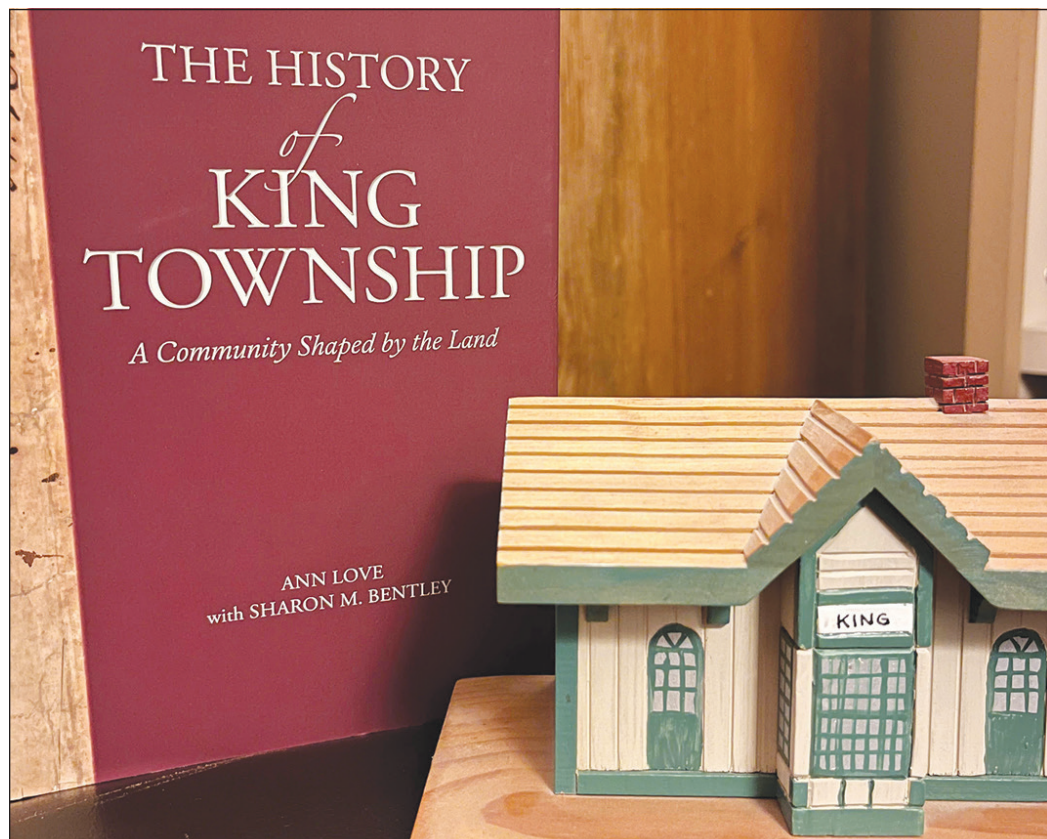
The authors unearthed fresh stories as well as new insights to enliven familiar tales. The book considers hundreds of generations of First Peoples who managed the land in strategic and subtle ways. What mechanisms of colonialism were applied in King Township and how did they affect King's First Peoples and landscape? Who were the early settlers and their descendants and how did their values, imaginations and stories impact the township?

The book considers the 20th century influx of city folks, many of whom shared with long-time residents a determination to keep King Township a green, living community.

If you haven't read it yet, now's the perfect time to dive in.

A limited number of copies remain available for \$40 and can be purchased online at www.kingtowshiphistoricalsociety.com, as well as in person at the King Museum and Pine Farms Orchard.

Founded in 1888, the Ontario Historical Society is a non-profit corporation and registered charity dedicated to the preservation and celebration of Ontario's history for people of all ages and cultural backgrounds. To learn more about the OHS Awards Program, or to submit a nomination, please visit ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/awards/ or contact the Society's offices by telephone or e-mail.



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Racket sport pros

4. Make tea

8. City South of Moscow

10. Spanish bullfighting term

11. Egg-shaped

12. Could not remember

13. French modernist painter

15. Persons

16. Painful intestinal obstruction

17. Professions

18. Is up to the task

21. Wood or metal bolt

22. Tax collector

23. A way to save for the future

24. Georgia rockers

25. Midway between north and northeast

26. High schoolers' test

27. Does not accept responsibility

34. One who prepares specified way

35. Gout-indicative deposits

36. Place to play games

37. Book of Genesis character

38. Cleans oneself

39. Unloaded for money

40. Genus of flowering plants

41. Take a puff

42. Congressmen

43. God of battle in Scandinavian mythology

CLUES DOWN

1. Type of bomb

2. South Pacific islands

3. Celestial body

4. Negotiates

5. Consider in a specified way

6. Type of group in organic chemistry

7. Buddhist

9. Inhabitant of Bering Sea island

10. Body part

12. Milestone birthday

14. Thyroid-stimulating hormone

15. More (Spanish)

17. Chicago ballplayer

19. Leaves a place

20. Cannot be found

23. One's internal body parts

24. Tell on

25. North American peoples of southwest

26. Soviet Socialist Republic

27. Extract used for jams and jellies

28. Greek goddess of the dawn

29. Old English letter

30. A way to exaggerate

31. Get up and leave

32. "Boardwalk Empire" character

33. More generous

34. Hanging cloth used as a blind

36. Ancient Greek sophist

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

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King's firepower returns in road victories versus Buffalo and Oakville

By Jim Stewart

After a narrow 2-0 home ice loss to the league-leading Toronto Patriots on Sunday afternoon, the King Rebellion rebounded with a pair of much-needed road wins: a narrow 6-5 decision over the Sabres on Monday night in Buffalo and a tidy 5-1 besting of the Blades on Saturday night in Oakville.

The Junior A Rebellion has won three of four games since General Manager Jay DeGennaro renovated his roster. In the victories versus the fifth-place Sabres and the tenth-place Blades, the reinvented King squad was impelled by its new players.

Five of DeGennaro's acquisitions – Deacon King, Lukas Manikis, Julius DaSilva, Reggie Taylor, and Lincoln Edwards – lit the lamp in Buffalo and the “new guy” narrative continued in Oakville.

Lucas Preiano, playing in his fourth game since being acquired from the Newmarket Hurricanes, opened the scoring versus the Blades after being set up by King.

Edwards, in his eighth game with his new club since being acquired from the Cobourg Cougars, closed the scoring at the spacious Sixteen Mile Sports Complex.

Lachlan Larmand, who scored the game-winning-goal versus Oakville, commented on the productivity of the recent arrivals: “Every new addition has great offensive abilities and a mindset to score.”

Larmand, the Rebellion's fourth-leading scorer with 12 goals and 17 assists, complemented the play of Preiano whose opening goal dampened

the spirit of the 1,500 fans in attendance: “Lucas is so strong on the puck. His goal shows how comfortable he is on the ice.”

Preiano's comfort level was evident when he followed the play in from his blue line position, snared Deacon King's rebound, and snapped it past Blades goaltender Marcos Cruz-D'Annunzio to give the visitors a 1-0 lead at 11:32 of the second period. It was the first of three goals by King blueliners on Saturday night.

Eighty-four seconds later, Larmand gave the Rebellion a two-goal lead when he banged in a rebound, earning assists for Adam Smeeton and Jared McNeil. The renewed confidence of the Rebs' number one line was clear to Larmand versus the Blades: “We're getting on a roll now for sure. We're getting back to where we've been. I was in the right place at the right time – with Adam and Jared doing lots of work to create the scoring chance.”

After great live music and a range of amenities created a carnival atmosphere during the second intermission, the Blades finally solved King goaltender Noah Maven seven minutes into the final frame. Maven, the seventh-ranked goaltender in the OJHL in SV%, held the host team off the scoreboard for 47 minutes of play. It took a wildly-redrafted deflection of Matthew Ross's shot from the point by Christian Armstrong to get one past the acrobatic netminder and into the lower left corner of the net.

Despite surrendering the strange goal at 7:11, the Rebellion's road resilience was evident in the third period. Forty-nine seconds after Armstrong's

improbable deflection, McNeil's lead pass to Andrew Willis created space, the King defender swept in off the left wing, and rifled a shot short side over Cruz-D'Annunzio's right shoulder to restore the visitors' two-goal lead.

Another King defenseman jumped on to the scoresheet when Matthew Anderson shot a puck from his side of centre ice into the Blades' empty net with 2:33 left in the game to make it 4-1 and seal the deal for the Rebellion.

In response to the empty-netter, the Blades made every effort in the final two-and-a-half minutes of play to run every red jersey into the ice, as they did for most of the evening. On a resultant power play and with 28 seconds left on the clock, Edwards made the home side pay for their truculence by beating Cruz-D'Annunzio high glove side to make it 5-1.

Larmand was pleased with his team's discipline in a game when the Blades landed a series of legal and illegal bodychecks: “That was part of our pre-game talk. We knew they'd try to take runs at us. We did a good job, especially at the end. They eventually wore themselves out and slowed down. We kept it together as a group.”

In addition to maintaining their discipline, Larmand discussed the team's strategy to succeed on the Blades' 200 x 100-foot rink: “We changed up our forecheck for them. We switched to a 2-3 passive in the neutral zone – one winger at a time – to keep them to the outside where they can't do any damage. We wanted to get to the inside and we scored our goals in good spots on the inside.”

The formula for success in Oakville was foreshadowed in Buffalo. At the Lecom Harborcentre on Monday, King got the visitors off to an even quicker start. The former Caledon Admiral

and second-leading scorer on his new squad beat Sabres goaltender Owen Scott only 56 seconds into the game.

Buoyed by King's 16th of the season, the Rebellion opened a 2-0 lead when Captain Jared McNeil set up defender Matthew Anderson at 10:53 of the opening frame.

Six minutes later, the home side narrowed their deficit when Carson Joy beat King netminder Logan Kennedy, but former Stouffville Spirit defender Lukas Manikis restored the Rebellion's two-goal lead 3:59 into the second period.

The Sabres put two past Kennedy at 5:48 and 12:40 to make it 3-3, but former Haliburton Husky Julius DaSilva fired his 14th of the season with two minutes left in the second period to break the tie.

With two seconds left in the middle frame, however, Griffin Johnston lifted Buffalo into a 4-4 tie.

Undaunted by Johnston's late period goal, new Rebellion players Lincoln Edwards and Reggie Taylor tallied at 3:07 and 5:19 to give their new club a 6-4 lead.

Kennedy surrendered a goal to Tucker Lyndaler with 41 seconds left, but the King goaltender prevented the Sabres from tying the game and preserved the precious regulation win.

The regulation road victories in Oakville and Buffalo pulled the eighth-place Rebellion to within five points of the slumping fifth-place Sabres with three games in hand. The Rebellion trail sixth-place Mississauga and sixth-place Burlington by only three points with five and two games in hand, respectively.

King (22-16-1-0) will host second-place Collingwood (30-8-1-3) on Sunday, January 25 at 3 p.m. at the Zancor Centre.

Competitive curling makes for tight games

By Shellee Morning
King Curling Club

King Curling's Team Entry Leagues, also known as the competitive sector, are all displaying the parity of calibre, more this season than ever before in the club's history.

Each week all 4 sheets are home to a competitive game that can make or break a team's placing in the overall year to date standings. While the actual accuracy of shot making has increased in player ability, so has the strategy by the skips in order to win the game.

The men's league is made up of 16 teams to which all play for 2 major events in their roster. The first being the Ryder Cup. A men's invitational spiel between 4 clubs consisting of 4 teams per club. To represent King in the prestigious event, the top 4 teams in the men's standings qualify (by registration time) to participate.

The second major event is the League Championships that are held at the end of the season. Both events require these heavy hitters to be on their game each week earning as many wins possible.

At the top of the leader board is Team Pelland with 52 points. They've held the top seeding for most of the season so far. Tied at 2nd with 47 pts. are teams Allen and Kolody. Gerrits at 46 pts. sits in 3rd while Barber is in 4th with 45. Inglis has 41 and teams Davis and Johns are tied with 40. A win earns 4 points so teams between 2-8th place with a mere 7 points in separation, can move a team drastically in the standings.

Women's curling is the second league in the Team Entry category who are also in a weekly battle of position. In this league a win earns a team 8 pts in the A Division, 6 in the B. After each Round Robin, the bottom 2 teams of the A drop to the B group and the top 2 teams in the B move up into the A.

All 12 teams in the roster requires top notch shot making whether it be hits, draws or guards for the win in



League leader and Skip Sylvain Pelland delivers while teammates Anthony Strickland and Fausto Musato sweep during men's curling.

order to keep a team in either the A division or hopefully move into the A division.

Team Gorsline sits atop the list with 80 pts. while teams Stronach with 68 and Morning with 64 are a win apart. Carins has 60, while deWinter and Hamilton are tied with 50 pts.

The B Division has seen a shuffle with their top 2 teams in each Round Robin proving the format is bringing the calibre closer amongst teams. Team Fraser is well in front with 47 pts. while J. Holmes holds 2nd with 36 and Gerrits sits right behind at 34. D. Holmes has 27, Sinclair has 18 and the rookie team of Browning has 12. With the League Championships in March, each team has one thing in mind. Win!

The men's and women's leagues are also playing for the chance to represent King Curling club in the Ontario Club Championship zone qualifiers that lead to Provincials and National Club Championships. The top 2 teams at the end of the season, are eligible for this prestigious event, So there is a lot riding throughout the season.

The last league in the Team Entry family is the Mixed League who presents the closest, tightest, and most competitive roster of curlers. Every week the games are exciting, surprising, and movement within the standings.

See 'Slim' on Page 17

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King's Corners

King City United
By Sheryl Sinka

New worship time! Sunday, Jan. 25, King City-York Pines United Church will worship at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. Bill Fritz leading our worship hour at 50 Elizabeth Grove. We invite all to join in our journey as we explore faith and what it means to us and live our lives as expressions of God's love in this world.

This month's Fellowship Lunch is on Wednesday, Jan. 28 at noon at the Sunset Grill in King City. Come and bring a friend! Please contact the office at kcuc@bellnet.ca or 905-833-5181 if you wish to attend or for more information.

"Serviceberry," by Robin Wall Kimmerer, is the subject of the next Book Club meeting on Monday, Jan. 26 at 10 a.m. This book is a lovely treatise on gratitude. You don't need to have read the book to join in. Contact the office at 905-833-5181 or kcuc@bellnet.ca to participate remotely on Zoom.

We would like everyone to know that the church does have an accessible entrance and lift to the auditorium floor for anyone needing this assistance.

If there are any pastoral emergencies please leave a message at the office at 905-833-5181.

Please remember the King Township Food Bank in your givings. Support through the food bank is an expression of kindness and generosity for which so many are grateful. We encourage you to continue to help with donations of food or financial donations for the many needing assistance.

King Bible Church

Join us on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. for our Sunday Worship service. Pastor Mark will be speaking on our sermon series; "The Unstuck Life." We will also be streaming the service online at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook and YouTube.

We will have an Open Closet Outlet on Saturday, Jan. 24 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Please bring your own bag. Limit restrictions apply and items are for personal use on and not for resale.

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

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

King City Seniors (55+)

By Carolyn Kanitz

Please note that art class is cancelled for Jan. 23 only.

Upcoming events at KCSC:

Friday, January 30 – 10 a.m. – Presentation – Joy Schwartz of the MTO will provide winter driving tips and how to renew your licence. Registration requested.

Friday, February 6 – 10 a.m. – Presentation – Mark Shimor of RBC will discuss fraud and seniors. Registration requested.

Friday, February 13 – 10 a.m. – Workshop – Angela will provide a hands-on workshop in which valentine décor will be created. Cost \$10/pp due by January 30.

The following activities are offered at the King City Senior Centre.

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

Monday afternoons: 1 p.m. – Music and Movement/Cribbage. Monday afternoons: 2 p.m. – Crochet class.

Tuesday mornings: 9:30 a.m. – Line Dancing. Tuesday mornings: 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. – Bone Fitness (must be registered with the Township).

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

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

Wednesday afternoons: 1 p.m. – Standard American Bridge.

Thursday mornings: 9:30 a.m. – Gentle Motion (similar to Tai Chi). Thursday mornings, 11 a.m. – Qigong (must be registered with the Township).

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

Friday mornings: 9:30 a.m. – Art Class (2nd & 4th Friday of the month at Laskay Hall).

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

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

King City-York Pines

New worship time! Sunday, Jan. 25 King City-York Pines United Church will worship at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. Bill Fritz leading our worship hour at 50 Elizabeth Grove.

Last week, Rev. Bill's message reflected on the amazing ways that we all have a part and a place in the "Body of Christ" and its workings. Our gifts and talents, no matter what they might be, are always valued as an extension of that body of Christ and we were encouraged to share our gifts and to celebrate those that are shared with us. We are all special in God's eyes.

Monday, Jan. 26 The Book Club will meet at King City United Church at 10 a.m. and "Serviceberry" by Robin Wall Kimmerer will be the subject of that meeting. This book is a lovely treatise on gratitude and you don't need to have read the book to join in. For more information contact the office at 905-833-5181 or kcuc@bellnet.ca or to participate remotely on Zoom.

The merged United Churches of York Pines and King City invite you, friends and neighbours to join us for our monthly fellowship luncheon, a well loved tradition of York Pines.

Our next luncheon is on Wednesday, Jan. 28 at noon at the Sunset Grill, 1700 King Road, King City (just west of Dufferin St. on north side). Please RSVP by Tuesday Jan 27 to the office at 905 833 5181 if you plan to attend.

We would like everyone to know that

the church does have an accessible entrance and lift to the auditorium floor for anyone needing this assistance.

If there are any pastoral emergencies you may leave a message at the office at 905 833 5181.

If there are any pastoral emergencies please leave a message at the office at 905-833-5181.

Please remember the King Township Food bank in your givings. Support through the food bank is an expression of kindness and generosity for which so many are grateful. We encourage you to continue to help with donations of food or financial donations for the many needing assistance.

Sacred Heart Church

We welcome into the Church Cecilia Belle Lisi, daughter of Matteo & Olivia. May the Lord Jesus pour

His blessing on Cecilia and her family. The Sacrament of Baptism will take place on Saturday, January 24, at 11 a.m.

Roast Beef Family Dinner Saturday, Jan. 24 6 to 10 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Tickets and reservations of tables are being encouraged. Kindly see the Knights of Columbus after Mass.

Price: Adults \$75 Seniors \$60; Children under 12 \$25; Free for children under 5. Hosted by the Knights of Columbus.

Sunday Coffee & Fellowship "Volunteers Needed: We need your help in making our 'Coffee Sundays and Fellowship' a more frequent part of our parish life. These informal gatherings after 8:30 am & 10:30 am Mass are wonderful ways in building community, sharing conversation, and connecting with one another. Please consider joining us at Coffee Sunday; an invitation for you to be the recipient of that generosity. Also, if your family would like to Sponsor a "Coffee Sunday." Our next Coffee Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 24. For information, contact Justine Cariati thecariatifamily@gmail.com OR Nadia Pascuzzo NPascuzzo@archtoronto.org

Rectory: 905-833-1161. Email: sacredheartki@archtoronto.org Website: sacredheartki.archtoronto.org

Facebook & Instagram: Sacred Heart Parish King

St. Andrew's

By Kathy Patterson

Everyone is welcome at our church, 13190 Keele St., just 2 blocks north of the King Rd. Our Morning Worship is at 10:30 a.m.

More on Page 14

Cougars frozen 5-2 by Ice

By Jim Stewart

Schomberg's eight-game winless streak continued at the Georgina Ice Palace on Friday night.

The young Cougars dropped a 5-2 decision to the veteran-laden Georgina Ice.

The Ice jumped out to a 3-0 lead after twenty minutes of play, getting two goals from First Star of the Game Seth Kirou and one from Connor Sookey.

Schomberg's leading scorer, Mason Bondy, got the Cougars on the scoreboard 52 seconds into the middle frame. Jason Stears reduced the visitors' deficit to 3-2 at 9:41.

However, second-place Georgina struck back with a pair of goals by Sebastien Ferris and Carson McKenzie before the end of the period to close the scoring and provide the Ice's margin of victory.

Former Schomberg goaltender Vann Kulba stopped 27 of 29 shots to earn the W for the Ice in front of 492 fans at The Palace.

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King's Corners

From Page 13

Join us afterwards for coffee time. Pastor Alison continued with her new sermon series based on our alphabet, with the letter "C," for Citizenship – Philippians 3:20. "But our citizenship is in Heaven." The idea was from Alistair Begg's book called "C is for Christian: An A-Z Treasury of Who We Are in Christ." Check us out on our website: standrews-kingcity.ca

This Sunday, Jan. 25 is our monthly Fellowship meal, a chili lunch. All are welcome!

The Annual Congregational Meeting is February 22, following our Morning Worship Service. Mark your calendars! Please have your reports in to Bonnie Mooney by Feb. 3.

For pastoral care, please call the office to speak with the Rev. Alison Agnew, or your Elder – 905-833-2325.

All Saints Anglican Church
By Kit Woods

Every week, when I sit down to write this piece for King's Corners, I think

about invitation.

Yes, churches often use this space to share what's coming up – services, events, rummage sales, pancake suppers – and I do that too. But just as important as what is happening is why. Why we open our doors. Why community matters. What people might find when they come through them.

At the heart of it all is a simple message: You are welcome. We want you. Come and see.

That phrase, come and see, comes straight from this week's Gospel reading (John 1:29-42).

In the opening chapter of John's Gospel, John the Baptist points to Jesus and names him as the Lamb of God. It's a moment of profound transition. The people who had been following John are suddenly invited to look somewhere new.

Two of John's disciples do exactly that. They follow Jesus, unsure of who he is or what will come next. When Jesus notices them, he doesn't question their motives or test their beliefs. Instead, he asks something simple and deeply human: "What are you looking for?"

Their response isn't a statement of faith or certainty. They simply ask, "Where are you staying?"

And Jesus replies, "Come and see."

These are some of the first words Jesus speaks in John's Gospel, and they aren't instructions or explanations, but an invitation. He doesn't demand anything from them, but he invites them into relationship and presence.

Faith doesn't begin with having everything figured out. It begins with showing up, curious, unsure and open. It begins with time spent together. With listening. With noticing what unfolds.

That invitation is still calling each of us to deeper prayer, to community, to service, to simply being present.

Nobleton & Schomberg United Churches

By Nancy Hopkinson

Our regular services are 9:30 a.m. at Schomberg and 11:15 a.m. at Nobleton. We warmly welcome everyone, even if you just want to drop in for a short prayer. If you do stay for the service, we invite you to have coffee or tea and some snacks afterwards.

Join us for our next Community Pot-

lunch taking place on Tuesday, Feb. 3. We gather at 11:30 a.m. and have lunch at noon at St. Mary Magdalene Church. This is an opportunity to make friends and enjoy warm conversation over a shared meal. This event is free but bring some food to share with others.

It hasn't expired. Jesus still says, gently and without pressure:

Come and see.

Come and see what happens when you make space. Come and see what changes when you stay a little longer. Come and see who you might become when you are known and loved.

Faith doesn't begin with answers. It begins with presence. And the invitation still stands

Please see our website, allsaints-kingcity.ca, for information about our services and other upcoming events.

On Feb. 8, Superbowl Sunday, our churches will be gathering soup & crackers for the annual SOUPER Bowl Fundraiser to support the King Township Food Bank.

More on page 17

Classifieds

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Nobleton Notes

By Angie Maccarone

St. Paul's Church
By Linda Blydorp

We invite you to join us in person this Sunday at 10 a.m. Our Pastor, Jeff Loach, will lead the service this morning with a message entitled, "Welcome and Announcements" from Mark 1.1-20.

We offer children's ministry and nursery during the Sunday service. After worship, you are welcome to join us for a time of fellowship over coffee and goodies. If you cannot make it in person, our live-streamed broadcasts are available directly on stpaulsnobleton.ca or on our YouTube channel each Sunday at 10 a.m., or on demand at youtube.com/stpaulschurchnobleton.

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

Our Youth LifeConnect Group meets every second Friday, with the next meeting being Friday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. This

is a fun time with a range of activities open for all ages from Grades 7 to 12.

St. Paul's monthly men's group meet on the first Saturday of every month. Our next meeting will be Saturday, Feb. 7 at 9 a.m. Our mid-week LifeConnect small groups are a great opportunity to connect with others and grow in faith. Groups meet for discussion, study, and prayer throughout the week.

St. Mary's Mission
St. Patrick's Parish

Mass Time Changes: St. Pat's Church - 7:45 a.m. and 9 a.m. Sunday. St. Mary's Church - 5 p.m. Saturdays; 10:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Sundays.

St. Patrick's Parish will celebrate its 150th Anniversary with Cardinal Francis Leo on Sunday, March 8, at 1:30 p.m. There will be a fund raiser dinner at 4 p.m. We are creating a historical photo directory. We will also be celebrating 171 year anniversary of St. Mary's in Nobleton during 2026.

Nobleton Seniors (55+)
By Joanne Bailey
Program Chair

Please register for each program you

plan to attend. Material and food are purchased according to the number of people registered.

Mobility Matters will be on Monday and Friday from 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

January 15 - Decorate Your Home with a Winter Door Hanger. Artist Angela Del Borrello will give instructions on how to create a wood door hanger. Register by January 8, cost is \$10 which includes all materials.

January 22 - Sit back and relax and watch a movie on the new TV screen. Choice of movie will be determined by the group.

January 29 - Are your affairs in order? A coffee and tea workshop on being prepared. Guest speaker Gordon MacGregor, certified executive advisor on behalf of Egan Funeral Home in Bolton will discuss the & key steps in being organized.

February 5 - Create your own Acrylic Winter Forest Scene. Artist Angela Del Borrello will give detailed instructions on painting a winter forest scene with acrylic paint. Register by January 29, cost is \$10 which includes all materials.

February 12 - Ministry Transportation of Ontario. Joy Schwartz Regional Strategic Outreach Coordinator will discuss testing requirements and

licensing for seniors over 80, trends & statistics for older drivers.

February 19 - Heart to Home - Traditionally Balanced Meals. Heart to Home will discuss their menu, how it caters to various dietary needs and the delivery of the food. Sample foods will be available to try.

February 26 - Frauds, Scams and Financial Abuse. Mary Shkoury, Prevention Consultant with Elder Abuse will talk about recognizing frauds, scams and financial abuse to seniors.

Nobleton Lions

The Nobleton Lions look forward to continuing to serve in our community in 2026. Our first fundraiser of the year is the poker tournament on Friday, February 27, at the Dr. William Lacey Arena in Nobleton. For tickets, please contact Gunther Vetter at 416-807-5469 or any Lion. Looking ahead, Easter comes early this year and so does the Annual Easter Egg Hunt which will be held on Saturday, April 4, 10 a.m. at Tasca Park. More details will follow.

Regular meetings of the Nobleton Lions Club are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from September to mid-June.

708 OBITUARIES

Gerhard Wilhelm KOHNEN



It is with deep sorrow that the family of Gerhard Kohnen announces his passing. He slipped away peacefully, surrounded by family, on January 11, 2026 in his 91st year.

Gerhard was a dreamer, a storyteller, a philosopher, a lover of song and choir, and an artist who embodied the proverb: "The one who plants trees, knowing that he will never sit in their shade, has at least started to understand the meaning of life."

A loving husband, proud father, loyal son, brother, and Opa, Gerhard was born on May 19, 1935, in St. Tönis, Germany. The fourth of five children and the third son of Gerhard and Anna Kohnen (Franken), he grew up on the family farm, learning to listen to the land and to use it to bring futures and dreams to life.

In 1962, he married the love of his life, Katharina Gleumes, and together they worked tirelessly to bring those dreams into being.

Not content to remain in Germany and heeding the pull of promise in a different land, Gerhard—along with Katharina, six months pregnant, and their three young sons under the age of five—followed his older brother to Canada in 1968. They first settled in Quebec and, four years later, moved to King City, which would remain their home for the rest of his life.

In 1979, Gerhard and Katharina moved onto an old farmstead on the outskirts of King City, where Gerhard set about bringing his vision to life. Unwilling to sever his ties to the soil, and with absolute certainty in the outcome, he established a garden centre in the middle of a cornfield—seemingly in the middle of nowhere—fully confident that this jewel in the rough would succeed. His family takes enormous pride in the legacy that became Black Forest Garden Centre. Gerhard's touch was everywhere: from the stone entrance he built with fieldstones gathered from the fence line, to the whimsical structures that dotted the landscape—the blue sheep, the walking labyrinth, the secret garden, and forest trails that went nowhere and yet everywhere.

One of Gerhard's greatest gifts was his ability to connect with just about anyone, anywhere, on any subject. With homespun logic, disarming wit, life experience, humour, and endless anecdotes, he offered insight—and often a bit of advice. He touched many lives with his warmth, creativity, curiosity, and charm. People often came to the Forest just to talk. Strangers became customers, customers became friends, and friends became family.

His life was a testament to his unshakeable faith in God, in family, and in the core belief that gave him purpose every day: that life without hope is hopeless.

At heart, Gerhard was a storyteller who believed that the stories we tell are the ties that bind us—connecting the fabric of past, present, and future.

We need only look around to see his story.

And one more thing: he did manage to sit under the shade of some of those trees, even if only for a little while. For that, we are forever grateful.

Gerhard leaves behind Katharina, his beloved partner in life and wife of 63 years; his sons John, Karl (Dan), George (Maria), and Andrew (Sherry); his granddaughters Meaghan, Daniela, and Martina; his brother Willi of St. Tönis, Germany; and many nieces and nephews, all of whom will forever cherish his memory.

A visitation will be held at Thompson Funeral Home, located at 530 Industrial Parkway South, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 6W8, on January 21, 2026, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

The funeral service will take place at Sacred Heart Parish, 14485 Jane St, King City, Ontario, L7B 1A3, on January 22, 2026, from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm. Following the service, a reception will be held at the same location in the Parish Hall.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Doane House Hospice, 17100 Yonge Street, Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 8V3. For more information, please visit their website at <https://www.doanehospice.org/support-DHH>.

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708 OBITUARIES

Doyle: John McCormick

Passed away peacefully with family by his side at Royal Victoria Hospital Barrie, on January 7, 2026. John Doyle, at the age of 77 years, beloved husband of Terry O'Connor. Loving father of Craig (Lois), Leah Peene (Ron), and Pat (Ashleigh). Dear grandfather of Connor, Ronan, Liam, Emma, and Braden. Predeceased by his brothers Ken and Ed. John will be remembered for his love of family, his strong ties to the Legion, and his devotion to the Montreal Canadiens, always cheering them on with passion. He remains forever in the hearts of his extended family, his Legion family, and many friends. A Celebration of John's Life will be held at the Tottenham Legion 25 Richmond St. E. Tottenham, on Saturday March 14, 2026 from 1-4pm, with Legion Service taking place at 2pm. For those wishing to make a donation in John's memory, contributions to the Royal Canadian Legion, Tottenham Branch #329, would be appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to Rod Abrams Funeral Home. Condolences and memories may be left for the family at www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com

709 IN MEMORIAM



Erika Carlyn Nolet

January 18, 1993 -
February 20, 1997

With every snowflake that falls,
With every teardrop that is shed,
With every sunrise and sunset,
With every gentle breeze that
whispers through the trees,
With every stream of sunlight that
dances across the water,
With every season we are reminded
of you and your smile,
On this the 29th year of missing,
longing for a hug, a gentle kiss
on the cheek,
Just longing to hold you one more time,
When it's time we will.

Forever,
Mom and Dad, Alex, Evan, Zack.

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709 IN MEMORIAM

MORTON, DOUG

In loving memory of a dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle who passed away January. 23,1994.

*Two tired eyes are sleeping,
Two willing hands are still,
For one who suffered far too much
Is resting in God's will.
You never said goodbye to us,
For perhaps it's just as well,
We never could have said goodbye
To one we loved so well.*

Sadly missed and always remembered by sister Carol, brother-in-law Larry and niece Cheryl.

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Scoop from Schomberg

By Susan Heslop

It seems that winter is going to be long, cold and snowy from all indications so far, but not all hope is lost, Spring is only two months away. In the meantime, get outside and enjoy the sunny days.

You can now drop off your old blue boxes to either the Trisan, Zan-



Lead Christine Warner of top seed Team Gorsline delivers her stone during ladies' league.

Slim point spreads

From Page 12

The League director can barely contain his excitement by the end of the evenings games as the standings rotate between teams.

Teams Barber and Kolody are tied with 48 pts. for the top spot after season leader Barber lost in last week's contest and Kolody squeaked in a tie. Battershell and Inglis are tied with 47, Clark has 44, Morning has 42 and teams Flannigan and Sheardown are also in a tied position with 41 pts each.

With 4 points awarded for a win, and a slim 7 pt spread between the top 8, it is any team's title for the taking. The final months of the season will undoubtedly be one of the most exciting season finishers the club has witnessed.

cor or Nobleton arena to be recycled until Feb. 27. Please empty and clean your boxes before dropping them off.

Horticultural Society

The Schomberg Horticultural Society has an exciting year planned and is accepting new members. If you're a seasoned gardener or novice there's always more to learn so, consider joining this enthusiastic group. Here are some important dates to remember:

Tuesday, March 24, SHS General Meeting with Guest speaker Maria Shtembert on "Container Gardening," along with a baking contest "Sugar and Spice & Everything Nice" baking contest and pizza party.

Tuesday, April 28, SHS General Meeting with Guest speaker Kristen Martyn, "20 Facts about Backyard Birds."

Saturday, May 9, Annual Plant Sale, Schomberg Community Farm 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tuesday, May 19, SHS General Meeting, Guest Speaker Kathleen Gorsline, "Square Foot Gardening."

Tuesday, June 23, SHS General Meeting with Guest Speaker Karen Hollingshead, "Soil to Table."

Sunday, June 28, Annual Garden Tour, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 22, SHS General Meeting, Guest Speaker Cathy McDougall, "Sustainable Garden Hacks."

Tuesday, Oct. 27, SHS General Meeting, Guest Speaker - Brandon Hebor, "The Future of Farming."

Tuesday, Nov. 17, Annual General Meeting & Banquet, 6 to 9 p.m.

All events will take place at Schomberg Community Hall on Main Street, for more information please contact schomberghortsociety@gmail.com

Schomberg Euchre Club

Euchre is every Friday night at Trisan in Room A/B from 7 to 9 p.m. The cost is \$10 for the evening or pay monthly for \$20. All you need to know is how to play (no beginners please), how to laugh, enjoy an excellent group of people and not take the game or yourself too seriously.

Schomberg 55+

General meetings start at 10 a.m. for coffee and 10:30 a.m. for meeting.

Naomi Simpson, professional astrologer and coach, gave us a highly informative and interesting talk about astrology and how it affects our life in different ways and what might be affecting what is going on in our lives.

Monday, February 2 - Game Time with Maggie and Lynn - Celebrating the love month with "Roses are red, trivia is tough."

Monday, February 9 - Presentation - Lynda Quirino will give a talk on "Demystifying Ghostly Phenomena" Lynda is the founder and President of the "Georgina Paranormal Society" and will be discussing the kinds of ways ghosts and spirits present themselves, and why they may be present in the first place. She'll cover topics like poltergeist phenomena, orbs, portals and will be bringing along her equipment and give us all a live demonstration.

Weekly Events:

Monday afternoons - 2:15 p.m. - Mobility Matters (Trisan Centre).

Tuesday afternoons - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Bridge - in Multi Room B at Trisan.

Wednesday mornings - 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. - Bone Fitness.

Wednesday afternoon - 2 to 4 p.m. - Mahjong -in the Curling Lounge at Trisan.

Thursday afternoons - 1 p.m. - Carpet Bowling - at Trisan. Thursday afternoons - 3 to 4:30 p.m. - The Tightly Wound ukulele group in the Multi Room B at Trisan.

Friday afternoons - 1 to 3 p.m. - Bid Euchre in Multi Room A at Trisan, newbies welcome

Friday afternoons - 2:15 p.m. - Mobility Matters (Trisan Centre).

Some new additions to our agenda that you might be interested in are

Mosaic Lamp Workshops with Art Masterclass Canada. Workshops are held twice a month. The next session is February 1 at either 10 a.m. or 2 p.m. at Best Western in Orangeville. The 2.5-hour guided workshop includes all materials and Turkish tea service with treats. (Thanks to Ida Haelser for this

suggestion).

Annual 2026 memberships remain at \$20 for King Township residents, \$25 for non-residents. For members that hold a valid Rec Pass at the Trisan Centre, the 55+ membership fee is included at no additional cost.

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

Please reach out at sporster5952@gmail.com or 416-460-5952.

United Churches

From Page 14

This fundraiser began in the 1990s with a Presbyterian minister in South Carolina who was concerned about those who could barely afford to feed their families while those watching the game had plenty. He challenged his church and SOUPer Bowl was born. Since then over \$220 million in food & funds have been raised around the world to support local food banks & food programs.

Rev. Evelyn McLachlan is continuing this by challenging congregations, faith communities & community groups to take part. Preferred soups are: Chunky soups, beef stew, mild chili, Habitant soups, Campbell's condensed soups and Knorr dehydrated soups. We hope you will take part in this challenge on February 8!

Our next Schomberg Senior's Luncheon is Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 11:15 a.m. at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Schomberg. The meal will be Ruthie's chicken casserole served with a green salad with maple syrup dressing. Dessert will be apple cranberry crisp with ice cream. The entertainment will be provided by Joe Crone from Aurora, singing '50s and '60s music. Joe has entertained us before and is recently back in Canada after travelling around the world with his family. Please RSVP with Sheila Kelly (905-939-2315 or 905-751-5190) if you plan to attend as space is limited. Although the meal is free, donations are appreciated to defray costs.

The Schomberg United Church Women will meet on Thursday, Feb. 12 at 1 p.m. at St. Mary Magdalene Church. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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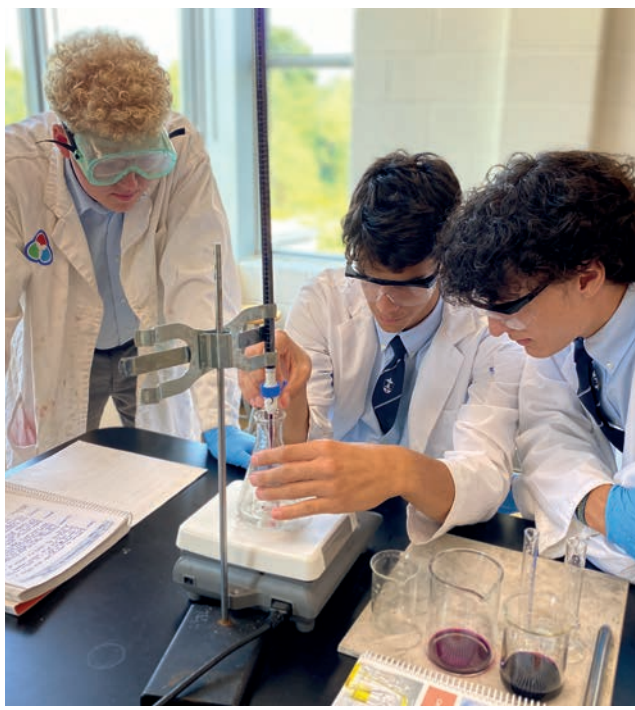
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Our comprehensive arts program includes Instrumental and Vocal Music, Musical Theatre, Fine Arts and Media Arts and is integral to our commitment to develop the whole person. Students have the opportunity to imagine, create, perform and develop self-worth. Participation in the arts serves to broaden the lens through which our students see the world.

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Expenses to expect upon buying a HOME

Homeownership is often characterized as a fulfillment of a dream. Indeed, many homeowners feel their ability to buy a home is a reflection of their discipline and commitment to saving money.

That discipline and dedication can set homeowners up for long-term financial health, providing a unique sense of security along the way. First-time home buyers may not know what to expect upon buying a home, and since each home is unique, it's impossible for even long-time homeowners to say with certainty exactly how things will unfold once those new to home ownership get the keys to their first house. Various expenses might be the only common variable when it comes to homeownership, and some of those expenses may surprise first-time buyers. With that in mind, the following are some expenses first-time buyers can expect once their offers are accepted.

DOWN PAYMENT

Conventional wisdom long suggested home buyers should submit a down payment of at least 20 percent of the overall purchase price upon buying a home. Buyers who want to follow that advice would need a down payment of \$80,000 when buying a \$400,000 home. But many home buyers now submit down payments considerably less than 20 percent, particularly in the modern real estate market, which is characterized by high prices and low inventory. The lower the down payment, the higher your monthly mortgage payment will be, so it's best to save as much as possible toward a down payment.

PRIMARY MORTGAGE INSURANCE (PMI)

Buyers who cannot come up with a down payment of 20 percent or more will have to pay for primary mortgage insurance, which is typically a set fee that is incorporated into the mortgage payment each month. PMI fees are typically waived once the balance on the mortgage reaches 79 percent or less of the purchase price, though some lenders may waive PMI prior to that if the value of the home increases considerably before the loan balance reaches the predetermined marker.

CLOSING COSTS

The amount of closing costs varies widely depending on a host of variables, but Bankrate.com notes it's not uncommon for these costs to come in at somewhere between 2 and 5 percent of the loan principal. Closing costs must be paid no later than when the sale becomes official and buyers sign on the (many) dotted lines. Application and credit fees, title fees, underwriting fees, appraisal fees, and transfer tax are among the various fees that fall under the umbrella of closing costs.

MOVING

It's also important that first-time home buyers budget for moving costs. Moving costs vary and may depend on how much buyers already own and how far they're moving. The home renovation experts at Angi estimate that local moves typically cost somewhere between \$883 and \$2,568, while long-distance moves may run buyers anywhere from \$2,700 to \$10,000 or more.

These costs are some of the upfront fees aspiring homeowners can expect when buying a home. Long-term costs, including homeowners' insurance (which is separate from PMI), property taxes, homeowners' association fees, and maintenance are some additional expenses buyers can plan for as they try to determine their home buying budgets.

MARKET UPDATE – DECEMBER 2025

AURORA

AVERAGE SALES PRICE

\$1,248,524

AVERAGE 43 DAYS ON MARKET

NUMBER OF SALES

41

41 NEW LISTINGS

SALE TO LIST RATIO

98%

YEAR OVER YEAR % CHANGE

-10.86%

KING

AVERAGE SALES PRICE

\$2,148,214

AVERAGE 56 DAYS ON MARKET

NUMBER OF SALES

14

32 NEW LISTINGS

SALE TO LIST RATIO

92%

YEAR OVER YEAR % CHANGE

-8.91%

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

As we closed out the 2025 year, the activity in the market remained modest. Aurora finished December steady and stable, while King finished off on a quieter note. It's a market where serious buyers are seeing opportunities, and prepared sellers are still getting good prices: especially if their property is well-staged and strongly positioned. This shift toward balance means buyers gain a bit more negotiating room, especially in winter months, while sellers can enjoy fewer showings, but more serious Buyers who are looking. A handful of transactions continued to close, even as year-end typically slows with respect to market pace — with about 40+ homes sold in the month across all types in Aurora and 14 homes sold in King. Despite the favourable lowering of borrowing costs and increase in inventory, many Buyers are still exercising caution. For those thinking of investing, it might be a good time to secure a home in the slower holiday months, with less competition and more motivation and the potential for better pricing. Well priced and well appointed homes are still attracting attention. In an evolving market, Key Advantage is always here as a trusted advisor to talk strategy.

— Provided by Key Advantage Team Royal LePage RCR Realty
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FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS: Why now may be your moment in King Township

For many first-time homebuyers, the idea of entering the market has felt out of reach over the past few years. Rapid price growth, rising interest rates, and uncertainty left many would-be buyers waiting on the sidelines.

Today, that landscape is changing — and for those considering their first purchase, the timing may be more favourable than it has been in years.

Across the Greater Toronto Area, home prices have adjusted from recent highs, inventory levels have improved, and buyers now have more choice and negotiating power. In communities like King Township, this shift has created meaningful opportunities for first-time buyers to enter the market with greater confidence and less competition than we've seen in quite some time.

A MORE BALANCED MARKET

When prices soften and listings increase, the market becomes more balanced. That balance matters for

first-time buyers. It means fewer bidding wars, more time to evaluate options, and the ability to include conditions such as financing or inspections — protections that are especially important when purchasing your first home. In King, this has opened the door to a wider range of properties, from townhomes and condos to smaller detached homes that may not have been accessible in recent years.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS THAT HELP

In addition to improved market conditions, there are several provincial and federal programs designed to support first-time buyers:

- **First Home Savings Account (FHSA):** A powerful savings tool that allows eligible buyers to save toward a first home with tax advantages.
- **Home Buyers' Plan (HBP):** Permits qualified buyers to use funds from their RRSP toward a down payment.
- **Ontario Land Transfer Tax Rebates:** First-time buyers may be eligible for rebates that reduce upfront closing costs.

Understanding how these programs work — and how they can be combined — can make a significant difference in affordability. However, they are most effective when paired with the right purchase strategy and clear guidance.

WHY KING IS WORTH CONSIDERING

King Township continues to attract first-time buyers who value space, community, and long-term livability. With its blend of village charm, natural landscapes, and access to surrounding employment hubs, King offers a lifestyle that appeals to buyers looking to put down roots. Entering the market now allows first-time buyers to benefit from today's pricing while building equity in a community with strong long-term appeal.

GUIDANCE MATTERS — ESPECIALLY THE FIRST TIME

Buying your first home is not just a financial decision; it's a personal one. Having the right team beside you can make all the difference. The **Michele Denniston Real Estate Group** brings deep local knowledge, proven experience, and a thoughtful, client-first approach to every transaction. We focus on education, clarity, and options — ensuring first-time buyers understand not just what they can buy, but why a particular decision makes sense for their goals.

Real Advice. Real Options. Real Estate.

That means clear explanations, honest conversations, and strategies tailored to you — not pressure, guesswork, or one-size-fits-all answers.

THINKING ABOUT YOUR FIRST STEP?

If you're a first-time buyer wondering whether now is the right time, a conversation is the best place to start. Understanding today's market, available incen-

tives, and what's possible in King can help you move forward with confidence.

Reach out to the **Michele Denniston Real Estate Group** to begin with real advice — and a clear path toward your first home, michele@micheledenniston.com and her phone number 416-433-8316.

WRITTEN BY: The Michele Denniston Real Estate Team



MUST BE SEEN!

390 MAIN STREET, SCHOMBERG



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Townhome linked only by the garage.

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6 CHURCH STREET, SCHOMBERG

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on Historic Quaint Main Street
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Elevated Downtown Living \$4,888,000

Entertainer's Dream Home \$3,398,000

Located in the heart of Yorkville, this exquisitely renovated home blends modern luxury with urban convenience. Set on a premium lot beneath a majestic 250-year-old oak, it offers refined living across three levels plus a finished lower level. Highlights include a showpiece Wolf/Sub-Zero kitchen, soaring ceilings, stone fireplace, spa-like primary suite, private terrace and professionally landscaped grounds—an exceptional turnkey opportunity.

Own a private retreat on 1.15 acres in the prestigious Woodland Acres estate community. This custom-built home features a soaring 17-ft foyer, gleaming hardwood floors and sun-filled open-concept living with a floor-to-ceiling marble-surround gas fireplace. The chef's kitchen opens to poolside entertaining, while the finished lower level offers expansive recreation. Professionally landscaped grounds complete this exceptional estate.

Woodland Acres Luxury Estate \$3,398,000

Resort-Style Family Oasis \$4,900,000

Set on 1.01 acres in coveted Woodland Acres, this custom-built estate offers exceptional privacy, luxury and breathtaking views. Landscaped grounds showcase mature trees, a resort-style pool, cabana and multi-level stone patios—perfect for entertaining or quiet retreat. Inside, elegant principal rooms, a gourmet kitchen and a grand primary suite with balcony and spa ensuite define refined living, while a walk-out lower level adds versatile space.

Stunning western sunset views over Philips Lake create a Muskoka-like setting in Richmond Hill. Set on a double lot with flagstone patios, garden walls, pathways, a bridge and swing, this luxurious home blends elegance and comfort. Features include a gourmet kitchen with lake views, cathedral-ceiling sunroom, main-floor office, elevator access to private bedrooms, finished lower-level living quarters, wine cellar and heated floors.

Flexible Commercial Unit \$23 Net Lease

Prime Development Opportunity \$7,998,000

Welcome to this 2,288 sq. ft. unit (1,144 sq. ft. office + 1,144 sq. ft. industrial) in the desirable Beaver Creek business area. The office space features three private offices, an open workstation and a meeting room, all with laminate flooring and direct warehouse access. Highlights include 16-ft clear height, 60 Amp electrical, fibre optics, public parking, on-site property management and easy access to Hwy 404 and 407. Allowed uses: office or showroom.

An exceptional opportunity to build your dream lifestyle on approximately 230 acres. About 60% is workable farmland, currently rented to local farmers. This mature, treeed property features serene ponds, offering privacy and tranquility. Located near golf clubs, hiking trails, schools and local farms for fresh produce, with easy access to HWY 7 and a short drive to Lake Simcoe—endless possibilities await!

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NEW YEAR, smarter ways to save energy at home

(NC) A new year is a natural time to rethink everyday habits, including how we use energy at home. According to Natural Resources Canada, 64 per cent of the average home's energy consumption goes toward space heating.

While that's expected during Canadian winters, energy use from air conditioning is also rising during hotter summers. Making a few smart, efficiency-focused updates can help reduce waste, manage costs and create a more comfortable home year-round.

Here are a few tips for a smarter, more efficient home:

TAKE A FRESH LOOK AT YOUR INSULATION.

Your AC and furnace work hard to adjust the temperature of the air throughout your home. Don't let all that work—and energy—go to waste. Without proper insulation, the air in your home will equalize to the outside temperature just through contact with the walls and ceiling. Make sure you have a barrier to prevent this, so that your HVAC system only needs to make small adjustments to keep the temperature where you want it.

ELIMINATE WASTEFUL AIRFLOW.

Any draughts or breezes you feel inside are the air in your home leaking out, and the outside air leaking in to replace it. Use caulking and other sealants around every window and check your exterior walls for any potential gaps. Put weatherstripping around all your external-facing doors to keep air from flowing through the doorframe, and consider using it on internal doors, too. This can especially help in multi-story homes where cold air can sink to basement level, and warm air can overheat upstairs rooms.

MAKE SOME SMART UPGRADES.

Smart home technology has improved to the point where your home itself can help you manage your energy use. Smart home platforms like Samsung's SmartThings can help you monitor and manage your devices' energy usage, create customized energy-saving routines and give you tips to reduce your overall consumption. For instance, rather than trying to maintain one home temperature though the day, a connected thermostat can sense when you wake up or arrive back home and adjust the air when it's needed.

All it takes are some simple upgrades focused on efficiency to regain control of your energy use. Smart investment in insulation, weatherstripping and a responsive home environment will pay dividends in savings as well as convenience.

Learn more about how you can save energy at samsung.com/ca/smarthings.

www.newscanada.com

YOUR FIRST WINTER MADE EASY: ENERGY-SAVING TIPS FOR HOMEOWNERS

(NC) It's your first winter in your new home. The furnace runs more than you expected, and every time you turn the thermostat up "just a bit," you worry what it will do to your bill.

Energy conservation expert Craig Fernandes, from Enbridge Gas, shares simple ways to stay comfortable and use less energy:

Don't let your thermostat waste heat while you are away. Turning the heat down when you don't need it is one of the easiest ways to save. If you're out at work or away for the weekend, your home doesn't need to be as warm as when you are relaxing on the couch.

A good rule of thumb is to set your thermostat to about 20°C when you're home and awake, and around 17°C when you're asleep or out for several hours. A smart thermostat can do this automatically, by allowing you to set a schedule once and let it run.

Why is a smart thermostat a great investment? For many homeowners, smart thermostats are becoming the "brain" of the heating system. Unlike basic models, smart thermostats can:

- Follow a weekly schedule based on your routine.
- Automatically turn the heat down when no one is home.
- Use outdoor temperature and real-time conditions to adjust your settings.
- Connect to a mobile app so you can check and change the temperature from anywhere.

That means more control, fewer "oops, I left it turned up all day" moments, and less natural gas used over the winter.

Explore more tips to reduce heating costs at enbridge-gas.com/Ontario.

www.newscanada.com



142 REGATTA AVENUE, RICHMOND HILL
\$1,749,000



65 ANCHUSA DRIVE, RICHMOND HILL



80 CRANBERRY LANE, AURORA

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DIY your way to a safer, warmer winter



(NC) Winter prep is important for keeping your home and family safe through the season, but it doesn't have to be complicated. With a few DIY upgrades, you can make your home safer and more energy-efficient. Here's how you can get started:

AVOID HEAT LOSS.

Seal drafts around windows, doors and electrical outlets. Use caulking, weather stripping or foam gaskets to keep warm air in and cold air out. Draft stoppers at the base of doors are a quick and affordable fix. Smart thermostats can be a great investment. They learn your schedule and adjust temperatures automatically, helping you save energy when you're away or asleep.

STAY ON TOP OF HVAC MAINTENANCE.

Replace your furnace filter every three months. A clean filter improves airflow and helps your furnace run efficiently. While you're at it, check that heating vents aren't blocked by furniture or rugs. It's important to make sure heating vents are clear to keep your heating system from working harder than it has to, which can waste energy and increase your heating bill.

DON'T LET SNOW AND ICE BUILDUP BLOCK YOUR SYSTEM.

"DIYers can make a big impact on their home's safety and efficiency--and help save some money on energy," says Craig Fernandes, a residential energy conserva-

tion manager at Enbridge Gas. "Just don't forget to keep your meter and vents clear while tackling those winter prep projects." Clear snow and ice gently with a broom. Avoid using snow blowers or shovels near the meter and never strike it to remove ice.

GET A HEAD START ON SPRING PROJECTS.

Planning some spring landscaping or putting up a fence next season? Use the winter months to prep your to-do list. Winter is a great time to plan ahead for outdoor projects like landscaping or putting up a fence. Since you're likely spending more time indoors, you can use the quieter months to research ideas, set a budget and make a to-do list. That way, when spring arrives, you'll be ready to get started without delays. When you do get started, it's important to contact Ontario One Call before digging. It's the law, and helps prevent damage to underground gas lines.

Find more energy-saving and safety tips at enbridgegas.com/energyefficiency.

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How growing families can create more space

Many people will admit that home ownership tops their lists of long-term goals.

Finding a home that is affordable may require moving into what many real estate agents bill as a “starter home.” But the arrival of a child, and then more children thereafter, could make a home that was perfectly functional for two or three feel too close for comfort.

Anyone who would like to raise a family in the future might want to consider certain factors when choosing a residence or designing living spaces. A home that can grow with life changes can truly be a forever home. The following strategies can expand space when a family grows.

• **DECLUTTER:** It is important to go through belongings regularly and remove anything that is no longer needed. This can be the first step to free up physical space in a room or the home in general. Donate any items that still have utility.

• **REASSESS YOUR EXISTING STORAGE:** Look at different ways to maximize existing storage. Utilizing vertical space is one way to do so, so an investment in shelves, hooks and storage systems that maximize space in an upward direction can get items off the floor. Make use of storage under the stairs or in eaves. Loft beds with open space underneath are great for children's rooms because they maximize floor area.

• **THINK ABOUT TOY STORAGE:** Children love to play with toys, and once kids are in a home, toys will accumulate quite quickly. Have a plan for keeping toys neat and stowed away when not in use. Under-the-bed storage, toy armoires (that are secured to the wall) and furniture that can double as storage, such as storage ottomans, are ideal.

• **REVAMP A CLOSET:** Although closet space may be at a premium, particularly in older homes, a closet can be turned into a nook to hold a desk for a homework station or remote office space. Compact and organized, it's easy to hide away when not in use by closing the door.



• **UTILIZE ROOM DIVIDERS:** Open floor plans have been the norm for some time. But at some point as a family grows, privacy and multi-functional spaces may be needed. It can be costly to put up permanent walls, but bookcases or pieces of tall furniture can be used as room dividers to cordon off areas as specific spaces, like a child's play area.

• **CONVERT A BASEMENT OR GARAGE:** Garages and basements have a reputation for being catch-alls for storage boxes and holiday decorations. However, such rooms have plenty of potential as functional living spaces. Invest in transforming a garage or basement into a room that can grow with the family. At first it may be a play area for young kids. Afterwards, it

can be a gaming or homework hangout. As children grow older, spaces can be converted to a family media room. Having this extra space can free up room in the rest of the house so people can enjoy alone time when they need it.

• **MAXIMIZE OUTDOOR SPACE:** A yard or another outdoor space can add valuable square footage to a home. A covered patio or deck can make the outdoor areas more usable throughout the year and zones can be created for family meals, play and relaxation.

A family home will need more space as the years go on, and homeowners should keep that in mind when making renovations or choosing a property.

BUDGET-FRIENDLY DINING ROOM RENOVATION IDEAS

Dining rooms can get lost in the home renovation shuffle, as many homeowners tend to focus on renovating kitchens and bathrooms instead. Homeowners do not have to invest a lot of money in renovations to give their dining spaces awe-inspiring makeovers.

Here's how to do so on a budget.

• **LIGHTEN AND BRIGHTEN:** Dining rooms were once very formal spaces. Dark woods, large pieces of furniture, over-the-top chandeliers, and other details could be found in many homes. But now that houses are being built with open floor plans, dining rooms can blend with other spaces, which have moved to lighter-coloured walls, flooring and furniture. A fresh coat of vibrant paint can work wonders and it doesn't cost much. If you can't remove a floor, cover it with a brightly coloured area rug.

• **SWITCH THINGS UP WITH SLIPCOVERS:** Slipcovers can be changed each season to dramatically alter the look of a dining room for little investment. Slipcovers also protect chairs and can be easily laundered after spills.

• **ADD FLOATING SHELVING:** Floating shelves provide much-needed storage or display space without the need to invest in another piece of furniture. Depending on the shelving, they can work in modern design schemes or even farmhouse dining spaces.

• **CLEAR OUT THE CLUTTER:** It might be time to say “so long” to that large curio cabinet and the knickknacks within it. Curio and china cabinets used to be de rigueur, but plenty of people now prefer more open and airy dining rooms. For those who want to keep the cabinet, try decluttering inside to only include the very best display pieces and see if the cabinet can be refinished with paint or a lightly coloured stain.

• **IMPROVE LIGHTING:** Make the chandelier the statement piece of the space. Go for a bold colour or an innovative design. Then add accessories throughout the space that coordinate with the chandelier.

• **ADD BENCH SEATING:** Those who need additional seating may not have to get entirely new furniture. Swap out some chairs for benches, which can fit a couple more guests than chairs.

• **CREATE DEPTH WITH COLOUR:** HGTV says that using various shades of the same colour in a space can add depth. Coordinate drapes, walls, seat fabrics, and accessories for a cohesive design.

Renovating a dining room doesn't require a large investment of time and money. A few simple steps can give dining spaces a whole new feel without busting homeowners' budgets.

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What to know about kitchen countertop materials

QUARTZ

Quartz is considered a low-maintenance and durable countertop material. The home improvement experts at This Old House note that quartz countertops are typically 94 percent ground quartz and now come with an honed, sandblasted or embossed treatment, which makes them appealing to homeowners with varying ideas on the ideal look of a kitchen countertop. Quartz can crack if it's not handled properly, and edges and corners can chip over time. Rounded edges can minimize the risk of chipping. Costs vary by location and product availability, but quartz typically costs about the same as natural stone.

GRANITE

Consumer Reports notes that no two slabs of granite are the same, and that uniqueness has long appealed to homeowners. Tests run by Consumer Reports found that heat, cuts and scratches did not harm granite, though this material, like quartz, can crack around edges and corners. Granite is a durable material that, if properly maintained, can last several decades. Granite also is nonporous, which makes it resistant to bacteria.

LAMINATE

Laminate countertops appeal to budget-friendly homeowners and Consumer Reports notes that they're easy to install. Home Depot also notes that laminate countertops come in a wide range of colors, textures and designs. Laminate countertops also are durable, which helps budget-conscious homeowners stretch their dollars even further. Laminate countertops are easily maintained, though it's also easy to permanently damage them with knives, so Consumer Reports recommends always using a cutting board when preparing meals on laminate.

BUTCHER BLOCK

Butcher block countertops are among the more unique options homeowners may consider. Sometimes referred to as "wood countertops," butcher block countertops are made from wooden strips that are fused together. The home improvement experts at BobVila.com note that butcher block is among the more affordable materials, but the final cost will be dictated by location and availability. BobVila.com notes that butcher block countertops are highly sensitive to liquid, so exposure to moisture should be limited. Sealing butcher block countertops immediately after installation can help protect against bacteria and warping. Though butcher blocks can be high maintenance, many homeowners find the unique look is well worth the extra elbow grease.

COOKING UP A KITCHEN REMODEL

A successful kitchen renovation project requires careful planning and a detailed vision of what the space will look like upon completion. Whether a homeowner is thinking about giving the kitchen a major overhaul or just a minor refresh, bringing that vision to life doesn't happen overnight.

There is a process that must go into a kitchen renovation. Embarking on a kitchen remodel can be an exciting venture and homeowners may be eager to dive right in, but familiarizing oneself with what to expect prior to the start can help property owners navigate the process more smoothly.

• **INSPIRATION AND DESIGN:** The first phase involves dreaming up kitchen plans and making practical decisions regarding efficiency and functionality. Considerable time may be spent working with a designer and architect, which will involve choosing materials and a color scheme.

• **CREATING A BUDGET:** According to Angi, the average kitchen remodel costs \$26,934, but price ultimately varies depending on the scope of the work. Costs may be less or more depending on the size of the kitchen and the materials chosen.

• **DEMOLITION:** Before a homeowner can have a new kitchen, the old one must be removed. The real physical

transformation begins with the demolition, which tends to be quick but messy. It is essential to set up an alternative "mini kitchen" elsewhere, or expect to be dining out throughout the remodel. The demo process may reveal any issues that will need to be remedied before the real work can begin, such as structural damage, leaks, mold, or other hiccups.

• **CONTRACTOR WORK BEGINS:** It can take one to three weeks for contractors to install plumbing, mechanical components, electrical wiring, ductwork, and more, followed by structural needs and drywall, according to sink and faucet manufacturer Blanco. Flooring and cabinets will follow, and can take another week or more. Fabricating custom countertops is a lengthy process and can represent the bulk of a kitchen renovation timeline. Expect a few weeks for countertops to be measured, made and then installed.

• **APPLIANCES AND FINISHING TOUCHES:** Appliances will be delivered and hooked up at the tail end of the renovation. Finally, the backsplash, fixtures and

lighting are put into place. The last leg of the remodel will include painting, trim work and installation of hardware on cabinets and drawers.

Once all the work is done, it is essential for homeowners to make sure everything is to their liking. According to HGTV and Kitchy Crouse of CK Interior Design, a regular kitchen renovation can take anywhere from six to 12 weeks. With so much time devoted to the space, homeowners should ensure it lives up to their expectations.

As the renovation begins, homeowners should remember that unexpected issues can arise, including delays due to material availability or unforeseen challenges. Maintaining an open communication with the contractor, asking questions and remaining flexible helps. Although a kitchen remodel is initially disruptive, it is an investment that ultimately enhances a home's value.

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I SELL HOUSES.

I also know where they fall apart.



By **Julien Laurion**
Real Estate

Let's clear something up right out of the gate.

I don't just sell houses.

I also know exactly where they fall apart.

Behind the walls.

Under the floors.

And right around the corner from that "charming original feature" everyone pretends not to notice.

That's not cynicism — that's experience.

Because while some people see listings, I see leverage. I see risk. I see opportunity. And in this market, the difference between a win and a regret usually lives in the details no one talks about until it's too late.

We've officially left the era of hopeful pricing and crossed fingers. Buyers are smarter. Sellers are more nervous. And the market is no longer handing out participation trophies.

Good.

This is the kind of market where preparation gets rewarded and shortcuts get exposed.

Most sellers think their biggest challenge is timing the market. It's not. It's understanding how their home will be judged the second a buyer walks through the door — because buyers don't tour homes, they interrogate them.

Floors? Noted.

Kitchen? Judged.

Lighting? Questioned like it's on trial.

Every unfinished detail quietly subtracts confidence. And confidence is currency.

Here's the part most people don't love hearing:

Your house doesn't need more money thrown at it — it needs smarter decisions.

I've watched sellers spend thousands in the wrong places and leave even more on the table. I've also watched homes transform dramatically with a few strategic upgrades that actually move the needle.

The difference isn't budget.

It's strategy.

And that's where being both a realtor and a renovator stops being a fun party fact and starts being a serious advantage.

I don't suggest renovations because they look good on Instagram. I suggest them because I know what buyers will pay for, what inspectors will flag, and what appraisers will actually respect.

On the buyer side? It's just as revealing.

I've seen people walk away from solid opportunities because they didn't understand what a fix really costs. I've also seen buyers fall in love with shiny finishes while ignoring structural red flags that come back to haunt them six months later.

Fear is expensive. So is ignorance.

Knowledge, on the other hand, compounds.

And yes — sometimes that means I tell people things they don't want to hear. Like when a renovation won't pay off. Or when a home is priced for fantasy instead of reality. Or when "doing nothing" is actually the most expensive move of all.

But here's the truth: homes are emotional, but the outcomes don't have to be chaotic.

When you understand both sides of the equation — the market and the materials — you stop guessing. You stop reacting. You start making intentional moves.

And that's how you win in any market.

So whether you're buying, selling, or standing in your kitchen wondering why it still doesn't feel right, remember this: the market doesn't reward hope — it rewards preparation. And when you work with someone who knows how homes are priced and how they're built, there's very little left to chance. I don't just put signs on lawns. I fix problems before they cost you money. All About Homes.

Julien Laurion
Realtor. Contractor. Local Dad.
All About Homes.
Serving Aurora, King City, and the
communities in between.

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

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