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The annual Durham Federation of Agriculture Grade 3 Education 'Farm Connections' was held this week at Luther Vipond Arena in Brooklin. It went out like a lamb.



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A new provincial budget - and still no planning grant? Again? Really?

For the new hospital to move forward, Premier Ford needed to release \$3 million for the capital planning grant. He hasn't done it.

He promised he would and made that promise - in Whitby!
A promise is a promise.

See Mayor Roy's statement about the latest disappointment on the back page.

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Less than half the picture: Ethan Needs A Nap

By Richard Bercuson

"I've never been busier."

Ethan Markham is returning ipads his OFSAA tournament borrowed for scorekeeping the week before. It's one of the myriad of tasks he needs to complete, including a final report, a balancing of the books, and bills to pay after Brooklin High hosted the 2024 boys and girls provincial hockey championships.

A phys. ed. teacher and head coach of the boys team, he'd been all over this since before COVID. "We'd applied in 2018 and were going to host in 2021 but then Covid wiped that out."

Backed by a committee of staff and student volunteers from the school, his life was consumed by the enormity of the event: 64 schools, 1600 athletes, numerous local hotels and rinks, a double banquet at Ontario Tech to accommodate 1600 meals

served in five hours, booking officials, and staying awake. As if that wasn't enough, just before the tournament, his family of four added a new member: a puppy.

"How exhausted am I? Pretty exhausted. I think I spent every waking moment on OFSAA trying to piece it all together. I didn't have much of a March break. But I had lots of great help. The overall sentiment was that the players had a great experience."

There were, he says, numerous "untapped benefits" to hosting. "It brought a lot of business to the region. Hotels, restaurants. It was great for bringing money into the community."

One challenge was obtaining officials. Because all the games were played between 8 am and 4 pm, finding enough available officials was tough. He ended up getting some

from as far away as Peterborough and York Region.

"One worry," he recalls, "was what kind of quality would we have. It turned out we had very few complaints."

He added a coach to the roster to help lighten the load a bit. The team, which practiced once each week at Vipond, had a strict policy that if boys didn't come to practice, they couldn't play that week, which explains the need for the 25-player roster.

Would he do it all again? "Differently," he says. "On a smaller scale." This tournament hosted teams from A to AAA on both the boys and girls sides. "There are obviously many more challenges with a larger event like this. I did have concerns about all the levels at one time, but it worked out great."

Spring rugby at the school began this past week, another of his coaching passions. The nap was for Easter weekend.

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Before the Legion was the Legion (1925-1970)

By Jennifer Hudgins

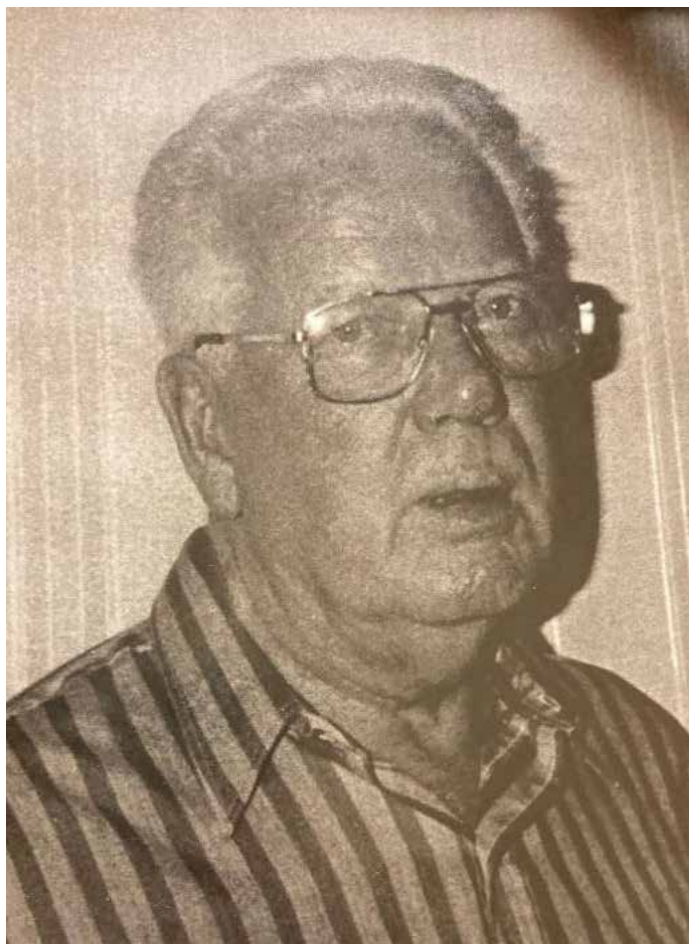


Brooklin Legion Branch 152 was not the community's first one. Its roots can be traced back to 1929 when the first version of

the Legion emerged. Under sponsorship of Oshawa branch No.43 and presided over by A.J. Graves, the Brooklin Legion was conceived.

Local resident Dr. James Moore became the first President, with William McCarthy as the first Vice President, Arthur Boyes as the second Vice President, and Robert Wilson as the Secretary Treasurer. The Executive Committee was comprised of businessmen such as Campbell, Shortridge, Ross, Harrison and Lockyer.

Old Legion opens



Fred Phillips



Its initial event took place on November 4, 1929, a significant occasion in the village. Local residents and World War I veterans congregated at the Whitby Township Hall (today, Cassels Road Community Centre). M. McIntyre Hood, a prominent member of the Oshawa Legion and the provincial Legion executive, delivered an inspiring speech, emphasizing the responsibility entrusted to the Brooklin branch in upholding the honour of the Canadian Legion and its values.

Despite the initial enthusiasm, however, the branch's existence was short-lived. By January 20, 1931, activities were scarce. A record of a single charitable act, a ton of coal given to a needy member, marked its final entry in the minute book. The Great Depression and lack of finances likely contributed to its downfall, leaving Brooklin without a Legion branch for the next 35 years.

John Graham had purchased

the building from Norman Colwill in 1925, turning it into a hotel, complete with a bar, a far cry from its origins during the so-called "dry era." However, in 1946, Graham decided to retire and sold the former Temperance House at 56 Baldwin to William J. Goodwin.

Goodwin was a retired member of the Oshawa police force who earned recognition in the community and beyond for his Brooklin House's delicious chicken dinners.

Building sold

Tragically he was killed in a car accident in 1964. The building was then purchased by Mr. Morris, an Oshawa furniture store owner, though it remained vacant until Brooklin barber Fred Phillips purchased the mortgage from him in 1966 with the purpose of transforming the space into a Legion hall.

Phillips and his wife Pat had settled at 68 Baldwin Street to establish Fred's Barbershop and noticed the lack of a Legion. With many World War II veterans residing in the community, the couple recognized the importance of providing a gather-

ing place for those with shared experiences. Pat took initiative by writing a letter to Dominion Command in Ottawa, aiming to renew the 1929 Charter.

Renovations

With the aid of volunteers, the first floor of the hotel underwent renovations which were completed by 1968, transforming Brooklin House into The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 152. Two years later, during a strike at General Motors in Oshawa, Legion members who were unemployed contributed to renovating the second floor. Remarkably, the Brooklin Legion became the youngest hall in Canada to pay off its mortgage within three years due to diligent financial management, strong community support and effective fundraising efforts.

On June 6, 1970, the 26th anniversary of D-Day, Donald Wilson, Dominion Legion first Vice President, cut the ribbon to officially open the new hall. This revival restored the Legion's significance within the community after decades of absence. Today it stands as a symbol of community spirit and service.



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Deadline: Friday, April 12, 2024

Scott Bennett: Brooklin's Youtube Star

By Richard Bercuson

Before reading anything beyond this sentence, you should visit Scott Bennett's youtube channel, Fixing Furniture. It's at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/fixing-furniture>

Once there, check out the video called Historic Furniture Restoration. The two-parter is about a table brought from England around 1859 when Whitby's Trafalgar Castle was built. Today, the building is better known as Trafalgar Castle School, a private school for girls. In the last ten minutes of Part 2, Bennett takes viewers on a guided tour of the building. That bit alone explains why the Brooklin furniture restorer's videos currently have 112,000 subscribers.

He recently received a YouTube Silver Play Button award for reaching 100,000 subscribers, an enormous number for a topic most might consider mundane. However, just a few minutes of watching Bennett at work serves as a testament to his professionalism, not just in restoring furniture but in the actual videos.

Doing the edits

With the commitment of a feature film director, Bennett uses multiple cameras, lighting, and microphones then edits every video himself, using what he learned in video editing courses to learn the finer points. All this before he adds music that matches "the mood" of a repair. The result is a truly first class, entertaining tour of his Brooklin work space and how he does what he does. Want to know what kind of wood glue or putty to use? Have you got a busted chair you want to keep but it needs a fix? What about badly



done repairs? There are videos for all those and much more.

As for the award, "It's a big deal in the youtube world," he says. "Quite a milestone." Indeed. For instance, the video about fixing bad furniture repairs has had nearly 600,000 views alone. He's had customers from Ottawa and Niagara bring him work as a result, not to mention other monetization streams he's used in his business.



"There's quality furniture out there that just needs to be fixed. People just need to learn how to repair it all and keep it out of the landfill."

Home page

His company "Wooden it be nice" includes a web site that features a blog, links to videos, woodworking plans, products and more. (<https://woodenitbenice.ca/>)

He's established an entire industry based on his unique presentation skills and expertise. But one of the more rewarding sidelights to the youtube success has to do with why people watch the videos. "I'm finding out that people are using them as a sort of entertainment," he says, referring

Brooklin Family Matters: by Leanne Brown



The Important Connection

My father is in his 80s and computer literate - or so I thought.

Here in rural Ontario, he feels he doesn't need TV and has canceled his cable. It was bad enough he had cable with no streaming services, but I figured I could live with just cable TV for a weekend.

His reasoning? He only watches TV on his computer. No problem. I'll just connect to his wifi and stream on my laptop. However, when I ask for the password, he doesn't remember it nor does he have it written down anywhere.

So now I'm thinking, okay, I'll find an unsecured network. Except there are none around here. Fine. I'll use my data. But in order to even make a call I have to walk down the street to get a signal.

This is a clear indication of our generation gap. While I'm not used to living without internet, cellphone, and streaming TV, he grew up without any of these.

Instead, Dad and I talk, play cards and share a couple of drinks. As it turns out, this is really fun. We're also gambling with toffees. He's winning which is good because my waistline can do without

the sugar. Well, I did steal a couple of his loot when he went for another beer.

I don't know why I haven't done this sooner. Maybe the distance between us has something to do with it.

As I watch him laugh and share stories, I realize that not having wifi is actually a gift. I know my father has been lonely since my mom moved into long-term care. He dotes on his overweight cat and mails us little gifts. He's missing the connection. Perhaps I'm missing it, too.

After several hours of games and giggles, he decides to call it a night. I promise myself to call him and visit more often.

Then I think of my daughter and husband who opted out on this visit due to hockey and suddenly miss them terribly. It's a stark reminder of how important they are to me.

Dad is getting older. My mom barely remembers me. I treasure the time I get with them.

When you spend time with your loved ones, try turning off the tech. You might find something more special than a chocolate egg.

to his soft and exacting commentary, music and filming. "It makes me smile. My daughter is in university and she's told me she's seen students have his videos on in the background when they study. They find them soothing."

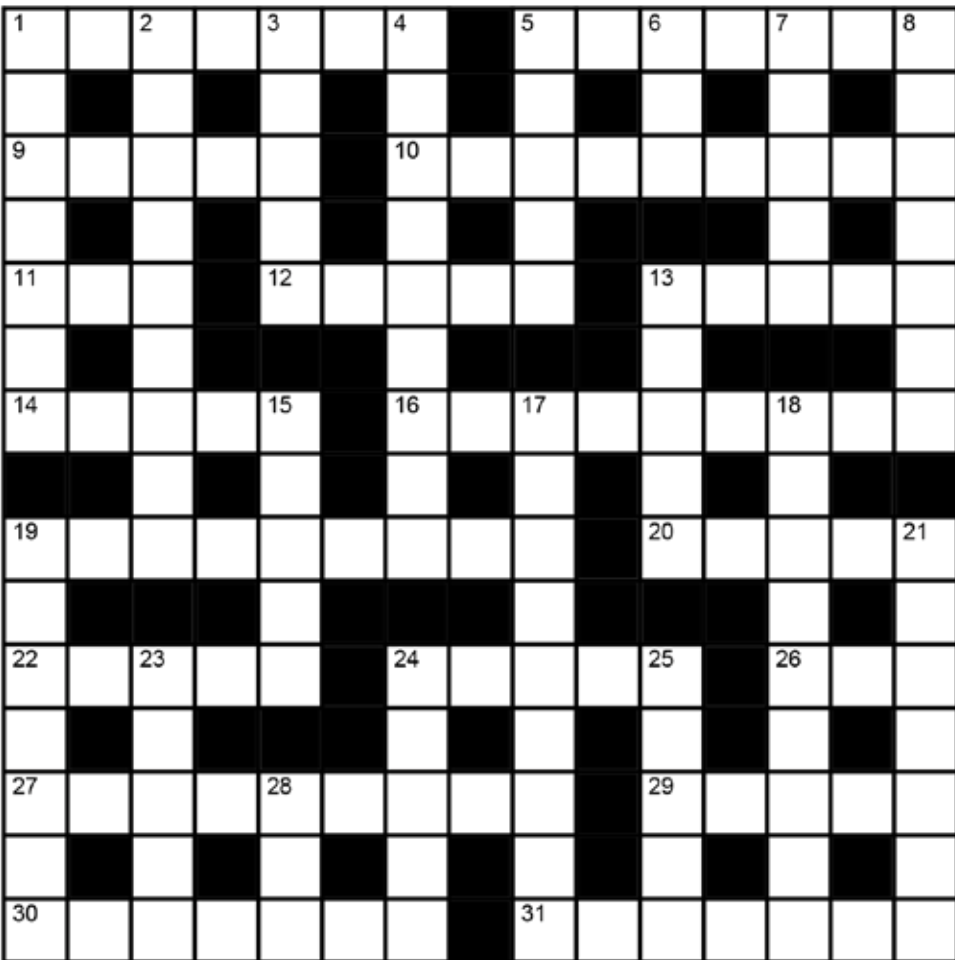
Invention

More recently, he invented a dust collection system for a lathe which he hopes to market one day. The Durham Woodworking Club invited him to speak a few weeks ago on the subject of furniture repair for woodworkers. He took pride in seeing their eyes light up with the possibilities.

What's next for the youtube star? How about one million subscribers, the gold level? "I don't know if that will ever happen." But then, did he ever figure he'd reach 100,000? Probably not.



Brooklin Bafflers: by Liz Lowe



Across

- 1 Type of vat used on laundry day. (7)
- 5 Feline dinner. (3,4)
- 9 Insect stage (5)
- 10 A vast plain in Tanzania to the west of the Great Rift Valley (9)
- 11 Sharp turn (3)
- 12 Strong string (5)
- 13 Attack suddenly and without warning (5)
- 14 In a state of mental numbness (5)

- 16 Adapt (9)
- 19 A commercial compound, used in the treatment of arthritis. (9)
- 20 The excrement of sea birds; used as fertilizer (5)
- 22 Of large size for its weight (5)
- 24 Assumed name (5)
- 26 Sticky stuff (3)
- 27 Destroy the peace or tranquility of (9)
- 29 Japanese-American (5)
- 30 "That's ___" (4,3)
- 31 Football stat (7)
- 7 A dagger mark. In old manuscripts or editions of the classics, it marks suspected passages or readings (5)
- 8 Very light rain (7)
- 13 Flashy, ostentatious jewellery (5)
- 15 Consider as a god or go like (5)
- 17 The science of matter (9)
- 18 Absence of the sense of pain without loss of consciousness (9)
- 19 Taxi drivers. (7)
- 21 Any compound, usually explosive, formed by the addition of ozone to the double or triple bond of an organic compound. (7)
- 23 Numbers game (5)
- 24 Full of activity (5)
- 25 Whale finder (5)
- 28 Confederate soldier. (3)

Down

- 1 To make a sound, as an object passing swiftly through the air. (7)
- 2 Someone indifferent to the busy world (9)
- 3 Rainbow ___ (5)
- 4 A form of torture in which the soles of the feet are beaten with whips or cudgels (9)
- 5 Cut or slice into pieces (5)
- 6 A silvery malleable



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Plant-Based Eating by Sheree Nicholson



Why One Man Went Vegan

In recent months, I've been intrigued by Facebook posts made by Neil Fenton. I met him ten years ago when he joined a running clinic, The Brooklin Run Club, which I owned at the time.

A young dad with three kids and a busy job as a nurse, he was living a high stress life while trying to find time for his health. When the running clinic

ended, I lost touch with him until noticing through FB he had become vegan. This interested me as I don't personally know any men are vegan. In fact, the only vegan males I'm aware of are those I follow on social media or celebrities.

Not only is Neil vegan, but he's also a whole food vegan. He makes interesting recipes from scratch, including dairy-free

"cheese." Why the change, I wondered? Plus, how was it going?

Health issues

He told me he'd had a heart attack last October. Prior to that, he had metabolic syndrome, including high blood pressure, high cholesterol and sleep apnea. The only part of the metabolic syndrome he didn't have was diabetes. While on the path to changing to a plant-based diet, his past caught up with him.

Neil blamed his past lifestyle for the heart attack, including poor eating habits, smoking and sedentary habits. It surely was the proverbial wake-up call that something had to change considering his father died of a heart attack at 36.

That's when he got serious about a plant-based whole-food diet. His medical training allowed him to understand research better than most and research pointed to plant-based eating as the best choice. The findings of many research studies, he said, were observational, meaning participants were asked how they felt rather than being backed by measurable results.

Physical changes

Since becoming plant-based, Neil has lost 16 lbs, walks 10k

each day, and has a healthy glow on his skin.

"If nothing changes, nothing changes," he says, which is also a favourite expression of mine. If we want results, we need to change our overall behaviour. The old ways will not take us down a new, healthy path. There is no fast cure or magic pill for good health. It requires consistent and sustainable changes.

Neil will soon be working in Fort Albany, a remote fly-in community in Northern Ontario. Rather than going there hoping for plant-based food, he will do prep work by making shelf-stable or freezable foods. Being prepared is one of the keys to sustaining the lifestyle. Meal preparation and researching restaurants before you go somewhere are ways to be ready. Hope is not a strategy.

He regards his veganism from spiritual, physical, and mental perspectives. I urge readers to watch his YouTube channel. In the video, he talks about metabolism, and how to reset it. He also shares more about his understanding of the spirituality of his choices.

Sheree's hack: Follow Neil on Youtube at: https://www.youtube.com/@Being_vegan1/videos

What You Need To Know This Week In Whitby



We're Redesigning Brock Street

What would you like to see? It is more landscaping, a vibrant entertainment space for community events, free public Wi-Fi, smoother sidewalks for strollers and mobility devices, traffic calming measures, or something else? Take the Connect Whitby survey by April 19 or join us for a virtual open house on Wednesday, April 10 at 7 p.m. Register at connectwhitby.ca/BrockStreet

2024 Interim Tax Billing

The second installment of the Interim Tax Billing for 2024 is due on April 23. You have the option to sign up for e-billing for property taxes and receive regular tax bills via email. You can also request property tax statements online. For inquiries regarding tax payments, contact the Tax Department at 905-430-4304, tax@whitby.ca, or visit whitby.ca/Tax



How Can We Serve You Better?

Our Community Survey is now underway and we want to know how we can serve you better. From now until April 7, you may be contacted by Forum Research to participate in a confidential and randomized telephone survey. You can also participate at whitby.ca/CommunitySurvey



What Will Whitby's Official Tree Be?

Join us April 20 at Whitby Civic Park (575 Rossland Rd. E.) at 11:30 a.m. for the announcement and planting of the Town's very first official tree. Following LEAF will host a tree tour of Whitby Civic Park. Later, from 1 to 3 p.m. help plant some trees. Register at whitby.ca/Sustainability



Brooklin HS Teams Fare Well At Provincials

Brooklin High School's girls AAA hockey team came within one shot of gold at the OF-SAA provincials held in Whitby March 17-19.

The team, defending OFSAA champions, went 4-0 in the round robin led by Mia Antonucci's scoring prowess. She and teammates Grace Warner and Chloe Wight ranked 5th, 6th, and 7th, in tournament scoring leading to the playoff round.

In the thrilling championship game at Iroquois Park against Ottawa's Louis Riel Secondary School, the Bears led 3-1 after the first period, trailed, 4-3 after two, then tied it with 17

seconds left in the third to send the game to overtime. After a scoreless OT, the game went to a shootout which Louis Riel eventually won.

On the boys AAA side, the Bears, who won the tournament in 2018, went 3-1 in the round robin with Evan Elliott leading the way among the top ten tournament scorers. To qualify in the medal round, they lost 6-1 to St. Martin before losing 6-0 to Uxbridge in the bronze medal game to finish 4th overall.

In the last four OFSAA tournaments subsequent to winning it in 2018, the boys team has always finished in the top four.

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Also available through Alan Hogan's team is a broad network of Tax and Accounting specialists to work on complicated tax issues. As well, a network of other professionals for referrals such as Financial Planners, Lawyers, Real Estate Agents, Banks, Mortgage Brokers, etc.

Alan Hogan has personally dedicated time to various charitable organizations over the years including; 100 Men of Oshawa, 100 Men of Whitby, local soccer and hockey and was a Director of Public Practice for the Durham CGA chapter

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Mayor's Statement Re: Hospital Grant



The 2024 Ontario Budget released on March 26 is now the third consecutive provincial budget to be tabled without funding for an urgently

The Town of Whitby launched a **community advocacy campaign** on Feb. 7 focused on the need for a new hospital, and our community has rallied behind this cause.

Thousands of Durham resi-

dents have signed our call-to-action letter or **contributed a personal story** about why a new hospital matters to them.

I share the deep frustration and disappointment of our residents, who are telling the Province loud and clear that we need a new hospital – and whose voices are being ignored.

seen zero action from the Province.

A new hospital is not guaranteed until the Ontario government provides the \$3 million planning grant needed to start the project.

Durham is one of the fastest-growing communities in Canada, with a health care system that is already stretched to the limit.

The Province has mandated that Whitby build 18,000 new homes by 2031, but isn't investing in the necessary infrastructure to support this growth.

As Whitby's mayor, as a Whitby resident, as a longtime health-care worker, a mother and a grandmother, I urge the Province to do the right thing and bring more healthcare close to home in Durham.

needed new hospital in Durham Region.

This is unacceptable, especially considering **Premier Doug Ford's statement made Feb. 15** that "there's going to be a Whitby hospital" and noting that a planning grant would be issued "very shortly."

I remain hopeful that this funding will be announced promptly, and I will continue to advocate at every opportunity.

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MARKETING YOUR HOME FOR ALL IT IS WORTH!

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR SALE

If you're thinking about listing your home for sale this spring, you're likely already familiar with staging, a term that means ensuring it looks its best and appeals to most potential buyers.

The King Home Team: Royal Heritage Realty knows firsthand that professional staging works. Most buyers can't see beyond what's in front of them so staging allows them to visualize a property as their future home. Research shows staging decreases the amount of time a home spends on the market and increases a home's dollar value.

We offer a pre-home inspection to give you an idea of what you can do to prepare your house for sale. Our list of recommendations typically begins with decluttering and depersonalizing. While we all accumulate stuff over the years, clutter is distracting for buyers and will draw their eyes to your belongings rather than the spaces themselves. At the same time, cluttered spaces look smaller and untidy. Pack up family portraits, knick-knacks and very personal belongings but don't just store them in a box in a closet, as buyers will look in there too and you don't want your closets to feel cramped. Investing in good storage will make rooms and closets feel well organized and neat. Cleaning is another important part of staging. A clean, odor-free home feels well cared for and will feel fresh and welcoming. It's also important to complete any DIY jobs that are on the go and to tackle minor repairs, such as a dripping faucet and holes or cracks in a wall. A fresh coat of neutral paint can also pay dividends, brightening rooms and making them look bigger while giving an overall appearance of a well-maintained home. While we don't recommend major renovations, such as a kitchen, bathroom or basement because you may not get a full return on your investment, you may want to consider replacing dated or damaged countertops, sinks and flooring. You may even want to give cabinetry a fresh coat of paint and new hardware and install modern light fixtures.

It's often been said that you only get one chance to make a first impression and that begins with the front of your home. Staging your front yard can include power washing the house, windows and walkways, giving the front door a fresh coat of paint and new hardware, mowing the lawn, planting fresh flowers, trimming greenery and weeding the garden.

The King Home Team is happy to do a complimentary, no-obligation walk-through of your home and provide initial recommendations. Professional staging, complete with furnishings and accessories, is included in our services. We also offer a wide variety of services to ensure your home shines, including handyman, garden, cleaning, window cleaning, painting and driveway blacktop services.

While important, staging is just one part of selling your home. Timing is also key. The King Home Team has experience in all kinds of markets and appreciates that changing market conditions can be confusing. Whether you're thinking of selling and/or buying, we're here to help you understand what those conditions mean to you. If you find yourself in a financial bind when it comes time to renew your mortgage and are considering downsizing, please know we'll provide valuable advice and will work with your budget to meet your needs. Please visit our website at www.kinghometeam.com for a longer version of this article, including additional staging tips.

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**Photo similar to house being built Not intended to solicit those under contract.