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Peter Miller, pictured outside his McDonalds store in south Aurora will be honoured on Wednesday, March 21 by Community Living Newmarket/Aurora with a tribute dinner at The Manor at Carrying Place. Mr. Miller is being saluted for his contributions not only to Community Living but to the wider communities in both Aurora and Newmarket. Understated about his contributions, Mr. Miller has been dubbed “Mr. Anonymous” by event organizers. Please see Page 3.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

School Trustee appointment raises eyebrows

By Brock Weir

Aurora-King's new trustee on the York Region District School Board is Peter Adams-Luchowski.

A resident of Richmond Hill, Mr. Adams-Luchowski won on the third ballot Monday night facing off against Aurora resident Dave Williams, who ran unsuccessfully for the position in the October 2010 municipal election.

Out of the 18 eligible applicants for the position who made their cases to the Board on February 28, only four were ultimately nominated by other trustees at last Monday's meeting. Rounding out the four were Tottenham

resident O.P. Lamba, who was eliminated on the first ballot, and Aurora resident Angus Duff, who dropped off on the second.

After the votes came in, Mr. Adams-Luchowski said he was surprised but happy he had been appointed to fill the vacancy left by trustee Gord Kerr, who resigned in January.

"I'm very, very pleased and proud to be able to represent constituents again on this board," said Mr. Adams-Luchowski, who had previously served as a trustee for Richmond Hill before being defeated in the last election by Carol Chan.

Please see page 8

Restaurant owners find plans hard to swallow

By Brock Weir

Aurora restaurant owners are finding some parts of the Town's official plan a bit hard to swallow.

Last week Council discussed modifications to the Town's draft official plan sent down by the Region of York. The document outlines restrictions on drive-thru facilities in the Downtown Core, in conjunction with the plans for the Aurora Promenade, which has some restaurant chains up in arms.

"In our current adopted plan, we had restricted drive-thru facilities in the entire promenade area, being the entire Wellington Street and Yonge Street corridors," said Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning, noting that since the original proposals came forward on a full prohibition in the whole promenade area, discussions took place between the Town and the

Ontario Restaurant Hotel and Motel Association.

"They raised concern with the outright prohibition at Official Plan (OP) level of drive-thrus throughout the corridor. Our official plan also restricted drive-thrus at the OP level within our downtown core area. After some consultation amongst staff and the association I have proposed the modification for Council's consideration that would lift the prohibition for drive-thrus within the portion of the Yonge Street corridor area being our downtown shoulder area, but to reinforce the prohibition for drive-thrus within what we call the upper downtown designation just immediately north and south of Wellington."

The prohibition would remain in force along the Wellington Corridor - described as the "Town shoulder area" between Yonge and Berczy.

Representing the restaurants -
Please see page 7



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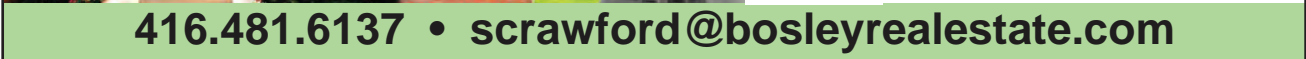
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COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY - MARCH 31

The Aurora Cultural Centre presents Story Quilts featuring the work of Aurora quilter Angela Krotowski. 22 Church Street; wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info please call 905-713-1818, or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca

FEBRUARY 9 - MAY 5

The Aurora Cultural Centre presents Under Sacred Skies; panoramic oil paintings by Michael Fromowitz in the Great Hall Gallery. Continues through until May 5; Gallery Hours Tuesday - Saturday, 1 - 4 p.m. and during special events; free admission. 22 Church Street; wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info please call 905-713-1818, or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca

MARCH 12 - 14

March Break Workshop Papier-Mache - The Ultimate Craft! Register now for this fabulous March Break 3-morning activity in order to create a project from start to finish. Choose from 3 projects - a monster, an animal or a décor piece for your room. Learn to build the form using easy household supplies. Bring a paint shirt, sketchbook and snack each day as well as your imagination! Pre-registration required - workshop requires all 3 mornings to complete the project. 9.30 a.m. - 12 noon each day; intended for children ages 6 - 12. Workshop fee \$75 includes all materials. To register contact the Centre at 905 713-1818, or drop by 22 Church Street; fully accessible at the north glass doors. For info: www.auroraculturalcentre.ca or call 905-713-1818.

MARCH 12 - 16

The Aurora United Church hosts "Around the World With Jesus" a March Break Vacation Bible Camp from March 12 through March 16. Sessions run from 8.30 a.m. to noon for kids ages five to 12. Activities include movies, crafts, snacks, games, and music and registration is \$25 per child. To register, call the Aurora United Church at 905-727-1935.

The Aurora Public Library presents **MARCH BREAK - MUSIC WITH RUSS!** from 10 - 10.45 a.m. in the Magna Room. Join Russ Clayton for a family-fun concert! Russ will sing and play instruments, making this an upbeat, high-tempo musical adventure for families! Ages: Families. Free tickets are available in advance by contacting Polly Ross, Children Services Librarian at 905-727-9494 x 280 or by emailing pross@library.on.ca.

March Break Workshop - Cartoon Poster-Mania! Spend the afternoon learning to draw a favourite cartoon character on a poster-sized sheet. Learn the hints and tricks of making it authentic - by the end of the afternoon you'll have created artwork for your walls, and a new drawing skill to use again and again! 1 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.; children ages 7 - 12. Pre-registration required: workshop fee \$30 includes all materials. To register contact the Centre at 905-713-1818, or drop by 22 Church Street; fully accessible at the north glass doors. For info: www.auroraculturalcentre.ca or 905-713-1818.

The Aurora Public Library presents **MARCH BREAK - MAGIC SHOW: I LOVE TO READ!** from 2 - 2.45 p.m. in the Magna Room. Join "Lofty" in this magical and entertaining show! A blend of magic, juggling, storytelling, jokes and of course participation, children will have a hollering good time. Ages 6+. Free tickets are available in advance by contacting Polly Ross, Children Services Librarian at 905-727-9494 x 280 or by emailing pross@library.on.ca.

March Break Workshop **Anime Basics**. Learn the basics of the popular Japanese-style animation found in print and comic books characters. Cartooning expert Dirk Michiels will teach you the basics of drawing, colouring and shading such characters as Naruto, Bleach, Fairy Tail, One Piece and more. 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.; ages 11 - 15. Pre-registration required: workshop fee \$35 includes all materials. To register contact the Centre at 905-713-1818, or drop by 222 Church Street; fully accessible at the north glass doors. For info: www.aurorafacultycentre.ca or call 905-713-1818.

The York Regional Police host their March Break Free Community Skate today at the Aurora Community Centre (Community Centre Lane) today from 1 to 3 p.m. Members of the community are invited to attend at no charge. Non-perishable food donations will be accepted at the event. Celebrity guests include members of the National Hockey League Alumni, along with three York Regional Police mascots - Bobby the Bear, Bucky the Beaver, and Morris the Moose. For more information, call 1-866-876-5423 x 6714.

The Aurora Public Library presents MARCH BREAK - CINDY COOK FROM POLKA DOT DOOR from 10 - 10.45 a.m. in the Magna Room. The Sing and Spell Show with Cindy Cook from Polka Dot Door. In this musical participation concert, Cindy will use puppets, songs, spelling games, riddles and different languages to show children that reading is FUN! Ages 3-6. Free tickets are available in advance by contacting Polka Ross, Children Services Librarian at 905-722-9494 x 280 or by emailing pross@library.on.ca.

The Aurora Public Library presents MARCH BREAK - ANIMALS @ THE LIBRARY from 10 - 11 a.m. in the Magna Room. WHIMZ Animal Fun! Join us for this fun, dynamic and educational presentation about the animals you may or may not see in your backyard! What animals will WHIMZ bring Come and see for yourself! Ages 7+. Free tickets are available in advance by contacting Polly Ross, Children's Services Librarian at 905-727-9494 x 280 or by emailing press@library.on.ca.

You are invited to join the annual Friendly Neighbourhood Youth Road Hockey Challenge today at Newmarket's Riverwalk Community Commons. Organize your own road hockey team for Ontario's longest running festival and you could win a \$1,000 education award. There is no cost to enter and tourney players must be 12 years of age and up. Six players minimum per team. Open to all sexes. Pick-up games for all ages on the day of the event as well. To register or volunteer, visit www.tpeproductions.com and www.povertyacc.com/getinvolved.

The White Heather Pipes and Drums presents a St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Dance tonight at 7 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. Come out for an evening of Irish stew, music, entertainment and fun. Cocktails at 6.30 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Dinner is \$8 per person.

Rafferty & Russell Extend a Grand Irish Welcome for their third annual St Patrick's Day Event at The Aurora Cultural Centre this afternoon from 1-3 p.m. You are invited to join the St Patrick's Day "Wearing O' The Green" Festivities by putting on your favourite "bit o' green" for an old fashioned Irish Ceilí! Bring along your fiddle, guitar, tin whistle, banjo, bodhran or, if you can't play... bring your voice or your dancing shoes! This is a unique opportunity to join with others and celebrate! Music, Dance, Song! Sure the craic will be powerful!

TUESDAY, MARCH 20

Bonsai Hill hosts another evening of poetry and performance tonight at 7 p.m. This evening's show features musicians Aaron Morris of The Manatee Band, the band Me & The Infinite Lovely, Mark Manner, Justin Tamane, and Ryan Webb. Poets on hand will be Deborah Campo, Lueta Brown, Stephanie Davidson, Sterling Dillinger, Billy Ferguson, Susana Lucia, Linda Squires, Dierdre Tomlinson and Malcolm Watts. There will be an open mic for guest poets. The last half hour of the open mic may contain graphic language. Bonsai Hill is located at 15263 Yonge Street, Unit 2.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21
The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents local historian Jacqueline Stuart with the illustrated heritage lecture "The Worst Place Inside the Corporation, and Other Stories of the Railway Station Neighborhood." 7 p.m. start. Admission by donation gratefully received; complimentary light refreshments provided. Wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info, please call 905-713-1818, or visit www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

Community Living Newmarket/Aurora District will be presenting its 2012 Community Service Award to Peter Miller, owner/operator, of McDonald's Restaurants of P. G. Miller Enterprises Limited at the Association's 10th Annual Tribute Dinner. The Dinner will be held on Wednesday, March 21, 2012, at 6 p.m., The Manor, Carrying Place Golf & Country Club, Kettleby. Cost: \$125 per person. Reserved table of eight: \$1,000. Proceeds in support of

Community Living Newmarket/Aurora District. For tickets call: 905-898-3000 ext. 253 or visit www.clnad.com.

Eating Disorders of York Region (EDOYR) presents tonight a Guidance and Assistance for Family and Friends of Those Striving to Overcome an Eating Disorder workshop with Stephanie Griver, BSW, MSW. The workshop will be held at EDOYR's new headquarters at 15213 Yonge Street (Suite 151) from 7 - 8.30 p.m. Support for family and friends is vital in the recovery of a loved one. A family member or a friend needs to be a strong, safe and consistent source of support and needs to take care of themselves in order to do so. It is good to know that you are not alone when you experience stress, frustration or anger: an eating disorder affects the whole family. To register please call Eating Disorders of York Region at 905-886-6632.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23
The Aurora Cultural Centre presents Soyeon Lee (www.soyeonlee.com), part of the Great Artist Piano Series. Winner of the prestigious Naumburg International Piano Competition, Ms. Lee will present "An Invitation to the Dance" program to includes works by Bartok, Schumann, Liszt and Albeniz. Individual tickets \$30 adult /\$25 seniors and students, plus HST. Doors open at 7 p.m.; concert at 8 p.m. General Admission seating. Tickets are available over the phone with a credit card, or in person at the Centre, 222 Church Street; fully accessible at the north glass doors. For info: www.aurora-culturalcentre.ca or call 905-713-1818.

The Whitechurch-Stouffville Museum will host a pancake brunch today from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Celebrate the end of winter at this delicious event hosted by the Founding Friends of the Museum. Enjoy a pancake and ham brunch topped off with locally-produced maple syrup. Also join us for a fun and enthusiastic reading of Eric Carle's children's book *Pancakes, Pancakes!* by local story-teller Susan Murray. Interactive readings at 10:45 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Drop in readings between noon & 1 p.m. Cost: \$6 for adults, \$3 for children under 12.

The Aurora Public Library presents **MEDIEVAL STAINED GLASS** from 7 - 8 p.m. In the Middle Ages, stained glass windows decorated churches and cathedrals. The light streams through in different colours for a beautiful glow. In this exciting workshop, we will replicate stained glass by using tissue paper to create our own Medieval windows. Ages 7+. Registration is \$7.50. For more information contact Polly Ross, Children Services Librarian at 905-727-9494 x 280 or by emailing press@library.on.ca.

MARCH 29 - APRIL 1

Every three minutes another Canadian is faced with fighting cancer. Throughout April, volunteers in Aurora and across Ontario will be working together to raise funds for the Canadian Cancer Society during Daffodil Month. Join the fight against cancer March 29 until April 1. Buy daffodils for \$7 a bunch or two bunches for \$12 at Metro, Real Canadian Superstore, Sobeys, LCBO, and No Frills and unite behind those living with cancer. Daffodil pins are also available for a donation throughout the month. Money raised during Daffodil Month helps the Society do everything it can to prevent cancer, fund research to outsmart cancer and empower, inform and support people living with cancer right here in Aurora. Visit fightback.ca or call 905-830-0447 ext. 3833 for more information about Daffodil Month, daffodil sales locations, where to get your daffodil pin or to volunteer.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents a special "Earth Hour schoolHOUSE Concert" featuring the voice and guitar Glenn Marais. A seasoned performer and Juno nominee, don't miss this magical evening, with an entirely acoustic portion of the show in observance of Earth Hour. Bring the family! Tickets: \$15; available in advance at the Centre, over the phone with a credit card, or at the door. Fully accessible building; wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info please call 905-713-1818, or visit www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

An Order of Canada 2011 recipient, Mary Lou Fallis holds a unique position in the music scene as "Canada's foremost musical comedienne". Visual and Performing Arts Newmarket (VPAN) is honoured to present her to our enthusiastic Newmarket audience as the final offering in the 2011/2012 concert series which will take place on April Fool's Day afternoon! The concert will take place today at the Newmarket Theatre. Order your tickets from the theatre's 24-hour box office at 905-953-5122 or visit www.vpan.ca

www.newmarkettheatre.ca

APRIL 1 - APRIL 30

Artists from L'Arche Daybreak will mount their exhibit *With Our Own Hands* at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts this month. The exhibit will be open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and one hour prior to all ticketed performances. The exhibit will be closed to the public on Sundays unless a performance is taking place. "Those with intellectual disabilities have been called 'artisans of the heart' by Jean Vanier," said Richmond Hill artist and L'Arche supporter Jacquie Boughner in a statement. "In this exhibition, the Daybreak artists create works full of joy, life, and peace - a perspective of the heart with which to view and engage the world and society in which we live." For more information, contact L'Arche Daybreak at 905-884-3454.

MONDAY, APRIL 2
Spring classes start today at the Aurora Cultural Centre. A variety of children's art classes starting at age four up through teens, to adult classes in painting, photography, guitar, creative writing and more. Advance registration required. 22 Church Street; wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info please call 905-713-1818; class descriptions available at www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

TUESDAY, APRIL 3

Your hospice needs you! Training commences today for volunteers for both Hospice King-Aurora and the Doane House Hospice. Whether you live in Aurora, King Township, Newmarket, Bradford, or East Gwillimbury, we have a volunteer position that will suit you. For more information, please contact Heidi Bonner at 905-967-0259 or 905-773-0155.

APRIL 11 - MAY 15
A Bereavement Support Group for adults experiencing the death of a loved one is again being offered at the Aurora United Church for an eight week session, from 7 to 9 p.m., beginning Wednesday, April 11 and ending May 30. There is no fee for this program. It is non-denominational and is open to all in the community. For info call Paula at 905-727-2584 or email bereavement@live.ca

Theatre Aurora presents "Harvey", Mary Chase's 1944 Pulitzer Prize winning play. The story is about a man whose best friend is Harvey-a six-foot, three-and-one-half-inch tall invisible rabbit. This is the final show of the 2011-12 season. Directed by Reg O'Brien and produced by Anne Currie-O'Brien, the show runs April 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22 (matinee), 25, 26, 27 28. Curtain times are 8.00 p.m. until the matinee at 2.00 p.m. Visit the Theatre Aurora web-site www.theatreaurora.com for further information. Tickets are available on-line through the website, by phone at 905-727-3669, by email at taboxoffice@bellnet.ca or in person at the Theatre. Theatre Aurora is located at 150 Henderson Drive, Aurora.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

The schoolHOUSE Season Finale Concert at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street is tonight, bringing together favourite musicians from the past season, including Evolution, Judy Marshak and Postcard Comets, as well as newcomers Coca Saviour and Memories Unplugged. Great local talent in a coffeehouse setting - imagine listening to great music in your living room and you'll see what we mean! Tickets: \$15. Doors open at 7.00 p.m.; concert at 7.30 p.m. Tickets available in advance over the phone, or in person at the Centre, 22 Church Street, Aurora; wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info: www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15
Xi Gamma Mu, a chapter of Beta Sigma Phi sorority will be holding a social tea at St Andrew's Valley Golf Club on St John's Sideroad East, Aurora, today from 2 to 4 p.m. All proceeds will be given to Belinda's Place. "Help Build the Hope....Belinda's Place will offer hope to women without a home and will provide life-changing services that promote stability, dignity and self-reliance." Ticket price is: \$35. Ticket includes tea, coffee, sweets & savory treats, and afternoon entertainment. Tickets can be purchased from: Pamper Me Please in Aurora (905-726-3605) Neighbourhood Network at 14996 Yonge Street, Aurora, and Roadhouse & Roses Funeral Home 157 Main Street South, Newmarket.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

Bob McRoberts will lead a heritage discussion entitled "Postcards of Old Aurora: The McRoberts Collection" at the Aurora Cultural Centre at 7 p.m. A digital unveiling of his vast and unique collection of local postcards, alongside current photos. Admission by donation is gratefully received.

Continued on 16



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Jordan Clark, centre, winner of So You Think You Can Dance Canada, was on hand at Girls Night Out last week – a fundraiser to mark International Women’s Day – last week raising money for Belinda’s Place and the Women’s Centre of York Region. Billed as a “fun and inspirational evening spotlighting various community-based businesses geared towards women”, attendees of the event, hosted by New Roads Automotive, were encouraged to bring donations to the community groups. Pictured above with Ms. Clark are (left to right) Central York Fire Fighters Corey, Steve, Shaun Mitchell and Sean.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Community Living honours “Mr. Anonymous”

By Brock Weir

When Community Living of Newmarket-Aurora considered honouring Peter Miller with its Community Recognition Dinner this year, they had their effort cut out for them.

It was that regular time of year for the group, which provides assistance and employment to individuals with intellectual challenges, when they sit down and select one recipient from a large field of nominations of those who contribute to their community. When several nominations came in for Mr. Miller, they were intrigued by how little they knew of him and his work.

"Several people brought his name forward and we started to look into it," said John Dowson of Community Living. "We found out he was involved in hockey tournaments and has been for some time, then we went around and asked other people and found out he has been supporting Community Living and hiring our people for years."

Mr. Miller has done more over the years than simply hiring members of Community Living, said Mr. Dowson, who added he was humble to the point of almost turning down the dinner, when told he was selected as this year's honouree.

"Once he agreed, we then got hold of his family members, talked with people on his staff, and they then started coming out with all kinds of stuff that he had done and that we didn't know about," said Mr. Dowson. "We really had to delve into the background after that."

The people on his staff are McDonalds employees in many of the fast food outlets across York Region. Mr. Miller not only owns the Aurora McDonalds franchises, but also the ones in Newmarket, and a number of outlets in Richmond Hill all the way down to North Toronto.

When The Auroran caught up with Mr. Miller to speak about his upcoming tribute dinner, which will be held

Wednesday, March 21 at The Manor at Carrying Place, his laid back attitude towards his achievements was readily apparent.

"If people want to honour you for your community work, I guess it is okay," he said in a typically understated manner. "Most of the time when you do these things, you do it not for the recognition, but



because you like to do it."

Mr. Miller, a resident of Aurora for 20 years before moving to North York, said his philosophy is that it is better to give than to receive.

Speaking of Community Living, Mr. Miller insisted that he hadn't helped the organization "all that much", but after prodding a bit further, he revealed that in addition to employing a significant number of the organization's clients across the region, he also helped them build a snoezelin room, which is a therapeutic room to sooth individuals with autism to reduce distress, aggression, and self-injury.

Mr. Miller, a Nova Scotia native, has been with McDonalds for 38 years. He started with the company when he was 29 as his second job out of university. Having worked at Xerox, he said he wanted to do something more independent and applied to get a McDonalds in the province, but ended up getting one in Ontario.

Helping others in the community, he said, has been part of the McDonalds culture and the company was at the forefront of community giving at the time. Through his company, he has been involved in Ronald McDonald Houses

and early on in his career helped established the first of these houses.

"That was a great feeling of being able to help," he said. "A number of years later I was involved in setting up a camp for kids with cancer and being involved with some doctors from Sick Kids and other community people trying to figure out how to do it, where it should be, how you run it, and I think we ended up renting space from another camp initially."

In addition to Community Living, one item currently on Mr. Miller's plate is helping the Salvation Army of Central York Region make their new Northridge Community Church headquarters in Aurora a reality. It is a joint effort for them, but Mr. Miller said the toughest part is to say no to people asking them for help in one way or another.

"A lot of people approach us and we try to help them in small ways, whether it is giving them coupons to sell, or helping them raise smaller amounts of money," he said. "I don't know if there is any selection process, but if we can help them and we can do it, we do whatever we can."

"A lot of the times with the Salvation Army, it is a question of how we can give some of our time to help them raise money, for example. A lot of times it is that sort of thing you can do to put them in directions and help them move forward."

"[The Salvation Army] is an interesting one I am involved in lately. It is interesting to meet all the people who are trying to help them. It is a great feeling to be able to help."

Humble though he is, Mr. Miller didn't let on whether or not he is dreading the love-in that may transpire on March 21, but looking ahead he said he was "embarrassed" by the recognition.

"When you help people they usually say thank you and that's tremendous. I think internally you feel you made a difference to the life of the community, but it's not like someone gives you a big

bouquet of flowers and a thank you note every six months.

"I think if you get involved in the community organizations and just say, 'Here I am! I'm not sure what I can do to help you, but I can give of my time' and you get on some committees of different organizations, I think it is a tremendous learning experience and a tremendous experience personally. It just makes you feel good."

Briefly

MAN SENTENCED IN SEXUAL ASSAULT CASE

Dwight Walters, who had pled guilty to sexual interference in January in relation to an Aurora sexual assault case last spring has been sentenced to 42 months in custody. Mr. Walters, 28, of no fixed address, was arrested without incident on May 5 after a young victim reported she had been sexually assaulted on Wellington Street West. Mr. Walters will serve 32 months after getting 10 months credit for his pre-trial custody, according to police.

"He has also been ordered to provide a mandatory DNA sample and he will be listed on the National Sex Offender Registry for a period of 20 years," said Sergeant Gary Phillips of the York Regional Police in a statement. "For a 10 year term, Mr. Walters is not to attend at any daycare centre, school ground, community centre, or public swimming area where children under the age of 16 are likely to be or seek employment or volunteer work involving children under the age of 16 upon his release from custody."

SCHOOL BOARD LOOKS AT NEW BOUNDARIES

When Aurorans head to the polls in 2014 to vote for their next trustee, Aurora-King could stand alone as two districts. The board is currently reviewing the electoral area for trustees which will be concluded this spring. The York Region School Board invites all residents to complete an online survey on the subject by March 23. After the survey is closed, public meetings will then be scheduled to present resulting options and provide residents an opportunity to give their input in person. The survey can be taken by visiting the School Board's website at www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. The review, according to the Board, "will ensure that electoral areas reflect the communities being served" as York Region evolves and grows.



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Brock's Banter

By BROCK WEIR

Can't stand the heat? Make an appointment

So, there you have it, folks. For better or worse, Peter Adams-Luchowski is Aurora-King's new trustee on the York Region District School Board. After he was sworn in on Tuesday night, students in both municipalities had to trudge back to the schools to take down the posters in their lockers supporting their favourite Aurora residents-cum-candidates.

Trash cans at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School were filled to the brim with tear-stained "Williams Is A Winner!" signs, while over at Aurora High despondent students were seen in the parking lot peeling their "Get Off Yours and Vote for Duff!", "Surely Svetoslava!" and "Cool Kids Crave Kirsten" bumper stickers off their cars and bikes, but bolstered in the knowledge that it is just two years away when their favourites can hit the campaign trail again.

Obviously none of this happened, but with the sheer amount of people that came forward to take Gord Kerr's place, it wouldn't have exactly been extraordinary.

While few kids probably lost sleep about the appointment last Monday night, people sure are disappointed and even angry by the appointment process.

Say what you will about the appointment versus a by-election, it certainly boosted civic engagement. Voters, of course, did not get a say in this, but, when they did, only two candidates came forward. One resigned and the other came through and put his name forward again.

But what of the other whopping 17 candidates? Where on earth were they in the 2010 municipal election? Could it be that they couldn't stand the heat of the campaign trail? Were they intimidated by the prospect of debating their fellow candidates? Perhaps they didn't think they had the resources to run a campaign?

Whatever the reason, it will be very telling in two years' time to see who puts their name forward for the job when it comes up again. That will be the time for both Aurora and King residents to see who, of the crowd that actually applied for the job, was serious about it.

Did they want to make a difference in how the York Region School Board operated, or were they just seeking something interesting to do for the next two years. Where they prepared to slog through the work to fulfil their mandate as well as the board's, or were they looking to have a more well rounded resume by 2014? Will they stick to Aurora-King, or will employment tourism take them closer to home or where they have a better chance?

Last year, out of 12,458 votes cast in Aurora for York Region trustee, Mr. Kerr got 6,432 votes while Mr. Williams trailed by 406. It would be surprising if, after this, the numbers aren't just a little bit higher the next time around.

Even if only by 18.

THEY WANT TO PUT A YOUTH CENTRE WHERE?

Leaving the glamorous world of school board politics for a moment, one issue Aurorans should keep their eyes on is the development of a youth centre in coming weeks.

Parks director Al Downey originally intended for Councillors to have a decision on where they wanted to build the long-discussed facility by the end of this month after presenting the options at the last Council meeting in February.

As you might have guessed, the whole Cultural Centre debacle that unfolded at that meeting quickly made fast work of that idea, so things have been shifted at least a month to a March 27 presentation of options and a further few weeks for Councillors to "stew" (Mr. Downey's words) on the options.

The options, however, were released, as we reported in last week's issue, and the top candidate to host a youth centre appears to be at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex on Industrial Parkway North.

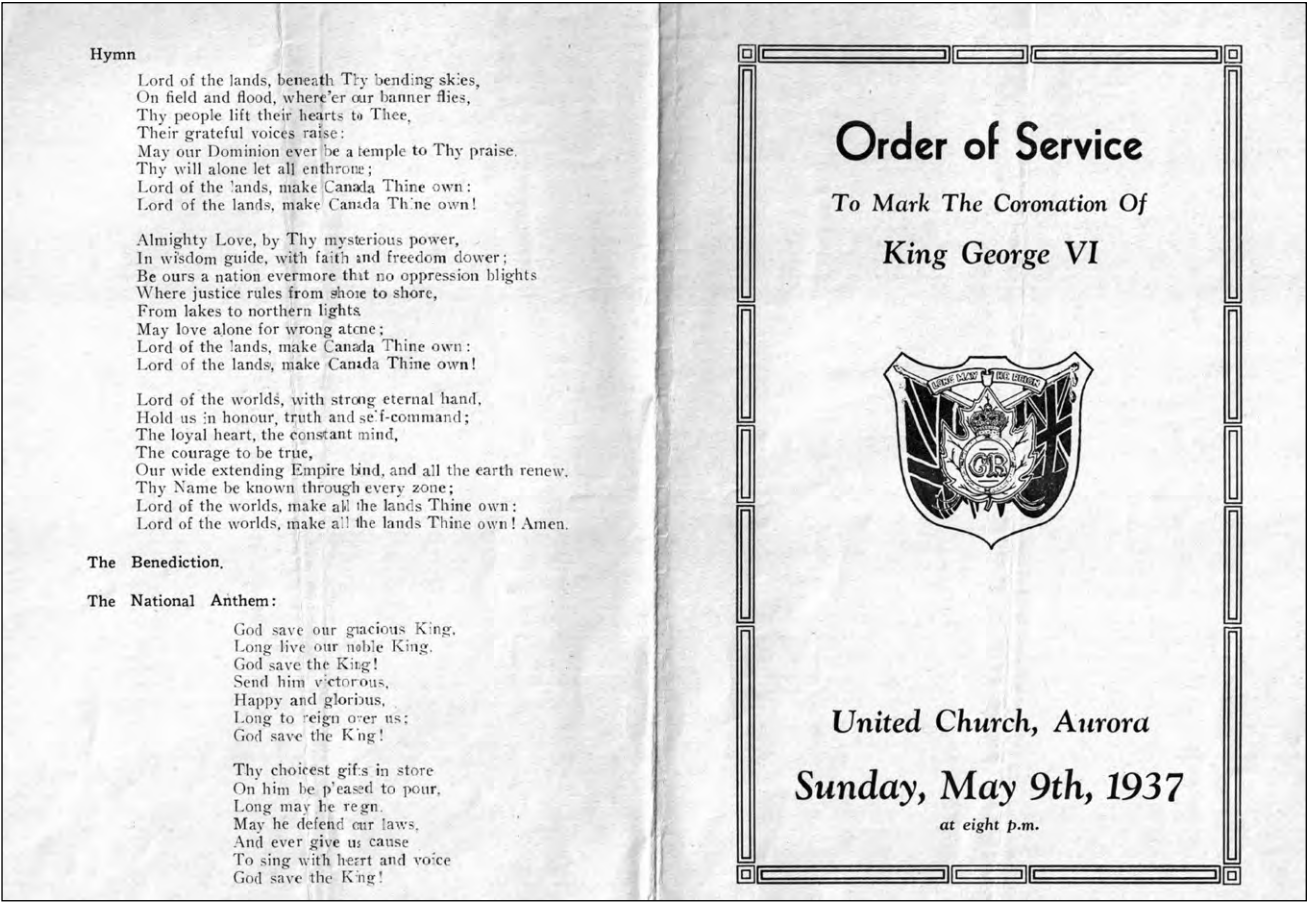
I don't know about you, but this seems to be an odd choice to me. First of all, the two options that are expected to be presented call on for the Youth Centre to (a) take the place of the current fitness facility which would then be relocated elsewhere in the structure, or (b) be built in an addition constructed somewhere on the building. It seems unlikely that Council would invest in a youth centre by displacing - however temporarily - the fitness programs so soon after recently investing \$125,000 long-term in Club Aurora. The second option doesn't seem likely as well as it was a little over a year ago the very same people were considering pulling the whole building down and starting fresh.

Also, the area is not exactly crowded by other amenities like schools (St. Max is the largest school nearby) that would make it an obvious destination for youth to take a quick walk or a bike ride over, and is serviced by a bus route YRT plans on scaling back in the very near future.

Is it worth a second look?

Where do you think a youth centre should be located?

Send your suggestions to brock@auroran.com.



The Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth (later the Queen Mother) was marked in Aurora on the evening of Sunday, May 9, 1937 at the Aurora United Church. The service was held three days before the actual Coronation event itself at Westminster Abbey. The May 12, 1937 Coronation was originally scheduled for King Edward VIII, but went ahead as planned with his brother and sister-in-law taking his place, after his abdication the previous December. Charles R. Boulding, Mayor of Aurora from 1933-1939, addressed the crowd.

To submit a letter to the editor please send your email to letters@auroran.com – deadline for submissions is Saturday at 1 p.m.

Letter to the Editor

Traffic calming review should be wide reaching

To the editor:

Re: Review of how Traffic Calming devices are serving the Citizens of Aurora.

We have had about four years of experience with this experiment in the north-east quadrant of Wellington & Yonge area of our town. From the responses and various letters to the editor on this subject over the years, it is obvious that there are people in both camps (possibly three - those who support the current situation, those who oppose it and those who could not give a hoot).

Let me share my observations and opinions on the subject, in the hope that every citizen of Aurora, whose hard earned tax dollars are used to provide infrastructure and services that benefit them will stand up for their constitutional rights on this issue, wherever they may sit on this issue.

In my opinion, roads are a very critical infrastructure that provides very valuable benefits (socially and economically) to any community by facilitating access to any part of the town with relative ease and safety. These roads are constructed with taxpayer dollars after considerable planning and deliberations.

When such meticulously planned infrastructure has been significantly altered by restricting

access and flow of traffic, it results in significant impact on all users of this valuable infrastructure, and also on other infrastructure which are now forced to handle the redirected traffic flow.

It appears that the traffic calming experiment was probably not well thought out and pros and cons were not adequately analyzed. There was very little if any broad consultation. As the good old saying goes, "Haste makes waste" - which can be said about this project as well. This project has negatively impacted a significant number (possibly in the 1,000s) of citizens who need to use these roads, while the benefits accrued to very few (possibly in the 100s).

I am certainly pleased to note that the current town council (who seems to have a longer term outlook) saw the wisdom in reviewing this failed experiment and seek input from all citizens who need to use the roads (not just who happen to reside in the area). It should also be noted Our Lady of Grace Church and the Aurora Community Tennis Club are located in this quadrant and in excess of 3,500 people (from these two facilities) who live and pay taxes in the Town of Aurora need to use these roads. Therefore, they would have the same rights of anyone who lives in the area.

There was an article in the March 6th issue of

The Auroran that stated north-east quadrant residents should have a much greater say on traffic calming. I agree with the speaker in that article with the express understanding that residents include everyone who has to use the facilities located in the north-east quadrant, which includes

the Church, Tennis Club and the Bowling Club. In fairness to taxpayers of Aurora, everyone who needs to use this valuable Town infrastructure in the north-east quadrant should have a greater say.

Joshy Kallungal
Aurora

THE AURORAN

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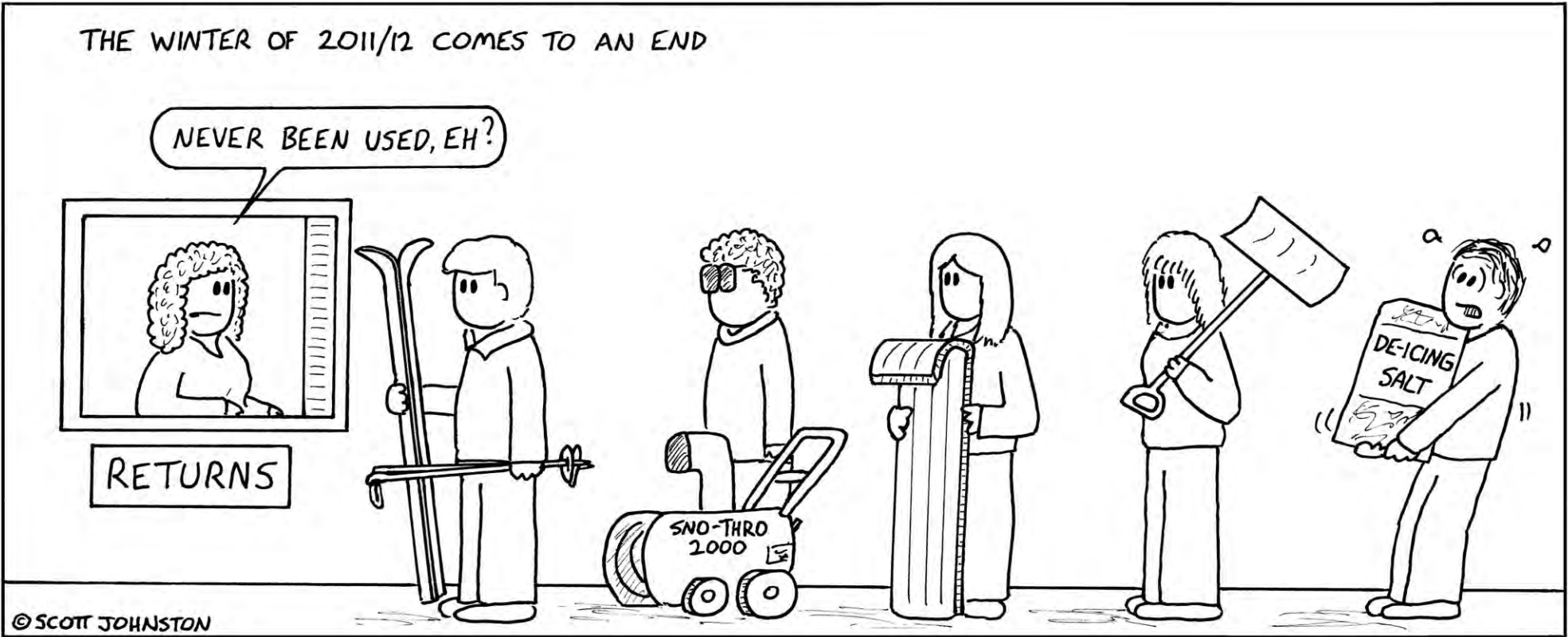
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Frankly Speaking

By FRANK KLEES
MPP Newmarket-Aurora

Criminal investigations, kick-backs, forensic audits, falsified credentials, back room deals and missing millions...

These are themes we would expect to be headlining the latest movie offerings, but for the past three weeks, they were the theme of Question Period at the Legislature. This column takes you behind the scenes at Queen's Park and will give you some insight into why this issue has commanded such sustained debate and media attention.

The First Whistleblower...

"Millions of taxpayers' dollars intended for air ambulance services are being siphoned off into for-profit companies, standards of care are being compromised and patients and crews are being put at risk."

This anonymous message was sent to me in late January, 2011 by an Ornge employee, who identified himself as a "dedicated and concerned paramedic who can no longer stay quiet." I had to decide whether to write him off as a disgruntled employee or take his message seriously. I did the latter, and so began two months of research that would lead to my first series of questions in the legislature on what I was convinced was a gross abuse of tax dollars and a calculated, self-serving scheme that was enriching a small band of political insiders while undermining the quality and integrity of our air ambulance service.

April, 2011: Given the stiff competition for "air time" during Question Period, I have to credit our caucus for deferring three separate times for me to raise this issue during the month of April. The Hansard Record shows that neither the Minister of Health, the Minister of Finance nor the Premier were the least bit interested. Their response to my warnings was to insist that all was well, and rather than investigate, defended the indefensible.

Ornge Threatens Legal Action...

Within days of my questions in the legislature, I received a

lengthy letter from Ornge threatening me with legal action and demanding a retraction and apology. Needless to say, I offered neither because I knew that I had hard evidence of what I firmly believed would prove to be one of the biggest scandals in the history of our province.

(I later learned that the letter was written by one Alf Apps, who was serving as the President of the Liberal Party of Canada at the time)

Interesting that subsequently, Paul Bliss, CTV's Queen's Park correspondent, with whom I had taped a three-part interview on Ornge, received a similar threatening letter after the first interview was aired. CTV decided to pull the plug on Paul's story and there would be no further Ornge stories on CTV until the Toronto Star broke the story wide open.

Meeting With the Auditor General...

My questions in the legislature triggered a deluge of calls, emails and letters from current and former employees, suppliers and stakeholders of Ornge. All wanted to provide information on what they knew about waste of tax dollars, circumvention of competitive bidding for contracts, mismanagement and erosion of standards of patient care.

As we were heading into an election, and there would be no further opportunities to raise the issue in the legislature, I arranged to meet with the Auditor General and conveyed to him my Ornge file which consisted of hundreds of emails and records of meetings with Ornge insiders. I was assured that given the apparent integrity of the documented evidence, the Auditor General would be expanding the scope of his audit and would be elevating Ornge to a Special Audit Report.

That Special Report will be tabled with the legislature within days, and I predict will be a condemnation of the government's failure to exercise proper oversight of our air ambulance services.

Behind the Scenes: The Ornge scandal

Peeling the Ornge...

To the credit of the many dedicated and principled employees at Ornge, they were desperate to expose what they described as a self-serving "culture of greed" that was undermining their ability to deliver the emergency health services to which they had dedicated themselves.

While the Ornge story was largely ignored by the media, Kevin Donovan of The Star began writing a series of articles, based on information provided by the same whistle-blowers who were meeting with me. Day-in and day-out, the layers started to get peeled back.

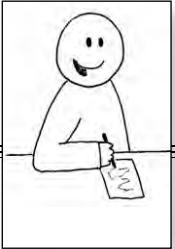
The Call for a Select Committee of the Legislature

For the past three weeks, the Minister of Health has repeatedly denied responsibility for the Ornge scandal. Even though she was forced to call in the OPP to conduct a criminal investigation into financial irregularities, the entire Board of Directors was fired along with the CEO and other Senior Executives, she prefers to blame her former colleague for a scandal over which she has presided for the past four years.

It's that attitude of denial that prompted us to invite the NDP to join us in a joint press conference to call for the establishment of a Select Committee of the Legislature to investigate Ornge. I hosted that press conference with MPP France Gelinas of the NDP and tabled a Motion this past Thursday that calls on the Legislature to not only establish the Committee, but also to provide Whistle-blower protection to any employees who want to testify.

The Motion will be debated on Tuesday, March 20. We expect to win that vote and get on with holding the government accountable for its lack of oversight on this critical issue.

For those who are interested, videos of my questions on this issue in the legislature and news stories can be accessed on my website at www.frankklees.com. As always, I look forward to your comments and advice.



Inside Aurora

By SCOTT JOHNSTON

"I agree with the residents of northeast Aurora, who feel that they should be the ones to decide the future of traffic calming in their neighbourhood, and not residents from other parts of town," stated a councillor.

"But shouldn't everyone in Aurora be able to have their say in the proposed survey?" asked a fellow councillor.

"No, the traffic calming is located in a specific neighbourhood, so those people are the ones who should decide."

"We'll entertain motions on that at a future meeting," noted the mayor, as he shuffled some papers. "Now, the next item on our Council agenda is the proposal to re-open the agreement with the Cultural Centre."

The first councillor jumped in, "well, I think that..."

"Wait a minute," the other councillor interjected. "You can't speak on this subject."

"Why not?" asked the first councillor, perplexed. "I don't have any conflicts on this issue."

"It's not that. It's where you live. Your house is up near St. Andrew's College, isn't it?"

"Well, yes, but..."

"So, you don't live anywhere near the Cultural Centre."

"What's that got to do with it?"

"Well, you just finished saying that only local residents should

have a say on issues in their neighbourhood. Wouldn't that apply here, as well?"

"But that was about traffic calming!" exclaimed the first councillor. "This is about something that affects everyone in Aurora. It's totally different."

"Can anyone from Aurora drive through the northeast part of town?"

"Yes, but..."

"And will any changes to the traffic calming features result in a cost that all taxpayers will need to fund?"

"Probably, but..."

"And will the direction going forward impact on proposed traffic calming in other parts of town?"

"I guess so..."

"Then it doesn't seem different to me. If residents from outside that neighbourhood can't have a say on the traffic calming issue, then you shouldn't be able to comment on the Cultural Centre."

"But it's a local issue," the councillor repeated, in exasperation.

"You know," said another council member, who had remained silent to this point. "I don't live that near to the Cultural Centre, either. Maybe I shouldn't take part in the discussions on it."

"Me, neither," said the member to her left.

"I live off of Murray Drive", said another member. "Is that close

enough?"

"People, people, please," injected the Mayor. "Everyone can't abstain from this item - we won't have a quorum!"

"This is complicated," noted someone else. "If we had a ward system, there'd be issues on which only one person could vote."

"Maybe we need more council members? Then there'd always be some of us living close to items in question."

"Yeah, but we'd need hundreds of politicians for a town the size of Aurora. The council table would have to be massive."

"There really is one obvious solution to all this," someone else finally suggested.

"You're right," said his colleague. "It's been staring us in the face all the time."

"So it's agreed that everyone in Aurora, whether citizen or council member, should be allowed to participate in all discussions that affect the town?"

"No, more obvious than that - we need to understand the optimal living distance for people to be involved in dialogues on town items based on their geographical locations."

"Excellent idea," commented another councillor. "Let's have staff prepare a report on it."

Feel free to e-mail Scott at: machellscorners@gmail.com



Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

Agreeing with the Zoomers

I had a chance to meet the oldest living Toronto Maple Leaf Wally Stanowski Monday, but a doctor's appointment got in the way. Stanowski, now 92, played on four Stanley Cup winners for the Toronto Maple Leafs back in the 40s. Don't they wish they could do that again?

Stanowski, nicknamed "the Whirling Dervish" for his skating agility, when he was one of the NHL's premiere puck-carrying defenseman in the 1940s, is the oldest living former Maple Leaf.

He'll be 93 next April; the only remaining connection to Toronto's championship teams in 1942 and 1945.

In all, he was a key component of four cup winners for the Leafs that decade.

One of those seasons, he was a first-team all-star, according to a Toronto Star article written by Paul Hunter, a feature writer for the Star, published Sunday, February 19, this year.

Stanowski was a guest of a monthly gathering Monday which Aurora's George Storey attends and George asked me if I'd like to attend.

Of course, I would, but until they find out what's wrong with me, attending functions like this are out of the question.

Maybe next month.

In this month's issue of Zoomer Magazine is the reason most people want to live in Aurora.

In a feature called Living/Location, author Lisa Bendall interviews famed author Marina Nemat, who has been an Aurora resident for 19 years.

Author of the bestseller Prisoner of Tehran, Marina says she likes living in Aurora because "the community is reason enough. And it is still a very safe, happy place."

Marion Carcone agrees.

The Aurora real-estate agent has lived in Aurora since 1972.

Also interviewed, she told the magazine why she loves it here.

"It's clean, pretty much crime-free and upscale," she's quoted as saying. "It has great restaurants and wonderful boutique shops,"

The author agrees and cites the Graystones as her favorite restaurant. Boy, the stories I could tell you about that place...

"My husband's background is Hungarian and we love schnitzels," said Marina, "and they make the best schnitzels I have ever had."

Among the events listed are the Arctic Adventure, the art show in May, the Aurora Farmers' Market, the Canada Day Parade and heritage walking tours.

There is no mention of the annual street sale which attracts about 40,000 people the first Sunday in June.

To whoever is spreading rumours that I am suffering from cancer, it ain't true.

Either that or a lot of doctors have some explaining to do.

Feel free to e-mail Ron at: rwall9999@rogers.com

AURORA SENIORS DUPLICATE BRIDGE RESULTS

February 27, 2012:

N/S

- 1st - Carol Gordan and Margaret Cyr
 - 2nd - Audrey Robertson and Barbara Wittmer
 - 3rd - Carole Bell and Nan McLean
- E/W
- 1st - Suzanne Nunn and Shirley Laurin
 - 2nd - Frank Leblans and Dennis MacFadden
 - 3rd - Marion Warburton, Noreen Hashem

Monday, March 5, 2012:

N/S

- 1st - Bernie O'Brien and Sandra Davey
 - 2nd - Carole Bell and Nan McLean
 - 3rd - Simmo and Lisa Pii
- E/W
- 1st - Barbara Wittmer and Audrey Robertson
 - 2nd - Suzanne Nunn and Shirley Laurin
 - 3rd - Jeannine Mackie and Melody Irving

Letters to the Editor

Councillor is done tinkering with “experiment”

To the editor:

The lid has been lifted from a pool of political machinations, that accomplished a perfidious objective to keep hidden from "Stakeholders" the drain of millions of tax dollars, surrender of a valuable asset, rent and maintenance free, to a group we know nothing about, who clearly believe possession is nine-tenths of the law.

The town's interest has not been served.

It was through an e-mail from a board member we learned they had been advised by their lawyer they were doing everything right and he was a former councillor.

It was the Town Solicitor who revealed the Town did not have a solicitor representing our side when the agreement was drafted.

He suggested we were represented by a law clerk.

I noted when he presented the report he was being discreet.

Names were conspicuous in their absence.

I do not accept the premise a law clerk was responsible.

On the night the agreement was approved, an amendment directed it be reviewed by the newly appointed Town Solicitor and any modifications needed be brought to Council's attention.

That never happened.

Although a subsequent review by a new Town Solicitor under a new Council revealed the agreement was full of modifications necessary. The Town's interest was not protected in any way.

The record of Council approval could not have been passed over in the review.

A Councillor asked who had been involved in drafting the agreement. The response was names were not discovered.

When I requested a review of the agreement, the Mayor was initially cold to the idea. He was concerned about the solicitor's workload.

Another e-mail from a board member, there had

been communications with the Town. Regular meetings were held with the CAO.

We did not know that.

Council passed a motion last October directing the CAO to meet with the board and discuss ways and means of resolving differences.

On Tuesday, the Board Chairman stated that never happened.

The chairman's statement was not challenged.

Five months had passed since direction was given. No report, progress or otherwise, have been tendered to Council.

Councillors have been asked to indicate interest in participating in group discussion with board members to resolve the problems.

I am of the view, since the dispute is legal, a group discussion is unlikely to accomplish anything.

I believe the solicitor would best be able to suggest a formal process likely to produce results.

The Mayor has forwarded the idea to the solicitor.

I find myself out of accord with colleagues on many aspects of the problem.

I accepted the advice of the former treasurer for arm's length board of management, as the best way to govern the facility.

We've done that. I am not willing to spend more millions of tax dollars, while tinkering with an experimental disaster. All the while assuring the community of efficient fiscal management.

In my judgment, under these circumstances, no such assurance can be given.

The town has not been well served.

To the editor:

"There ought to be a law."

Frequently, this is our response when something happens we don't like. Our knee-jerk solution is that someone else will create and enforce, without any additional effort or thought on our part.

On Monday, March 5, two public meetings took place in Aurora.

The Promenade returned to consider streetscapes at the Cultural Centre and the tree by-law was discussed in the Council Chambers.

The Promenade approved

by the last Council is taking implementation steps regarding streetscapes. Recent tree removal on Oak Ridges Moraine property brought tree-cutting to Council's attention.

In each case, a group of "the many" considers rules that limit the actions of "the few." The utilitarian ethic of John Stuart Mill would see this as an appropriate application of his "greatest-happiness principle".

Conversely, a libertarian would see a loss of individual rights. Fortunately, most of our legislation finds an acceptable balance between

If reader ruled from top to bottom-us

To the editor:

I'm tired of all the debates in the press, some of which I can follow and many I just can't.

"Well, you should take more of an interest!" chides some self-righteous resident.

"Yeah, if you don't like it, then move!" sneers another.

Well, having lived in Aurora for over nine years, I like it very much and don't plan to move anytime soon. But having read many of the letters sent in to The Auroran, I often wonder what it'd be like if I were in charge of things. No, not mayor, but something else. So, with apologies to Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg:

If I were King of Aurora,
Not Councillor, Trustee
nor Mayor

My life as King of

Aurora, would be happy,
unlike, the taxpayer.

I'd command each
thing, be it road or lane,
No need of traffic calming,
or wild chicane.

As I'd wave my wand, at
Yonge and Wellington

Parked cars would go,
and the traffic would flow

And the stretch Viva
would take wing -

If I - If I - were King!

Each condo would fit
the town's décor.

No more nail salons or
grocery store.

Though I'd rule with
might, I would never fight
Ideas my councillors
bring!

If I - If I - were King!

Ahhh...its good to be
king.

Rex Delaube
Aurora

these extreme positions.

Should one regulation apply equally to all trees and property owners?

Should a more restrictive tree-cutting regulation be passed quickly or wait until a complete tree management regulation is crafted?

Should all the street light posts on Yonge Street be the same?

Should there be a bicycle lane on Yonge Street?

Should signs and merchandise occupy sidewalk space?

These questions, and hundreds more, will be raised at future public meetings. An active, informed group of residents can help shape Aurora's next century. Otherwise it will fall to the consultants.

Ultimately, the decision will be delivered by nine elected council members.

Gordon Barnes
Aurora

Evelyn Buck
Aurora

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Drive-thrus would not be incompatable in downtown Aurora: business rep

From page 1
including Tim Hortons, McDonalds, A&W, and Wendy's - was Murray Chown, a senior planner for Novatech Engineering. He said his group got involved with the OP review process "rather late in

the day" but raised concerns over the prohibition to the previous Council.
"I don't want Council to be misled by the comment in the staff report which speaks to discussions are continuing regarding the Town's policies,"

said Mr. Chown. "I have yet to meet with planning staff to discuss the modifications that have been put before you."
While Mr. Chown noted he has spoken to Mr. Ramunno just prior to Tuesday's meeting and the latter offered to meet

with him to discuss the modifications, his primary purpose of being there was to highlight the modifications which raised new concerns for his group. Among these concerns, is the continued prohibition of drive-thrus in certain parts of Aurora.

"It is certainly our opinion that an Official Plan shouldn't be prohibiting those types of land uses and the tools that are available to the municipality that deal with the question of whether or not drive-thrus should be permitted," he said. "A prohibition is still being recommended to you in the area north of Wellington on Yonge Street. The property in the northwest corner of Yonge and Wellington most people would agree is underdeveloped and some would agree it needed to be redeveloped."

Mr. Chown said he believed that current mixed use developments proposed for the Yonge and Wellington corridor, which include ground floor retail and commercial uses, were not incompatible with drive-thru use.

"There's nothing wrong with the notion of having ground floor retail and commercial uses in the future redevelopment of a property that might include a restaurant with a drive-thru that is accessible off of Wellington Street. That maintains the facade on Yonge Street, which is the priority for the Aurora Promenade, but a drive-thru along that property would in no way conflict with those goals and objectives."

During the course of Mr. Chown's delegation to Council, Mr. Ramunno was unmoved. He said that the proposed modifications to lift the ban in certain areas was a direct response to the concerns they had already raised, but the planning department had to find the right "balance" between local and "broader public interest."

"I am of the opinion that the restriction is valid in the bal-

ance of the promenade area in our historic core because our old official plan always prohibited those facilities," said Mr. Ramunno.

While Tuesday's meeting was meant for public engagement and no decisions were made one way or the other, Councillor Evelyn Buck said that for the past 50 years ideas for the revitalization of the Downtown Core had been debated back and forth while the Town has watched it "gradually deteriorate." Now, she said, might be time to think outside the box.

"There has never been an idea that has come forward for the revitalization," she said. "While we're talking about the downtown area, we're talking about a single block from Wellington Street to Mosley. In the meantime, redevelopment is happening quite impressively north of Wellington and certainly in a tremendous amount. Nobody should have any concerns over the vital commercial areas in the Town of Aurora because they are elsewhere other than that single downtown block."

"I think it is high time we wakened up and smelled the coffee that nothing is going to change in that downtown block until there is a change of thinking at the Town Hall level that [the downtown] cannot stay the way it is. It just keeps deteriorating. It has to change."

"By passing an official plan that sticks to the old ideas that we have to preserve it the way it is, that we have to keep the character the way it is just isn't dealing with reality and the more prescriptive clauses in the official plan is just further and further away from reality."

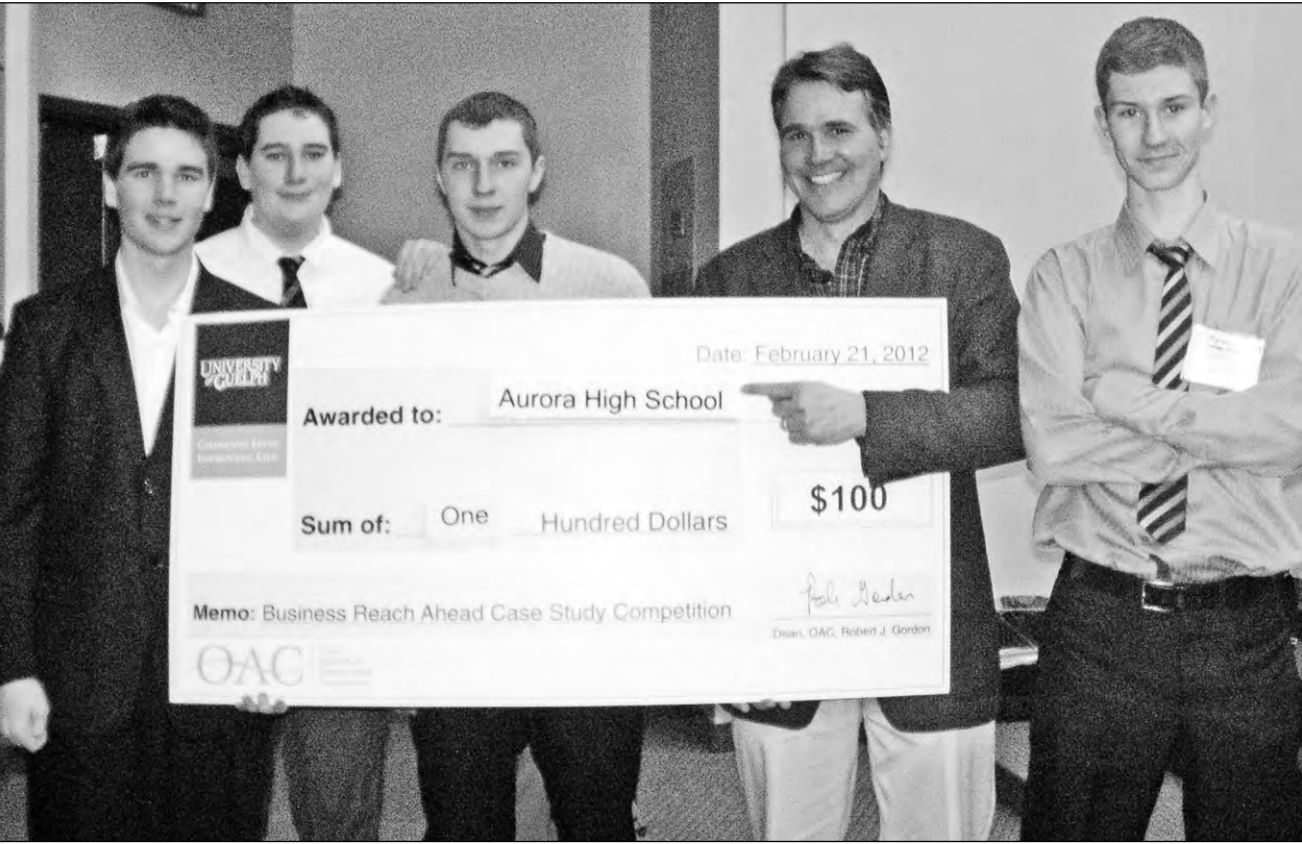
School's 125th anniversary party needs a hand

By Brock Weir
A small group of "very enthusiastic" people met last week to advance plans for a 125th anniversary reunion celebration for Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, but while plans are being made for a celebration next May, their top priority is reaching out to former students and faculty.
"We're really hoping that we can get some more people out to share the load and get involved," said organizer Bob McRoberts. "One of the girls that helped plan the last 110th anniversary reunion in 1998 just remembers so

much fun the organizers had putting it together and having a good time doing it.
"The main task for the first few months is to spread the word, get people's contact information into a database for email distribution, so once we make the decisions on what is going to happen, how much it is going to cost - and hopefully make some money for the school as well for some projects - then we will, at that stage, send out a mass emails."
Mr. McRoberts estimates that everything will be in place by this autumn and there will then be a clearer picture of the registration

costs and prices.
Since the ball got rolling on the planning, however, organizers have already heard from former students around Canada but also from Washington State and even Singapore.
"The word is spreading internationally!" said Mr. McRoberts with a laugh.
What has been planned so far include themed "decade" rooms for returning students throughout the Williams building. They have also booked ACC 1 and ACC2 for social events, which could include a dance.
"We're looking for lots of organizers," said Mr.

McRoberts. "Many hands make light work. We have lots of thoughts but if we don't get the bodies to help make it happen certain things won't!
Currently the group has a database of 3,700 names collected over the last 15 years but in that time, of course, many people have moved. They encourage former students and faculty - or even interested volunteers - to submit their names and email addresses by contacting reunion125@bell.net or visiting www.reunion125.ca.
Organizers plan to hold their next meeting on Tuesday, April 3.



Aurora High School students Eric Feltrin, Nick Reinholdt, Pasha Paduta, and Austin Megit (pictured above, left to right, with Dr. Andreas Boecker of the University of Guelph) won third place in the University's recent Reach Ahead Day. They tackled the financial implications of a case study involving a family-run fruit company, applying the business skills they learned in AHS' Ontario Special High Skills Majors program to real life situations.

AHS students win third place in Guelph business contest

By Brock Weir
Aurora High School students came home from Guelph recently third place winners in the University of Guelph Reach Ahead Day.
The students were amongst 200 of their high school counterparts from across south-western Ontario that participated in the Business Reach Ahead Case Competition at the school. The competition allowed the business scholars to use what they had learned in the classroom and apply it to real-world scenarios, while winning educational prizes to boot.
The Aurora High School team came in third place in the Financial Management category taking on a case, making recommendations on whether a family-run Ontario-based jam and jelly company should expand their operations, or perhaps look outside the family for

management.
Each team was required to analyse the case and present their findings from a marketing, financial, or distribution perspective to a panel of judges comprising of faculty, grad students, and business professionals.
According to Aurora High teacher Kristina Toms, the program provides students with "a real focus to see what it is going to be like, like experiential learning outside the walls of Aurora High to go out and experience these different situations [and bring] conceptual academics that they learn in class, and applying that outside."
"I think the big value is they can relate to what they're learning in the classroom, take it outside, and actually see it is not just academics," she added. "This is what they are going to be doing in many business schools once they leave Aurora High."

The students, she said, "loved" the program and thought the experience was fantastic. The trip to Guelph allowed them to also get a taste of the university experience, get a handle on the size of the campus, and use a different set of case study methodology.
The Reach Ahead Day was part of the Province of Ontario's Special High Skills Majors (SHSM) program, which allows students to "focus on a career path that matches their skills and their interests while meeting the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma" in grades 11 and 12. The program is tailored for all those eyeing not just university or college, but also apprenticeships and training programs.
According to Ms. Toms, this is the first year Aurora High School has participated in the SHSM program and there are currently 24 students enrolled.

China's Secrets of the Ancients for Women & Men in 2012!

WHAT IS QIGONG?
Qigong (chi gung) is an ancient healing system from China that combines breathing, slow movement, intention and energy awareness. Over the thousands of years people have been practicing qigong, thousands of forms have been developed. Many of these forms are so simple and straight forward, 5 – 10 minutes of daily practice can have a positive effect on a person's life. Physical, mental and emotional benefits realized through such ease of movement has led to the surge in popularity of qigong for people in both the East and West, regardless of age, body type or health.
Why Practice Qigong?
Dr. Oz the popular TV doctor says it all - "If you want to

be healthy and live to 100, do QIQONG." Radiant health, inner peace and a positive outlook in life are natural by-products of a daily practice of qigong. Qigong helps induce a relaxation response that can positively impact your body's natural healing ability and increase your sense of balance in a seemingly stressful world. Amongst its many benefits, Qigong is scientifically proven to reduce hypertension, high blood pressure and to boost overall immunity and help with restless sleep.
Andrea Roth is sharing a number of forms of qigong in Aurora On, including: Radiant Lotus Women's Qigong (RLWQ), Detox & Strengthening (Zhang Fu Gong) and Sheng Zhen Qigong. Regardless of what

form you choose to practice in your life a healthy, happy body, mind and heart can be the result.
For women who practice the RLWQ form, miraculous responses have been demonstrated in the areas of: uterine cysts, menstrual pains, breast tenderness and menopausal discomfort. This program has also been shown to facilitate the release of toxins while balancing female hormones. Practitioners have reported increased awareness, uplifted mood and a deep joy for life.
Andrea teaches the other forms in her yoga & qigong classes as well as special workshops. For more information regarding classes or workshops, email Andrea R o t h - T r i m b l e qigongyes@gmail.com or visit <http://www.yogaforlife.ca>.



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Newly minted Aurora-King Trustee Peter Adams-Luchowski is pictured at the York Regional School Board offices just after being appointed to the position on March 5. Mr. Adams-Luchowski won the position on the third ballot, after facing off against Dave Williams, O.P. Lamba, and Angus Duff for the position.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Adams-Luchowski named Trustee

From page 1

"When people put trust in me in this field of candidates, the confidence they put in me tonight is hard to put into words with the gratitude I feel.

"I thank everyone for applying. I know what it feels like to lose. I've been there and I think people should keep trying and keep that interest maintained. For the constituents of Aurora-King, I know the workings of the board, I know how to get things done, and I am starting tomorrow."

Mr. Adams-Luchowski said he and his wife are planning to soon build a home in King Township. He first became involved with the York Region District School Board as a high school football coach in 1996 before becoming a school council member and chair, and a supply teacher. He first became one of two trustees for Richmond Hill in 2007.

During the appointment process, Dave Williams had been the favourite to win in some quarters, garnering the support

of both Aurora Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and King Mayor Steve Pellegrini. After Monday's meeting, Mr. Williams said the voters in both towns were the "losers" in this process.

"I appreciate the support of the trustees that voted for me, and I appreciate the support of the electorate, the over 6,000 people that voted for me the last time, and I just lost by a very close number," said Mr. Williams. "I think the losers in the process today are the voters in Aurora and King where democracy really was circumvented for, I guess, some political reasons to bring a candidate in from another community."

"It would say to me that the candidate they chose today doesn't resonate with his own community."

This was a sentiment Mayor Dawe shared with The Auroran after Mr. Adams-Luchowski was sworn in. He said he was "disappointed" the board didn't go with a local representative, let alone Mr. Williams.

"I was very much in favour of

having a by-election in the first place," he said. "I still think that is the right thing to do. The second best thing, in my opinion, would be to appoint the person who was clearly the second place person."

"Mr. Williams was within 400 votes of winning. Granted, there were only two candidates and he still garnered 6,000 votes. It's obvious that he resonated with the residents of King and Aurora. For me to run for Council in Aurora I have to live in Aurora. I don't know what the trustee requirements are, but it strikes me if you're going to have a trustee for King and Aurora it should at least be a resident of one of those two communities. We're talking about [Mr. Williams] who lives here now, has obviously indicated an interest in running in this area and working with the people in the area."

With a new trustee in place, however, Mayor Dawe said he hopes - as he has indicated during Council meetings in the past - there is an opportunity to work

with the school board in making sure all stakeholders are up to date with what the Board plans to do with Aurora schools. One issue in particular that has cropped up recently is increased traffic in school areas. This, he said, has been partially exacerbated by the "repurposing" of some schools to be catchment areas for French immersion.

"They're bringing more people in, more buses are coming in by default and more car drivers are coming in," said Mayor Dawe. "At the very least I would like to see some dialogue going back and forth. The school doesn't make this decision on Friday night and start on Monday morning. They have months and then you find out a couple of months after the fact. Something like that would be a great place to start."

"I would hope that whatever [Mr. Adams-Luchowski] is doing is taking the needs of Aurora and King into account and the residents of King and Aurora."

Mr. Adams-Luchowski was sworn in on March 6.

Why Peter Adams-Luchowski?

Brock Weir

Since the appointment of Peter Adams-Luchowski to fill the Aurora-King Trustee vacancy at the York Region District School Board, many people have asked why he beat others - including several Aurora residents - to the post.

During last Monday's nomination meeting, East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch-Stouffville trustee Lorealea Carruthers said that after listening to the 18 candidates that came out to make their cases the previous week it was clear to her that few candidates had the "in-depth understanding of the missions and goals" of the school board.

"As trustees, we have committed ourselves to formulating policies to ensure that programs offered to students are sustainable, equitable, and of high quality," she said. "These issues require high level of familiarity of background discussions that took place before we, as trustees, arrived at these positions. This is something the most recently elected trustees have worked diligently over the past 15 months to get familiar."

Ms. Carruthers told her fellow trustees that they know how "steep" the learning curve

is as well as the "difficulty" in making the decisions without knowing all the background and context, and this is why, she said, she was first out of the gate to nominate Mr. Adams-Luchowski. Her reasons were four-fold.

"He has expertise and knowledge of the current issues we are facing as well as knowledge of our board structure, operations, and committees," she said. "He has earned the respect of staff and fellow trustees. He has firsthand knowledge of the schools and communities of Aurora-King and he has the ability to bring us together as an effective team rather than deepening the divide we are currently struggling with."

As Mr. Adams-Luchowski was a trustee in Richmond Hill when the board's current Strategic Plan and policies were drafted, she added he understands the "background rationale" for the document and has contributed to the debate which made them a reality.

"Within this term of office, trustees will be required to make some significant decisions, prior to which there may be debates and differences of opinions - but with Peter Adams-Luchowski on board, at

least these debates are most likely to be respectful and informed by past experience and a deep understanding of the issues involved," she added.

"This board needs a trustee who can hit the ground running and would not require the usual apprenticeship that all new trustees must serve before becoming comfortable with their new role and the impact of the decisions they make. While we may not always agree on every decision, I am comfortable with the fact that Peter will listen to all sides, question wisely, and think deeply before formulating an opinion. He is not a bully and treats different views with respect, while seeking to understand rather than changing the mind of others."

When making his pitch to the board of trustees the previous week, Mr. Adams-Luchowski did not focus on the resume and qualifications he submitted to the board as part of his application, but spoke more of his experience.

"Educationally, I am a continuing learner and I have been for quite some time," he said. "I have a varied and very successful resume, [little] of which is really relevant to the position we're working on

tonight. [As for] community involvement, I went back about 10 years to give trustees a feel for the kind of work that I do. I work with people that need our help, supporting them. I work with the Royal Canadian Legion and seniors, and persons who require help and I support children."

When asked by Vaughan trustee Joel Hertz which areas of public education he felt most strongly, Mr. Adams-Luchowski focused on opportunities for student achievement and students being able to access all opportunities that come their way. Asked by Ms. Carruthers on the importance of public education, he continued on the same track.

"We're educating young people to explore opportunities in whatever it is they will eventually grasp onto and take into their adult lives," he said. "It's important to offer those opportunities and let people explore with the opportunity as well to amend those plans and experience and change, after having experience to make an end decision that helps them to become high functioning adults and contributors to society."

"The system needs to be fair and there needs to be vision."

And the nominees were...

By Brock Weir

Last Monday's meeting on replacing the Aurora-King Trustee vacancy left by Gord Kerr fielded two additional candidates beyond the eventual victor and Dave Williams.

The field was rounded out by Tottenham's O.P. Lamba and Aurora's Angus Duff.

In his nomination of Mr. Lamba, Vaughan trustee Joel Hertz cited Mr. Lamba's long career in education.

"He has been an educator himself for many years," said Mr. Hertz. "He probably has more experience as a trustee than anyone else at least in the room, albeit at a different board. He is familiar with our board, having served on the race relations advisory committee and I think that his is a name you should well consider for the position."

Other trustees who spoke in favour of Mr. Lamba said that he would be a candidate that would be able to quickly jump into the work required of trustees and get up to speed.

Markham trustee Juanita Nathan (Area 4) nominated Mr. Duff. Ms. Nathan said she nominated Mr. Duff for his profession-

al experience, commitment to education and "his capacity for dealing with the public scrutiny" that comes with public service.

"Mr. Duff believes in an education to create citizens of tomorrow," she said. "This is critical for making the best choice in the York Region District School Board. I believe Mr. Duff will balance the needs of the residents of Aurora-King with the needs of York Region as a whole. A balanced approach to decision making is critical to this role as trustee."

Mr. Williams was nominated by Allan Tam, also a trustee for Markham (Area 3). Mr. Tam kept his nomination short and sweet, citing Mr. Williams' results in the 2010 municipal election. He said his garnering of 6,000 votes in Aurora and King showed that he resonated with residents. Mr. Tam's nomination was seconded by Markham trustee Susan Geller (Area 1).

"I have to respect the people of Aurora in the previous election and the previous election results," she said. "We really have to respect the people for a change and that is what I am doing. They have a great candidate in Dave Williams."



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Changes to tree bylaws need to be more specific: residents

By Brock Weir

Proposed changes to Aurora's tree bylaw - including tree protection - might be too general, at least when it comes to heritage trees, according to some local environmental experts.

The comments were made at a public meeting held last week at Town Hall on behalf of RAYS - Ratepayers of Aurora Yonge South - for all residents concerned with the proposed changes and tree cutting as a whole.

If the new measures are passed by Council they would prohibit the "injury and destruction" of any tree with a trunk of over 70 centimetres diameter at breast height (DBH) without a permit or more than two trees within a year with a trunk diameter of more than 20 centimetres.

According to Dr. Danijela Puric of the University of Toronto, who spoke at last week's residents' meeting, this provision does not reflect reality when it comes to tree diversity.

"To be honest, I wouldn't go with just 70 cm," she said. "You might have species that never reach 70 cm. The maximum might be 30 cm just because that is the ecology of the species, so [provisions] have to be species specific."

This was a sentiment agreed to by Ed Addison, a member of the Town's Environmental Advisory Committee, and a former research scientist for the Ministry of Natural Resources. He said that the provisions should not be "one size fits all."

"One of the largest ironwood trees I know of is in Sheppard's Bush," he said. "There is a huge ironwood, if it is indeed that, on the Jokers Hill property in King Township and it exceeds the maximum diameter of the largest recorded ironwood in Ontario, but it is a lot smaller than 70 cm."

Mr. Addison was one audience member who said that a tree protection policy is good when it comes to tree cutting, but what is really needed is a tree management policy. Cutting down trees, he said, was not necessarily the problem, but what happens on the site afterwards.

But getting the tree bylaw right was near the top of the concerns of residents who came out last week.

"RAYS definitely supports the new bylaw, although seeing the new bylaw I now realise...that maybe it should be more extensive and we should pick up comments like the size of the trees," said Warren McClure of the Ratepayers. "It probably is an oversimplification. This is our shot to do it right. I

don't think we will be able to bring it back in a few years if we don't get it right this time."

Last week's meeting was organized, in part by Isobel Ralston, who has previously decried the cutting of a large number of trees on the Beacon Hall Golf Course property, onto which her home backs. She said that in the time she has advocated for the further strengthening of the Town's tree bylaws, she has encountered people with many misconceptions about tree protection, particularly when it comes to the Oak Ridges Moraine.

"We have a tree bylaw currently in Aurora but there are some cases that to take down one tree for any purpose you do need to get a permit, she said. "You understand the reasons why we felt it was necessary to change the bylaw just based on what we felt as some inconsistency of fairness with regards to other individual citizens versus businesses such as golf course."

Changes to businesses like golf courses are further keystones in what is proposed in the revisions. Previously exempt from the municipal tree bylaw, but governed by the Region of York, golf courses will now be included, allowing them to cut up to 10 trees in a 12 month period without a permit, if passed.

"The current bylaw provides an exemption to golf courses," said Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation in his report on the recommended changes. "In reviewing the public survey results and other municipal trees bylaws, the Bylaw Review Committee sees a need to regulate the cutting of trees on golf course properties' however, the Committee also believes that golf course owners need a level of flexibility to be able to manage their business needs.

"As such, the Committee felt that being able to remove 10 trees in a 12-month period without a permit provides golf courses with that flexibility. In addition, most other municipal tree bylaws require golf courses to obtain a permit to remove a single tree."

Before Monday's meeting, Ms. Ralston told The Auroran she believed the golf course inclusion would be a top priority for people planning on attending. She said there needed to be equity between what homeowners who want to take down trees are required to do compared to businesses.

"If I take down four trees I need to put up a placard, and rightfully so, and inform the community so if neighbours are worried about it they can make some comments,"

she said.

David Main, CEO of Beacon Hall, said the proposed bylaw changes had been discussed between the golf course and Town Hall, and Beacon Hall did not send representation to the meeting.

"There are a lot of very intelligent people on both sides of this discussion and as a business in Aurora we are cognizant of the pressure our Town leaders work within and look to their leadership on the issue," Mr. Main told The Auroran. "We have always worked well with the Aurora Town staff and expect this to continue if the proposed bylaw changes are approved. They know and understand our business well."



Pictured above are the remains of what was once believed to be Aurora's centuries-old "Blacksmith Tree" shortly after it was cut down in 2010. In a meeting last week, concerned citizens argued that measurements used in new tree bylaw changes proposed by the Town need to be tailored to specific species – particularly when it comes to heritage trees.

Auroran photo by Cynthia Proctor



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More than tennis: Athletic Club celebrates 25 years in Aurora

By Wendy Soloduik

Timberlane Athletic Club may have opened its doors to serve the tennis elite, but more than two-and-a-half decades later, the club is keeping its doors open by serving the community of Aurora.

The Club, located on the former site of Teasdale Farms on Vandorf Road, will celebrate its milestone 25th anniversary in 2012 with a year-long calendar of activities.

The vision of Ken Sinclair (winner of 11 world seniors doubles titles since 1990 and past president of the Toronto Cricket Skating and Curling Club), Timberlane was inspired by an octagon shaped club in Australia, that sparked a dream.

Upon return from his trip down under, Sinclair got to work and purchased the 81 acre farm, south of Industrial Parkway in Aurora, to create the 'Cricket Club of the North'.

Ground was broken on the site in 1986 and, in the early days, Timberlane consisted of a few tennis courts and a business trailer. However, with nothing else like it in the area, word spread fast in the tennis community and the club's membership roster quickly rose to over 300.

Timberlane Athletic Club celebrated its official grand opening in 1987. By that time, a few indoor courts had also been added and a private dining room (which seated 150 guests) had been built.

Well known by tennis players, Timberlane remained shrouded in mystery to the local community, developing a reputation as an elitist club for

the wealthy.

Recognizing the need to expand service offerings to increase its customer base, Timberlane began to evolve its facilities, and its reputation followed. The largest change came in 2001, when one of the indoor tennis courts was converted into a fitness centre. The move was a success, and memberships soared to over 1,600.

Five years ago, the Club underwent a second massive facelift, improving lighting fixtures and renovating the ladies locker room.

With renovations complete, Timberlane is fully operational and open to the community. In addition to the world-class tennis facilities, the Club is also a full fitness facility, wellness centre (reiki and massage), has an award-winning on-site restaurant, the "Roving Chef" (won Best Catering Award at the 2010 Aurora Business Achievement Awards) and has an outdoor pool.

Youth based programs are now a major focus at the Club.

"In addition to our Junior Tennis Program (suited for young tennis players with abilities ranging from recreation to high performance), we also have summer camps, attended by more than 700 children last year alone," said Timberlane's John Ramsbottom.

Youth attending one of Timberlane's summer camps (full day and part day programs), can choose from a variety of activities including: sports, arts, golf (in partnership with the local golf club), soccer (in partnership with the Aurora Soccer Club), tennis, swimming - or a mixture of the above.

Timberlane also offers a paid baby-sitting service seven days a week - so parents can get their play time in as well - and in the summer months, a kids club for youth ages six and up, is also available to members and guests.

For the "Heart Wise" patient (a term devised by Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket to describe pre and post operative heart surgery patients) Timberlane offers specially designed classes and a Heart Wise menu.

"We are more than a tennis club, more than a gym - we are a meeting place and an affordable place to go with the family," said Ramsbottom. "We will celebrate our 25th anniversary by spending the entire year trying to get that message out to the community."

In addition to monthly specials and promotions, Timberlane will officially celebrate the milestone anniversary with a gala evening, planned for Friday, June 1st. During the event, Timberlane will honour staff members who have been with the Athletic Club for more than 20 years, and the more than 100 original Club members.

"Going forward, we hope to become better known in the community for the work we do with non-profit agencies and as a prime location close to home to host community events in our many meeting rooms and on our sprawling grounds," said Ramsbottom. "We hope the community will come out and help us celebrate our anniversary and see what an amazing facility we have, right here in Aurora."



Timberlane as it once was: The site of Timberlane was originally Teasdale Farms (top) before land was turned in 1986 and construction commenced on the uniquely shaped club house and surrounding tennis courts. Timberlane is marking its silver anniversary this year with a year-long schedule of activities.

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Week of March 13, 2012

Aurora High comes up just short in bid for YRAA championship

By Kevin Michie

Call it unusual, call it entertaining, call it what you want, really, but the York Region Athletic Association girls tier one hockey championships turned out to be something to behold.

The number three ranked Aurora High School Eagles met the number one ranked Bill Crothers Secondary School Colts in the YRAA finals last week, with a spot in the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association (OFSAA) finals up for grabs.

The road to the championship was a roller coaster for AHS, as they overcame an early season slump to finish in third. When the playoffs began, AHS defeated Markham District in round one, and then went on to upset number two ranked St. Brother Andre C.H.S. to advance to the finals.

Crothers was a bit of a different story, with no roller coaster involved in their season, but only an upward progression to the top of the standings. The Colts finished the season with a perfect 7-0 record, outscoring their opponents 34-5 along the way.

One Crothers student called the girls hockey team, "absolutely unreal."

In the first meeting of the season between

Aurora and Crothers, the Eagles challenged the Colts in a way that no other team had been able to up until that point, getting edged out 3-2, meaning that Aurora had a reasonably good chance to upset the Colts.

The first game, on Crothers' home ice, was won by the Colts, 4-1, giving the school a 1-0 series lead in a best-of-three series.

As the series shifted back to Aurora on Tuesday, the Eagles were dealt a major blow as their number one goalie, Taylor Lemmon was off competing at the Ontario Winter Games.

The Eagles, however, had a very dependable backup in Paige Lou. Crothers peppered Lou through the first half of game two, but couldn't solve the net minder. Then things took a dramatic turn for Aurora. About half way through the second period, Lou was injured and was unable to continue playing.

As Aurora's Head Coach Marcus glanced up and down his bench, the voice of Saffara Whiteley-Huffelner chimed in to volunteer at the position. With no hesitation, she was sent off the exchange her player equipment for goalie pads.

The new net minder managed to keep Aurora in the game long enough

to see her team score the opening goal of the game, just a few minutes into the third period, with Christine McCarthy scoring and Kaitlyn Kraly grabbing an assist.

However Whiteley-Huffelner, a defenseman whom had only ever played goalie in three-on-three and pick up games, couldn't keep the dangerous Crothers offense at bay forever, and would go on to surrender a goal with a little under five minutes remaining, tying the game at one.

The game would head to overtime, and then after no one was able to find the back of the net, it was sent to double overtime. The Eagles dramatic run to the finals would end there, however, as the Colts' Holly Thompson scored her second goal of the game to send Crothers to OFSAA.

"It was gutsy," said Olson, when asked to describe his teams' performance. "All year, that's how we would describe our team."

"I've never been involved in a hockey game like that."

The Aurora-Crothers games were particularly noteworthy due to the fact that the Eagles scored more goals, in their three games, against the Colts than every other team in the league had, over the course of the entire season.



Members of the Aurora High School Eagles wait to receive their second place medals last week after the York Region Athletic Association's hockey championships last week. Aurora faced off against Markham's Bill Crothers Secondary School in the finals.

Auroran photo by Kevin Michie

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Athlete of the Week - Allison Barbalinardo

By Kevin Michie

The Auroran's Athlete of the Week is Allison Barbalinardo of Aurora High School.

The Grade 12 student was part of the Aurora High basketball team - which won the tier-one York Region Championship - and will be the co-captain of the tier one girls rugby team, when their season kicks off in May.

After an early exit from the playoffs last year, Barbalinardo is hoping that a new roster and early tryouts and practices will launch the team into a deep playoff run and into the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association (OFSAA) championships.

Barbalinardo is the youngest of three siblings (Michael and

Colleen), all of whom attended AHS. Colleen, Barbalinardo's elder sister, was the one who triggered her interest in rugby. Allison was convinced to try out for the rugby team in Grade Nine, with the encouragement of her sister, and was subsequently named to the team.

"She had a big influence on me in trying out for the team," said Barbalinardo. "I look up to her, so I thought it would be good idea."

After she completes her high school education, Barbalinardo has plans to move on to university for nursing. The soon-to-be 18-year-old has narrowed her choice down to the University of Ottawa and Trent, both of which have reputable rugby programs.

This summer,

Barbalinardo plans on trying out for the Aurora Barbarians, the local

Aurora club team, and could very well make the team.

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HOUSE LEAGUE

107 Timbits - Nashville Silver 8 - Andrew Parsons 5G, Philip Lamparter 2G, Michael Suma 1G. **104 Timbits - St. Louis Blue 5** - Nolan Heggie 2G, Alessandro Warwar 1G, James Madore 1G, Fionn Keon 1G.

108 Timbits - Atlanta Sky 15 - Marco Djordjevic 4G, Nathan Mochizuki 4G, Malcolm Parkinson 2G, Nolan Chiarelli 2G, Ben Hilgendorff 2G, Noah Smith 1G. **104 Timbits - St. Louis Blue 4** - Matthew Song 1G, Fiohn Keon 1G, Brayden Baird 1G, Nolan Heggie 1G.

104 Timbits - St. Louis Blue 8 - Fionn Keon 2G, Mathew Song 3G, Brayden Baird 2G, Alessandro Warwar 1G. **102 Timbits - Boston Gold 2** - Matthew Gianforcaro 1G, Jack Boyd 1G.

101 Timbits - Calgary Red 1 - Dexter Cole 1G, Luca Pugliese 1A, Luke Davison 1A, Anthony Archibald, shutout. **103 Timbits - Toronto White 0.**

104 Timbits - St. Louis Blue 5 - Kenneth Lawrance 1G, Nolan Heggie 1G, Ethan Mitchell 1G, Andrew Aikins 2G, Jacob Madore 1A. **102 Timbits - Boston Gold 3** - Matthew Gianforcaro 2G, Anthony Carbone 1G, Jakob Israel 1A.

105 Timbits - Pittsburgh Black 5 - Ryan Clutterbuck 2G, Robert Mandrino 2G, Hayden Klugerman 1G, Ethan Powell 2A, Connor Fortin 1A. **108 Timbits - Atlanta Sky 2** - Noah Smith 2G, Nolan Chiarelli 1A, Thomas Bradley 1A.

106 Timbits - San Jose Teal 5 - Bradley Gardiner 1G 1A, Samuel Spong 1G, Sam White 1G, Joseph Trovato 1G, Adriano Fanuzzi 1G 1A, Charlie Akkermans 1A, Mya Graham 1A, Vince Russo 1A. **107 Timbits - Nashville Silver 4** - Zach Green 1G, Andrew Parsons 1G, Jordan Sieber 1G, Nate Windle 1G.

204 Caravan Kids - St. Louis Blue 4 - Jake Pridham 2G 1A, Andrew Flores 1G 1A, Liam Morassutti 1G, Shayne Smith 1A, Andrew Jones 1A. **203 Caravan Kids - Toronto White 4** - Daniel Romas 1G, Stefano Iervasi 1G 1A, Jack Fisher 1A, Kai Sillcox 2A, Simon Handal 1A, Adam Mollard 1G, Adam Flicker 1G 1A.

201 Caravan Kids - Calgary Red 2 - Michael Valenti 1G, Nicholas Zambri 1G, Marchel Woods 1A. **202 Caravan Kids - Boston Gold 1** - Cristian Troubitsin 1G.

410 McDonald's - Orange 7 - Giuliano Iervasi 2G 1A, Garrett Kohler 2G 1A, Kyle Trumper 2G, Evan Robertson 1G 2A, Steven Seitz 1A, Dylan Shaban 1A. **409 McDonald's - Teal 6** - Andrew Campbell 2G 1A, Jesse Strom 1G 1A, Aidan Brown 1G 1A, Brendan Sanford 1G, Brian Turner 1G, Andrew Fiorini 2A, Tommy Collins 1A.

404 McDonald's - Blue 4 - Johnathan Avgousti 1G 1A, Ryan Funston-Clarke 1G 1A, Greg Gatzopoulos 1G 1A, Robert Kniss 1G. **406 McDonald's - Purple 2** - Jackson Galbraith 2G, Jonathon Gianforcaro 1A.

401 McDonald's - Red 10. 405 McDonald's - Black 3.

402 McDonald's - Gold 5 - Cameron Lang 5G, Luke Pignatelli 1A, Mason Barone 1A, Devon Bourrie 1A. **408 McDonald's - Grey 2** - Jack Viney 1G, Emerson Parkinson 1A, Shawyan Niavarani 1A, Brennan Powell 1G, Andrew Schaus 1A.

601 Chouinard Bros. 5 - Jacob Cowl 3G, Matthew Glionna 1G 1A, David Townshend 1G, Ryan Lewis 1A, Brendan Dodd 1A, Owen Bourrie 1A, Andrew End 1A, Matthew Vassos 2A, Domenic Pecchia 1A, Nicholas Robinson 1A, Shawn Mason, shutout. **605 Crossley Contracting Ind. Restoration 0.**

612 H.J. Pfaff Audi 10. 603 Optimist Club of Aurora 3.

604 Omar's Shoes 5 - Jacob Leblanc 2G, Andrew Warner 2A, Peter Leontis 2G, Leo Branigan 1G, Tristen Macklin 2A, AJ Mackintosh 1A. **602 Aurora Home Hardware Bldg Ctr 3** - Liam DeSouza 1G 1A, Andrew Hammond 2A, John Powell 1A, Tristan Hicks 1G, Keegan Fisher 1G.

606 Dr. Weaver's Drillers 3 - Matthew Leclair 2G, Alexander Mueller 1G, James Samson 1A, Kyle Wulle 1A. **611 Rotary Club 2** - Justin Miller 1G 1A, Ryan Cameron 1G 1A.



Aurora Minor Hockey Association

Results, up to March 11, 2012



609 Kumon Aurora-East 4 - Ethan Brooks 4G, Wayne Freeman 1A, Liam Patterson 1A. **608 Mastermind Toys 4** - Evan Lambert 2G, Louie Simonin 1G, Kyle Gillies 1G, Nolan Roy 1A.

610 IOOF Aurora Lodge #148 2 - Colin Boorn 1G, Braeden Wodehouse 1G. **607 Crabby Joes 2** - Tony Sul 1G, Bradley Shennan 1G.

607 Crabby Joes 6 - Anthony Livia 2G, Bradley Shennan 1G 2A, Tyler Frise 2G, David Tonelli 2A, Dalton Slind 1A, Tony Sul 1G, Nicholas Badali 1A. **609 Kumon Aurora-East 3** - Adrian Brstilo 1G, Christian Ramirez 1G, Jack Campbell 1A, Ethan Brooks 1G 1A, Josh Hookey 1A.

606 Dr. Weaver's Drillers 2 - Kyle Wulle 1G, Kyle Wulle 1A, Matthew Leclair 1G, James Samson 2A. **610 IOOF Aurora Lodge #148 1** - Colin Boorn 1G, Kenzie Macmillan 1A, Dylan Clark 1A.

612 H.J. Pfaff Audi 4. 608 Mastermind Toys 0.

604 Omar's Shoes 0. 601 Chouinard Bros. 1 - Matthew Vassos 1G, David Townshend 1A, Shawn Mason, shutout.

605 Crossley Contracting Ind. Restoration 4 - Dustin Crossley 1A, Noah Murphy-Sealy 1G 1A, Braeden Joynt 2G, Vaughan Hewgill 1G, Tanner Arnold 1A, Christopher Foschia 1A. **Ryan Cooper 1A. 611 Rotary Club 5** - Ryan Cameron 3A, Connor DeVogel 3G, Justin Miller 1G 2A, Benjamin Godber 1G 1A, Christopher Kehren 1A.

809 Danny & Scotty Puck Bandits 1. 807 Crabby Joe's 2.

801 Diamond Groundskeeping Services 5 - Michael Imseis 2G, Josh Mohabeer 1G, Colin Dyer 1G 1A, Tyler Bundy 1G, Alex Negri 1A, Joey Hodgson 1A, Jeff Stobo 2A, Cameron Screech 1A, Calem Pollock 1A,

808 Laurion Law Office 1 - Andy Butler 1G, Domenic Fiorini 1A.

803 McAlpine Ford 4 - Michael Walsh 3G 1A, Ryan Simmons 1G, Emerson Cepelak 1A, Joshua Lye 1A, Alex Sesto 1A. **804 Optimist Club of Aurora 2.**

810 Benson, Kearley IFG 0. 806 Backyard Pool & Spa Co. Ltd. 5 - Ryan Ouvroules 2G 1A, Alex Hoffmann 1G 1A, Anthony Loduca 1G 1A, Paul Mason 1G, Connor Reilly 2A, Giorgio Venosa 2A, Aidan Woolsley 2A, Alex Carter 1A, Alex Bicego , shutout.

808 Laurion Law Office 4. 809 Danny & Scotty Puck Bandits 4.

806 Backyard Pool & Spa Co. Ltd. 3 - Ryan Ouvroules 1G 2A, Connor Reilly 1G 1A, Paul Mason 1G, Alex Bicego 1A, Jordan Elliott 1A, Matthew Barnett 1A. **802 Aurora Home Hardware Bldg Ctr. 1** - Allister Johnston 1G.

807 Crabby Joe's 4. 810 Benson, Kearley IFG 2.

805 Lakeshore Valu-Mart 0. 803 McAlpine Ford 4 - Adam Ashraf 2G 1A, Ryan Simmons 1G, Grant Kavanagh 1G 1A.

804 Optimist Club of Aurora 2 - Tarek Koudmani 1G, Jack Bishenden 1G 1A, Bryn Burbank 1A. **801 Diamond Groundskeeping Services 5** - Cameron Screech 1G 1A, Joey Hodgson 1G, Jeff Stobo 1G, Michael Imseis 1G 1A, Jordan Screech 1G, Calem Pollock 1A, Colin McGoldrick 1A, Greg Rutherford 1A, Matthew Hall 1A, Alex Negri 1A.

904 North York Plumbing & Heating 7 - Matt Reeves 3G, Liam MacKichan 1G 1A, Alexander Harrison 1G 1A, Graeme McDonald 1G, Kienan Osborne 1G, Scott Barker 2A, Keith Jarvis 2A, Jason Glionna 1A, Josh Lawlor 1A, Francois Bicego, shutout. **906 ATS Healthcare 0.**

903 A.D.C. Aluminum 6 - Trevor George 3G, Thomas Scougall 2G, Franco Porano 1G, Benjamin McGowan 2A, Jesse Borin 2A, Christopher Sanita 1A, Matthew Sanita 1A, Joseph Veneziano 1A, Jonathan Caporusso 1A. **907 Crabby Joe's 4** - Morgan Walker 2G, Joshua Bell 1G, William Allen 1G, Chris Downs 1A, Sam Mason 1A.

911 AHPA 8 - Ethan Cullen 3G, Paul Neophytou 2G 1A, Russel Johnson 1G 1A, Joey Stel 1G, Kieran Cullen 1G, Leon Vizkin 1A, Michael Bitzos 1A, Austin Tanaka 1A. **910 INARIA 2** - Andrew Hall 1G 1A, David Roberts 1G, Peter

Sandwell 1A, Daniel Bresolin 1A.

902 Aurora Chrysler 0. 908 Benson, Kearley IFG 2 - Duncan Eveleigh 1G 1A, Liam Devlin 1G 1A, Mark Presacco 2A, Justin Stevens, shutout.

912 Pizza Pizza 5 - Dylan Indos 2G 1A, Casey Severini 2G, Tyler Abushinov 1G, Tyler Indos 2A, Tyler Hindley 1A, Gregory Milligan 1A, Mackenzie McIntosh 1A, Michael Liscio 1A. **905 Continental Ingredients 3** - Kyle Fedec 3G, Paul Ashbourne 1A.

901 Rogers TV 1 - Daniel Wochenmarkt 1G, Scott Cosentino 1A. **909 Manhattan Trophies Ltd. 1** - Michael McCreesh 1G, Mackenzie Smith 1A, Adam DeRoos 1A.

910 INARIA 3 - Daniel Antoniel 2G, Bailey Miller 1G, David Roberts 1A, Andrew Hall 1A. **903 A.D.C. Aluminum 2** - Jesse Borin 1G, Trevor George 1G, Michael Tanel 1A.

911 AHPA 6 - Paul Neophytou 3G 1A, Russel Johnson 1G 1A, Michael Bitzos 1G, Graham Killby 1G 1A, Michael Arcuri 1A, Mitchell Carter 1A. **902 Aurora Chrysler 1** - Matthew Roach 1G, Cody Mulhern 1A.

908 Benson, Kearley IFG 1. Mitch Lamantia 1G, James Johnston 1A, Luc Martineau 1A. **905 Continental Ingredients 5** - Stephen Faiello 2G, Ben Goldman 1G 1A, Kyle Fedec 1G 1A, Brendan McDonald 1G, Massimo Longhin 1A, Austin Boudreau 1A, Dylan Sutton 1A.

907 Crabby Joe's 1 - Morgan Walker 1G, Tim Pare 1A. **906 ATS Healthcare 5** - Eliot Harkin 1G 1A, Sam Steenhorst 1G 1A, Will Brogan 1G, Scott Kostin 1G, Dylan Lyons 1G.

912 Pizza Pizza 2 - Michael Liscio 1G, Kyle Strachan 1G, Tyler Indos 2A, Dylan Indos 1A. **901 Rogers TV 5** - Andrew Walter 2G, Alex Seto 2G 1A, Paul Louis Steiner 1G, Michael Perryman 1A, Matthew Foschia 1A, Mitchell Waite 1A, Nic Venosa 1A.

909 Manhattan Trophies Ltd. 4 - Ben Black 1G 1A, Brian Pedron 1G 1A, Michael McCreesh 1G 1A, David Gonder 1G 1A, Matthew Pelkola 1A, Ian Coschi 1A, Adam DeRoos 1A. **904 North York Plumbing & Heating 3** -

Matt Reeves 3G, Josh Lawlor 2A, Declan Johnston 1A, Omar Rahal 1A.

1006 Caruso & Company 6 - Andrew Kimber 1G 2A, Nick Zebrowski 1G, Reid Sisson 1G 2A, Alex Woodward 1G, Tyler White 1G, Jim Tatum 1G 1A. **1005 BrokerLink 3** - Cooper Riswick 1G, Ryan Eberlin 1G, Thomas Hagias 1G.

1004 BMO Bank of Montreal 2 - Nick Heintzman 1G, Evan Jones 1G. **1003 Tom & Jerry's 5** - David Baccialeri 1G, Scott Tenello 1G, D Kovac 1G 2A, K Piper 1G, D Hughes 1G.

1006 Caruso & Company 6 - Taylor Butler 2G, Andrew Kimber 2G, Chris Fafalios 1G, Braeden Casselden 1G. **1008 Danny & Scotty Puck Bandits 4** - Graham Joiner 1G, Ty Brochu 1G 2A, Jamie Poutney 1G, Chris Blumresinger 1G. **1005 BrokerLink 1** - Cooper Riswick 1G.

1002 INARIA 2 - L Ghegin 1G, G Forrest 1G 1A.

1007 Crabby Joe's 3 - Nick Theodoropolous 1G, Adam Kiroff 1G, Steadman Dinning 1G. **1001 Pizzaville Aurora 5** - John Haralampopoulos 1G, Chase Riddell 1G, Mike Nonnewitz 2G 1A, Carter Schaeffer 1G.

REP LEAGUE

Tyke Select - Barrie 4. Aurora 1.

Tyke Select B - Aurora 4. Ajax 0.

Tyke Select B - Aurora 4 - Jake Andersen 1G, Fionn Keon 1G, Andrew Parsons 1G, Lucas Wilhelm 1G 1A, Sam Belman 2A, Matthew Gianforcaro, shutout. **Ajax 0.**

Tyke Select B - Newmarket 4. Aurora 3.

Novice AA - Stouffville 3. Aurora 2 - Nicholas Pisapia 1G, Todd Cook 1A, Myles Graham 1A, Anton Sopov 1G, Michael Crowe 1A, Hunter Kolm 1A.

Novice AA - Stouffville 4. Aurora 1 - Myles Graham 1G, Todd Cook 1A.

Minor Atom A - Nobleking 2. Aurora 1.

Minor Atom A - Nobleking 3. Aurora 0.

Minor Atom A - Aurora 4. Nobleking 3.

Minor Atom A - Aurora 2. Nobleking 1.

Atom AA - Whitby 2. Aurora 1.

Atom AA - Whitby 2. Aurora 1.

Atom A - Nobleking 4. Aurora 2 - Sam Ashton 1G, Matthew McConnell 1G 1A, Blair Crabbe 1A, Craig Therkildsen 1A.

Atom A - Aurora 5 - Sam Ashton 1G, Connor Thomas 1G, Dylan Prescott 1G, Matthew McConnell 1G 1A, Anthony Iacovetta 1G, Blair Crabbe 2A, Spencer Morrison 1A, Andrew Park 1A, Jack Campbell 2A. **Nobleking 3.**

Atom A - Aurora 3 - Sam Ashton 2G, Anthony Iacovetta 1G, Dylan Prescott 1A. **Nobleking 1.**

Atom AE - Schomberg 4. Aurora 2 - Alex Sandras 1G, Noah Johnson 1A, Cooper Judson 1A, Jeremy Gonsalves 1G, Carson Williams 1A.

Minor Peeewe AA - Aurora 5 - Matthew Ferry 2G 1A, Ty Boisseau 1G 1A, Brandon Vaughan 1G 1A, Julien Aben 1G, Ben Fleischaker 1A, Nicholas Keller 1A, Nicholas Rountes 1A, Jaedon Jackson 2A, Matthew Hollett 2A. **Richmond Hill 3.**

Minor Peeewe AA - Duffield 4. Aurora 2 - Anthony Magnante 1G, Nicholas Rountes 1G, Ben Fleischaker 1A, Julien Aben 1A.

Minor Peeewe AA - Pickering 5. Aurora 0.

Minor Peeewe A - Aurora 3. Nobleking 0.

Peeewe AA - Markham 1. Aurora 0.

Peeewe AA - Markham 3. Aurora 1.

Peeewe AA - Aurora 6. Markham 1.

Peeewe AA - Aurora 2. Markham 1.

Peeewe A - Aurora 4 - Graydon Belgue 1G

1A, Curtis Romanchych 1G 1A, Reid Carpenter

2A, Ariz Bhimani 1G, Mark Kalmisto 1G 1A,

Thomas Kostoff 1A, Clayton Allen 1A. **Innisfil 1.**

Peeewe A - Innisfil 6. Aurora 4.

Peeewe AE - Aurora 3. Newmarket 2.

Peeewe AE - Aurora 6. Newmarket 3.

Minor Bantam AA - Aurora 5. Newmarket 2.

Minor Bantam AA - Aurora 2 - Evan

Cherubini 1G, Evan Woodhead 1G 1A, Graham

Dynes, shutout. **Newmarket 0.**

Minor Bantam AA - Newmarket 4. Aurora 2 - Bryan Manweiler 1G, Evan Cherubini 1G, Tyler

Williams 1A, Evan Woodhead 1A.

Minor Bantam AA - Newmarket 2. Aurora 1 - Tristan Kuchar 1G.

Minor Bantam AE - Aurora 4. Barrie 2.

Minor Bantam AE - Aurora 3 - Nicolas

Pearce 1G 1A, Spencer White 1G, Jeff Mckay 1G,

Brendan Ramsay 1A, Ian Rucker 1A. **Georgina 3.**

Bantam AA - Aurora 2 - Luke Kelly 1G,

Lucas James 1G, Jack Ellison 1A, Ross Benn 1A,

Adam Newell 1A, Peter Andreakos 1A. **TNT 1.**

Bantam AA - Aurora 3 - Hudson Yeomans 1G

1A, Andrew Klinowski 1G 1A, Chris Klinowski 1G,

Braeden Kublick 1A, Luke Kelly 1A, Adam Newell

1A. **TNT 1.**

Bantam AA - TNT 3. Aurora 0.

Bantam AA - TNT 3. Aurora 0.

Bantam A - Aurora 5. Newmarket 3.

Bantam A - Bradford 2. Aurora 1.

Bantam A - Bradford 3. Aurora 1.

Bantam AE - Barrie 5. Aurora 0.

Bantam AE - Barrie 5. Aurora 1 - Michael

Fisher 1G, Alex Bernier 1A.

Bantam AE - Aurora 3 - Matthew Bellerby 1G,

Austin Riswick 1G, Joe Battiston 1G, Johnny

Sherwood 1A, Michael Boorn 1A, Rory Hamilton

1A. **Barrie 2.**

Bantam AE - Barrie 6. Aurora 4 - Rory

Hamilton 1G, Brady Mulhern 1G, Johnny

Sherwood 1G, John Portland 1G, Joe Battiston

1A, Matthew Iezzi 2A.

Minor Midget AA - Kingston 6. Aurora 1 -

Connor Cowl 1G, Quentin Campbell 1A, Matt Iwai

1A.

Minor Midget AA - Kingston 3. Aurora 2 -

Brett Thiessen 1G, Connor Cowl 1G, Andrew

Quattrin 1A, Tristan Joseph 1A.

Minor Midget AE - Aurora 3 - Brett Bond 1G,

Matthew Reynolds 1G, Graham Robinson 1G 1A,

Ben Ashton 1A, Gabe Ouahen 1A, Nathan Nealon

1A. **Barrie 2.**

Minor Midget AE - Aurora 4 - Nicholas

Steiner 1G, Nathan Nealon 1G, Jonah Blaser 1G,

Robert Doswell 1G, Joel Gouveia 1A, Harry

Smith 1A, Robert Doswell 1A. **Barrie 1.**

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THE AURORAN

Arts & Culture

Quilter's work attracts a diverse audience on Church Street

By Brock Weir
People from far and wide have descended on the Aurora Cultural Centre over the last month to view the works of quilter Angela Krotowski.

Ms. Krotowski, who has been wielding her quilting needle for four decades, held a reception at the Centre last weekend which attracted large crowds throughout Sunday afternoon. The reception, she said, has been very positive since her work was hung in the red and blue galleries last month and Sunday's event was not an anomaly.

"Last Wednesday I had about 150 people through and on Saturday with the indoor farmers' market I had about 200 people," she said. "The reception has been absolutely excellent and I think the Centre is very, very pleased because this is their first textile show. It's always art, but I think they were a little bit apprehensive at the beginning, but I think it has worked out really well for them too."

There is not a day that goes by, she said, that doesn't attract at least a dozen people – from even further flung Ontario ports

of call such as Erin Mills, Etobicoke, Goderich, Niagara Falls, and Penetanguishene – eager to look at the quilts or ready to lend a stitch or two to the quilt-in-progress, which is one of the centrepieces of the blue gallery. Such has been the response to the quilt-in-progress it has been turned twice on its frame to make way for more community stitches.

Another centrepiece in the blue gallery is one quilt with a storied history. The predominantly creamy yellow coloured quilt on the south wall of the room is one which was actually started by an ancestor of a King Township resident nearly 70 years ago.

The fabric plates in this quilt, known as Dresden Plate, were started by resident Pearl Miller in the 1940s, while living in Florida with her husband. Pearl was born locally in 1880, and is the great-grandmother of Carl Phillips of King City. Mr. Phillips donated the 60+ year old plates, which had never found their intended place on a quilt, to Ms. Krotowski in 2004, and now it hangs, continuing the legacy of its founding quilter.

While the quilts on show in the red gallery also show off aspects of local heritage – including a piece commemorating the bicentennial of Yonge Street – hanging alongside the Dresden Plate in the Blue Gallery is one of Ms. Krotowski's more infamous works: a quilt protesting cuts made in the late 1980s to the Standing Committee for the Status of Women.

Never one to shy away from quilts with political overtones – or quilts that make a statement at the very least – the days spent tending to her exhibition at the Cultural Centre has given her an idea for a new statement in fabric.

"This morning I was sitting here listening to the CBC and I thought I have got to turn it off because they started talking about 'Robocalls' again," she said. "All I could envision was this robot – a nice big, fat robot in the middle of my quilt, with 31,000 people this robot has sucked the brains out of everyone's heads."

"I thought, 'No, I'm not going to make a quilt out of that,'" she continued with a glint in her eye. "But maybe I will!"



Aurora quilter Angela Krotowski is pictured above with her Dresden Plate quilt at her artists' reception held at the Aurora Cultural Centre last weekend. Ms. Krotowski completed the Dresden quilt using plates originally made by Pearl Miller (inset: front row, third from the right) in the 1940s. They were donated to Ms. Krotowski by Pearl's great-grandson Carl Phillips of King City and were completed in 2004. The quilts will be on display through the end of March.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir



Hillary House grounds could get a facelift

By Brock Weir
While Hillary House's foundations might be bracing for a bit of an internal "reinvention" to mark its 150th birthday, it might undergo a bit of an external facelift too if members of the Aurora Historical Society get their way.

The plans for the future of Hillary House were laid out in a recent meeting of the Aurora Historical Society. At the meeting, curator Catherine Richards outlined several initiatives in the works - including reclaimed exhibition spaces - to "reinvent" how people see Hillary House; but also on the table were a number of initiatives to rejuvenate the house from the outside.

"Hillary House is a living museum, not just a house," said AHS board member Wayne Keilty. "It's a landscape as well, and we want to recreate what it looked like back in the 1870s through the 1920s, so it fits with the house itself. We want to add some pizzazz."

One of the ways to add some "pizzazz" to the venerable national historic site is to erect temporary flowers - such as the planting of annuals and the addition of hanging baskets - in and around the grounds. They are also focusing on creating more colourful gardens and building a gazebo which, said the AHS, could boost revenue streams from people using the site for weddings and

photo shoots.

"While the heritage look is nice, you want a little more colour and flash," he said. "As a board, we agreed that at the back where the old pasture is on the west side, we would put some gardens with a little more colour than the Hillary Family had time to plant back in the 1870s. Hopefully that's what you'll see develop over the next two or three years."

As for the gazebo, the AHS envisions it not just as a place for weddings, but also a venue that could be in used in conjunction with some smaller acts associated with the Aurora Jazz Festival or other arts events in Aurora and the surrounding area. Their vision is to create something that simultaneously does not look like Hillary House yet is also "not modern."

"It would be a fairly large gazebo," Mr. Keilty told The Auroran. "The back and sides would be covered to muffle the sound so it comes forward and it would be suitable for weddings, pictures and, if you wanted to have a three piece band of some kind, you can have it on the lawn and 100 people can enjoy it. It could maybe tie into some of the things we do in Town, but in more of a natural setting. It would be awesome."

If, however, these new ideas bring more revenue and, therefore more people, to Hillary House and its grounds, there needs to be a place to accommodate them. Well, that is also something

the AHS has considered and is planning ahead for. What they have in mind is turning some of the brush area in their rear arboretum into an eco-friendly parking lot.

"If you know anything about Hillary House, you know that parking is not a good thing," said Mr. Keilty.

The problem with this plan is the area they've set aside for the parking lot is in the flood zone, and there have been preliminary talks between the Society, the Town, and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) over the past year to get the ball rolling.

"There's nothing in writing, but there are ways that we would be able to put in a parking lot that would be safe, as long as you don't park cars overnight so if Hurricane Hazel 2 comes through you don't want anything that moves," said Mr. Keilty of plans to install permeable pavement which would catch any oil or contaminants before it hit the soil underneath.

"There are different things you can do [to plans] to make it more likely that [the LSRCA] will accept it or agree to it. They do have exceptions all along that flood zone, but you have to spend that seed money - the \$5,000 - \$10,000 on the site plan to build within it. We need the money to be able to finance it. It's not going to make a whole lot of money, but will cost over

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Then they may tell you

have Fibromyalgia (or may have Fibromyalgia) and may give you anti-inflammatory drugs or other medications.

You may find what approaches are offered do not help greatly.

So you go back, again and again, and your doctor gives you different drugs to try to make you feel better.

The doctor eventually may say, "I've done all I can do, you just need to learn to live with it."

After exhausting the list of medications you may also be told it's "all in your head" and they may even send you to a psychiatrist for anti-depressant drugs.

You may have gone through months, if not years, of grueling tests and drugs that may have horrible side effects.

It is clear that any Fibromyalgia sufferer needs to learn the facts revealing how their body became damaged and find out ways to help themselves heal.

Sufferers should be aware

that there are many natural ways of helping themselves feel better by strengthening their immune and repair systems.

The medical system has essentially three major choices: drugs, physiotherapy or surgery.

There are additional choices available including new approaches that are sensible, natural, non-invasive and safe. These approaches have helped many fibromyalgia sufferers change their life forever.

To help sufferers function better, an upcoming workshop is scheuled to reveal effective ways to feel better, sleep better, improve energy and restore quality of life.

As a community service, this workshop is free.

The workshop will be held on Wed. Mar. 21, 7:30 – 9 pm. at the King West Wellness Centre 141 King Rd Unit 10 Richmond Hill.

Seating is limited. To make reservations call 888-837-0407.



Healthy Habits & Lifestyle Lessons

By WENDY SOLODUIK

The lottery changed my life

Do you remember the 1982 Steven Spielberg film Poltergeist?

I do. It scared the bejesus out of me. (Spoiler alert!) In the end, the California-based family, haunted by multiple spirits whose bodies were not moved (although their grave markers were), finally escaped their subdivision home of horrors.

In an act of victory, the father pushes the television set out of the hotel room and into the rain. He does this because the TV symbolizes the start of the family's problems, when the daughter 'Carol Anne', made the initial announcement "they're here" in front of a snow covered screen.

The treadmill has become the symbol of pain and aggravation for my family in recent weeks. Much like the TV in Poltergeist, I'm about ready to push it out of the front door.

A few weeks ago, I wrote about my son, who was injured by the treadmill in our home after falling, wearing shoes that were much too big for him, and accelerating the belt to an uncontrollable speed. Two weeks before that, I wrote a column about my fear of treadmills, and how I figured one day the device I loved to hate would seek its revenge for all of the hours I pounded away on it.

And now, two weeks

later, I write this column from the confines of my couch – leg in cast, crutches by my side.

It seems that during one of my Weekend Warrior stomps, on the treadmill at the local community fitness centre, I partially ruptured my Achilles tendon, my Plantaris tendon and tore muscle fibres.

I felt stiffness in my left ankle, but made the decision to continue running, monitoring for a change in pain levels. By the time the acute pain hit, it was too late. I heard, and felt, a "pop" and gravity promptly removed my sweaty body from the treadmill belt.

Two trips to Southlake, an X-ray and an ultrasound later, I was diagnosed by an orthopedic surgeon.

Since this is my second Achilles tear I believe my running days are now behind me.

The challenge now becomes finding alternate ways to increase my heart rate for a period of time to achieve a cardio result and continue on with my fitness fight.

I've had to get creative, putting together an exercise routine that I can do seated.

In retrospect, maybe putting my fears of the treadmill into writing wasn't a good idea. I know "The Secret", and this outcome definitely

follows the rules of attraction.

According to that, I actually willed these injuries to happen. Therefore, this week I am writing about winning Lotto Max. What will I do with all those millions?

Until next week's lotto win, however, I will continue to exercise in a modified format (if you have an injury please consult with your doctor and other healthcare professionals before commencing with any type of exercise program) using a stability ball, free weights, a chair and a mat.

A friend of mine, who has helped to keep my household together since the injury, asked, "What have you gained from this experience?" What I've gained is this: "ask and you shall receive" – words to live by. Secondly, not being able to run has forced me to wonder what I was actually running from in the first place. And finally, as I quickly recover from my injury, driven by a desire to live a healthy and independent life, I realize that I will achieve my goals, because if you stay on course, despite the bumps in the treadmill belt, eventually you will reach your destination.

As for the treadmill – mine is going out into the rain, once I am cleared for heavy lifting.



Senior Scape

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Following your heart and passion

Ambition energises the passion of seniors.

Desire adds energy and generates hope, optimism and anticipation, and leads the senior onward to success.

The drive of seniors becomes more moderate in passing years, but still serves seniors in a fashion corresponding to their lifestyles.

Initial goals often lack clarity, but offer a fascinating and wonderfully invigorating aspect of surprise, arousing the constant wonder of what may lie ahead. The goal will be determined when progress offers clarity. With clarity of purpose, a more determined, structured approach lends authority to enterprise, and better understanding of a new lifestyle.

Can seniors still generate and express these emotions, or anything approximating the meaning of these words? The answer is an absolute yes! Seniors practise their personal gifts daily, quietly but with the surety of clear minds and practised hands, keeping the best work and discarding whatever lacks the intended quality.

Dreams and ambitions will not necessarily carry aspirations forward, but without the driving force generated in willing, fertile minds, insignificant progress probably results.

If personal desire lies with artistic work, join the artists. If you prefer the technology of computers, then unite with the seniors who revel in technology and drive the Seniors' Computer

Club.

That impossible faraway shore, sometimes mocking seniority, suddenly appears closer to the intrepid elder, and no longer impossible. The years of seniority still weigh, but more lightly; difficulties diminish before enthusiasm and almost disappear. Objectives formerly viewed as impossible, now loom tantalisingly close and almost within reach!

Seniority is not forever, we know that; but seniority is what it is. Hope thus rests on finding any way to enhance life, still burning brightly, to a finer more agreeable purpose.

The tried and true quiet entertainments of senior life, the staples that have entertained society through the ages, continue to pay dividends of quiet pleasure, and improve senior lives immeasurably.

The close social bonds of ballroom dancing, encouraged through the years by Charles and Lucille Sequeira, have grown deeper through the intervening years. Charles and Lucille dreamed long ago of converting their passion for music and dancing to the reality of Friday Night Dancing, an entertainment that has progressed to an important feature of the Seniors' Centre.

The idea of the Wood Shop developed in the old Seniors' Centre, and has transformed from wishful dreaming to the reality of robust carpentry, skilled artistry and artisans of both sexes, plying their skills with inventive originality creating

items of beauty, repeatedly!

Men and women commonly recognise nondescript pieces of wood as the hidden resting place of unseen beautiful work, lying patiently waiting for a carver of talent to reveal to the world the underlying beauty. The artistic ability required, flourishes among senior men and women as prolifically as among younger generations, and once the magic of concealed beauty exerts its attraction, artistry will reveal the prize.

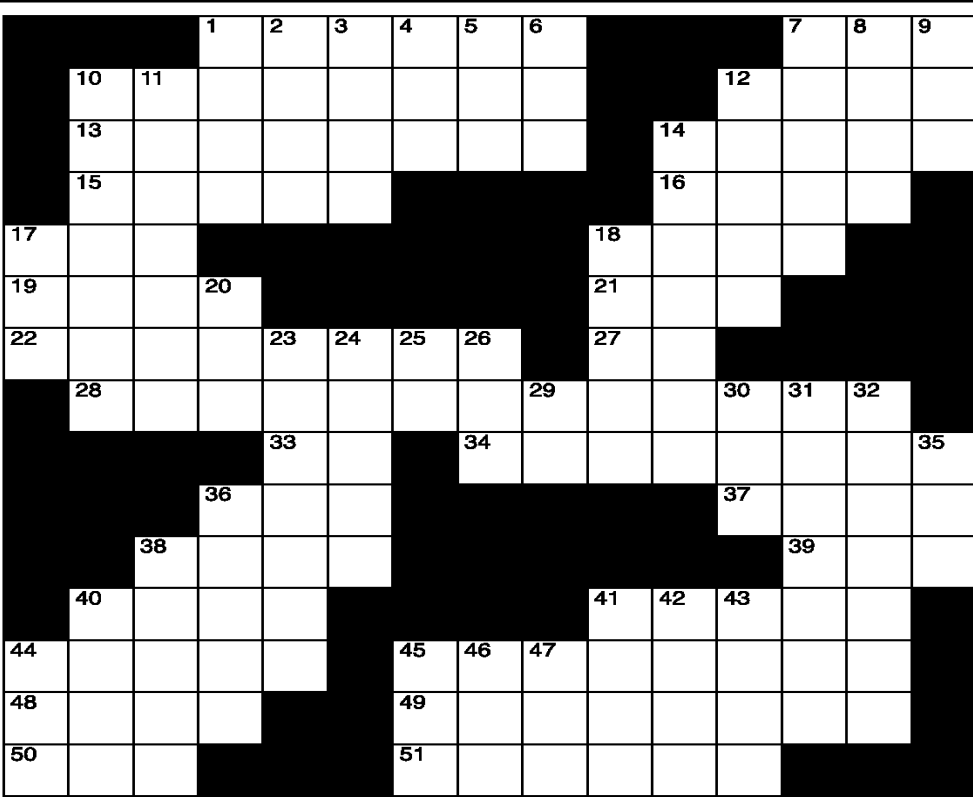
While I dream and write of crafters and artists, administration and planning for succeeding months consumes time among the committee members of the Computer Club, including this writer.

The progress achieved among seniors, including this writer, in the Computer Club continues to reveal new avenues in computing seniors may pursue to improve their technological dexterity.

How far seniors pursue fascinating technology will depend on the individual wishes of each member. Opportunity in the developing world of technology has not deserted seniority; instead, seniors have in large measure, reached out, seized their opportunity and now continue along life's pathways, complete with laptops and tablets and other trappings of technology.

The door remains wide open for those who need to enter the treasure house of technological knowledge.

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- Admirer
- National security department
- The first State
- Fallow deer
- Flowed over completely
- He had a golden touch
- Blocks
- Muslim call to prayer
- A fashionable hotel
- Greek god of war
- Rended
- Box (abbr.)
- Severe headache
- Common greeting
- Reduced to submission
- Equally

- Briefly hold back
- Woman (French)
- N'Djamena is the capital
- Not kind
- Times past
- Bird of the family Cracidae
- Metric linear unit
- Father of Psychology Wilhelm
- Commonly encountered
- Swiss river
- Heavy unglazed drapery fabric
- Community Relations Officer (abbr.)
- Sidewalk material

CLUES DOWN

- Protoctist
- Coat with plaster
- Nocturnal birds of prey
- Airforce of Great Britain
- Before
- Communist color
- Partners with mamas
- Arabian gulf & sultanate
- Cony
- Plunder
- Make bigger
- Dress up garishly
- Gin with dry vermouth
- Opposite of LTM
- Feels ongoing dull pain
- A major division of geological time
- Unsusceptible to persuasion
- Norwegian playwright Henrik

- Empire State
- Ethiopia
- The man
- Officers' Training Corps
- Of an African desert
- Furniture with open shelves
- Yeddo
- Union general at Gettysburg
- Moons of Jupiter author Alice
- Plant that makes gum
- Acarine
- University in N. Carolina
- The quality of a given color
- WW2 female grunts
- Licenses TV stations
- They __
- The 13th Hebrew letter

Last Week's Puzzle Solution

B	A	T	A				T	E	A	R			T	U	T		
M	I	A	S				T	O	K	Y	O			A	P	R	
O	R	B	S			S	U	P	E	R	B			B	T	U	
C	E	B	U			P	L	E	D			E	L	L	A	S	
		D	E	R	B	I	E	S				R	E	E	K	S	
			D	E	A	N	S					T	A	T	E		
					R	D			S	T	A	F	F	S			
									S	A	L	I	S	B	U	R	Y
									S	E	C	E	D	E		D	O

COMING EVENTS

From page 2
Light refreshments are provided.
FRIDAY, APRIL 20
The Aurora United Church will hold its Spring Rummage sale today from 1- 8 p.m. with today being the individual sale. Items include clothing, linen, books, toys, and garage sale items. All proceeds fund local charities and some charities received leftover clothes filling their wish lists for their clients free of charge.
SATURDAY, APRIL 21
The Aurora United Church continues its Spring Rummage sale - this time its bag sale - today from 9 a.m.

to 12 noon. Items include clothing, linen, books, toys, and garage sale items. All proceeds fund local charities and some charities received leftover clothes filling their wish lists for their clients free of charge.

The York Region Food Network will host the York Region Seedy Saturday Garden Show at the Aurora Cultural Centre (22 Church Street) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will include a seed exchange, guest speakers, food demonstrations, door prizes, and much more! Come on out! Admission by donation. For more information, contact info@healthyfestivals.org or go to www.healthy

festivals.org/ events/seedy.aspx.
SUNDAY, APRIL 22
The fourth Annual Runway to Spring 2012 Fashion Event in Support of the Easter Seals Kids takes place today at the Country Day School Performing Arts Centre from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. hosted by Michele Denniston of Century 21 Heritage Group of Richmond Hill. The event features many local restaurant, caterers and food specialists, and will bring together some of this year's trendiest fashion retailers from the surrounding community. There will be food samples and a wine tasting followed by a fashion show as well as a silent auction, raffle prizes,

and a live band throughout the afternoon. Tickets are \$40 in advance and \$45 at the door. For more information contact event coordinator Michele McDonald at 647-454-6025 or flumpydog@gmail.com.
SATURDAY, APRIL 28
2nd annual "I Love Rock 'n' Roll" dinner dance will be held at the Mansion (formerly Dinardo's) tonight. A website www.iloverockandroll.ca is also up and running for further information. Tickets are available now by calling 905-727-8600 and expected to sell out fast so if you are planning to attend and don't want to be disappointed, get your tickets soon.

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Alan is also committee chairman of iloverockandroll.ca

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The Town of Aurora passed a Council resolution last year that would have allowed them to seek to recover the \$55,000+ of public money spent in former mayor Phyllis Morris' defamation suit against three local bloggers, among others, if she had been successful.

Now that Ms. Morris has dropped the suit,
should the Town still seek to recover the money?

RESULTS AS OF March 12, 2012	YES, it was a misuse (165) of Public money	NO, It would cost more (41) money to pursue it	(5) UNSURE
	78% .2	19% .4	2% .4

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"Our Town" with Alison Collins-Mrakas



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www.theauroran.com -click on the video -to go to TVA

Watch community Videos just posted

- Ugly Christmas Sweaters for Sick Kids
- St. Joseph's Catholic School 50th Anniversary
- Artists in the Valley
- Central York Fire Services Open House
- Sport Aurora Awards
- & much more... go to www.theauroran.com

Watch for new community videos each week. If you have an upcoming event and would like it covered by theauroran.com please have your event co-ordinator email cynthia@auroran.com

Thank you to our videographers: Steve Mitchell and Sean Casey

Shows from the Market

K.O. Creations

Cocoa Cannelle

Chef: Mr. Spinners

Chef: Pascal

Jan's Country Pantry

FERRET GIRL -Colin Haskin

Nov 26 Indoor Farmers Market - Cultural Centre

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Watch Our Town

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Simcoe-York Group of Newspapers

TELEMARKETER

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The purpose of this full time position is to develop the business by selling advertising and concepts to both new and existing clients.

To be considered for this role, you must have cold calling experience. You will possess a pleasant phone manner and excellent communication skills, initiative, self-motivation and a strong commitment to customer service. You need to have a consultative approach as the role is challenging and engaging. You will be able to pursue opportunities to reach set targets and goals.

Experience in publishing is advantageous, but not essential.

Interested applicants are invited to forward a letter of application accompanied by resume to rays@londonproperty.ca

Simcoe-York Group of Newspapers

EDITOR

Simcoe-York Group of Newspapers is currently hiring for the position of Editor at one of our local newspapers.

The editor will be expected to:

- Produce several bylined new and feature stories each week
- Generate story ideas and follow up on news tips
- Coordinate and edit content and columns submitted for publication
- Take photographs
- Show proficiency at using social media, Mac computers, and QuarkXPress, InDesign, Photoshop and other programs necessary for the publication of a weekly newspaper
- Work some evenings and weekends, as required

Qualifications:

- Diploma in journalism preferred
- Candidates should have experience working on the editorial side of the newspaper industry
- Excellent writing, editing and photography skills
- Valid driver's license and a reliable vehicle

The ideal candidate will have a distinct willingness to cover both community events, local politics, and be able to work in a team-oriented yet self-motivated environment.

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Aurora should contribute more to public art: Region of York

By Brock Weir

One per cent of Aurora's annual capital budget could be devoted to public art - if the Region of York gets the final word on it.

The request from the Region was presented to Council at a meeting to discuss the Town's new Official Plan (OP) last week.

In a report to Council, Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning, said the Region requested a change to the Town's OP which would require one per cent of the capital budget for "all major regional and local municipal buildings be dedicated to public art."

According to Mr. Ramunno, with the four new significant facilities currently on the Town's launch pad - including a youth centre and a library building - one per cent of the total projected \$35.5 million would mean \$350,000 dedicated to public art.

"We had always included the public art policy within our official plan," said Mr. Ramunno. "The Region wanted us to be more specific, as they have been in their official plan, and requested that all municipalities' local official plans be very specific in that one per cent of the capital budget for all regional and local buildings be dedicated to public art.

"I think [the Region] wanted to make that commitment to again dedicate the one per cent figure to be devoted to public art in all future Regional and local buildings, to have municipalities

take the leadership with respect to providing public art within their new buildings. What form and design that is going to take is really up to each individual municipality, but it is really the Region asking municipalities in taking the lead to make that investment in all new buildings going forward."

The idea had both its supporters and detractors at the Council table. Falling into the second camp was Councillor Evelyn Buck who said she objected to public art being included in an official plan.

"I don't think this has anything to do with an official plan," she said. "I have

no concerns over investing in public art. My concern is about putting it into an official plan, to put one per cent of every year's budget into purchasing public art. The Region is in no position with its \$2 billion worth of debt to be giving this type of instruction to us about how to manage our business.

"It is not a request, it is an order that we do this. I think this community is perfectly capable of making up its own mind when it will embark on investing public money into public art. There are many ways we can improve the ambience of our communities."

One of Councillor Buck's

concerns with the "request", authority aside, was a lack of clear vision of what constitutes public art. In the last Council term, when the Peace Flame Tree sculpture outside of Town Hall was donated by local artist Deborah Campo, having a committee to develop a policy towards public art was discussed, but little has happened with that since then.

"We have nothing to offer guidance," said Councillor Buck. "We talked about creating a citizen's organization and I think that is where the movement should come, not from the top down but the bottom up. When people in this community

start to think that's what we should do, yes, let's have a public policy."

On the other side of the coin were Councillors John Gallo and Paul Pirri. Councillor Gallo said he had always been a "big proponent" of funding for public art and was "thrilled" to see it back on the table. Councillor Pirri added that public art fosters a sense of community and creates gathering places which has helped Aurora thrive in the past.

"If you look at some of the great authors in our time in public planning, specifically Jane Jacobs, she talks about getting people out into public

spaces," said Councillor Pirri. "She talks about removing the sense of a stranger when you are out in public and bringing back a sense of community. The way you do that is to have a reason to be outside and it is a great interest to invest in it.

"That is one of the aspects that has helped Aurora thrive in the past and if we don't invest in that future we will lose it. If you look at other cities and municipalities across the world, if you don't invest in it, we lose it."

The Regional Municipality of York is the approval body for Aurora's Official Plan.



Guides and Sparks recently had a great time at a good old fashioned Sock Hop. The Sock Hop was held at Aurora High and the 3rd Aurora Sparks donned specially made outfits designed and made by Katelyn Forgione. Pictured above, front row, are (left to right) Megan Lamka, Alison Kurtz, Charlotte Dacey, Abbigale McLachlan, and Ava Vanger Ploeg. Second Row: Colleen Myers, Nora Dubeau, Emma Boland-Wall, Keely Inkpen, and Emma Gaertner. Back Row: MaryBeth Law-Renaud (Opal), Rosemary Verge (R7) and Ms. Forgione (Sapphire).

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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It's a difficult subject to bring up. No one likes to think about it, but truth be told, everyone will need a funeral someday. Because arranging a funeral or cremation service can seem involved, it's wise to look for a funeral home with staff members who are willing, capable and knowledgeable. The staff at Thompson Funeral Home is just that – trained professionals who are a vital and supportive resource. We can explain all available options and help you make informed decisions.

1. All funeral homes are not the same. Review the Funeral Homes benefits, products and services. Does the funeral home show awareness of the family's needs outside its facility, perhaps by offering assistance with related travel arrangements? Thompson Funeral Home offers a Bereavement Travel Program to assist family and friends in making travel arrangements to attend a funeral or memorial service. This also includes arrangements of hotel and car rental.
2. Selecting burial, mausoleum entombment or cremation is a very personal decision. For ease and peace of mind, we will walk you through all the necessary arrangements and support the choice you make.
3. You should speak openly with your family and document final arrangement decisions. Many people think everything is taken care of by having a will or Power of Attorney, but they only cover medical treatment and financial affairs. Put your

- wishes in writing. Thompson Funeral Home offers a Free Personal Planning Guide to document your wishes and compile important personal and financial information that your family will need at the time of need.
4. Consider Planning and Prepaying for your arrangements. Planning your funeral or cremation service in advance can take care of the details. But only prearranging (prepaying for your services) can take care of the actual expense of the funeral or cremation service ahead of time, easing the future financial burden on your surviving loved ones. Prepaying for your funeral or cremation services makes good financial sense. When you prearrange, you benefit from purchasing at today's prices for an event that may not happen for many years. The cost of the products and services you select may never be lower.
 5. Think about what happens after the service is over. The months following a loss can be a truly difficult time, as the

- bereaved person struggles with grief and many other issues. We help families through this period with a Compassion helpline – a 24-hour grief counseling service that is toll-free. We also have a Grief Management Library available at the funeral home to anyone who needs it. The Library is theirs to keep or pass on to anyone else that can benefit from it. Because managing business affairs after loss is an unexpected and difficult process, we also provide a step-by-step organizational Aftercare Planner to help settle important estate matters.
6. Look for ways to bring the family together. Some products can actually reach across time and distance. Our Everlasting Memorial is one such example. This unique Internet offering helps the family create an on-line biography, image gallery, tribute section and movie of their loved one, all of which are published and preserved on a special website for future generations.

We have many pre-arrangement options and payment plans available to fit every wish and budget, and we will work with you to find the right one for you and your family.

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Two groups to meet for Cultural Agreement discussion

By Brock Weir

Members of the Aurora Cultural Centre Board and Town Staff are expected to work through this week and the next coming up with terms of reference for a new committee to discuss a new contract.

The move, as The Auroran reported last week,

came from a last minute deferral by Councillor Sandra Humfries removing the termination of the current Cultural Services Agreement, a motion which was put on the table by Councillors John Abel and Paul Pirri.

Under the terms of the motion which was ultimately passed by Council, the two

parties will have until the meeting Tuesday, March 27 to present new terms of reference to Council which would cover its mandate and makeup in coming up with a new Cultural Services Agreement satisfactory to both parties.

Almost as soon as the motion passed, however, Councillors began to get

bogged down with the logistics of not only getting everything back to the table within the next two weeks, but also the composition of the committee beyond that.

"If it takes another four weeks for me to feel comfortable that the Town has done everything it should do, then I am willing to spend that time," said Mayor

Geoffrey Dawe at the February 28 meeting. "I make no comment on whether or not the Cultural Centre has done everything they need to do. I don't worry about them; I worry about this side. It will happen and it will happen by [the end of March]. We will know, one way or another, what we are going to do.

"It would be my guess that we will be moving forward with positive results, so I will support [the deferral]. I will be really frustrated if we don't."

Councillor Pirri, however, expressed some concern about how things were going to progress from a technical standpoint including, if it took a month for them to report back on a terms of reference, how long it would ultimately take to see results coming forward.

"The key thing is the development of the terms of reference," said Aurora CAO Neil Garbe. "[That would include] recommendations between the two organizations who specifically would be appointed to that committee as well as time frames

and process objectives and staff support from each organization, and have that all presented as a package to Council for March 27.

"You'd have an idea of what the process would look like with the timeframes necessary to complete. I would see milestone dates included, an end date when an agreement in principle should be reached, dates for the finalization of a final agreement upon successful execution by both parties, the termination of one agreement, and the approval of the other, or whatever takes place. You will know if we're seeing eye-to-eye on those issues by March 27."

The definite answers the Council was seeking would be brought back from that date, he added, for approval, and Council could decide to change what is presented at that time.

"I don't want us to come back on the 27th and not have at least had some good dialogue between our two organizations," said Councillor Michael Thompson.



Five York Region finalists were named in the Police Chief-For-A-Day Contest last week at the YRP's Newmarket Headquarters last week. Grade 5 students were chosen based on essays submitted asking, "If you had an opportunity to be the Chief for a Day, what would you do to lead York Regional Police in making a difference in our community?" Pictured above, left to right, are Justin Meyers (Terry Fox P.S.), Ashley Chan (Bayview Hill E.S.), Manujaa Nagarajah (Red Maple P.S.), Chief Eric Jolliffe, Adam Malick (Little Rouge P.S.), and Alex Ionita (Bayview Fairways P.S.). The winner will present their essay at the 20th Annual Police Appreciation Night on April 19.

Auroran Photo
by David Falconer

Cultural communications need to get back on track: Councillors

By Brock Weir

The recent dust-up between the Town of Aurora and the Aurora Cultural Centre can be chalked up to a failure to communicate, according to the Mayor and Councillors.

Much of the recent meeting which saw the termination of the two parties' Cultural Services agreement taken off the table - at least for now - was dominated by claims of miscommunication and misinformation, deliberate or otherwise.

The bone of contention, they said, was the claim promoted in some quarters - and delivered to Council by members of the public in writing and in open forum - that the motion put forward by Councillors John Abel and Paul Pirri was an attempt to shut down the Cultural Centre.

"There have been weeks of misinformation circulating in the Town," said Councillor Evelyn Buck at the meeting, speaking against the first (unsuccessful) attempt at two to defer the item to March 27.

"There has been a determined effort to divide the Town. I see no merit to allowing that course to continue and that is what will happen. I don't accept

Councillor Abel's idea that giving them more time [will] make any difference. I think it will only get worse."

Councillor Michael Thompson put himself forward as another member who was concerned with the language he had heard at the podium and in the many emails that inundated Council in the weeks leading up to the meeting.

"People were talking about 'closure', 'elimination', 'threatened', 'taken away', 'mistrust', 'shuttered', and so on," he said. "That is not what this is all about. There is no desire to close the Cultural Centre, to eliminate the funding, to remove the board. This is about the document. This is about a governance agreement that there are some issues with."

Councillors Abel and Buck attributed some of this "misinformation" to comments made Councillor Chris Ballard on his blog. Councillor Abel, for instance, said some of the comments from emails had been "grossly unfair" and "not truthful (Councillor Ballard said speaking of the "untruthfulness" of a councillor's emails was "tantamount to calling someone a liar" and Councillor Abel amended his phrasing to "not accurate" to the laughter of the audience), while

Councillor Buck questioned his use of military analogies in his discussions.

He was, however, insistent in his belief that the termination motion, if it continued, would have ultimately resulted in the closure of the Cultural Centre as it is today.

"The termination clause before Council tonight, if passed, would have a disastrous affect on the organization, even though that is not the intent of the Councillors who brought that forward, and I don't think it is," said Councillor Ballard. "I'm sure the building will remain open once the contract is cancelled. I'm doubtful, however, whether the Cultural Centre will be there to provide the high quality programming and services, or to promote the development of the creative economy here in Aurora.

"Let's stand back from the abyss of losing the Aurora Cultural Centre and talk. I know we all want what's best for Aurora. We will not achieve it by forcing the Centre into a negotiating position it believes is untenable."

As for Mayor Dawe, much of his concern stemmed from communications sent out by the Cultural Centre itself.

During the delegation of Rob Layton, head of the Aurora Cultural Centre board, Mayor Dawe objected to a letter sent out to members of the Cultural Centre's email list.

"My concern is the appearance that this list was culled before the email went out," said Mayor Dawe. "I am an active recipient of the emails on that list and I did not get that email. My wife is an active recipient on that email list and she did not get it. That concerns me. It concerns me that if the list is being managed, is the message being managed? It is obviously apparent that there is a communications issue between the Town Council and the Board.

"I appreciate you coming tonight, I appreciate your point of view, I appreciate your passion certainly and we have had some spirited discussions over the last few months, but I need some assurances that you will do your utmost to make sure that the message that comes out of the Centre is as balanced as possible. I will make that same assurance in order to rebuild that level of trust."

Mr. Layton agreed to this and now the matter is in the hands of the Board and Town Staff for March 27.

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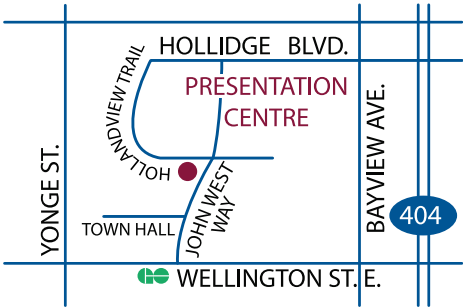
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