

VOL. 1 ISSUE 1 · JANUARY 2024

NEWSLETTER

Ward 4 News from Councillor Mary Asselstine

Hello from Mary

Thank you for all the support I have received in my new role as Councillor for Ward 4. There have been many opportunities and challenges, and the experience has been simultaneously energizing and enervating. The key thing that I have learned is that the job is about relationships: relationships with Council members, staff and residents. Nothing can happen without the whole team working together.

Major accomplishments this term have been achieved working with staff and residents on matters of housing, social justice, traffic and pedestrian safety, village character, supporting small business, land use, parks, climate change, and protecting natural environments. It was particularly exciting to contribute to the Village Urban Design Guidelines and the revised Green Development Standards (Thinking Green: Sustainable Development Program) and to learn about the roles and responsibilities of Emergency Services and the importance of agriculture in the Township.

Changes in provincial legislation and policy have raised many questions about land use planning, requiring staff and Council to revisit our recently approved OP and zoning. Staff has been working hard to adjust policy while keeping our vision for King intact. At the same time, there has been: a marked reduction in development related funding which has resulted in the delay of road upgrades; supply chain issues which have slowed down projects; increased overall costs for supplies and services; staffing constraints in the Parks Department; and, more demand for services in our communities. It is a fine balance between maintaining a low rate on taxes and offering the services that are expected by the community.

I am always available to discuss any ideas or concerns you may have and although I may not be able to accomplish everything we might wish, I will listen, respond, and do my best.

Warmest regards,

Mary

Upcoming Events

KING VOLUNTEER FAIR

Feb 8, 2:30pm
King Township Municipal Centre

COMMUNITY SKATE & BONFIRE

Feb 10, 2pm
Dufferin Marsh

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Feb 16 - 19, 9am
Dufferin Marsh

MAYOR'S CULTURAL GALA

Feb 29
[Mayors Cultural Gala](#) (LINK)

COLD CREEK MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

Mar 9, 10am - 2pm
Cold Creek

MARCH BREAK CAMPS

Mar 11 - 15
[Recreation Programs](#) (LINK)

MEET THE MAYOR & COUNCILLOR

Apr 23, 6pm
Schomberg Public Library

COLD CREEK CAMP - WINTER ACTIVITIES

[Winter Activities at Cold Creek](#) (LINK)

Check out the Library Calendar for more!

[KING LIBRARY CALENDAR](#) (LINK)



What's Happening in Ward 4

PROJECTS ON THE GO

- **Traffic Calming:** Traffic concerns is the number one issue in Ward 4 and there are several areas where staff is reviewing the need for traffic calming and pedestrian street crossing. Requests for traffic calming can be directed to staff through the Township website at: [Traffic Calming | Township Of King](#).
- **Acoustic Tiles in Community Hall:** In response to excessive echoing in the newly renovated Schomberg Community Hall acoustic tiles have been installed on the second floor. The same treatment is planned for the first floor when the budget becomes available. The hall is available for rental. For information go to: [Schomberg Community Hall | Township Of King](#).
- **Character and Identity of the Core of Schomberg:** With development pressures increasing, residents have asked that the Township consider ways of protecting the character and identity of the historic area of Schomberg. I have been working with staff to monitor proposed changes in the area and to identify tools to help direct that change so that the historic character of the area is maintained.

Tell Us What You Think

Character and Identity of Historic Schomberg:

Visit the SPEAKing page on the King website to talk about Schomberg's village core.

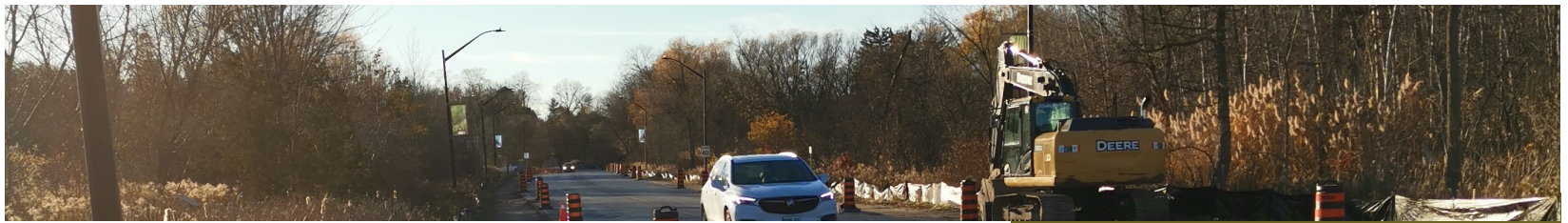
<https://speaking.king.ca>



LOOK WHATS NEW!

York Region Transit - On-demand transit is now available (called Mobility-on-Request) from anywhere in Ward 4 to the Go Train Station in King City (or to Seneca College and the future Recreation Centre). There is also a service that will pick up seniors 65+ and take them anywhere within a 5 km radius. Pick-ups can be arranged through Service Areas - [York Region Transit \(yrt.ca\)](#)





Municipal Updates

- **Budget** - The Budget for 2024 has been approved with a combined tax increase of 3.54 %. The average increase for the Township portion of municipal tax is 2.64 % over the past five years which is well below inflation. This is a very responsible budget, and for the second consecutive year, King Township has received the Canadian Award for Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). For more information on the Budget go to: [Budgets | Township Of King](#).
- **Village Urban Design Guidelines** - The Village Urban Design Guidelines were approved last month. It is a forward thinking document that will assist staff in the consideration of revisions to the Zoning Bylaw and in making recommendations on development applications. [Urban Design Guideline Review | SPEAKING - Your voice, our community.](#)



- **Noise Exemption Permit Process Review** - The Township wants public feedback from the King community to evaluate the Noise Exemption Permit Process and hopes to better understand:
 - whether the community supports continuing to issue Noise Exemption Permits
 - what time amplified noise should be allowed to continue
 - if there are particular noise related problems residents or businesses are having in their neighbourhood(s)
 - whether rural and urban areas of the Township should have different end times (i.e. should noise have to stop earlier in an urban neighbourhood)
 - To have your say go to: [Noise Exemption Permit Process Review | SPEAKING - Your voice, our community.](#)

Community Reminders

Stoop and Scoop Pet Waste: There are a lot of dogs in Ward 4 so it is important to be responsible and not only pick up after your pet but dispose of the waste in a garbage or green bin receptacle. There is a \$200 fine for not picking up after your dog.

Keep Your Sidewalks Clear of Snow: We are deep into winter now and sidewalks and roads can become snowy and icy. Please be a good neighbour and clear the sidewalk in front of your home.



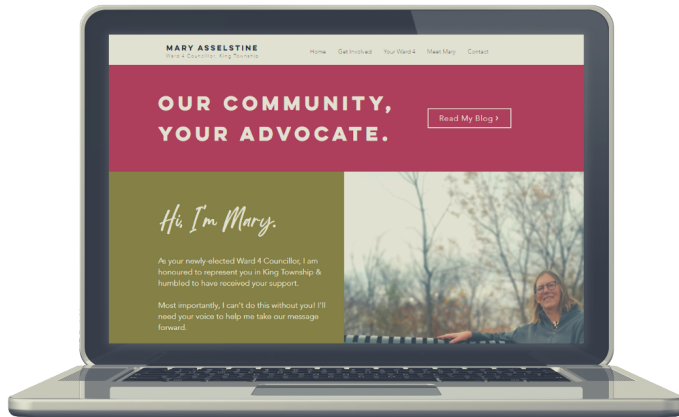


Municipal Updates

CLIMATE CONSCIOUSNESS

- **ThinKING Green: Sustainable Development Program** - This exciting and forward thinking program outlines sustainability metrics that will be used to evaluate the sustainable performance of new development in the Township. In other words, how green is that building construction? For more information go to: [ThinKING Green: Sustainable Development Program | SPEAKING - Your voice, our community](#).
- **King Climate Action Plan:** The community climate action plan will be coming to Council early this spring. I am very excited to read the report and to support our communities in meaningful climate actions. To stay informed go to: [King Climate Change Action Plan | SPEAKING - Your voice, our community](#).

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Keep in Touch!

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