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# King Weekly Sentinel

King's Community Newspaper

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FREE Thursday, February 19, 2026 Volume 53, Issue 8

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## Councillor marks Flag Day

Ward 2 Councillor David Boyd found a novel way of celebrating Flag Day. He ventured out to the top of the Holland River at Cook's Bay. February 15 marks the National Flag of Canada Day. It commemorates the first time the red and white maple leaf flag was raised on Parliament Hill in 1965.

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## Township is maintaining quality drinking water

By Mark Pavilons  
Editor

King is maintaining a clean record in providing quality drinking water to its residents.

Council received the 2025 Drinking Water Annual Summary Report from staff, that noted there were zero Adverse Water Quality Incidents in 2025.

The Township received re-accreditation as an operating authority, under the Drinking Water Quality Management Standard.

New Municipal Drinking Water License and Drinking Water Works Permits were issued to each drinking water system.

Current operational performance and the on-going implementation of the Township's Quality Management System for drinking water, is effective, staff pointed out.

King received a 100% compliance rating from the Dec. 2, 2023, to Jan. 28, 2025, Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) Water Inspection.

The Township of King owns and operates four (4) municipal drinking water distribution systems in King City,

Schomberg, Nobleton and Ansnorveldt.

All treated water is supplied by York Region, which is responsible for source water, treatment, and storage facilities, while the Township maintains the local distribution networks.

The municipality must exercise the level of care, diligence and skill in respect of a municipal drinking water system that a reasonably prudent person would be expected to exercise in a similar situation.

All four municipal drinking water distribution systems operated in full compliance with all regulatory requirements during the reporting period. This includes but not limited to operational checks, sampling and monitoring. In addition, there were zero adverse water quality incidents in any of the drinking water systems.

Staff said the most recent MECP inspection cycle covered Dec. 2, 2023, to Jan. 28, 2025. The ratings were 100% in all four systems, demonstrating "exemplary operational performance, effective maintenance practices, and compliance with regulatory requirements."

See 'Resident' on Page 3

**INSIDE**

**REGULAR FEATURES**

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**SAVE MAIN STREET SCHOMBERG**  
STOP PROPOSED 326 MAIN STREET DEVELOPMENT  
**SIGN THE PETITION**  
WE NEED YOUR VOICE



Residents create a petition to fight condo proposal.


See Page 6



Church receives historic designation.

See Page 12

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# KING

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## Upcoming Meetings



### COUNCIL MEETINGS

**Monday, February 23**  
6 p.m. - Council

**Monday, March 02**  
6 p.m. - Public Planning Meeting

**Monday, March 09**  
6 p.m. - Council

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

### COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

**Thursday, March 05**  
6 p.m. - Heritage Advisory Committee

Virtual

**Wednesday, March 18**  
6 p.m. - Committee of Adjustment

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

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

Subscribe to receive email notifications regarding Council meetings & agendas at [king.ca/subscribe](http://king.ca/subscribe)

## Recent Planning & Heritage Notices

- **Notice of Public Planning Meeting March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 Concerning a Proposed Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment and Draft Plan of Subdivision Re: 30-50 Station Road and 10 West Street, King City, ON (File No.'s Z-2025-17, OP-2025-02 and 19T-25-K01)**

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

# We're HIRING



- By-law Student
- By-law Enforcement Officer Level 2 (Contract)
- Public Works Student
- Elections Assistant (Student)
- Mechanic
- HR Coordinator - Talent Acquisition and Workforce Administration
- Cold Creek Conservation Area Site Operator
- Summer Camp positions
- Outdoor Program Facilitator (4 & 6 Month)
- Seasonal Environmental Field Labourer
- Inclusion Facilitator
- Parks Summer Student
- Parks Seasonal Worker

View job postings at [king.ca/employment](http://king.ca/employment)

## Volunteer Appreciation Awards

**Nominations for the 2026 Volunteer Appreciation Awards are still open!**

Submitting a nomination is an opportunity to highlight and celebrate the impact of those who continually give their time and energy to make life better in KingTownship.

### Categories:

- Citizen of the Year Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Senior Citizen Award of Merit
- Youth Award of Merit
- Special Recognition Award - Resident and Non-Resident

All nomination forms can be submitted online, in-person or by mail until the deadline on **Saturday, Feb. 28 at 11:59 p.m.**

For more information, visit [king.ca/awards](http://king.ca/awards)



## Cold Creek Maple Syrup Fest 2026

Saturday, March 14  
10 am to 2 pm

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

## 2025 Drinking Water Annual Report

At the **February 9 Council Meeting**, staff presented the 2025 Drinking Water System Report, providing key updates on King Township's drinking water systems. This annual report outlines system performance, water quality results, and the ongoing work that helps deliver safe, reliable drinking water to every household.

### Highlights:

- Annual + Summary Reports completed for the 4 drinking water systems
- Zero Adverse Water Quality Incidents
- Township re-accredited under the Drinking Water Quality Management Standard
- New drinking water licences and permits issued for all systems
- Quality Management System remains effective
- 100% compliance rating across all four water systems in the most recent completed inspections from the Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks



SCAN HERE to read the full report

## 2026 Summer Camps

June 29 to September 4



view the guide online at

Save your spot!

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

## 2026 Taste of KING

Feb. 28 to Mar. 14

Savour exclusive prix fixe lunch and dinner menus, specialty combos and signature dishes at some of King's best restaurants!

View menus and book your reservations at [king.ca/TasteOfKing](http://king.ca/TasteOfKing)



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# KING

# Resident notes Nobleton water is sub-par

From Front Page

There were 10 watermain breaks and repairs during the reporting period, listed below. Of those, seven occurred within King City, two in Nobleton and one in Schomberg. The location of both watermain breaks in Nobleton have now been replaced with a new watermain, as part of the Water Capital Plan.

In 2025, the Township logged 162 inquiries that were assigned a subject related to drinking water in the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. After investigation, only 23 inquiries were confirmed as directly related to municipal drinking water operations, while the remainder were attributed to non-operational issues such as internal plumbing.

Operational complaints primarily involved water colour/appearance, with most occurring in the Nobleton distribution system. This issue is linked to source water characteristics, and York Region is implementing system improvements to address it. No operational complaints were reported for the Ansnorveldt system.

Staff noted the low number of operational complaints highlights effective system performance and reinforces the importance of clear communication and public education regarding water quality and service expectations.

Nobleton resident Nancy Hopkinson wasn't convinced that her drinking water is up to par.

"All is definitely not well with Nobleton's water and has not been well for years," she said. "We in Nobleton have been complaining for years and getting the brush off with reports like this."

She even brought her kettle from home to show councillors the amount of hard water staining.

She asked council to convince York Region to remove iron and manganese from Nobleton's three wells sooner than 20028.

She pointed out that the accepted Canadian aesthetic level for iron is 0.3 mg/L. "We have been exceeding that

level for years and the level seems to be increasing. The reading in 2025 (second quarter) was 0.787 mg/L This is more than twice the accepted level.

"How would you like to offer people a drink of Nobleton's water when it comes out brown? My kettle constantly gets iron sediment in the bottom and needs to have vinegar to get it working again."

The iron level, she said, never gets mentioned in York Region's reports for the Township.

"Why not? They obviously test for iron. When you Google Nobleton drinking water iron level, you can find the results. We are more than double the acceptable level for iron."

In correspondence from Township staff, it was noted that Nobleton currently utilize sodium silicate to sequester or keep iron in solution with limited effectiveness. The planned upgrades will remove sequestration or sodium silicate from two of the three well sites and replace it with natural green sand filters.

The Region's planned operational strategy once the upgrades are complete is to use the two well sites with iron removal to meet the day-to-day requirements of the Nobleton system. The well site that will continue to use sequestration will only be brought online on as needed basis to meet demand, provide system redundancy and ensure the well site remains functional. There are design considerations in the planned upgrades to allow the remaining well site using sodium silicate to be brought online in future if the water yield or amount of water produced from the well remains stable or viable.

The current completion timelines for the project are Q3 - 2027 for one of the three well systems and Q1 - 2028 for the additional well site that will be brought into the removal works as part of the current project. The timeline was recently revised due to unexpectedly long lead times in obtaining major pieces of equipment necessary to upgrade the works.



## King offers GIS construction map

Residents can now explore a more interactive and accessible way to stay informed about current capital improvement projects through King Township's new GIS Active Construction Map.

The online tool provides an at-a-glance view of all capital projects under way for 2026, including water and wastewater upgrades, road improvements, bridge and culvert rehabilitation, stormwater pond clean outs, park revitalization, and facility upgrades.

Click on individual projects to view key details such as the project location, description, and status.

See what construction projects are occurring near your neighbourhood.

Better plan for potential traffic impacts or detours.

Gain insight into how King Township capital funds are being invested.

This year's capital projects span dozens of initiatives that support reliable service delivery, long-term sustainability, and community well-being. The map will be updated regularly as projects progress and new projects begin.

For a list of projects and link to the map, visit [king.ca/MajorProjects](http://king.ca/MajorProjects).

Dr. Josephine (Irwin) Wells (1856-1939), who spent her childhood in King, was the first Canadian woman to graduate from dental school and the first professionally qualified female dentist in Ontario.

#KingFacts



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# Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

## Hidden fees, charges, red tape tangle us all

It's been suggested that taxpayers shouldn't have to wait in line or on hold, simply to untangle bureaucratic red tape.

And we shouldn't have to pay for it, either.

While technology has opened up avenues to contact various officials and agencies, I think there's some unseen noodle-like network where individual requests go to die.

The Province, through its Protect Ontario by Cutting Red Tape Act, 2025, vowed to cut red tape to make Ontario the most competitive place in the G7 to invest, create jobs and do business.

The legislation was part of the 2025 "Red Tape Reduction Package" that contains over 50 "common-sense changes to improve services, keep costs down and protect Ontario's economy.

"In the face of the ongoing threat of U.S. tariffs, our government is taking action to protect Ontario so we can keep workers on the job, attract new investment and make life easier and more affordable for Ontario families," said Andrea Khanjin, Minister of Red Tape Reduction. "We're protecting Ontario by cutting needless red tape, keeping costs down, improving service delivery, and creating the right conditions for people and businesses to succeed."

I'm not sure how you keep costs down and improve service delivery at the same time.

A lot of this sounds like back-tracking, or giving people a retroactive break. You don't have to reimburse the public if you were fair to begin with.

The civil service, it's been said, is like a fortress made of papers, forms and red tape.

And, more and more we're hearing people say they cannot help us because "it's above their pay grade." That's just a cop-out.



**Mark Pavilons**

I get calls all the time from people asking for things outside my area of expertise. And yet, I will try my best to get an answer or direct them to the best source. Why wouldn't I spend an extra five or 10 minutes trying to help?

Fees, fines and charges are dwindling our resources. I recently heard that missed mortgage payments have quadrupled. Toronto issued \$2 million in parking fines in recent weeks. The taxpayers' well is running dry.

The writing is not only on the wall, it's as plain as day. We're all stretched, and some of these added fees may be the straws breaking camels' backs.

We have to keep an eye on our accounts, lest we be overcharged. BMO paid back almost \$4 million because they overcharged customers and failed to tell them about certain fees.

Many retailers are guilty of "dip pricing" – basically the price you see is

not the price you pay, after adding on all the "extras."

Apparently there's a lot of that going around.

I also love government websites that have a pop-up asking if our questions were answered. Who goes through the thousands of negative responses to this? Some bot?

A recent trip to the airport to drop off my daughter revealed more fees and charges. A whopping \$42 for parking for two hours. There was also GST tacked on? Why are we paying tax on an arbitrary charge for self-service – parking on taxpayer-owned land?

When glancing at my daughter's plane ticket, I noticed a fee for using her credit card to pay for the ticket(!), and an airport improvement fee. I can only imagine the revenue this generates if each and every person going through Pearson pays this every day. Just what kind of improvements are we paying for, that the feds won't?

When looking at my other daughter's college tuition, there are fees for such things as use of the athletic centre. It's not optional but mandatory, regardless of whether you ever step foot in the place.

I recently had an issue with CBSA and some ransacked packages. It took me more than an hour searching for a way to contact them via email, and nothing. A note from Canada Post said CBSA doesn't answer to anyone, and that they are virtually "untouchable." Okay, Canada Post comments may be a bit subjective, but wow.

For my treatments at Newmarket's Stronach Regional Cancer Centre, I have to get a parking pass, or dish out \$20 a day for the privilege of parking. While my treatments and medications are covered, there's still the gas and wear and tear on the car for all the travelling. When I went to the city, there was

parking and TTC fares.

I believe parking at hospitals for the critically ill, or those receiving life-saving treatment, should be either free, or subsidized. I don't think that's too much to ask.

Okay, I understand hospitals receive some much-needed revenue from this, but I think more fair rates should apply. I paid \$28 at Sunnybrook during a two-hour visit.

My wife and I, and my in-laws all had to deal with recent appliance failures and replacements. We opted for the "extended warranty" – a couple hundred dollars of "insurance."

We have this mind set that this "charge" is money well spent, but I'm not sure. It's limited and typically nothing should fail on a new appliance within the first two years. However, we heard from both a repairman and salesman that modern refrigerators last roughly six years today!

Most of us Boomers are familiar with our parents' almond or yellow washers, dryers and stoves – some pushing 20 to 30 years of service!

What has changed? Many of us have ongoing issues with our internet or cable service providers, and waiting on hold for someone to answer. I tend to opt for the call back feature, anxiously awaiting someone to reach out. For what we spend on our TV, internet and cell phones, you'd think the quality of service would be top-notch.

As grocery and gas prices remain at all-time highs, average taxpayers are finding it harder to get ahead. Getting nickled and dimed by endless service charges and fees only compound the plight of the "common man."

And by the way, someone is making a lot of money ever since the penny was discontinued.

Just saying.

### Letter to the Editor

#### Resident questions hesitation on gun buy-back

There is lots of evidence to show that people with mental health challenges have caused mass shootings. We only have to look at the latest devastating mass shooting in Tumbler Ridge. The shooter had access to guns in her home. The shooter had mental health issues.

York Regional Police and South Simcoe Police won't participate in the federal government's buy back program for assault-style weapons. The York Regional Police Association is quoted as saying, "This diverts critical resources away from the real drivers of gun violence: illegal guns & organized crime, while placing unnecessary burdens on law-abiding citizens."

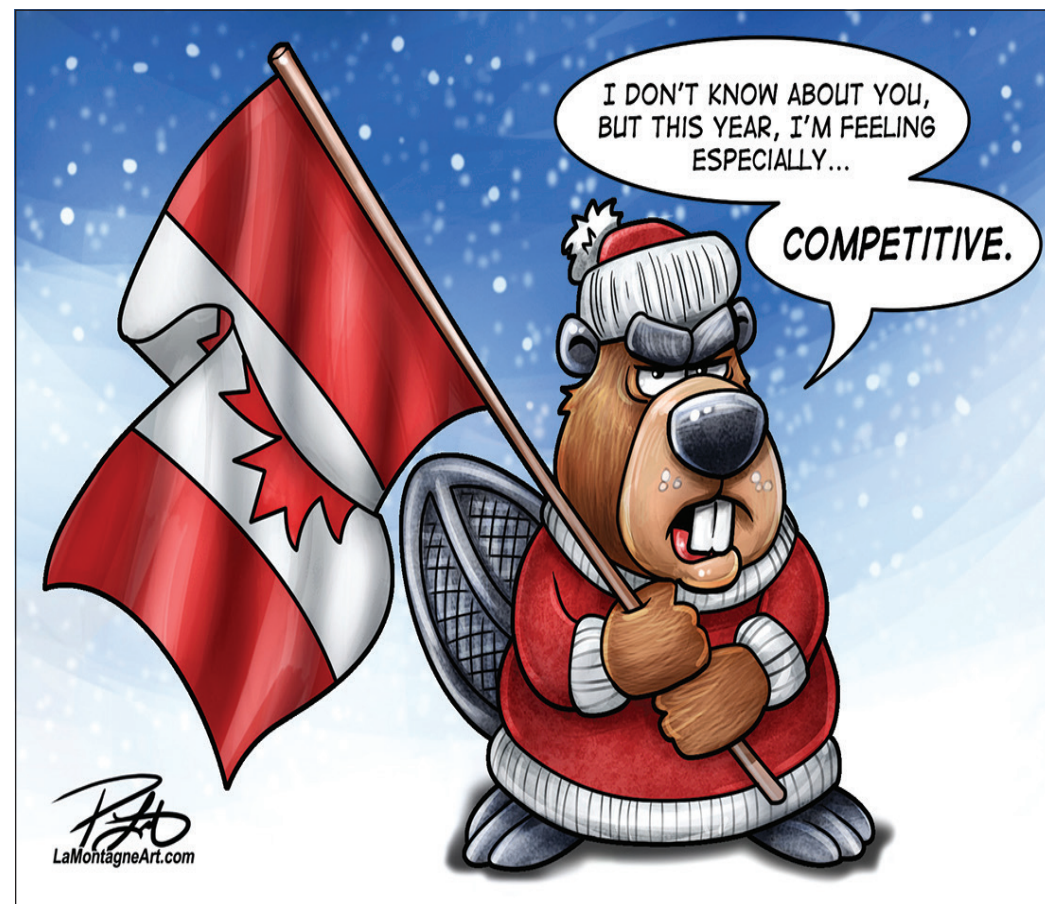
The statement issued by the Police Association about not participating in the gun buy-back program defies logic. Guns in the home pose a threat when one member of the family decides to take a gun to school and shoot the students and teachers. This is not an isolated event. There have been many similar mass shootings in the United States by students who are not criminals, but someone needing some mental health assistance.

It is not just people with mental health problems who may harm others. One hears of children playing with guns and shooting their best friend by accident.

This buy-back program is not for all guns, just the assault-style ones. Why would anyone need an assault-style weapon, if they are an honest law-abiding citizen? What if their house is robbed? What is the gun shop selling these types of weapons is robbed? Then the non-law-abiding citizens have just scored some assault-style weapons. Would it not be better to try to limit how many there are of these types of weapons?

I urge the police associations everywhere to reconsider their position. Teachers should not have to worry about possible shooters coming after their students.

*Nancy Hopkinson*  
Retired teacher



### Quote of the Week

*"Beware of little expenses. A small leak will sink a great ship."*

— Benjamin Franklin

### Trivia Tidbits

*Speed skater Cindy Klassen was the first Canadian to win 6 medals.*

**KingWeeklySentinel WEBPOLL**  
www.kingsentinel.com

Results from last week's poll:

**Have you been watching the Olympic coverage on TV?**

a) Yes  **50%**

b) No  **50%**

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

**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION**

Do you think Canada is establishing itself as a world leader?

a) Yes  
b) No

*Go to our website and cast a vote!*

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# A global peace plan: Stop burning fossil fuels

By David Suzuki

## The Environment

Renewable energy technologies are improving rapidly while installations continue to ramp up. Energy from wind, solar and storage is now the most cost-effective and prices continue to drop. It's more efficient and cleaner than power from coal, gas and oil and doesn't emit climate-altering greenhouse gases. It's available everywhere and will never run out.

On the other hand, as Bill McKibben writes, "Oil is unique in being extremely valuable, extremely dense and hence relatively easy to hoard and control, and extremely concentrated in a few places around the world." He adds, "A nation that builds its prosperity on oil makes itself a target; a nation that depends on imported oil to survive makes itself a vassal."

According to the United Nations,

"About 80 per cent of the global population lives in countries that are net-importers of fossil fuels — that's about 6 billion people who are dependent on fossil fuels from other countries, which makes them vulnerable to geopolitical shocks and crises."

Despite the numerous advantages of renewable energy, we're still seeing deadly military battles and invasions over oil. Amid varying justifications, and trumped-up charges hinging on weapons and drugs, U.S. President Donald Trump has openly admitted that the recent invasion of Venezuela and kidnapping of its president and his wife were aimed at seizing control of the South American country's vast reserves of heavy crude oil.

Of course, we can't forget, as U.S. writ-

er Rebecca Solnit points out, that these are the actions of "a wildly unpopular president doing his utmost to harm the people of this country and enrich himself, his family, and his cronies while in rapid mental and physical decline and in an ongoing panic over what the Epstein files could tell us about him."

Oil, or in our case, heavy, toxic bitumen, is also causing conflict in relatively peaceful Canada, where, as McKibben writes, "Alberta threatens over and over to disrupt the nation unless it gets its oily way."

It's increasingly clear that the hyper-capitalist love for fossil fuels and hatred of renewable energy stems largely from the fact that — unlike wind, solar, geothermal and hydro — oil can be monopolized and controlled, concentrating wealth and power in the hands of a few.

Solnit writes, "Fossil fuel is inseparable from violence, and dependence on it has created a brutal world order in which some states have corrosive outside power due to their possession of oil and gas while others have corrosive dependency on these often-human-rights-abusing regimes."

No country has ever invaded another to seize its solar panels or wind turbines. It's impossible to embargo or attack solar power sources. As McKibben writes, "[It's] going to be hard to figure out how to fight wars over sunshine." (To be fair, the "superpowers" are coveting critical mineral resources in other countries, required for computers and artificial intelligence as well as renewable energy and electric vehicle components. But oil is still the priority.)

One of the best ways to bring greater peace and stability is to speed up the

transition from polluting fossil fuels to cleaner energy sources. Add that to the many other advantages of the renewable energy revolution — from cleaner air, water and land and related better health outcomes to good jobs, more affordable living and greater economic stability.

The shift from inefficient, climate-altering fuels to cleaner energy is inevitable and proceeding rapidly. More than 90 per cent of new energy capacity in 2024 came from renewable sources, and 91 per cent was less expensive than new fossil fuel alternatives. Global investments in renewable energy have outpaced spending on fossil fuels for the past 10 years.

But we're still burning too much dirty fuel, and emissions continue to rise. Heavy crude from oilsands in Venezuela and Alberta is particularly bad for the climate. Despite international agreements and the reality of the climate crisis, desperate fossil fuel forces are doing everything possible to keep the obscene profits rolling in — meaning more droughts, deadly heat, desertification, sea level rise, human migration, health impacts, death, wildfires, unpredictable weather, species extinction and more.

There's no place in this world for more pipelines, more drilling, more burning. We must stop using fossil fuels now, for the sake of the climate, but also to bring about greater global peace and stability. The choice is clear.

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

## Blood and plasma donations needed after severe winter weather disrupts collections

Canadian Blood Services is calling for people across the country to donate blood or plasma as soon as they can.

Winter conditions and seasonal illness have taken a toll on blood and plasma collections, with appointments being cancelled, and donations not being fulfilled. Major storms and extreme cold conditions recently disrupted regular blood and plasma collections in many parts of the country.

"Hospitals have the blood they need today, but that could change if we are not able to collect a consistent supply. In the last six days alone, we have collected 1,500 fewer donations than we were counting on, because severe weather forced cancellations," said Ron Vezina, vice president of donor engagement for Canadian Blood Services.

"In fact, in January we had to cancel 16 donation events, and we know that road conditions and illness have prevented many donors from attending their appointments," said Vezina. "Blood is perishable, so a constant, fresh supply is vital. New donors of every blood type are needed each day to keep pace with ongoing hospital need, and to help stay prepared for emergencies"

O-negative blood is especially needed because it plays a critical role in emergency care. It is compatible with all blood types and can be given to any patient. In emergency situations, when seconds count, and there is no time to check blood type, hospital patients re-

ceive O-negative blood.

Winter can feel long and heavy, and donating blood or plasma is a simple way to brighten your day. And it's even better when shared with others. If you can safely get to a donor centre, walk in today with a friend or family member and experience what you get when you give together.

"At a time when Canadians are focused on building stronger, more resilient systems domestically, donating blood or plasma is an opportunity to embrace a sense of purpose and make a meaningful contribution for people in this country," said Vezina.

If you've never donated before, there is no better time to begin. For a limited time through the Give and Get Away winter campaign, anyone who books and attends a blood or plasma appointment, or joins the stem cell registry, before March 31, can enter for a chance to win roundtrip tickets for two to any Air Canada scheduled destination, courtesy of the Air Canada Foundation. (No donation required; full rules at [blood.ca/GetAway](http://blood.ca/GetAway).)

Boost your spirits, help others, and share a meaningful moment with someone in your life by donating this winter.

Be part of something that matters and experience what you get when you give. Visit your nearest donor centre today. Walk-ins are welcome or book an appointment on [blood.ca](http://blood.ca), use the GiveBlood app or call 1 888 2 DONATE (1-888-236-6283).

Born and raised in King Township, Joseph Fleury Jr. trained as a blacksmith and opened Aurora Agricultural Works; he went on to design the *Fleury No. 21* walking plough which became an international best seller.

#KingFacts



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Ontario

# Residents join forces, sign petition, to fight proposal at OLT

By Mark Pavilons  
Editor

Citizens are banding together to fight a proposed condo development in Schomberg.

The applicants, Marcor Realty Ltd., have taken their proposal for a six-storey condo building on Main Street in Schomberg to the Ontario Land Tribunal. They appealed on the basis of a lack of timely decision on the part of King Township.

A petition was recreated and organizers are hoping for 1,500 signatures before sending to the OLT.

In the name of “saving our historic Schomberg Main Street,” residents stress the village is “more than a place on a map.”

“It is neighbours who know each other. It is small businesses that greet you by name. It is the charm, history, and character of a Main Street that feels like home.”

The proposed 6-storey, 99-unit condo development at 326 Main Street would dramatically change the scale, character, and livability of the historic core. This building does not reflect the heritage homes and storefronts that stand proudly side by side. It does not reflect the small-town values that make Schomberg special.

“We believe in thoughtful growth. We believe in housing solutions that truly serve families. We believe in protecting what makes our town unique.”

This proposal, they contend, raises serious concerns:

It overwhelms the historic streetscape with a structure out of scale with its surroundings.

It adds significant traffic to a Main Street that already struggles with congestion and limited access.

It reduces parking where businesses and residents already face shortages.

It encroaches on the protected Dufferin Marsh natural areas and would remove all existing trees except one Manitoba Maple.

Years of construction would deeply impact the small businesses that are the backbone of our community.

The Main Street is walkable, but it's also crowded in terms of traffic – with bidirectional traffic and parking on both sides of the street it takes time and attention to safely make one's way along the street.

“This is not about being against progress. It is about protecting the character, safety, and future of our small town.

“Once the historic fabric of Main Street is altered at this scale, it cannot be restored. We owe it to ourselves — and to future generations — to ensure development respects our heritage and strengthens our community, rather than diminishes it.”

Residents are not totally against development and urge the developer to limit the building height to three storeys.

The local committee noted that King's Official Plan was recently updated. In that process, it was determined that the zoning would permit a 3-storey residential development in this location, significantly increasing the density, and welcoming new people to Schomberg.

“However, doubling the permitted height from 3 to 6 storeys is unacceptable.”

Here is the link to the petition – <https://c.org/VdPk8mSfvP>

The application appeared before council in June of 2025, which drew a packed council chambers of opposing residents.

Numerous delegations and councillor opposition almost killed the plan, but councillors opted to refer the matter back to staff. Going against the staff recommendations for approval, council had hoped at the time that staff and the developer could work together to come to a solution everyone can live with.

The proposal has undergone several revisions, since an initial public meeting back in 2022. The current proposal has grown in size and lot coverage.

Opposition from residents included concerns about the site's proximity to the Dufferin Marsh; the construction impact on local businesses; tree removal and traffic. The height is the main concern, as residents noted it will be a towering building right in the historic core, something that doesn't fit in at all.

One resident called it “the worst plan yet” from the developer.

At the 2025 meeting, Councillor Mary Asselstine was another opponent, pointing to the building's height, lack of parking, increase in traffic as major impacts. The building, perched on the hill, will definitely “hurt the streetscape.”

Councillor Jennifer Anstey joined

## SAVE MAIN STREET SCHOMBERG

### STOP PROPOSED 326 MAIN STREET DEVELOPMENT



# SIGN THE PETITION

## WE NEED YOUR VOICE

- Years of construction and construction traffic on Main St.
- Traffic will increase
- Parking spaces decreasing
- Ecosystems will suffer
- Businesses will suffer during construction

Sign on Change.org



This 6 storey, 99 unit building will fundamentally change the historical character and livability of Main Street



**Sign the petition by this Friday!**

Link to Petition: <https://c.org/VdPk8mSfvP>

her colleague in opposition, noting the building may well meet planning standards, but it “does not meet the standards of the community.”

She said should the matter go to the Ontario Land Tribunal, she's “okay with that. Some things are worth fighting for.”

Typically, when council goes against planning recommendations, an appeal to the OLT is often the route taken by proponents.

While councillors prefer to avoid a trip to the OLT given the costs, there are times when council has to stand firm with residents.

The project, as presented last year, is a “recipe for disaster,” said Mayor

Steve Pellegrini. He also hoped for collaboration with the developer and a scaled-down version as a result.

While intensification of the Village Core Area is supported by the Official Plan, it must demonstrate compatibility with the small-scale village character.

The Official Plan includes provisions for building heights that permit up to 6-storeys provided that certain compatibility criteria are met including visual and shadowing impacts, building tiering, angular plane, step backs and buffering. Furthermore, developments are not to exceed a floor space index of 2.5 to ensure that density and scale remain suitable for the Village Core.

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### Locals take part in bird count

The Great Backyard Bird Count – coordinated by Birds Canada, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and the National Audubon Society – took place over the Family Day weekend across Ontario. Local conservationists contributed their bird counts from the comfort of their kitchens overlooking backyard feeders or many braved the elements and ventured intrepidly into field, forest, and watershed habitats to garner data. Locally, bird watchers saw 14 species including Pine Siskin and Coopers Hawk.




# King

7-Day Weather Outlook

From Thursday, February 19 to Wednesday, February 25

THURS 19TH	FRI 20TH	SAT 21ST	SUN 22ND	MON 23RD	TUES 25TH	WED 25TH
Clouds/Sun High -2C° Low -4C° - Wind E 13k	Cloudy/Showers High 2C° Low -3C° <1mm Wind SE 24k	Mainly Cloudy High 0C° Low -7C° - Wind W 15k	Scattered Flurries High -2C° Low -11C° <1cm Wind W 14k	A Few Flurries High -6C° Low -17C° <1cm Wind NW 29k	Mainly Sunny High -9C° Low -10C° - Wind N 8k	Snow High -3C° Low -4C° ~1cm Wind E 21k



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# Hospital hopes to break \$500,000 in this year's Run for Southlake

By Brock Weir

Last year was a record-breaker for the Nature's Emporium Run for Southlake, with community members lacing up to raise more than \$460,000 for local health care.

Now that the countdown is on for this year's run on April 26, organizers are hoping to raise more than \$500,000 through the event – but they can't do it without your help.

Community leaders gathered at Nature's Emporium's flagship Newmarket location on Monday afternoon to formally launch the countdown to the 2026 Run for Southlake.

Jennifer Ritter, President and CEO of the Southlake Health Foundation, said last year's event saw more than 1,650 participants "running, walking, dancing" on Davis Drive to support the local hospital and she hopes these records will be broken in the spring.

"We know that this year is going to be a record-breaking year," said Ritter. "Without the support of our community running, walking, and raising critical dollars to support leading-edge patient care, we wouldn't be able to look after all the members of our community."

"Last year, we raised \$460,000 ... the

highest we have raised. The bar is set. We want to blow past half-a-million dollars this year. We're on the path (to) turning this into a million-dollar investment in the health of our communities and I know the community can do that. I have the utmost confidence that we will build towards that goal and get there together – because I know how we all value the health and wellbeing of one another."

These values were underscored by Steve Hollingsworth of Nature's Emporium, the grocery store that has been the title sponsor of the Run for nearly 15 years.

Hollingsworth said he had the chance to participate in the Run last year with his daughter and said the value it continues to bring the community is clear.

"Southlake Health is where our loved ones go to get the care they need," he said. "It's a very special place and it's obviously something that we want to continue to support and ensure that everybody has access to the life-saving care they need ... As community members, we have the opportunity with this event to show up for one another in a time, quite frankly ... when technology, which is intended to bring us all together, seems to continue to push us apart."

There's not that many events like this that give us this opportunity to show up for each other, so we're very excited to continue to support an event that does that.

"We're grateful to be part of something that brings so many people together. We know we're going on 14 years now as a partnership and we look

forward to continuing to grow that, to continuing to help provide leading-edge care that's close to home in our communities for years to come."

For more on the 2026 Nature's Emporium Run for Southlake, including how to register or pledge your support to a team or individual, visit [runforsouthlake.ca](http://runforsouthlake.ca).

## King gearing up for annual Southlake Run

By Mark Pavilons  
Editor

Team King is ready to walk the walk, participating in this year's Nature's Emporium Run for Southlake.

Councillors received a rallying cry from Southlake's Krissy Young, on this year's fundraising event.

The April 26 event is a 5-kilometre run or walk in support of the hospital, with an exclusive route on Davis Drive in Newmarket, right by the hospital.

Funds raised through participation help support the most urgent needs for patient care at Southlake. The Run helps "put the right tools in the hands of our clinical experts so when you or your loved one need care, they are ready," she said. Funds raised also go towards new and renovated spaces in the hospital.

There have been friendly challenges

for this important run, one being the Mayor's Challenge, where mayors from local municipalities try to outdo one another.

Mayor Steve Pellegrini said he's been involved for 20 years and this event supports the "community hospital that serves us extremely well."

Councillor Avia Eek is the local cheerleader for the event, and has once again helped create a team representing King Township.

Eek has a real philanthropy for Southlake, and a soft spot, since most of her family members were either born there or treated there.

She pointed out the hospital has been over-capacity for more than a decade, yet it's one of the most recognized facilities in the province. Its cardiac and cancer care has meant so much to patients, she said.

For more, or to register, visit [Runforsouthlake.ca](http://Runforsouthlake.ca)

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## King staff highlight initiatives of accessibility plan

By Mark Pavilons  
Editor

King councillors received a progress report on the multi-year Accessibility Plan.

The 2026-2030 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP) captures on-going and proposed accessibility initiatives for the Township of King.

Staff worked with the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) and took a new approach in the planning stage to capture clear and pragmatic goals for improving accessibility in King.

The 2024 Accessibility Status Report (Status Report) provides a review of the Township's accessibility accomplishments for the past year in accordance with the 2018-2025 MYAP.

Both the MYAP and the Status Report form part of the Township's statutory responsibilities under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (A.O.D.A.) and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (I.A.S.R.).

Staff noted the new MYAP will establish accessibility priorities and initiatives for the Township through the next five years.

This report also reviews the 2024 Accessibility Status Report (Attachment 2) which shares progress towards the objectives set out in the 2018-2025 MYAP.

In 2013, the Township was required to modify how it prepares and develops its accessibility plan. And this required King to establish, implement, maintain

and document a multi-year accessibility plan, which outlines the Township's strategy to prevent and remove barriers, meeting its requirements under the regulation. It also mandates the plan be reviewed and updated every five years, the status of the plan be reported on annually, and the plan and status reports be made available to the public by posting on the municipality's website.

The current MYAP was adopted by Council in 2019 and expired this past Dec. 31.

The 2026-2030 MYAP completely replaces the 2018-2025 MYAP and affirms the Township's commitment to ensuring all persons will have equitable access to employment, programs, services, goods, and facilities in ways that respect their dignity and independence.

The new MYAP alters the structure of the previous plan to better align with the requirements and service areas:

Customer service; information and communications; employment; procurement; training, and design of public spaces.

Early in 2025, Clerks staff began working with the A.A.C. to gather feedback to build around these service areas. Two workshops were held using the "note and vote" and "good-better-best" techniques resulting in a creative and engaging process for the committee and a significant volume of ideas for staff. The Clerks Division then engaged with staff responsible for the corresponding service areas to discuss the feedback, the existing plan and business plans

to determine opportunities for implementing accessibility initiatives in King.

The approach allowed staff to engage directly with a community based advisory committee and set informed objectives for the next five years. This resulted in many new commitments including but not limited to:

Revamp and enhance the website to improve accessibility and user experience.

Expand the accessible equipment rental program with the goal to extend the service to all of the Northern Six municipalities in York Region (King, East Gwillimbury, Aurora, Georgina, Newmarket, Stouffville).

Explore new training opportunities for subject matter experts to increase understanding of accessibility in specialist service areas.

Conduct accessibility audits during design, construction, and handover of new capital projects.

Furthermore, through identifying the subject matters experts and having them set the targets, the plan ensures greater commitment and clarity around goals and increases the likelihood of King not only meeting the requirements but exceeding them.

Staff will now finalize the MYAP and post it on the Township's website.

Staff noted the AAC reviewed 29 planning applications in 2024 in relation to accessibility and carried out an accessibility audit of Laskay Hall.

Curbside service continued to be provided to Township citizens who could not access the Municipal Office for services such as commissioning of documents.

The Plan and the subsequent accessibility accomplishments by the Township form a direct contribution towards enriching community well-being in King. The Plan and the actions taken foster a welcoming and inclusive community where diversity is celebrated and where everyone can develop to their full potential, participate freely in society and live with respect, dignity and freedom from discrimination. Creating and maintaining accessible communities improves services and experiences for everyone and therefore additionally contributes to the Township becoming an age-friendly community by 2026.

The 2024 Status Report demonstrates the continued progress and success of the existing plan. "Together, these efforts affirm King's dedication to creating a welcoming environment where everyone has equal opportunity to live, work, and thrive," the staff report noted.



### King Employee Showcase

#### Mancini reaches 20 years of service

The Township of King congratulates Jodi Mancini of Human Resources on reaching 20 years of service with the organization. Over the course of her career, Jodi has shown a strong commitment to collaboration, innovation, and service excellence.

As a leader within Corporate Services and Human Resources, she has played an important role in modernizing HR programs and improving services that support employees across the Township. Her work has helped streamline key areas such as Health and Safety, Payroll, Benefits, and corporate training.

Jodi is widely respected for her professionalism, sound judgment, and people-focused approach, particularly in complex and sensitive situations. Through her leadership, she continues to help foster a positive and inclusive workplace. The Township thanks Jodi for her dedication and looks forward to her continued contributions.

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## MP speaks at Marsh AGM

The Holland Marsh is not just an agricultural asset. It is one of the most productive vegetable-growing regions in the country, supporting local jobs, local processors, and food security for families well beyond York Region and Simcoe County.

New Tecumseth-Gwillimbury MP Scot Davidson spoke at the Holland Marsh Growers Association AGM in Bradford.

"Conservatives believe Canadian farmers deserve a government that works with them, not against them. We believe in lowering input costs, scrapping punitive taxes on food production, restoring credible trade relationships, and ensuring federal policies reflect the realities of farming on the ground, including here in the Holland Marsh," he said.

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# Hospice, community celebrate opening of Wellness, Grief, and Caregiving Hub

By Brock Weir

Hope House Hospice, formerly Hospice King-Aurora, marked the start of a brand-new chapter in its storied history of community service with the opening of their new Wellness, Grief, and Caregiving Hub recently.

Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill MPP Michael Parsa, Aurora Mayor Tom Mrakas, and Richmond Hill Mayor David West were on hand for the celebration, which also included an opportunity for Hope House to share the success of a recent two-year Provincial grant.

“Over my 18 years here at Hope House, I have seen this organization grow and thrive because of the dedication and valuable contributions of our staff and our amazing volunteers, and, of course, because of the support of our community – local, regional, provincial and federal,” said Hope House Executive Director Heidi Bonner.

“We are gathering here today to celebrate the opening of our Wellness, Grief and Caregiving Hub. It’s a special place where we invite our community to visit – a place that is welcoming, a safe place to land during a very difficult time. We want all to know that you don’t have to journey alone through illness and grief, and that Hope House is always here to support.”

One such programming area that will activate the new Wellness, Grief, and Caregiving Hub is Hope House’s HUUG (Help Us Understand Grief) program, which was developed through a two-year grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

First awarded to Hope House in 2024, the grant funding was used to develop a program to help children, youth and families who are experiencing a serious illness, anticipating a death, or grieving a death.

Bonner says the resulting program saw a 192 per cent increase in referrals in the first year and, as the two-year grant wrapped, referrals received during the period “is more than the combined referrals we’ve received for the previous six years.”

“The program continues to grow because the need for this type of support continues to grow,” said Bonner. “The impact of our HUUG program will be felt for generations to come. We support young people now when

they need it the most. Then, as they grow, they remember the support and the strategies that they’ve been given to survive what they have gone through.”

The value of the HUUG program was further highlighted by Julia Zinn, Hope House’s Counsellor for Children, Youth, and Families.

“It’s an honour to be at the forefront of this work and to help establish this program, which is the only one of its kind in all of York Region,” she said. “At Hope House, our vision is that nobody journeys alone through serious illness, end-of-life, or grief and that includes children. However, one in 14 children will experience the death of a parent or sibling before their 18th birthday and 93 per cent of children will experience a death that’s significant to them before their 18th birthday as well. That’s 93 per cent of children who are going through these hard things and often they’re going through them alone.”

Grief experienced by children is often under-recognized and under-supported, she said, with a prevailing school of thought being that they’re young and will bounce back.

“But we all know that’s not true, and that’s why programs like HUUG are so important ... and we are endlessly grateful for the funding from (Trillium) that has allowed us to establish this program and demonstrate its importance here in the community so that we can continue it for years and years to come,” she continued. “(The program) will continue to support children, youth, and families who are experiencing serious illness, end of life, or grief. Our goal is really to normalize these experiences. We know that this isn’t a statistic of very few children. It’s a statistical norm that folks are going through this. We want to normalize the thoughts, the feelings, all those experiences that play into that for these families, and also do so in a way that is familiar and more comfortable for kids.”

Among the activities included in the HUUG program include arts and crafts, games, such as “Question Jenga” that help kids get to know each other and feel comfortable. One-on-one counselling is also offered, while parents can also be involved in the program, where counsellors can im-

part the tools they need to support kids who are also going through challenging times.

“I’m the local MPP here, but I’m also Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services ... when you think of the impact of this program on young people, whether they’re dealing with a serious illness or a death in the family, and the support that you and your staff through the HUUG program provide, it goes a long way,” said MPP Parsa.

Added Mayor Mrakas: “This is a phenomenal place to be opening here in the Town of Aurora. This hub is

going to provide a place for people to have supports, connection, and to be able to learn through the grieving process and also through illnesses. I’m hearing about the stories about children that are grieving and losing a parent, and whenever you lose a parent, whether you’re a child or you’re an adult – I lost my dad last year, a very difficult time, but being able to get through it was being able to talk to people about it, so I can only imagine what it’s like for a child to lose a parent and what they have to deal with, so I thank each and every one of you for all the work that you guys do.”



## ‘Hearts for Hunger’ campaign

The Grackle Coffee Company is also participating in our Hearts for Hunger campaign. Every order supports the King Township Food Bank’s annual Hearts for Hunger campaign. The initiative continues to grow, with seven local establishments offering heart-shaped menu items and donating a portion of their proceeds to the King Township Food Bank.



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# Arts & Entertainment

## Solara Health Partners joins CHATS in spreading joy to seniors

CHATS (Community & Home Assistance to Seniors), is pleased to announce a partnership with Solara Health Partners to support seniors across York Region and South Simcoe through sponsored activities and events within CHATS's programs.

As a Community Builder Partner Sponsor, Solara Health Partners supports monthly, on-site activities and events that take place within CHATS' programs for seniors, with a focus on advancing awareness of community-based supports that help older adults remain socially connected while aging at home.

While CHATS's Day Programs are funded in part by Ontario Health, sponsored activities such as those being provided by Solara contribute additional enhancements designed to encourage interaction, creativity, and shared experiences, that otherwise would not be affordable to provide.

For many older adults, particularly

those who live alone or manage mobility or cognitive challenges, opportunities for regular social interaction can be limited. Adult Day and Wellness Programs play a vital role in supporting seniors' overall health and wellbeing by addressing key social determinants of health, including social connection, mental stimulation, routine, and purpose.

Social isolation and loneliness among seniors have been linked to increased health risks such as depression, cognitive decline, and reduced physical health. CHATS's Programs help mitigate these risks by providing a safe, welcoming environment where seniors can build relationships, participate in meaningful activities, and remain socially engaged. These programs also offer important reassurance and respite for caregivers, knowing their loved ones are supported in a supervised and socially enriching setting.



"Both CHATS and Solara Health Partners share the belief that every senior deserves to live a full, vibrant life," said Christina Bisanz, CHATS's Chief Executive Officer. "Community-based initiatives that foster social connection and emotional wellbeing are essential to helping older adults remain engaged, supported, and thriving as they age," she added.

"When seniors are priced out of traditional senior living options, social isolation becomes a very real risk," said Prav Jegathees, Chief Executive Officer of Solara Health Partners. "CHATS' programs provide essential opportunities for social connection and belonging. By sponsoring activities and supporting awareness, Solara advocates for the importance and cost-effectiveness of community-based care that helps seniors age at home while remaining engaged and connected to their communities."

Rooted in community, Solara Health Partners is honoured to support CHATS' work by sponsoring activities that foster meaningful moments of connection for participants and highlight

the importance of community-based care that enables seniors to age at home.

CHATS (Community & Home Assistance to Seniors) is a not-for-profit organization that has supported older adults and caregivers in York Region and South Simcoe for more than 45 years. CHATS delivers a wide range of in-home and community-based services to help seniors live independently, safely, and with dignity at home.

Solara Health Partners is a values-driven Canadian provider of compassionate, personalized home and community care. The organization supports seniors, individuals with disabilities, and families through services that promote dignity, independence, and overall wellbeing. Through community sponsorships and partnerships, Solara is committed to reducing barriers to care and supporting individuals in the places they call home.

For more information or for media inquiries, please reach out to Kelly Broome, VP Philanthropy & Communications by email at [kbroome@chats.on.ca](mailto:kbroome@chats.on.ca)



### Hiking King's trails

Some locals enjoy exploring King, even in the crisp winter climate. Here, some residents join an Oak Ridges Trail Association hike through Cold Creek Conservation Area.

## CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 262310 • Solution in CLASSIFIEDS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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61				62					63			
64				65						66		
67				68						69		

### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Cut quickly
- 5. A way to state clearly
- 11. River in NE Scotland
- 14. Expansive
- 15. Lacking social polish
- 16. Amount of time
- 17. Frame
- 19. Automobile
- 20. Toadstools
- 21. High school dances
- 22. Utilize
- 23. Experimented with
- 25. One-sided
- 27. Acquisitive
- 31. Potted plants
- 34. Everyone has one
- 35. Kalahari Desert lake
- 38. Unidentified flying object
- 39. People 65 and over

- 41. Small amount
- 42. Daughter of Acrisius
- 44. Ornamental box
- 45. Government agents
- 46. Uncertain
- 49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- 51. Treeless plains
- 55. One's sense of self-importance
- 56. Consumer advocate
- 60. Type of lounge
- 61. Body part
- 62. Can be persuaded
- 64. Woman (French)
- 65. Ready and willing to be taught
- 66. Arab ruler title
- 67. Unhappy
- 68. Gradually went away
- 69. Able to think clearly

- 1. Brushed
- 2. Small water spirit (Germ.)
- 3. Heroes
- 4. Monetary units
- 5. Some don't want to share theirs
- 6. Free-swimming invertebrate
- 7. Litigates
- 8. Outer
- 9. Parallelograms
- 10. Uneasy feelings
- 11. Cross
- 12. A way to remove dog-\_\_
- 13. Pages can be
- 18. Ukrainian city
- 24. A citizen of Denmark
- 26. Month
- 28. Hindu queens
- 29. Group of chemicals
- 30. Rider of Rohan
- 31. Wet dirt

- 32. Southwestern Russia city
- 33. Observed
- 36. Angry
- 37. Drivers' licenses
- 39. Musical composition
- 40. Auction
- 43. They \_\_
- 45. Women
- 47. Be filled with love for
- 48. Thick-soled sock
- 49. Appears
- 50. Old World lizard
- 52. The leading performer
- 53. Protein
- 54. "Gunga Din" script writer
- 57. Art \_\_, around 1920
- 58. \_\_ Blyton, children's author
- 59. Abnormal breathing
- 63. A place to rest

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

# Awaken Aurora builds on inaugural success with focus on Women's Day

By Brock Weir

More than 65 women came together at the Aurora Cultural Centre last month for the inaugural Awaken Aurora – The Dawn Within, a new program spearheaded by three local residents to “give women in the community a dedicated space to pause and feel supported and connected” while focusing on their health and wellbeing.

Given the tremendous success of the first session, which included yoga, mindfulness, guest speakers, and a bevy of local vendors, Awaken Aurora founders Lauren Hanna, a health policymaker, digital marketer and mental health advocate Skai Spooner, and real-

tor Krista Hall, are looking to build on their success just in time for International Women's Day.

“I had a feeling that women in Aurora were kind of craving more opportunities to come together as a community, connect with each other, and also spend a little bit more time focusing on their health,” says Hanna. “That said, I think there's still a degree of pressure that comes with organizing an event, and you put money and time into it, so certainly we were relieved to see that ticket sales were positive and that we sold out.

“We wanted to donate \$500 to the CMHA (Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region and South Sim-

coe), so selling out also meant that we were able to do that, which was really special and a key measure of success.”

Being able to support the CMHA and their local mental health services was a key priority for the trio behind Awaken Aurora and with the January success, they aim to raise \$2,000 for the organization through their four signature events, the next of which is set for March at Royal Rose Gallery to align with International Women's Day, sponsored by realtor Krista Hall.

Ticket sales for the event went on sale last week and were already more than 25 per cent sold out by press time this week.

“It's really nice that people were watching and keen for details on the next event,” says Hanna. This time around, we're hosting it at Royal Rose Gallery, so it is a nice chance to support other local businesses and event facilities.”

Newmarket-based author Carly Ottaway, she adds, will be a keynote speaker at the event with a talk focused on

“coming back to and celebrating your authentic self.”

Looking back at the success of the first event, Hanna says one participant described the experience as “life-changing,” a piece of feedback that has put a lot of wind in the sails propelling them forward.

“It was pretty incredible to receive that email,” says Hanna. “We had a feeling that something a bit magical was happening – the vibe, if I can call it that, when people were coming in was very electric and special, having people connect with each other, just carving out the space to focus on their health and then hearing from two incredible speakers.

“We had a feeling there was something really special transpiring, but the feedback after the event, on the day of, that we received by email, and then in post-event survey was all extremely positive.”

For further information and to keep track of upcoming events, follow them on Instagram @AwakenAurora.ca.

## Applications opening for funding for proven traffic-calming measures

As part of its plan to protect Ontario, the government is launching the next round of the Road Safety Initiatives Fund (RSIF).

Eligible municipalities can now apply for additional funding through the \$210 million program to support increased road safety measures in school zones and community safety zones without using speed cameras that make life more expensive for drivers and taxpayers.

“Our government is protecting Ontario by keeping costs down for drivers while ensuring our roads remain among the safest in North America,” said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. “This additional funding through the Road Safety Initiatives Fund will give municipalities the tools they need to invest in infrastructure that reduces speeding in real time, rather than issuing speeding tickets weeks after violations occur.”

Last fall, the province launched the RSIF to help municipalities transition to proven traffic-calming measures that do not raise costs for drivers, including traffic-calming infrastructure like speed bumps, raised crosswalks and roundabouts, as well as high-visibility signage and increased targeted police enforcement in school zones and community safety zones where municipal speed cameras were previously deployed.

In response to public concerns over

the increased use of municipal speed cameras as a revenue-raising tool, the Building a More Competitive Economy Act, which received Royal Assent on November 3, 2025, prohibits the use of municipal speed cameras as of Nov. 14, 2025.

Ontario launched the \$210-million Road Safety Initiatives Fund in November 2025, providing \$42 million in immediate funding to eligible municipalities. All municipalities that previously used municipal speed cameras are eligible to apply for funding.

More than 40 municipalities across Ontario had automated speed enforcement camera programs before the provincial ban took effect on Nov. 14, 2025.

As a result of the speed camera program, Ontarians were charged millions of dollars in fines, including a single camera in the City of Toronto that issued more than 65,000 tickets and took in nearly \$7 million in fines prior to 2025.

The City of Vaughan issued 30,000 tickets over a three-week period through its speed camera program. The city scrapped the program in September 2025.

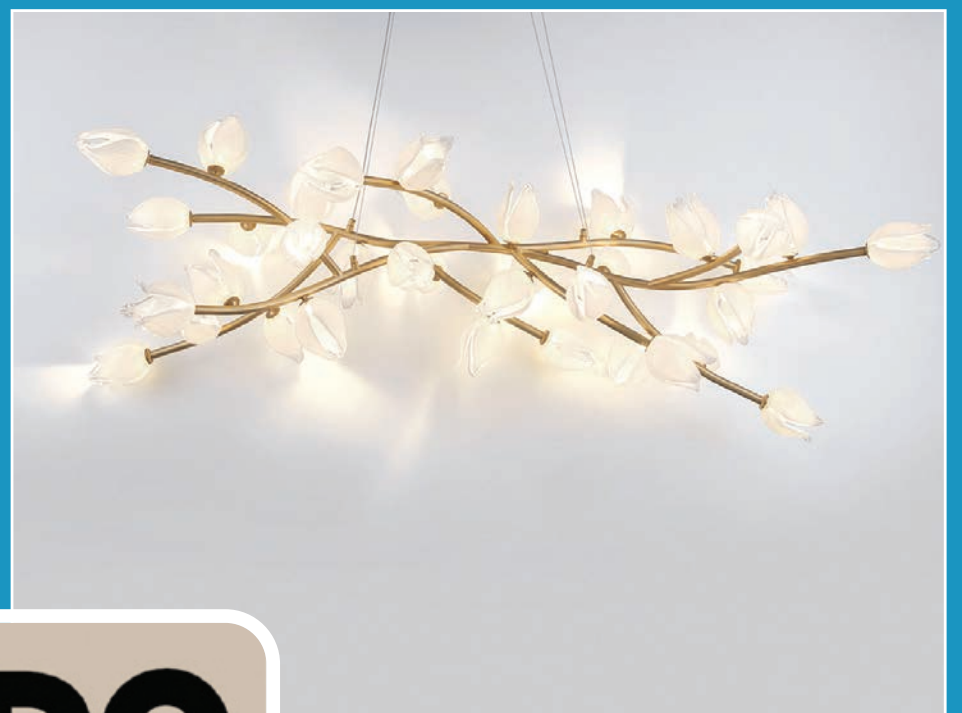
The Region of Waterloo issued 55,000 tickets during the first six months of its speed camera program.

For 25 years, Ontario's roads have ranked among the safest in North America, with one of the lowest fatality rates per 10,000 licensed drivers.



### Lecce hosts Jones at hospital

Better healthcare, closer to home. That is the mission MPPs Laura Smith and Stephen Lecce were on as they hosted Ontario's Minister of Health Sylvia Jones at the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital. “2026 is shaping up to be a year of progress — we will start construction on a new long-term care home and York University School of Medicine,” Lecce said.



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# Heritage plaque at Emmanuel church unveiled

Local residents and politicians stood proud last week, unveiling a heritage plaque for the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church at 313 Main Street in Schomberg.

It's now officially one of King Township's newest protected heritage properties.

This little church has stood on Main Street since 1895, quietly holding more than 130 years of stories within its walls. Its simple design and original interior are a testament to the care and craftsmanship of the generations who gathered here.

Long-time residents may remember a unique chapter in its history: during the 1995 filming of *Night of the Twisters*, a staged explosion caused unexpected damage. When repairs began, workers uncovered pieces of an even earlier structure — believed to be a former Methodist Church — hidden within the walls.

Last week's celebration honours not just the architecture, but the people, memories, and community life woven into this space over more than a century.

Come and enjoy the unique charm of this historic building and worship with them on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. with Rev. John Hong. After worship enjoy fellowship and refreshments. They have many events planned for 2026, watch for dates and times in "Scoop from Schomberg" and in the village community pages.

For an official list of cultural heritage properties, view King's Heritage Register 'Story Map.' at [king.ca/heritage](http://king.ca/heritage)



**RESALE  
HOMES  
COLLECTIONS**



**SEE THIS WEEK'S  
PAPER FOR YOUR  
ISSUE OF RESALE  
HOMES COLLECTIONS.**



## Residents enjoy Family Day in King

From family-friendly activities at the Dufferin Marsh, to a host of public skates hosted by local businesses, King residents ventured out to enjoy Family Day.

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# Our plan to protect Ontario is diversifying our trade

As Canada stares down economic uncertainty, we're ready with a plan to protect Ontario. Diversifying our trade will connect our province to new markets.

That's how we protect Ontario.



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### Schomberg Veterinary Services DENTAL MONTH

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17365 Hwy. 27, Schomberg  
schombergvetservices@gmail.com

# King Weekly Sentinel

Sports • News • Community Events  
Classifieds • At Your Service

## King rolls to big wins in Buffalo and Georgetown before bowing to Burlington to halt five-game winning streak

By Jim Stewart

As Meat Loaf once intoned, “Two out of three ain’t bad” and the King Rebellion moved closer to clinching a sixth-place seed in the OJHL playoffs by winning two of their three games last week. They included a pair of spirited road wins in Buffalo and Georgetown, followed by a home ice loss to Burlington.

OJHL All-Star defender Ryan Castle scored two goals to lead the Rebellion to a 7-2 win over the Sabres in Buffalo on Thursday night.

Nikita Daryavin tallied two to spur King’s offense to a tidy 4-1 victory over the Raiders in Georgetown on Saturday night.

The club’s five-game winning streak

ended at the Zancor Centre on Sunday afternoon with a disappointing 4-1 loss to the Burlington Cougars.

Since January 12, King Township’s Junior A hockey club has turned into a roster of resolute road warriors. The Rebs have won seven of their last nine games in a road-heavy schedule with visitor victories in Buffalo (twice), Oakville, Leamington, Georgetown (twice), and Niagara Falls.

As has been the recipe for recent success, the red-hot OJHL squad struck early in Buffalo to open a 3-1 lead in the first period on goals by Julius Da Silva, Deacon King, and Ryan Castle. King Captain Jared McNeil thought the quick start was the key to his club’s road victory: “It was our start – we outskated them and we

rolled from there, even with bus legs from the long trip to Buffalo. We got production out of everybody. We were very good on our 5-on-5 scoring opportunities, too.”

When Sabres’ forward Jake Brown injected life into the home side at 1:44 of the middle frame to make it 3-2, Rebellion netminder Logan Kennedy settled in, turned aside 15 of the 16 shots to stifle the Sabres, and allowed his offense to re-set. Lachlan Larmand restored King’s two-goal lead with three minutes left before second intermission.

The Rebellion put the game away with three goals in the third.

Justin Pavese’s 10th of the season made it 5-1 at 6:44 and removed any degree of suspense at the Lecom Harborcenter.

McNeil – King’s leading scorer – registered his 43rd point of the season when he fired an empty netter at 18:27.

Castle’s second goal of the game tickled the twine with 27 seconds left to provide the margin of victory.

Kennedy’s 39-save performance was a key factor in King’s fourth win in a row. The indomitable goaltending combo of Kennedy and Noah Mavin (second in the OJHL in SV% at .941) has backstopped the club during its hot streak and improved the Rebs’ prospective playoff seeding.

Kennedy was between the pipes in Georgetown, too, and he blocked 25 of the 26 shots by the Raiders to earn another W in the Rebs’ fifth consecutive win.

As he did in Buffalo, Da Silva opened the scoring in Georgetown when he converted a passing play by Luca Manikis and Castle into his 17th of the season at 10:42 of the second period.

Daryavin made it 2-0 less than three minutes later, earning an assist for Luca Astri.

Pavese, with helpers from Daryavin and Matthew Anderson, built a three-goal lead 14 minutes into the middle frame.

McNeil posited that his club made some territorial adjustments for the game in Georgetown and it showed in the first period: “It’s always hard to adjust to a small rink. I thought we adjusted well, especially regarding our systems. We started crashing the net

and scored in the dirty areas, which is what we’ll need to do more often in the playoffs.”

With 39 seconds before intermission, Owen Meli got the Raiders on the scoreboard to cut the visitors’ lead to 3-1.

Daryavin’s empty-netter closed the scoring with 22 seconds left in the game.

On Sunday afternoon versus the Cougars, King came out flat in their third game in less than 96 hours.

### Loss to Burlington

Daniel Vasic, Reid Forster, and Ethan Brassard scored first period goals for the hard-hitting, blue-clad visitors who took a 3-0 lead into the dressing room after twenty minutes of play.

The Rebellion responded 1:48 into the middle frame when McNeil finished Castle’s pass to narrow Burlington’s lead to 3-1. King’s leading scorer described his 18th goal of the season: “I was able to find some open space that we look for. All credit to Castle – he made a nice pass when he looked up and saw me. Low blocker side was the way to score on their goalie.”

Alas, King couldn’t narrow Burlington’s lead and Vasic added an empty netter to close the scoring. McNeil assessed the loss to their divisional rival: “We came out flat. Not scoring on the four-minute power play really took us out of this game.”

With the win in Buffalo, King jumped over the Sabres into sixth place with three games in hand in the OJHL West standings. With the win in Georgetown on Saturday night, King pulled ahead of fifth-place Burlington by one point with one game in hand, but the Cougars’ victory on Sunday afternoon at the Zancor Centre restored their fifth-seed status by a single point.

The Rebellion face the daunting prospect of a four-game week: they visited Caledon on Tuesday afternoon; host Collingwood on Thursday; visit Mississauga on Saturday; and host Leamington on Sunday. King’s challenging conclusion to their regular season schedule features games against the two powerhouses of the OJHL: first-place Trenton (East Division) on February 26 and first-place Toronto (West Division) on February 28.



Jill Hopkins, Reid Mulligan, Chrissy Molnar, Skip Karl Allen and coach Bruce Gorsline captured the Ontario Provincial Wheelchair Championships held at the King Curling Club. Team Allen will now represent Ontario at the Canadian National Wheelchair Championships in Quebec April 27 to May 2.

Photo by Shellee Morning

## King curlers crowned provincial wheelchair champions

By Shellee Morning  
King Curling Club

King Curling Club, represented by Team Allen, was crowned Ontario Provincial Wheelchair Champions this past weekend.

The event was hosted by the King Curling Club with teams from the Peterborough, Ilderton, King and Toronto Cricket curling clubs all vying for the championship title and the chance to advance to the Canadian Nationals Championships.

King Curling Club member Bruce Gorsline is the coach of Team Allen, who went undefeated in the 4 day event. Skip Karl Allen, Vice Chrissy Molnar, 2nd Reid Mulligan and Jill Hopkins at Lead were the heavy favoured and did not disappoint.

During the final championship game Allen, against Team Grose of the Ilderton C.C. got off to a commanding start and never looked back. Precision takeouts, guards and the infamous draws to the button were asked for and delivered by each player throughout the game, much to the delight of the crowded spectators in the lounge.

Handshakes were offered after 7 ends handing Team Allen the win and the title of provincial champions.

Team Allen will now represent Ontario at the National Wheelchair Championships April 27-May 2 in Boucherville, Quebec.

An event of this magnitude is not possible without the many volunteers that were provided by the King Curling Club. King’s board of directors and its members congratulate Team Allen and wish you all the very best at the Nationals.

### Sunday Social

Immediately following the Wheelchair Provincials, the Sunday afternoon Social League took to the ice for their regular season schedule. The excited and competitive atmosphere, seemed

to continue within this social league that is heavily known for its fun. Four sheets of eager curlers could be heard across ice level with hurry hard calls, laughter and broom raising for a shot well made.

Al Budwani on Team Orin Del Vecchio – who was down by 3 in the 5th end against Team Jeff Groves – delivered not 1 but 2 timely draws to the pin. Budwani, believing he had secured a couple of points for his team, could feel the momentum swing. Spare Shonaugh Campbell Berry for Team Groves thought otherwise.

Skip Groves asked for a hit on 2 guards that were protecting Budwani’s counting stones on the button. Perfect weight was executed and the hit removed the guards and redirected removing one of the counting rocks. Team Del Vecchio, now down by only 1, delivered well placed rocks in the 7th starting with Jim Rout at Lead with a couple of takeouts leaving his stones in the top 12 ring. Budwani connected on a takeout to sit 3. Skip Groves eliminated one before Spare Shellee Morning executed a hit and wide roll behind cover in the 4-foot ring. Groves came up just short to the pin on his last shot ending the game in a tie. Both teams delivered some very timely shots making it a back and forth contest.

Sunday winners included Teams Coseni and Brooksbanks while teams Wright and Alganabi also tied.

Concluding the afternoon game, Keith Walmsley delivered his own gold medal winning 4-course meal for the entire Sunday afternoon league. The Italian cuisine was executed to perfection! Tiramisu made by Nina Posa topped off the amazing feast.

Walmsley planned for many months to have everyone in the league sit down for a meal and celebrate good friends and fellowship. Keith and his kitchen help were applauded with congratulations, handshakes and thanks for an exquisite meal. Well done!



## MPP Lecce cheers on Olympians with former coach

As the 2026 Olympics began, Stephen Lecce, MPP for King—Vaughan, showed his support for Team Canada by gifting his former coach and President of the City of Vaughan Hockey Association, Barry Harte, an official Team Canada jersey.

“Barry is a legend in our community — and we go way back. The first year he coached was in 1992, and I was on that team,” said MPP Lecce. “With the Olympics in full swing, I can’t help but think of how many ‘Barrys’ exist across the nation – the quiet yet determined coaches that inspire their kids to be the best and own the podium. We came full circle back to the arena we played in as kids, where I thanked him with a Team Canada jersey. Let’s go Canada!”

## King's Corners

**King City United  
By Sheryl Sinka**

New worship time! Sunday, Feb. 22 King City-York Pines United Church worships at 10:30 a.m. with Daniel Cho leading our worship hour at 50 Elizabeth Grove. Everyone is welcome to join in our journey as we explore faith and what it means to us.

Our Lenten study starts this Saturday, Feb. 21 at 10 a.m. at King City United Church and continues every Saturday until Easter. We are using the e-book, Bless, Break, Share: Recipes for Faithful Living available through ucrdstore.ca. Feel free to join us for an insightful discussion of our faith.

Monday, Feb. 23 the Book Club will meet at King City United Church at 10 a.m. "Serviceberry" by Robin Wall Kimmerer will be the subject of that meeting which was rescheduled from January due to snow. 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.

Fellowship Luncheon: Welcome to this York Pines United Church tradition and now King City's, too! Friends from the community are invited to this fellowship lunch when we will be trying a new adventure for our group at Orchid Thai 15474 Yonge St. on the West side of Yonge, north of Wellington (just N. of Aurora Hts. Dr.) on Wednesday, Feb. 25th at noon. Contact the office as above 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.

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 have a Small Group Bible Study that meets at the church every Wednesday night at 7pm. We will be studying "The Unstuck Life."

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

If you have any questions please

## Nobleton & Schomberg United Churches

**By Nancy Hopkinson**

Our Joint Annual General Meeting is this Sunday, Feb. 22 at Nobleton United. Service at 11:15 a.m., followed by a light lunch and then the AGM.

Time to reserve your seat for the famous DiFebo Pasta Dinner which is on Friday, March 20 at 6 p.m. at Nobleton United Church. The meal includes pasta with meatballs, salad & dessert. It is a great time to socialize. The cost is \$20 per adult, \$5 for 12 years and under, free for those under 5. Seating is limited. Contact Nancy Hopkinson at 416-316-5064 to reserve your seat ASAP.

Lenten Study starts today (Feb. 19) at 1 p.m. at Nobleton United for scripture, reflection and good conversation. This will continue each Thursday until Easter. All are welcome.

Our next Messy Church is Monday, Feb. 23 at 5 p.m. at Nobleton United. The activities and crafts (5-6 p.m.) are based on different Bible stories. "The Lost Sheep" is February's theme, emphasizing Jesus's love for every one of us. At 6 p.m. we have story time until 6:15 p.m. when we eat. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. One activity is always decorating a cookie in the theme of the day. Please let Nancy Hopkinson know (text 416-316-5064 or email [nancykhopkinson@gmail.com](mailto:nancykhopkinson@gmail.com)) if you would like to attend, as we need to have enough food for everyone.

New 15 minute Reflection on Zoom. Begin each week with hope. Short scripture, reflection and prayer. Every Monday at 7 p.m. Last one is Monday, March 30.

The next Community Potluck Lunch is on Tuesday, March 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.

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

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

Upcoming events at KCSC:

Friday, February 20 – from 11:30 a.m. – Potluck Lunch – Come out and enjoy a delicious buffet. Each attendee is asked to bring either a main course item or a dessert.

Friday, February 27 – Presentation – Kathy from Vaughan Community Health will discuss Type 2 Diabetes.

Friday, March 6 – 10 a.m. – Cooking Demo – Alma, Sheila and Sharon will demonstrate how to make soup and cheese tea biscuits. \$5/pp due by February 27. Spaces limited – no walk-ins.

Friday, March 13 – 10 a.m. – Workshop – Angela will provide a hands-on creative painting workshop. The theme will be hydrangeas. \$10/pp due by March 6.

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

### Sacred Heart Church

Lent began with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 18. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday, Feb. 20: Silent Adoration begins at 3:30 p.m., Stations of the Cross at 6:15 p.m., Celebration of Mass at 7 p.m.

Join Restless to "Feed the Hungry" on Saturday, Feb. 28 at 9 a.m. to prepare food for distribution to York Region shelters. Donations needed: canned vegetables and fruit, pasta, rice and dry grains, peanut butter, canned protein (tuna and chicken), boxed meals and cereals, juice packs, granola bars and fruit cups. Sign up/contact: [This event is free but bring some food to share with others.](mailto:restlessa-</a></p>
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Our next Schomberg Senior's Luncheon is Tuesday, March 10 at 11:15 a.m. at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Schomberg. The entertainer is Beeton's Nancy Chapple-Smokler. Nancy grew up in B.C. and when she was 10 years old, she was on the first episode of the Beachcombers (1971). The meal will be leek & potato soup with corned beef on rye sandwiches with dessert of vanilla cupcakes with green icing and ice cream.

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 Thursday, March 12 at 1 p.m. at St. Mary Magdalene Church. Everyone is welcome to attend. The theme of hearing and discussing stories of Women in the Bible continues.

Normally the World Day of Prayer is celebrated on the first Friday of March. This time it will be on the second Friday, March 13 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed by a light lunch.

On Sunday, March 15, there is no service at our local churches. We are all invited to Pie (Public, Intentional, Explicit) Day at Knox United Church in Caledon at 10 a.m. This is an Affirm Service and there will be a joint choir. There will likely be pies afterwards!

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

Schomberg United Church meets at St. Mary Magdalene Church, lower level, 116 Church St., Schomberg. It is accessible. Nobleton United Church meets 6076 King Rd., Nobleton. It has a wheelchair ramp and a chair lift to go up the 7 steps to the Sanctuary. To contact our churches phone 905-859-3976.

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

Adult Faith Educational Meeting and Pot-Luck Supper Saturday, Feb. 28. Topic: Evil's Ideologies (Part 2) Climate Change VS Change of Climate, What to Believe.

The Next Coffee Sunday will be on Sunday, Feb. 22. Volunteers are needed! If you're interested in hosting, please fill out the sign-up sheet located outside the kitchen area. For information, contact Justine Cariati, [thecariatifamily@gmail.com](mailto:thecariatifamily@gmail.com) OR Nadia Pascuzzo [NPascuzzo@archtoronto.org](mailto:NPascuzzo@archtoronto.org).

Rectory: 905-833-1161. Email: [sacredheartki@archtoronto.org](mailto:sacredheartki@archtoronto.org) Website: [sacredheartki.archtoronto.org](http://sacredheartki.archtoronto.org)

Facebook & Instagram: Sacred Heart Parish King

### King City Tennis prepares for season

The King City Tennis Association is a non-profit tennis club established by volunteers over 40 years ago in partnership with King Township. The King City Tennis Association outdoor season runs from May to October 2026.

The 2026 KCTA Website Opens on Sunday, March 15 at 9 a.m. ready to accept 2026 Early Bird KCTA Memberships with discounts, until April 13.

The KCTA Website Homepage is found at: [kingcitytennis.com](http://kingcitytennis.com)

KCTA 2026 Registration of individual addresses and contact information and Membership Payments must be completed and paid by credit card, before registering for KCTA tennis programs on-line.

Markus Ziegler, our OTA Certified Head Tennis Coach of several years, is ready to provide tennis programs and lessons for all ages and levels of ability.

Markus offers many excellent and varied skill-level tennis instruction for Adults, in addition to Junior Programs for ages 4 to 14 years, starting in May and which continue to October.

Don't forget the very popular 1 to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday, Junior Summer Camp in July and August. A total of 9 different weeks to choose from. Each week is limited to only 28 Juniors, so please sign up early.

The KCTA executive looks forward to seeing our members playing tennis this spring.

### St. Andrew's By Kathy Patterson

You are always welcome at St. An-

drew's! Our morning worship service is at 10:30 a.m. This Sunday, Feb. 22, following our morning worship service and holy communion, we are having a pizza lunch before our ACM - Annual Congregational Meeting. Last Sunday, we were thrilled to have a joint service with The Well, King City, our space-sharing partner of our recently renovated building. The Worship Service was recorded and put on YouTube. Have a look. You will find the YouTube link on our website: [standrews-kingcity.ca](http://standrews-kingcity.ca)

We are having "Thursdays at Three" (3 p.m.), at church, this Thursday. All are welcome to join us as we lead up to Easter. It will be a great time of casually getting together over coffee and Pastor Alison will lead us using a book called What if God was serious about Prayer? by Skye Jethani. The Thursdays will be on Feb. 26 and March 19 and 26.

We're collecting tins of soup, stews, chilis, ravioli and crackers for all of February which will be delivered to the King Township Food Bank.

Also, Friday, March 6, St. Andrew's is hosting the World Day of Prayer in the morning at 11 a.m. and there will be a Light Lunch following. The Theme country is Nigeria. Everyone is invited.

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

For many of us, Lent has always been associated with giving something up, like chocolate, coffee, social media or snacks after 8 p.m. And while there can be real meaning in letting go of something, sometimes our focus becomes the absence itself.

We spend 40 days counting what we cannot have, rather than noticing what God might be inviting us into.

This year at All Saints, we want to gently suggest another way.

What if Lent wasn't only about subtraction, but also about addition?

What if instead of removing something from your life, you added moments of peace, of connection, moments of awareness of God's presence already surrounding you?

Two of our upcoming gatherings offer simple ways to practice that kind of Lent.

On Friday, Feb. 20 at 7:30 p.m., we will hold a Taizé-style service.

*More on Page 19*

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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, "Unity and Division" from Mark 3.7-35.

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

Our Junction Ministries serve our children 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, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. This is a fun time with a range of ac-

tivities 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, March 7 at 9 a.m. Our mid-week Life-Connect 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.

We are one parish with 2 Historical Milestones of 150 and 171 years of Faithfulness and Loving Service as One Faith Community. The year 2026 will be full of ways to celebrate our anniversaries.

The first highlight will be an 150th Anniversary Fundraiser, March 7, with Irish entertainment at Copper Creek Golf Course in Kleinburg, tickets \$150.

St. Patrick's Parish will celebrate its 150th Anniversary with Cardinal Francis Leo on Sunday, March 8 at 1:30 p.m.

We are creating a historical Family

photo directory. Much more to come. Our historical photo directory will take place at St. Patrick's Parish the weekend of Feb. 21 and 22. We hope to see you there.

I hope you all enjoyed the Family Day long weekend. February 18 was Ash Wednesday. As we prepare for our Lenten journey, I found an interesting story:

A well-known speaker started off his seminar holding up a \$20 bill. In the room of 200 people he asked, "Who would like this \$20 bill?" Hands started going up. He said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you but first, let me do this." He proceeded to crumple up the \$20 dollar bill. He then asked, "Who still wants it?" Still the hands were up in the air. "Well," he replied, "What if I do this?" And he dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now crumpled and dirty. "Now, who still wants it?" Still the hands went into the air. "My friends, we have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20.

Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into

the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We may feel as though we are worthless. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value. "Dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to those who do love you. The worth of our lives comes not in what we do or who we know, but by who we are. You are special, don't ever forget it.

As my mother always said, if no one told you that they loved you today, let me be the first. I love you. God Bless, Fr. Bob Glynn, St. Patrick's & St. Mary's Church, [stpatandstmarysc@archtoronto.org](mailto:stpatandstmarysc@archtoronto.org)

God Bless, Fr. Bob Glynn

**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.

Regularly scheduled programs are:  
Mobility Matters - Tuesdays 12:15 to 1 p.m. and 1 to 1:45 p.m. Fridays 2:15 to 3 p.m. and 3 to 3:45 p.m.

*More on Page 17*

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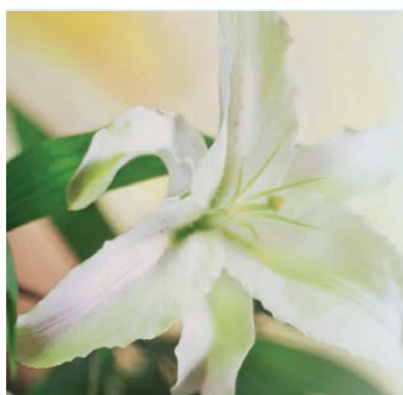
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# Nobleton Notes

## From Page 16

Participants are welcome to bring their own weights, balls and resistance bands.

Bone Fitness – Wednesdays at 1 p.m. (must be registered with the Township).

Educational Thursdays run weekly from 10 a.m. to noon.

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.

March 5 – Freshen Your Home with a Fragrant Mist – Hands on Presentation. Angela Del Borrello will do a presentation on essential oils (citrus, peppermint, lavender & rosemary). You will take home your own spray bottle. Cost is \$10, which includes materials, register by February 26. May not be suitable for anyone sensitive to these fragrances.

March 12 – A fun day of singing and entertainment by a musician. This event will be sponsored by Richview Manor of Maple under the direction of CEO Joseph Gulizia. Snacks will be

provided as well.

March 19 – The Red Carpet is ready for a movie on our TV screen. Sit back and relax and enjoy the snacks provided. Movie will be selected by the group.

March 26 – Emergency Preparedness. Presented by Deputy Fire Chief, Kevin Ritson. CPR will be demonstrated and the seniors will be able to participate and review the technique of CPR. Be informed and know what to do when an emergency arises.

For more information on 55+ programming, memberships and services visit [king.ca/seniors](http://king.ca/seniors) or call 905-833-6565.

### Kingcrafts Studio Spring Artisan Sale

Join us for our annual Spring Studio Sale featuring 40+ local artists.

Shop unique handcrafted items and gifts: card making, decorative arts, enamelling, fibre art, fine art, fused glass, jewellery, leather art, needlework, pottery, stained glass, rug hooking, wire sculpture, weaving.

The sale runs Friday, and Saturday, April 24 and 25, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 26, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Kingcrafts Studio is located at 12936 Keele Street.

### Nobleton Lions

Our first fundraiser of the year is the poker tournament featuring a delicious buffet dinner scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 27, at the Dr. William Lacey Arena in Nobleton. For tickets, which must be purchased in advance, please contact Gunther Vetter at 416-807-5469 or any Lion.

Looking ahead to spring, 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 Tascapark. This is a joint event put on by all three Lions Clubs in King Township, working together.

Looking out further, on Sunday, May 31 the Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides will take place to raise funds for training dogs as service dogs. To donate, please visit <https://www.walkfordogguides.com/> and search Nobleton.

Next, mark your calendars for the annual Golf Fundraiser on June 7, more details to follow.

Regular meetings of the Nobleton Lions Club are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from September to mid-June. The Lions continue to welcome new members with a heart to serve, both men and women.

You may join us as a guest by contacting Lion Jerry MacBain at [nobletonlionjerry@outlook.com](mailto:nobletonlionjerry@outlook.com).

To learn more about how the Nobleton Lions engage with both the local community and the wider Lions International worldwide community, please visit our website which can be accessed by googling “nobletonlions.com” At the website on the Upcoming Events page you will also see announcements for events offered by non-profit organizations in King. If you have an activity that qualifies, please contact Lion Jerry MacBain. You may also follow us on Instagram at [nobleton.lions.club](https://www.instagram.com/nobleton.lions.club)

### Book club

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

Join! Whether you have read the book or not, come by and check out these very interesting, lively and entertaining discussions.

Next up on Wednesday, March 11, “The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store,” by James McBride.

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# Scoop from Schomberg

By Susan Heslop

This past week I had the pleasure of meeting Jodie Wilson, who up until this past Friday, worked at Schomberg Tru-Country and Garden for many years. I know many of you know her friendly and smiling face. Jodie has had to give up the job she loved due to health issues and needs your help. If your blood type is O-Positive, you may be the hero local woman, Jodie needs.

Her previous pleas have resulted in several tests, but no match for Jodie. As you can imagine, her situation is more dire with her kidney function now at around 15%. A living donor is imperative as soon as possible. Jodie has a kidney disease called FSGS (Focal Segmental Glomerular Sclerosis). This is a rare disease-causing scarring of the kidneys leading to kidney failure and death.

Doctors told her she wouldn't make it to 30 but Jodie is turning 33 this year. She is in urgent need of a live donor to keep going! Please share. Together we can save Jodie's life!

If you think you may be a match and

want to be the hero Jodie desperately needs, Please Email questions to [livinggorgandonation@uhn.ca](mailto:livinggorgandonation@uhn.ca)

Here's your chance to save a life.

## Workshop

Schomberg Lions Club Presents a free Health & Wellness Interactive Workshop, led by a leading Health Coach Ann Rockley, Saturday, March 7, from 1 to 2 p.m., Trisan Centre, Room A. Join us for an engaging, hands-on workshop focused on whole-body wellness, yoga movement demonstrations, and sample healthy living food choices. All are welcome!

## 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 Meet-

And this year, we are adding something new.

Beginning Monday, Feb. 23, All Saints will launch Sainly Quests. Each Monday during Lent, those on our email list will receive seven small daily invitations – one for each day of the week. Some will be prayerful, some mindful, and some gently active. None are meant to burden you. Instead, they are small practices designed to keep us aware of God's love and the care we are called to show one another.

Lent does not have to be about proving our dedication through difficulty. It can be about creating space where God can meet us in quiet, in community, and in compassion.

This year, perhaps the question is not "What will I give up?" but "What will I make room for?"

We hope you will join us in stillness, at the table, and along the journey.

ing 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.

All events will take place at Schomberg Community Hall on Main Street, for more information please contact [schomberghortsociety@gmail.com](mailto:schomberghortsociety@gmail.com)

## Simcoe Currency Club

Interested in coin/currency collecting? Wondering how to connect with other collectors? Come out and share your interest and learn from other collectors. The Simcoe Currency Club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Cookstown Curling Club (18 Church St, Cookstown) at 7 p.m. Membership is \$25 for the year.

They have exciting draws, auctions, news, and a featured speaker every month. For more information visit their website [simcoecurrencyclub.com](http://simcoecurrencyclub.com) or call 647-200-7007.

## 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. Please note that due to conflict we won't be playing on March 27.

## Schomberg 55+

King Township Seniors will be offering another bus trip. All are welcome on Thursday, March 19. We depart at 9:30 a.m. Trisan Centre, 25 Dillane Dr., Schomberg; 10 a.m. 25 Doctor's Lane (King Rd. & Keele). Enjoy a five-hour visit to Niagara Fallsview Casino and

receive \$20 in slot play and reserved at Le Grand Cirque, show time at 3 p.m. Arrives back in King City at roughly 7 p.m.

Le Grand Cirque Maximum Velocity is a breathtaking explosion of energy, artistry, and daredevil brilliance! From jaw-dropping aerial feats to heart-stopping acrobatics, this is live entertainment at its absolute peak – an adrenaline-charged spectacle that will leave you gasping, cheering, and wanting more.

The price for the trip is \$89 per person. Contact Jackie Treadwell at 416-580-6514 or Susan Porter at 416-460-5952.

Meetings are in the Curling Lounge at Trisan, Coffee at 10, presentation at 10:30.

Friday, February 20 – Presentation – Liam Bird – The story of the saxophone, includes a performance. RSVP [klbird@hotmail.com](mailto:klbird@hotmail.com)

Monday, February 23 – Presentation – Joy Schwartz (MTO) Over 80 licence renewal tips process plus winter driving tips.

Monday, March 9 – Presentation – Marie Loureiro will discuss "The Art of Becoming".

Monday, March 16 – St. Patrick's Day celebration with the "Tightly Wound" ukulele players.

## 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).

Annual 2026 memberships remain at \$20 for King Township residents, \$25 for non-residents.

# King's Corners

From Page 15

This is a quiet, candlelit time of chant, scripture, and stillness. There is no pressure to respond, no expectations to perform. You simply come, breathe, listen, and rest in prayer. In a noisy world, choosing silence can become a holy discipline.

Then on Sunday, March 1 after the 10:30 a.m. service, we will share in our annual Soup Sunday. Our talented parishioners will bring soups to share as we gather for conversation and fellowship. Eating together may seem ordinary, but throughout scripture meals are sacred spaces, places where strangers become friends and community is strengthened. Choosing to linger at the table can also be a Lenten practice.

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AVENUE REALTY TEAM

# Defining excellence in luxury real estate

In a real estate landscape that continues to evolve with shifting buyer priorities, economic cycles, and lifestyle demands, one thing remains constant: expertise matters. For more than four decades, Avenue Realty Team has stood as a trusted pillar in Ontario's luxury real estate market, earning its reputation as a premier source for high-end properties through experience, precision, and commitment to excellence.

Founded by Emily Fusco in 1987 in Richmond Hill, Avenue Realty Team has been deliberately focused on the luxury estate home market since its inception. This specialized segment of acreage and estate-level properties as well as one-of-a-kind custom homes, has always been the foundation of their work — not simply a part of their business. Their depth of knowledge, developed through decades of hands-on experience, has given the team an intimate understanding of every detail and nuance that defines this market. This focus on elevated living, privacy, and architectural distinction has firmly positioned Avenue Realty Team as recognized experts and a go-to authority for buyers and sellers navigating the upper tier of the residential landscape.

Luxury real estate is not defined solely by price or square footage. It is defined by nuance. Estate homes require a keen eye for detail — from the value of land and location to architectural integrity, craftsmanship, and long-term lifestyle appeal. Avenue Realty Team understands that these properties are not commodities; they are highly personal assets that represent a way of life. Properly pricing and presenting these homes demands a level of expertise that only comes with years of immersion in this space.

At the helm of Avenue Realty Team are Emily Fusco and Christopher Fusco, whose combined experience in the real estate industry exceeds 60 years. Together, they have guided clients through the ebbs and flows of the housing market — from periods of rapid expansion to economic uncertainty and shifts in buyer behaviour. This long-term perspective allows them to approach every transaction with clarity, strategy, and confidence.

When Emily founded Avenue Realty Team in 1987 after leaving the corporate world, she did not take the conventional route of a new realtor. Rather than easing into the business, she stepped directly into the high-end residential market — a space she instinctively understood and connected with. From the outset, her ability to work with discerning clients and complex luxury properties led to early and sustained success. That foundation continues to shape the team today, with Emily's experience, insight, and hands-on approach setting the standard for how luxury estate homes are represented and sold.

Christopher, brings a distinctive strength to the team through his deep-rooted understanding of diverse cultural business and negotiation practices. With an established global network of associates and long-standing professional relationships around the world, Christopher offers clients an advantage that extends well beyond local market knowledge. His approach is professional, proactive, and grounded in providing clients with the information they need to make educated, empowered decisions. His focus is not on pressure or persuasion, but on rational

strategy — ensuring clients are positioned to optimize their objectives at every stage of the process.

This attention to detail is evident in the way Avenue Realty Team showcases its listings — none more so than one of their current active offerings at **140 Rebecca Court for \$9,950,000**. Situated on a private 2.11-acre lot, this remarkable estate home exemplifies the elevated living that defines the luxury market. Featuring five bedrooms plus three additional rooms and ten bathrooms, the residence offers expansive yet intentional living spaces designed for comfort, functionality, and refined entertaining.

The home's superb and elegant finishes reflect a commitment to quality throughout, while its surrounding, lush, serene grounds create a sense of retreat rarely found within reach of urban amenities. Encircled by a blend of coniferous and deciduous trees, the property offers exceptional privacy and a seamless connection to nature — a hallmark of luxury estate living. It is a home designed not only to be lived in, but to be experienced.

For buyers seeking space, discretion, and an elevated daily lifestyle, properties like 140 Rebecca Court represent the growing appeal of luxury estates. In a world that feels increasingly fast-paced and crowded, privacy, control, and connection to nature have

become some of the most sought-after luxuries. Avenue Realty Team understands this shift intimately and has adapted its approach to reflect what buyers in this market truly value.

What sets Avenue Realty Team apart is not just their longevity, but their ability to evolve while staying grounded in fundamentals. They recognize that luxury real estate requires more than marketing — it requires insight, and a deep respect for the uniqueness of each property and client. Their success lies in their ability to highlight a home's story, lifestyle potential, and long-term value while navigating negotiations with precision and discretion.

As the luxury real estate market continues to grow in complexity, Avenue Realty Team remains a steady, trusted presence. Their legacy, expertise, and dedication to detail have made them a leading force in Ontario's high-end real estate landscape — and a clear choice for those seeking guidance at the highest level.

For clients who view real estate not just as a transaction, but as an investment in lifestyle and legacy, Avenue Realty Team continues to set the standard. To learn more about Avenue Realty and view their active listings, visit [avenurealty.com](http://avenurealty.com).

Written by: Brittany Greci



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# WHEN YOUR HOME FEELS TOO SMALL

## A move-up plan for families nervous about today's market

If your home is starting to feel tighter than it used to — one more activity bag by the door, one more Zoom call from the kitchen table, one more argument over quiet space — you're not alone. Many families in King and the surrounding communities are craving more room, but they're hesitant to make a move in a market that feels slower and uncertain compared to the past few years.

Here's the good news: a slower, more balanced "buyer's market" can actually help families who need to move up — as long as you approach it with a clear plan and realistic numbers.

### WHY FAMILIES FEEL STUCK RIGHT NOW

The hesitation we hear most often sounds like this:

- "What if we sell and can't find the right house?"
- "What if we buy and then our home doesn't sell?"
- "What if we move and then prices change again?"

Those concerns are completely valid — and they're exactly why strategy matters. In a slower market, the "wing it and hope" approach isn't kind to anyone. But a measured plan can turn uncertainty into confidence.

### THE UPSIDE OF A SLOWER MARKET FOR MOVE-UP FAMILIES

Families usually assume a hot market is better because homes sell quickly. But for move-up buyers — people who are both selling and buying — a frenzied market can be stressful and expensive.

A calmer market can work in your favour in a few important ways:

#### More choice and less pressure.

When there's more inventory and fewer bidding wars, you can shop more thoughtfully. That often means a better neighbourhood fit, a better layout, and fewer compromises.

#### Stronger negotiating power.

In slower conditions, buyers may have room to negotiate on price, closing dates, included items, or repairs. That flexibility can be a big help when you're coordinating a sale and purchase.

#### Better timing control.

Sellers are often more open to flexible closings. That can help families align school schedules, childcare, and work routines — and reduce the chances of needing temporary housing.

#### Fewer "overpay" moments.

In rapid-fire markets, many move-up buyers felt pressured to stretch beyond their comfort zone. A steadier pace can reduce that risk and keep decisions grounded.

Yes, it may take a more deliberate approach to sell — but buying can be far less chaotic. And for families moving up, that balance can be a real advantage.

### THE MOVE-UP CHALLENGE ISN'T "THE MARKET" — IT'S COORDINATION

The biggest stress point for most move-up families is timing the sale and the purchase in a way that protects you financially and keeps life manageable.

That's why the first step isn't jumping into house tours — it's building a plan. Depending on your comfort level, finances, and timeline, there are a few common routes:

- **Sell first, then buy** (often the lowest risk, with a clearer budget)
- **Buy first, then sell** (when equity and financing support it)
- **A conditional purchase** (in a slower market, some sellers may be more open to this than they were in peak frenzy)
- **Long or flexible closing dates** to create breathing room on either side

There's no one-size-fits-all. The right path is the one that matches your family's risk tolerance and schedule.

### WHAT MAKES THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE IN A SLOWER MARKET

A successful move-up doesn't require perfection — it requires clarity and preparation:

#### Start with what "more space" really means.

Is it another bedroom? A finished basement? Two home offices? A better yard? A different school catchment? Getting specific saves time and prevents "house-hopping" fatigue.

#### Know your true numbers — not just online estimates.

In a slower market, pricing precision matters. A smart plan includes an accurate local comparable analysis, realistic purchase options based on today's inventory, and a clear picture of monthly comfort (not just maximum approval).

#### Make your current home an "easy yes."

Buyers can be more selective when the pace slows. Presentation, pricing, and marketing that clearly



shows how a home functions for family living reduces hesitation — and hesitation is the real deal-killer in a buyer's market.

### HOW WE HELP FAMILIES MOVE UP WITHOUT THE PANIC

We work with move-up families every year, and the goal is always the same: more space, less stress, and a plan you can feel good about. Our process focuses on aligning the sale and purchase, creating timeline options, and guiding you through negotiation on both sides so you're not making emotional decisions under pressure.

If you're feeling cramped but unsure whether now is the right time, you don't need to decide today — you just need clarity. We're happy to provide a no-pressure Move-Up Plan: what your home could sell for in today's market, what your next-home options look like, and a few strategy routes that make the timing work.

#### Real Advice. Real Options. Real Estate.

To start your Move-Up Plan, contact Michele Denniston at 416-433-8316 or [michele@micheledenniston.com](mailto:michele@micheledenniston.com).

WRITTEN BY: The Michele Denniston Real Estate Team



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**RESALE  
HOMES  
COLLECTIONS**

# A HOME-BUYING guide for **empty nesters**

The day a child leaves home can be bittersweet for parents. Although a son or daughter being successful and mature enough to move on to new opportunities can be a source of pride, parents typically lament the quiet that comes from empty rooms and a change to the daily routine they'd grown accustomed to when the kids were around. After some time, some couples decide to downsize to a home more befitting the empty nester lifestyle.

**D**ownscaling presents an option for homeowners whose kids have left the nest. New analysis from a survey of 2,500 empty nesters commissioned by Regency Living found that 30 percent of empty nesters choose to downsize and move from their original family homes. When retirement is just around the corner, many professionals shift focus to how they want to live and where. Moving to a new home presents plenty of opportunities for older adults, including a chance to choose a home based on what's right for them in this stage of life. There are questions homeowners can ask themselves as they ponder if downsizing is right for them.

**1 HOW MUCH UPKEEP CAN I HANDLE?**

A lifelong family home may be well-loved, but chances are it requires significant upkeep and repairs. Empty nesters may choose to move on to a

home that offers lifestyle benefits like less maintenance. Homes in lifestyle communities or those overseen by a homeowners' association tend to have certain maintenance built into a monthly fee.

**2 IS THIS LAYOUT STILL A FIT?**

Many empty nesters may not immediately feel the effects of aging, but before selecting a next home, individuals should think about aging in place and any unique needs they may have. Opting for a single-level home, or at least one with the owner's suite on the main level, can be advantageous.

**3 CAN I MAKE DUE WITH LESS SQUARE FOOTAGE?**

A cavernous home with many rooms often isn't desirable for empty nesters. All of that square footage requires heating, cooling and maintenance. Rattling around inside a big, empty house may precipitate the decision to downsize. Downsizing also can free up home equity, which can be used to fund retirement needs.

**4 WHICH FEATURES DO YOU DESIRE?**

Many empty nesters want the next home to focus on some luxury items they may have bypassed in the first home when priorities lay elsewhere. Upscale environments like gourmet kitchens, spa-like bathrooms and outdoor living spaces may be in the budget when moving into a home with a smaller footprint.

**5 WILL MY HOME BE SECURE WHILE I TRAVEL?**

Empty nesters might want to choose homes in gated communities or condominium complexes for safety reasons. Should they opt to spend a portion of time at a vacation rental or second home as snowbirds, secure communities enable residents to leave their primary residence with the peace of mind that those homes will be less vulnerable to thieves.

**6 DOES THIS HOME HAVE ENOUGH LIGHT?**

The American Optometric Association says many adults start to have problems seeing clearly beginning at age 40. Homes with more light from large windows and artificial lighting can reduce accident risk.

Moving to a smaller home is a consideration for many empty nesters. Various features offer benefits to adults who want to age in place.



**MARKET UPDATE – JANUARY 2026**

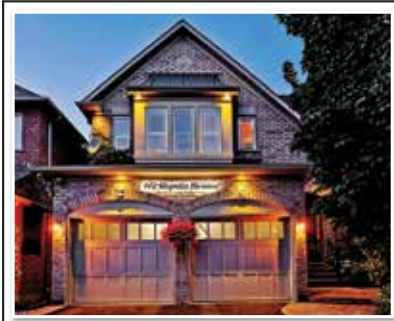
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<b>AVERAGE SALES PRICE</b>	<b>AVERAGE SALES PRICE</b>
<b>\$1,238,516</b>	<b>\$1,826,667</b>
AVERAGE 53 DAYS ON MARKET	AVERAGE 108 DAYS ON MARKET
<b>NUMBER OF SALES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF SALES</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>9</b>
112 NEW LISTINGS	64 NEW LISTINGS
<b>SALE TO LIST RATIO</b>	<b>SALE TO LIST RATIO</b>
<b>95%</b>	<b>93%</b>
<b>YEAR OVER YEAR % CHANGE</b>	<b>YEAR OVER YEAR % CHANGE</b>
<b>-10.14%</b>	<b>-9.05%</b>

\*The statistics provided were obtained from the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board's Market Watch JANUARY 2026; Summary of Existing Home Transactions for All Home Types, JANUARY 2026 + Focus on the MLS Home Price Index for Composite, JANUARY 2026 for York Region's Aurora and King

In York Region, average sales prices declined in 2025 versus 2024 year over year, inventory grew and sales volume declined. These trends have carried through to the start of 2026, with subdued demand relative to past years. We have definitely tilted towards a buyer's market with elevated inventory, selling time and softening prices. 2026 suggests continued price adjustments and more negotiating power for buyers. Sellers will need competitive pricing/marketing to transact in this lower market. It is worth noting that beautifully appointed homes, that are sharply priced, are selling in less days than industry averages.

The market has shifted and it has never been more imperative to align yourself with a knowledgeable real estate advisor, where the guidance on the sale of your biggest investment is protected, and the best outcome is garnered. On the purchase side, the negotiation skills of your advisor assures your best interests are protected, and your purchase is negotiated for the strongest results. 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  
Lindsay Strom, Broker  
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# Tips to make a bedroom a more *relaxing* space



Homes are often characterized as sanctuaries. A home's interior spaces can provide a respite from the hustle and bustle of daily life no matter what's going on in the outside world.

**P**erhaps no space inside a home should be more relaxing than a bedroom. But bedrooms are not impervious to the hectic pace of life unless homeowners make a concerted effort to transform these spaces into relaxing respites. By implementing a variety of strategies, homeowners can ensure bedrooms embody the notion that homes are sanctuaries for their residents.

**• INSTALL NEW WINDOW TREATMENTS**

Blinds, curtains, shades, and other window treatments come in a variety of styles and colors, ensuring there's at least one out there that can match an existing design scheme in a bedroom. Window treatments can be utilized to create a cozy vibe in a

bedroom, blocking out lights from outside, including natural light from the sun and moon but also street lamps and decorative lights from neighboring properties. This can ensure bedrooms are a peaceful and welcoming respite when homeowners and residents return home each night.

**• MAKE THE ROOM A DEVICE-FREE ZONE**

If escapism is an end goal, then turning a bedroom into a device-free zone is a must. Televisions, tablets and smartphones ensure the distractions and stressors of everyday life are never too far away, so removing these devices from bedrooms can help to establish a more peaceful bedroom environment. In addition,

the National Sleep Foundation reports that using devices in a bedroom tends to reduce sleep duration by delaying the time users go to sleep.

**• RECONSIDER THE LIGHTING**

Bedroom lighting is another variable that merits consideration when trying to transform the space into a more relaxing room. Ambient lighting can be utilized to create a soft and welcoming atmosphere in the room. Dimmable lights also allow residents to adjust the amount of light depending on the time of day. Lights can be bright when getting dressed in the morning, and then turned down when residents are going to bed and want to unwind before closing their eyes.

**• CLEAR OUT CLUTTER**

A cluttered bedroom is more than an eyesore. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners notes that clutter can contribute to anxiety and adversely affect individuals' ability to sleep and focus. Examine bedrooms to see if there is any unnecessary or overly bulky furnishings that make the spaces feel cramped and cluttered. Remove those items when possible, or consider working with a contractor to expand the room if budget and space allows.

Bedrooms can be respites within the larger sanctuary that homes are meant to be. That's especially so when residents implement strategies to transform bedrooms into more relaxing spaces.



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# Lighting for every room in the home

Lighting in a home is easily overlooked. But power outages serve as a stark reminder of the importance of lighting, which adds to the safety, functionality and aesthetic appeal of a space.

When homeowners go room to room, they can consider various types of lighting to add a unique feel to each space.

## KITCHEN

Kitchens are heavily trafficked rooms in many homes. A combination of overhead lighting that will illuminate the entire space and focused task lighting, like under-cabinet lights for meal prep, can help in the kitchen. Separate task lighting for a bill-paying area or homework station also can be a useful touch.

## BEDROOM

Bedrooms are cozy retreats where homeowners spend most of their time resting and relaxing. Harsh lighting may not be applicable here, so consider side lamps fitted with warm-hued bulbs placed beside a bed. Lighting can be more stark and targeted in closets to help homeowners see clothing and other belongings.

## BATHROOM

Bathroom lighting amenities can include a combination of features to fully optimize this space. Most homeowners will want some sort of overhead lighting to shed light on most of the space. Task lighting by the mirror can offer more visibility while shaving or

applying makeup. Lighting in a bathing area can keep such spaces safer by improving visibility in a generally slippery area. In bathrooms with spa-like settings, mood lighting paired with features like steam capabilities can enhance the space even further.

## GARAGE AND BASEMENT

Utility areas like garages, basements and crawl spaces need high-wattage bright lighting for safety. Installation of bright LEDs in these areas can make work projects easier and safer. Well-lit areas also are generally less inviting to pests like insects and rodents, so bright lighting may deter these creatures in areas where they tend to enter a home.

## LIVING ROOM/GREAT ROOM

Living areas can benefit from a combination of ambient lighting sources. Table lamps alongside sofas and chairs will provide enough light, but will not compete with televisions or home theater setups. Lighting that highlights artwork or home accents also can add a cozy appeal to the space.

## ADDITIONAL LIGHTING

Homeowners may want to consider a few additional lighting scenarios to improve their spaces. Lighting in a foyer or above coat racks or shoe cubbies can keep the space functional but attractive. A combination of overhead lighting and accent lighting can make a laundry room less utilitarian. And dining spaces can be intimate or grandiose depending on the fixtures featured in the room.

Homeowners also can utilize smart devices and bulbs to easily control the lights while at home or away.

Lighting plays a key role in a home, affecting the safety, functionality and aesthetics of rooms.



Home design trends come and go, but one that has inspired a legion of committed followers is the 3-5-7 rule. The 3-5-7 rule is a formula for interior decorating that encourages homeowners to group furnishings in odd numbers. The intention behind such groupings is to ensure homes feel balanced and intentional without sacrificing aesthetic appeal. Adherents to the 3-5-7 rule feel that odd-numbered groupings allow for an ideal blend of scale and height that creates a natural rhythm within interior spaces. Some even insist that odd groupings appear more curated. Size can come into play when pivoting to the 3-5-7 approach to interior design. Three large furnishings can be arranged (i.e., sofa, area rug and a large piece of wall art), five mid-sized items (chairs, coffee table, etc.) and seven small pieces (candles, framed photos, etc.).

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## 3 ways to get more use out of a garage

**EVEN THOUGH NO TWO HOMES** are the same, rooms have a tendency to take on similar characteristics regardless of which property they're a part of. Kitchens tend to be popular gathering spaces, while basements have become go-to spots for game rooms and watch parties.

Garages also tend to share certain characteristics between homes, and one notable attribute is the tendency to become difficult-to-navigate dumping grounds for a wide range of items, including lawn and garden tools, children's toys, sporting goods, and seasonal home decor. Though there's nothing wrong with utilizing a garage as a storage space, the following are three simple ways homeowners can get more out of these spaces.

**1 UTILIZE THE WALL SPACE.** The walls in a garage have lots of potential. Effective use of walls within a garage can ensure garden tools, small toys and other items do not accumulate on the floor. Such accumulations contribute much to the reputation of garages as dumping grounds for miscellaneous items. By clearing the floors of clutter, and utilizing wall spaces to store items, homeowners can open up the spaces to serve any number of functions, including home gyms, art studios or even parking spaces to protect vehicles from the elements. A storage organizer system with various hooks can be mounted on a garage wall to free up floor space, while shelving can be hung to store paint cans, power tool batteries and other items.

**2 LOOK UPWARD.** If garage ceilings extend several feet above the height of homeowners' vehicles, then the spaces above where cars might be parked can be converted into storage space for large recreational items, like canoes or kayaks, or seasonal decor that does not need to be accessed on a regular basis. A simple kayak hoist utilizing a pulley system clears floor space and allows kayaks to be stored overhead. Lifting storage racks work in similar fashion and make for great additions for anyone who needs to store containers full of seasonal decor but does not want to do so by stacking items on the floor. A hand crank system for a lifting storage rack makes for easy and safe access.

**3 WITHOUT AMPLE LIGHTING,** garages may not be conducive to recreational pursuits like painting, crafting or even exercising. A lighting upgrade is a relatively affordable renovation that can make a big difference, illuminating spaces not exactly known for brightness, especially if there's no windows. If you want to spend time in the garage during winter and stay warm, then some new lighting can make that possible.



## FACTORS TO CONSIDER BEFORE renovating a driveway

Driveways are oft-overlooked components of home exteriors. But driveways provide functionality and points of egress to a home.

Industry experts estimate that a new driveway costs between \$5,000 and \$7,000, though the price will vary based on the materials homeowners choose and the square footage of the driveway.

When deciding whether or not to renovate their driveways, homeowners can review these considerations.

### MATERIALS

Driveways can be made from a variety of materials, even grass or soil. The following are some driveway materials homeowners may choose from:

- Gravel
- Chip seal
- Concrete
- Asphalt
- Rubber
- Exposed aggregate
- Pavers
- Permeable pavers
- Heated

### REPAIR OR REPLACE?

Nearly any size crack can be patched with concrete or cold-patch asphalt, or specialty materials, according to This Old House, an online home improvement resource. Repairing and resealing a driveway can help prolong its longevity. Plus, this is a more cost-effective option for homeowners on a budget who want to improve curb appeal and safety.

Large holes or unsightly damage may require a driveway replacement. This also will be the case if a homeowner hopes to expand the driveway. Replacing a driveway requires a time commitment. The existing driveway needs to be demolished and removed. The ground underneath typically is smoothed and tamped down. Substrate or wire mesh also may be installed. After the new material is laid, there may be a period of time for settling and curing, during which use of the driveway is prohibited.

### DIY OR PROFESSIONAL?

While sealing and minor repairs generally can be handled by a homeowner who has researched the process, large repairs or driveway replacements should be left to professionals for the best results. Driveway slope needs to be considered for proper rain runoff, and the professional will understand the

thickness and preparatory steps necessary to ensure driveway durability. Installation of a heated driveway requires a specific skill set and this is a job best left to professional driveway contractors.

### DRIVEWAY ENHANCEMENTS

The options do not end with the driveway material. There are other ways to boost aesthetics.

• **ILLUMINATION:** Homeowners can install recessed LED lights into the driveway to define the edges and add aesthetic appeal.

• **STAMPED TEXTURE:** Homeowners opting for the affordability of concrete can ask for a stamped design that mimics the look of stone or pavers.

• **GATES:** One doesn't have to live in an exclusive community to have their property enhanced by gates. Gates can give a home a distinguished look.

• **EDGING:** Driveways can be edged with another material to create definition between the driveway and lawn, or to provide the perfect spots to plant beds.

Driveway renovations can add curb appeal and improve the functionality of a home.

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# When Evel Knievel came to Aurora



By **Julien Laurion**  
Real Estate

Some towns are known for quiet streets, good schools, and strong community roots. Aurora has all of that. But for one brief, imaginary moment this month, it also became the unlikely home of the greatest daredevil who ever lived: Evel Knievel.

In my version of events, it started on an otherwise normal weekday. Emails, phone calls, listings to prep, renovation schedules to juggle. Then the door opened and in walked a man wearing a leather jumpsuit, carrying a helmet like it was an extension of his arm. He didn't waste time with small talk.

"I'm planning my next stunt," he said. "And I hear you're the guy who knows how to build things and sell them." When someone like Evel Knievel asks for help, you don't question the logic. You lean in.

He explained that Aurora had caught his attention. Not Las Vegas. Not Los Angeles. Aurora. A town with room to breathe, space to gather a crowd, and the kind of solid ground that rewards good planning. He needed help finding the right property, designing and building a launch ramp that wouldn't fold under pressure, and making sure the whole thing didn't end in disaster.

In other words, he needed someone who understood big risks — and how to manage them properly.

That's where my two worlds collided.

We started with the land. Evel wasn't looking for flashy. He wanted something practical: wide frontage, strong access points, clear sightlines, and enough space to make the jump dramatic but controlled. Together, we walked properties, talked layout, zoning, and flow. Not unlike helping a client choose a home or a commercial space, except the end use involved a motorcycle at full throttle.

When we found the right spot, he stopped, looked around, and nodded.

"This'll do," he said. "Feels solid."

From there, the contractor brain kicked in. Anyone can build a ramp. Very few people are willing to stand behind one knowing someone will launch themselves off it at speed. Every angle mattered. Every fastener

mattered. No shortcuts. No guesswork. Just proper structure, thoughtful design, and respect for physics.

Evel walked the ramp slowly once it was built. Then again. He tapped the framing with his boot, smiled, and said something that stuck with me:

"Strong bones. That's what keeps you alive."

That line could just as easily apply to houses, businesses, and investments.

As the day of the jump approached, I realized how similar Evel's mindset was to that of so many clients I work with. People making big decisions. People betting on themselves. People taking a leap — not for attention, but for progress. Buying a home. Selling one chapter to start another. Renovating before listing to maximize value. Expanding a business into a new space.

The principle is always the same: bold moves only work when the foundation is right.

On jump day, the town gathered. Engines roared. Evel lined up, took a breath, and went. The ramp held. The landing was clean. Applause erupted. Another impossible moment pulled off by preparation, experience, and a little courage.

Afterward, he shook my hand and said, "You don't just build things. You make them work."

That's the goal — whether the project involves drywall and permits or contracts and keys.

Most of my clients won't ever attempt a motorcycle jump in front of a crowd, and I'm perfectly okay with that. But they are making meaningful leaps. And those leaps deserve smart planning, honest advice, and someone who understands both vision and execution.

Aurora may never be known as Evel Knievel's hometown. But it is a place where big ideas can take shape — safely, strategically, and successfully — when they're built on strong bones.

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All About Homes.  
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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@julienlaurion.com or check out my socials at @julienlaurionrealestate

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