

Peri’s experience will guide him in council role

**By Mark Pavilons
Editor**

A King City man has entered what’s currently a three-man race for the Ward 5 council seat.

Gregory Peri has jumped into the ring, aiming for the seat left vacant by outgoing councillor Debbie Shaefer.

While this is his first time running for office, he’s not new to municipal government.

“I have spent over 20 years working on the administration side in recreation, community development, and now accessibility. That experience showed me just how much good local government can do when it’s genuinely connected to the people it serves. I know how budgets are built, and I know how decisions at Town Hall impact the community,” he said.

Ultimately, the biggest reason he’s running is his family.

“My wife and I are raising our two daughters right here in King City. Every single decision council makes about our parks, roads, development, and community safety is going to shape the world they grow up in. I want to be at that table, not just as someone with the right résumé, but as a dad who is deeply invested in getting it right for

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every family.”

What draws him to this role is the chance to bridge a gap that often leaves residents feeling frustrated.

“From the inside, I know how municipal government operates. I know how a great idea moves through staff reports, budget cycles, and council motions before it actually becomes something you can see and use. From the outside, as a resident, I also know what it feels like to wonder, ‘Why is this project taking so long?’ or ‘Who do I even call to fix this?’”

After two decades of navigating that system, he wants to bring that fluency directly to the community.

“I do not want to translate for residents from a distance. I want to work right alongside them so the process feels less like a closed door and more like an open conversation.”

The success of council, he said, comes down to trust. When council respects the professionalism of staff and gives them the clear direction and space they need to do their jobs well, great ideas actually get built instead of stalling out.

“On the flip side, when staff work collaboratively with council on the Strategic Plan, those priorities do not just sit in a binder on a shelf. They show up in the projects breaking ground and the services residents notice every single day. That open communication is the difference between an idle plan and a thriving community, and it’s a culture I fully intend to support and carry forward.”

He’s “energized” about getting out and helping people.

“Being out in the community, whether I am chatting with folks at the front door, meeting residents over coffee, or attending local events, is not a chore attached to the job. It is the job.”

King Township is not just one big blank canvas, and Ward 5 is a “beautiful mix of vibrant residential neighbourhoods, deeply rooted rural farming communities and the growing King City core. Every pocket of our ward has its own unique history and character. The late nights, the early mornings, and the committee meetings are all part of the commitment, and I am completely ready for that rhythm.”



Peri is already up on current issues. He’s reviewed the current Strategic Plan and the Term of Council Community Report, which are fantastic foundations to build on.

“My focus centers on three main pillars, viewed through a lens of fiscal responsibility, and shaped directly by ongoing conversations with residents across the ward:

“Recreation and Community Spaces: We need to expand recreational opportunities across King Township while recognizing the distinct needs of each community. Our facilities and programming must reflect our local heritage and serve the practical daily needs of modern families.

“Lived Accessibility: Becoming a fully Age Friendly Community is vital so our seniors can age in place with dignity and independence. As an Accessibility Advisor, I know the gap between passing a policy on paper and a resident feeling the difference. I will ensure our infrastructure and community programmes are truly inclusive in practice.

“Smart, Balanced Growth: Looking toward the Official Plan review for 2051, growth requires strict infrastructure alignment. Whether addressing densi-

York Region Reports First Human Case of West Nile virus in 2026

York Region Public Health has confirmed an individual in the City of Vaughan has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV), marking York Region’s first human case in 2026. West Nile virus spreads to people through the bite of an infected mosquito.

Most people who get West Nile virus do not feel sick. Some people may develop flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, tiredness or muscle weakness. In rare cases, West Nile virus can be life threatening and can cause inflammation of the brain (encephalitis), particularly in older adults and people with a weakened immune system. Residents who experience any of these symptoms are advised to seek medical attention.

Mosquitoes carrying West Nile virus have been found in most municipalities across York Region this summer. Human cases of West Nile virus are not unusual and York Region typically has a few cases reported each year around this time. Residents are encouraged to take simple steps to protect themselves from mosquito bites.

To protect yourself from mosquito bites, York Region Public Health encourages everyone to use a Health Canada approved insect repellent containing DEET or icaridin and follow the label directions; wear long sleeves, long pants and light-coloured clothing when outdoors (e.g., gardening, walking, hiking); remove standing water around your home such as water in buckets, flowerpots, toys, bird baths and pool covers.

York Region monitors mosquitoes each summer and takes steps to help reduce mosquito populations across the Region, including larviciding using provincially/federally approved pesticides.

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