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# THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper



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FREE

Week of July 31, 2012



The "Bob Marlee" Tribute Band, including Lazo above, played to a packed crowd in Town Park on Wednesday, the latest in Aurora's Concerts in the Park series. Although midway through their performance, sponsored by Crabby Joe's, was cut short by rain midway through their set, the audience also enjoyed a special appearance by the "Council Krittters." (See page 15) This week's concert features Danny Scott and The Great American Song Book and is sponsored by Rockport. The show gets underway Wednesday, August 1 at 7 p.m. at Town Park. Auroran photo by David Falconer

## Victim Services to ramp up personal safety for those at-risk

By Brock Weir

The personal safety of victims of domestic violence, sudden death, and other traumatizing cases could be ramped up in the months ahead by Victim Services of York Region, in an initiative which will also help improve response times.

Victim Services is working towards securing the things they need to implement their Domestic Violence Emergency Response System for at-risk and at-need individuals throughout York Region, which could include not only home alarm systems but also personal devices.

This initiative is one of many projects that will be tackled in the fall and through 2013 thanks to proceeds from the 2012 Magna Wild West Hoedown, taking place on the lawns of Magna on the evening of Saturday, September 15.

Victim Services of York Region was one of 20 community groups and volunteer organizations that will be sharing the proceeds from the annual fundraiser, the largest of its kind in York Region.

According to Kelly Cetnarski of Victim Services, the group plans to use their share not just to bring on board more advanced home and personal security systems, but also provide further support for their volunteer base, volunteers who are tasked with tackling many challenging situations in the field.

"We [told Magna our goal is] to make sure the money goes towards funding emergency needs for alarm systems or personal alarm systems for people we have to house, for instance, that are incredibly high

Continued on page 11

## Kids catch Olympic fever with three-time medallist

By Brock Weir

Local kids - including shoppers and gymnasts - caught Olympic fever a few hours early on Friday afternoon with a talk from three-time Olympic medallist Anne Ottenbrite-Muyllaert at Upper Canada Mall.

Ms. Ottenbrite-Muyllaert, who won three medals - a gold, silver and bronze trifecta - was on hand Friday, a couple of hours before the London 2012 Opening Ceremonies to speak about her Olympic experience and allow young fans and aspiring Olympians to get up close with her three medals, won in the pool at the 1984 Olympiad in Los Angeles.

Other groups getting into the act were local gymnasts from Newmarket's Pulsars Gymnastics Club, tumbling and leaping to an ever-growing audience of spectators, as well as members of the North York Community Choir. During the celebrations, passers-by could stop at their makeshift lounge in one of the mall's central courts to get comfortable on red sofas to watch live the unfolding story of the United Kingdom, the Queen becoming the latest in a long line of Bond Girls, and the parade of Olympic hopefuls around the globe.

As the anticipation for the opening ceremonies grew, so too did

Continued on page 13



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**TUESDAY, JULY 31**  
The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents the Making Professional Art Prints without a Press Workshop (adult ages 16+). Artist-instructor Valerie Kent will provide an enjoyable day-long introduction to a process of printmaking that can be replicated at home. Paint a series of images on sanded Plexiglass, and then transfer them to specialty papers. Once completed, your print can be framed or taken to the print shop to create a note card series. Workshop fee includes all materials. For info or to register please call 905-713-1818; full details at [www.auroraculturalcentre.ca](http://www.auroraculturalcentre.ca).

**AUGUST 3 - 5**  
The Aurora Festival of the Arts will host the Aurora jazz+ Festival Friday to Sunday at Town Park. The Aurora jazz+ Festival (Aj+F) is produced by the Aurora Festival of Arts (AFA), a not for profit Ontario corporation. The Aurora jazz+ Festival showcases & supports local talents offering three days of music and art in the park. AFA's mission includes, in general, the development of local cultural community by building a diverse Arts/Music Festival network attracting artisans and patrons to the heart of York Region annually. Jazz+ means the Aj+F includes all possible arts and music genres from Reggae to Rock; First Nations to World Music, Canadian Funk, Blues and Jazz. Local visual artists display and perform live painting in park, while diverse vendors prepare and serve foods of the world. Enjoy great music, art, culture, food, beer/wine, kids' crafts, shopping and the ambiance of the beautiful heritage Town Park setting located in the cultural core of Aurora, in the centre of York Region. For more information, visit [www.aurorajazzfest.com](http://www.aurorajazzfest.com).

**AUGUST 13 - 27**  
The Aurora Performing Arts Group will hold auditions for the main stage musical "Annie". The group seeks keen girl performers to be cast in the musical as orphans. For more information, contact the Aurora Performing Arts Group through its website at [www.auroraperformingarts-group.com](http://www.auroraperformingarts-group.com) or contact manager Sarah Kyle at [keepingsing@rogers.com](mailto:keepingsing@rogers.com).

**AUGUST 13 - 27**  
The Aurora Performing Arts Group will hold auditions for adult women for their upcoming production of Anne of Green Gables: The Musical. The group seeks adult women for a variety of roles in the popular production. For more information, contact the Aurora Performing Arts Group through its website at [www.auroraperformingarts-group.com](http://www.auroraperformingarts-group.com) or contact manager Sarah Kyle at [keepingsing@rogers.com](mailto:keepingsing@rogers.com).

**AUGUST 14 - 25**  
Theatre Aurora presents "Private Lives", Noel Coward's 1930 romantic comedy. It focuses on a divorced couple who discover that they are honeymooning with their new spouses in neighbouring rooms at the same hotel. Despite a perpetually stormy relationship, they realise that they still have feelings for each other. What happens next? Directed by Sal Aguila and produced by Natasha Viskosky. The show runs August 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25. Curtain at 8 p.m. This is the first show of the 2012-13 season, our 55th season. Visit the Theatre Aurora web-site [www.theatreaurora.com](http://www.theatreaurora.com) for further information. Tickets are currently available by buying a season subscription. Public sale of individual show tickets began July 3. They will be available online through the web-site, by phone at 905-727-3669, by email at [taboxoffice@bellnet.ca](mailto:taboxoffice@bellnet.ca) or in per-

son at the Theatre. Theatre Aurora is located at 150 Henderson Drive, Aurora.

**AUGUST 17-27**  
The Aurora Performing Arts Group will hold auditions for a variety of roles in their upcoming production of Anne of Green Gables: The Musical. The casting call includes roles for school kids, particularly dancers and singers. For more information For more information, contact the Aurora Performing Arts Group through its website at [www.auroraperformingarts-group.com](http://www.auroraperformingarts-group.com) or contact manager Sarah Kyle at [keepingsing@rogers.com](mailto:keepingsing@rogers.com).

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 25**  
The Aurora Historical Society and Hillary House will host "Camp Map It! Olympics" the third and final event of Camp Hillary for kids ages seven - 11. Cost is \$15 for the day or \$35 for all three camps. Pre-registration is required and there is a maximum of 20 kids per camp. Camp runs from 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact the Aurora Historical Society at 905-727-8991. (Rain Date: September 2)

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 24**  
The Aurora Cultural Centre will host the second of two free, family friendly "Star Parties" this afternoon from 1 - 4 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Drop in and paint three specially created bisque-fired stars, created and donated to the Centre by the Pine Tree Potters' Guild. One of your stars is to take home. The other two will be placed on sale this December in support of the Centre's annual Starr; Starry Night fundraiser. All proceeds raised in December will support ongoing programming initiatives. Painting tips and techniques will be guided by the Centre's art instructor Helen Rodroguéz. It is a good idea to wear something art-ready - painting can be messy fun. No advance registration is required. For more information, contact the Centre at 905-713-1818 or visit [www.auroraculturalcentre.ca](http://www.auroraculturalcentre.ca).

**SEPTEMBER 7 - 9**  
Aurora will hold its annual RibFest at Machell Park at the above dates.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**  
The Aurora Cultural Centre at the Aurora Farmer's Market presents the Ontario Plein Air Society (OPAS) Plein Air Challenge, with an invitation to local artists to join this exciting outdoor painting opportunity in the Aurora Farmer's Market neighborhood. Register at our booth at the Market at 8.30 a.m., where you will receive your map and instructions. Paint within a designated area from 9 - 11 a.m. Return to the Market in time for judging; all paintings then available for sale to the public from 11.30 - 1 p.m. Free registration for members of the OPAS; \$10 fee for all other artists. For info please call 905-713-1818, or [www.auroraculturalcentre.ca](http://www.auroraculturalcentre.ca).

**SEPTEMBER 8 - 9**  
The Richmond Hill Live Steamers host the second of their 2012 Open House weekends this weekend from 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Steamers are a small non-profit hobby club whose members own/operate/build miniature operating steam and diesel locomotives. The group will be offering train rides pulled by miniature steam or diesel locomotives on their outdoor train track through the woods for train lovers of all ages. Snacks and souvenirs will be available to purchase. Admission is free and donations are gratefully accepted and used to help maintain the track site. 15922 McCowan Road, Whitchurch-Stouffville (north of Aurora Road at the corner of St. John's Road). For more information, visit [richmond-hill-live-steamers.tripod.com](http://richmond-hill-live-steamers.tripod.com).

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**  
The Peter Miller Charitable

COMING EVENTS

ON NOW

**JULY 9 - AUGUST 20**  
Eating Disorders of York Region presents a six week program, Life without Ed, an eating disorder support group. It will meet for six Mondays beginning July 9 (excluding the long weekend) from 5 to 6 p.m. It will take place at EDOYR's headquarters in Aurora at 15213 Yonge Street, Ste. 15 (Just south of Wellington in the old Post Office building). Eating Disorders of York Region is a registered non-profit organization. Register online or call 905-886-6632 or email [support-group@edoyr.com](mailto:support-group@edoyr.com).

**JULY 10 - JULY 31**  
Eating Disorders of York Region presents a four week program, Healing and Emotional Eating: Using or Refusing Food to Cope, with psychotherapist Marilyn Strauch. It meets for four

Tuesdays starting on July 10 from 4 to 5 p.m. Individuals with eating disorders may restrict, overeat or emotionally eat in an effort to numb out or not deal with uncomfortable negative emotions, or to reinforce a positive mood. Unfortunately, after each episode, there is generally increased self-criticism around weight, body image and lack of control; in addition to long term negative physical conditions. The program will take place in Richmond Hill at 115 Wertheim Court, Suite 511 (East off West Beaver Creek, North of Hwy 7). Register online or call 905-886-6632 or email [support-group@edoyr.com](mailto:support-group@edoyr.com).

**JULY 19 - AUGUST 31**  
Merk Photography and the Aurora Cultural Centre present portraits of giving in the upper

atrium of the Aurora Cultural Centre. The exhibition is the work of York Region Photographer Karen Merk and writer Heather Ann Lambert. It features portraits of inspirational people who have given back to their communities in amazing ways. This year's honourees include Frank Stronach, Steve Kearley, Lucille Abate, Rita Theil, Dean Turner, Nic Ahola, and Steve Forman. For more information, visit [www.merkphotography.com](http://www.merkphotography.com).

**JULY 23 - AUGUST 17**  
The Down Syndrome Association of Toronto presents "A Step Up", a socially transformative and empowering program for "Uniquely Precious People." The program is a holistic, activity, nutritional, and arts based teen and post high

school summer day program for persons with Down syndrome. You are just in time to volunteer for something fun and worthwhile this summer and make a difference with your unique skills. Spread the word and tell a friend who you know would love to join us or make a financial contribution to help reduce costs to our members. There is a great need for social, special interest and activity programs in the GTA for those who are specially abled and finished high school. This program is about developing a Dream Team which will be supported and will learn life skills such as safety, social interaction, planning and travel via public transit. For more information, visit [www.astepupp.ca](http://www.astepupp.ca) or call 416-771-4844.

Foundation Golf Tournament benefiting Southlake Regional Health Centre will take place today at Silver Lakes Golf Club. This tournament has supported Southlake since 2007, raising \$120,000. Held the second Thursday in September each year at Silver Lakes Golf Club, this year the tournament and will support priority needs at Southlake. This long running event is organized by The Peter Miller Charitable Foundation and Family in memory of their father, Peter Miller. Family, friends and local community attend this event and are provided with tax receipts per the allowable amount. This is a fun, relaxed golf event. Foursome participation is welcomed. Price: \$200/golfer. For more information, call 416-363-2614.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**  
The GIG Centre presents the Cruising Acappella Quartet today at the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Music, 19 Civic Street, Stouffville. Free coffee and munchies. The event includes a sing-a-long, open mic and jam with many talented musicians. You will be glued to your seats as the CRUISIN QUARTET brings 30 years of experience in their entertainment throughout all of North America. For more information visit [www.alyetman.com/thegigcentre](http://www.alyetman.com/thegigcentre).

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19**  
The Aurora Historical Society presents The Hillary House Ball this evening at The Mansion (DiNardos) on Industrial Parkway South. The Hillary House Ball will be the highlight of the 150th

anniversary year of Hillary House. In honour of 1862, the year Hillary House was constructed, The Hillary House Ball will transform "The Mansion" with a Victorian-era theme. Guests will be encouraged to let Victorian trends inspire their own attire for the evening. More than 300 guests will enjoy a seasonally-inspired four course

meal, dancing to the rich sounds of the After Hours Big Band plus special guest entertainment, a silent auction and opportunities to support Hillary House. The event will raise much needed funds for restoration and ongoing operations of Aurora's heritage gem, Hillary House National Historic Site. For more information, contact the AHS at 905-727-

8991.  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18**  
The Doane House Hospice will hold its third annual Unique Craft and Gift Show today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Newmarket Community Centre (200 Doug Duncan Drive, Newmarket). For more information, call 905-967-0259.

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York Regional Mayors Steve Pellegrini (King), Virginia Hackson (East Gwillimbury), Rob Grossi (Georgina), Tony Van Bynen (Newmarket), and Geoffrey Dawe (Aurora) gathered at the East Gwillimbury GO Station during rush hour traffic on Wednesday afternoon to highlight the new weekend GO Train service pilot project.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

# Weekend GO service met with lukewarm response

By Brock Weir

It's the old adage that if you don't use it, you lose it - and that could be the case with GO Transit's new pilot program offering weekend GO Train service to Aurora, King, and other Towns along its Barrie-Toronto line.

The pilot program was launched for service on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays on June 23 and runs through September 3. It entails six south-bound train trips to Union Station with two trips departing from the Allandale Waterfront GO Station in Barrie and four from the East Gwillimbury Station between 10.20 a.m. and 10.55 p.m.

Going the other way, all six northbound trains depart from Union Station between 12.20 p.m. and 12.10 a.m.

Considering, however, the high priority area residents put on increased GO Transit service, and indeed the excitement over the planned all-day services that are slated to be put in place in advance of the 2015 Pan Am Games in Toronto, uptake in the weekend service has been slower than expected, according to local

officials.

Accordingly, last week the Mayors Geoffrey Dawe of Aurora, Virginia Hackson of East Gwillimbury, Rob Grossi of Georgina, Steve Pellegrini of King Township, and Tony Van Bynen of Newmarket descended on Ms. Hackson's turf during rush hour train service on Wednesday to drum up support and awareness of the pilot project.

"I haven't heard very much from anybody, which is a little bit disappointing," said Mayor Dawe on the feedback.

"That is why we're here today," added Mayor Pellegrini. "They're looking for at least 250 riders and there are only around 50 so it is one of those things where they are being proactive. People have been asking for this service, so get out and use it. If not, it is not sustainable, and they're going to shut it down and then we're back to everybody complaining that there is no service on Saturday. It's that vicious circle and we've got to get people on the train using it."

Despite the lack of ridership in the first few weeks of the pilot program, both mayors are hopeful things change,

not just because the people asked for it, but also for the benefits it is going to bring to the communities served by the Toronto-Barrie Line.

"As well as taking people into the city, it is also going to be bringing people up here," so we have the Jazz Festival coming up [this weekend], Ribfest coming [in September, so people can come up and visit us on the train," said Mayor Dawe. "It just gets the idea of people coming into Aurora and King. It is a way we can improve our overall economy. It moves us towards where we need to be, encouraging alternate forms of transportation.

"The other thing is the environment," added Mayor Pellegrini. "We keep telling people, 'Get out of your cars and use public transportation!', so here it is. Use it. Provinces have made big statements that we're not going to be paving roads and we have to better utilize the infrastructure we have, so using GO all day is a great thing."

According to Mark Ostler, a spokesperson for GO Transit, the feedback they have received from riders so far is very positive and they have expressed appreciation

that there is additional service under this summer pilot. Although he said there is no threshold identified in terms of ridership to determine the success or failure of this pilot project, he said it would be evaluated based on the objectives of the "Big Move", Metrolinx's regional transportation plan, "the desire to test new markets, the ridership potential of those new markets, the revenue and operating costs, and the availability of resources."

## Resident in critical condition after glider accident

By Brock Weir

A 57-year-old Aurora man remains in critical condition in a London, ON, hospital following a glider accident on Sunday.

The Grey County attachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) received a call around 6.00 p.m. on Sunday of an "unresponsive male" after the aircraft crashed in the southwest corner of Side Road 15 and Southgate Road 8 in the Township of Southgate, according to a statement

from police.

The pilot in the accident has been identified as David A. Mulders of Aurora. Mr. Mulders remains in critical condition in the city's Victoria Hospital.

"The [pilot] was one of many glider enthusiasts from the Toronto Soaring Club flying glider aircrafts above the Township of Southgate in Grey County when the mishap occurred," said Constable Alina Grelik in a statement. "The victim abandoned his aircraft and deployed his parachute

at an unknown altitude after his aircraft encountered mechanical difficulties.

"[Mulders] collided with the ground. He was air-lifted to London Hospital with life threatening injuries."

The Transport Safety Board is investigating the accident. Constable Grelik noted the aircraft in question has been identified as a 1975 Meukom Composites Glider, Model ELFES4A. The OPP's Mount Forest Identification Services Unit is assisting in the investigation.

### Briefly

#### FIRE BAN LIFTED

When it rains, it pours, and many people were happy last week when Aurora got pounded with much needed rain. The Central York Fire Services (CYFS) may have also been breathing a sigh of relief and now the Fire Ban which has been in place in Aurora and Newmarket due to the unusually dry weather has now been lifted. The ban was lifted effective immediately on Friday by CYFS Fire Chief Ian Laing after being placed on both towns on July 17. CYFS reminds residents that they are "to reference open-air burning bylaws in each municipality for regulations and restrictions regarding controlled outdoor fires. For more information contact Central York Fire Services at 905-895-9222 or visit [www.cyfs.ca](http://www.cyfs.ca).

#### PINK PORTAGE MARCHES ON

Etobicoke Native Andrew Metcalfe, who inspired many residents as he carried his pink canoe through Aurora earlier month as part of his Pink Portage fundraiser for the Canadian Cancer Society hopes to wrap up his trek this week in Windsor. At press time, Mr. Metcalfe had just passed London, ON and he hopes to reach Windsor, his final destination, by Thursday. He began his trek in Kingston on June 3 and walked through Ottawa and from Ottawa through the Barrie area before coming through Aurora on July 5. At the time, Andrew had just gone over his \$5,000 fundraising goal with a total of \$7,600. Now in the home stretch, he has raised over \$22,000 for the charity.



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#### Summer Extravaganza Luncheon

August 30th 12-2pm, Put on your beach hats and sunglasses as we enjoy lunch and live entertainment in our Courtyard. Best hat win's a prize! Please RSVP by August 25th.



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I am appalled that our politicians are acting like young children that just got \$5.00 for their grandparents and can't wait to spend it on some new monument to themselves.

Why not take the \$33 million [in Aurora's Hydro Reserve Fund] and pay down some of our existing debt to reduce future interest payments which are bound to rise as interest rates go up in the future?

Sounds like the best plan to me!

*It's already clear how to  
spend Hydro money*

We would like to give our input regarding the \$33 million garnered from the sale of Aurora Hydro.

1. We suggest that part of the money be returned to Aurora taxpayers, in the form of rebates, reductions or at the very least, keeping taxes as they are.
2. At a Town meeting that dealt with the Budget, we kept hearing about "pressures" that caused increased expenses. In the future, there will undoubtedly be repairs and replacements necessary for the Aurora infrastructure, and it makes sense that a substantial portion of this money be set aside to cover these expenses, so that our taxes do not need to be increased!
3. Aurora does need a youth centre (or "community space for youth"). We believe that this should include a skateboard park or skateboarding area. We think it would make most sense to have this near the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, where there are already playing fields, swimming pool, gym, etc.

# Hydro "profits" belong to taxpayers

The approximately \$33 million in "profit" from the sale of the old Aurora Hydro belongs to the prior ratepayers of Aurora Hydro.

I am disgusted, but not surprised, by some municipal politicians' musings about how to spend this money. It just proves once again how politicians at all levels love to spend taxpayers (i.e. somebody else's) money.

Since there was a \$33m "profit" on the sale of the operation, doesn't it follow that Aurora Hydro ratepayers had been overcharged by some \$33 million?

No surprise here, as all Government sanctioned monopolies typically gouge their customers and rip off taxpayers.

A formula should be worked out to pro-rate the return of this overcharge to the previous ratepayers based on how long any one customer was a previous ratepayer.

**THE AURORA**  
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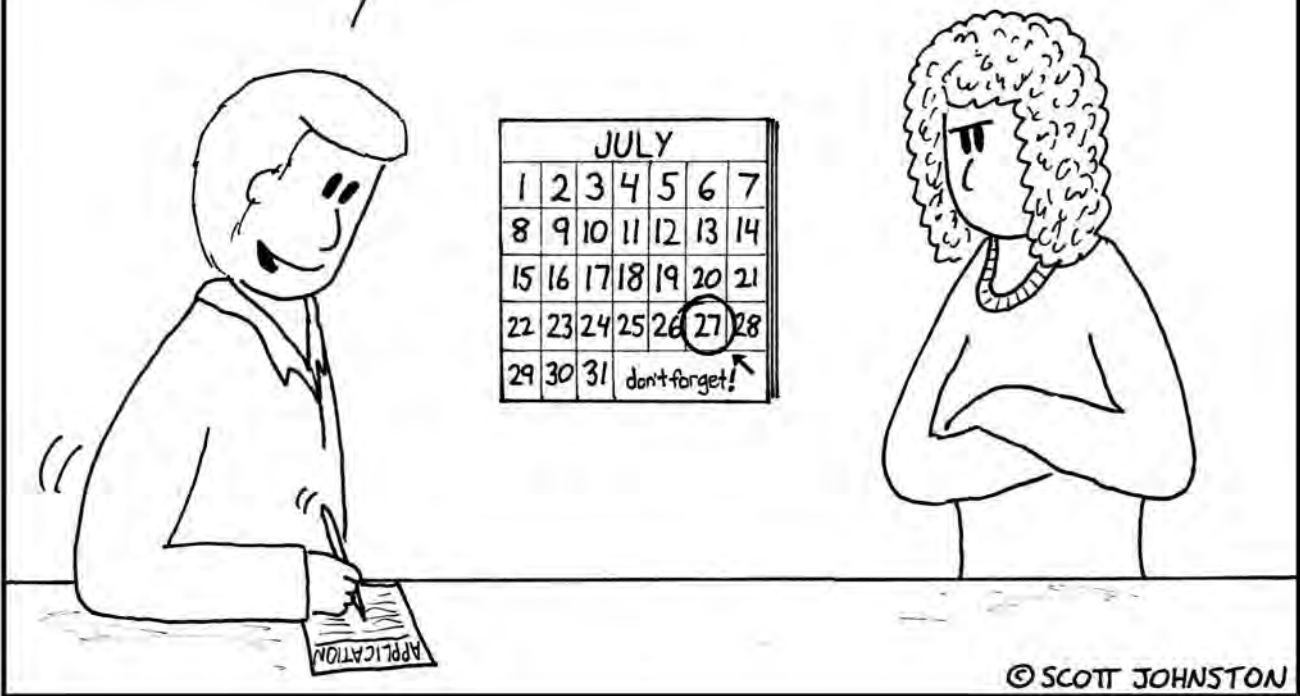
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Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.

ONE REASON AURORA HESITATED TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS  
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WHY DO YOU ASK?



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

## Want to complain? Write a letter.

At this point, it doesn't seem very likely that residents and business owners are going to stage a sit-in or perform any other dramatic acts of mourning or protest when the main Aurora Post Office closes its doors at the end of business day on Friday, August 17.

People will be going about their usual business, but judging from the people at the outlet I spoke to last week, they're going to enjoy it while it lasts.

For a post office that is claimed to be underutilized, an average of 10 customers went through the Wellington Street landmark to send and receive letters and packages, and many indicated that having used the building themselves for upwards of 30 years, not having that service there will be a bit of a shock to the system.

Perhaps I have a little bit more time to go before becoming completely jaded about situations such as these, but I freely admit to having slightly romantic ideas about the postal system. As a kid, I spent many a happy hour in my grandfather's basement pouring over his massive stamp collection, a collection which filled multiple boxes and an inordinate amount of bookshelves. Not surprisingly, this was one room my grandmother refused to touch.

This romanticism was fuelled by finding cool - and enlightening! - letters written by both sets of grandparents to each other, painstakingly preserved with their original stamps. So, when The Aurora moved from its semi-hidden location on Edward Street to the old Aurora Post Office building? Well, damn, that was pretty much perfect.

As I wrote in the lead up to last Christmas when the Aurora Historical Society put on a display of Christmas cards at the Aurora Cultural Centre, it was fascinating to browse through them and take a look at the number of examples that came through this building on the way to their final destination.



**BROCK'S  
BANTER**  
Brock Weir

whether it was to a farm here in Aurora or to a loved one on the front.

With this perspective, I have watched Canada Post with awe - and not always the good kind - when they have continually tweaked their business model to reflect the growing demographic changes of both the community and the country, and the growing prevalence of email and other forms of communication which some techie enthusiasts think seems to have rendered the Crown corporation a dinosaur in this fast-paced world.

We at The Auroran have enjoyed a warm and vital relationship with the Post Office, and many of you continue to get this paper through the mail as we continue to add more carriers to local routes.

But how does Canada Post respond to a decrease in demand? By raising their prices, of course, and scaling back services offered at the counter. Smart move.

It was a surprise to many in the central core of Aurora, however, when Canada Post announced it was seeking public input as to the possible closure of the retail counter of the Aurora Post Office. People were quick to voice their concerns to us, but what was also unusual were the number of employees who weren't quite on the same page as their employers.

They said they were, you see, given indication that its closure was

a done deal and that the sorting facility, which is not currently on the chopping block, according to Canada Post, was going to be moving operations to Newmarket in 2013.

Nevertheless, residents and businesses continued to voice their concerns.

On the other hand, and to be fair, there were many people who viewed the Wellington Street location as a white elephant, one which was difficult to access, had very little parking, and, as far as the sorting facility goes, has outgrown its usefulness.

Local officials, including Aurora's Town Council and MP Lois Brown joined the chorus and threw their support behind keeping the post office open, but it was all for naught. The decision prompted some to question how much of a voice they actually had in the process.

August 17 will be the end of an era here in Town, but as previously mentioned, there will be three retail locations in Aurora to meet all your retail postal needs, not to mention several additional outlets dotted throughout Newmarket.

Maybe I am a purist, or perhaps it is the lingering effects of being a recovering philatelist, but there was something unique, almost a mystique, about a trip to the main outlet.

It was theatre of the living, especially around holidays, waiting in line behind people putting the finishing touches on gifts ready to be sent out to all corners of the world; or eagerly anticipating what they have exchanged their parcel notices for behind the counter; people shifting from foot to foot, almost in dread, about what would be contained in the registered letter they had to sign for...and then you had the people who wanted to get in and out as quickly as possible.

Sure, these scenes are still likely to unfold at the retail outlets, but having to trudge through aisles of cosmetics, deodorants, tampons, and potato chips does nothing for the ambience.



# NEW POLL

The Aurora Post Office will be closing its doors at the end of the business day on Friday, August 17. Will you miss the service?

- (A) Yes
- (B) No
- (C) We'll See

# POLL RESULTS

The Aurora jazz+ Festival will soon be upon us. Do you plan on attending the three day festival in Town Park at any point from August 3 - August 5?

- A) Yes B) No C) Undecided

RESULTS AS OF JULY 23, 2012	YES	NO	UNDECIDED
	79%	14%	7 %

Please participate in our POLL --go to [www.theauroran.com](http://www.theauroran.com), scroll down and look to the bottom right of the home page to VOTE.



With all the talk about Aurora's Sesquicentennial Celebrations, here's a look back at one thing Aurora did to mark its 100th anniversary 49 years go. This commemorative plate from the celebrations is in the collection of the Aurora Historical Society includes former historic sites and a few existing sites, including the former Farmers' Market building, Aurora United Church with its original steeples, a Fleury Plough, early locomotives, and the still familiar Yonge streetscape. Which sites would be on a 150th anniversary plate? Hillary House and the Church Street School seem like two top contenders!

Photo courtesy of the Aurora Historical Society

# Think your medical records are safe?

A letter arrives in the mail. It's from your doctor. While opening the envelope, you wonder what this could be about. It's not often that you get a letter from him. A phone call maybe, to remind you of an appointment but you can't remember ever getting a letter...And then you read this:

"Dear Patient: I write to inform you that in mid-April 2012, we discovered that a hard drive that was used in our office to store certain medical records was stolen. We believe that the hard drive that was stolen contained some of your personal health information."

The letter goes on to explain that while "almost" all of the electronic records containing personal health information stored in the doctor's office are encrypted and password-protected, the hard drive that was stolen was neither encrypted nor password-protected.

You can't believe your eyes as you read on.

"The documents contained on the hard drive may have included personal health information such as your name, address, date of birth and medical information."

"We apologize for this unfortunate incident and can advise you that we are doing our utmost to ensure, to the extent possible, that future privacy breaches are avoided."

Can't happen, you say? Well, it

shouldn't happen, but it did. The preceding are direct quotes from a letter that was brought to me by a constituent this past week. Not only was she distraught that confidential medical information was now in some stranger's hands, but she was equally frustrated with how this breach of confidential medical information was being handled. I don't blame her.

First, the letter states explicitly that the theft of the records was discovered in mid-April of this year. The letter advising the patient of the breach was dated July 9, 2012 and was date stamped by Canada Post on July 12th.

Why did it take three months for the doctor to advise his patients that their medical records had been stolen?

We hear enough stories involving identity theft to know that serious harm can be done with even the most basic of personal information, let alone sensitive medical files. While the letter expressed regrets and gave assurances that steps had been taken to prevent any future privacy breaches, there is no justifiable reason for the fact that it took three



# FRANKLY SPEAKING

Frank Klees  
MPP Newmarket-Aurora

months to alert patients.

Clearly, this is a breach of the Personal Health Information Act. That legislation, passed in 2004, prescribes that any person or organization who has control of personal health information records must take steps to ensure that those records are protected against theft, loss or unauthor-

ized use.

The legislation also requires that if a theft or loss occurs, the patient must be notified "at the first reasonable opportunity." In this case, the doctor failed to comply with both of these legislated requirements.

I have asked the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario to investigate.

I also contacted the office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to determine if the doctor had reported this breach to the Commissioner. I was told that there were no records of this breach being reported.

I asked the Privacy Commissioner to investigate to determine how this breach came about, why the doctor failed to report the breach and to take the steps necessary to ensure

that all health information custodians are reminded of their responsibilities to ensure the security of patient records.

# YOU AND YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION RECORDS

I raise this issue, not to point fingers at the medical practitioner involved in this case, although he must and will be held accountable for failing to protect his patients' health records but, more important, to raise awareness of how vulnerable our information systems are to privacy breaches.

This is the third incident of information systems containing sensitive personal information being breached within the past few weeks.

On July 16, Elections Ontario announced that two USB keys carrying copies of voter information for as many as 25 electoral districts (including Newmarket-Aurora) were lost or stolen. On June 6th, all 72 of the ServiceOntario kiosks were shut down because of a security breach. Those kiosks contain highly sensitive information including drivers' licence, credit and debit card numbers. They're still down today.

The next time you're seeing your doctor, you may just want to ask how safe your medical records are.

As always, I welcome your comments or advice. Feel free to call me at 905-750-0019 or contact me through my website at [www.frankklees.com](http://www.frankklees.com)

# Postal ponderings

Despite the availability of three other outlets in town, there's a lot of angst out there about the loss of our main Post Office, which will be closing its doors August 17.

I do feel for the employees, and hope they are able to find work at other local facilities, but it's not like we all couldn't see this coming.

Be honest; when was the last time you received a letter in the mail?

I mean a "real" letter. Not a "dear occupant", or a mass-produced form letter with your name mis-spelled, noting you as the wrong gender, and seeking a donation from an organization you've never heard of.

I can probably count on one hand the number of letters and even bills I've received in the mail since the beginning of the year.

Apart from the odd magazine, all we seem to receive every week is about 150 kgs of fliers, pamphlets, special offers, promotions and other junk mail that goes directly into the recycling bin.

Gone are the days when, for example, one would wait with great expectation for a postcard from a relative in some faraway land, usually receiving it several days after they'd returned home, but still no less exciting to read.

Nowadays, you don't have to wait till the mail arrives at 1 pm for three lines of illegible two week old updates on the back of a postcard depicting some ancient ruin your cousin never even visited because she spent all her time drinking next to the pool.

Now, it's old news if you haven't received a twitter update from her in the last five minutes. Or, if you can't wait that long, you can look at all her vacation photos uploaded and posted to her Facebook page within seconds of them being taken. And you don't



# INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

even need to be near your super-mailbox to do this.

And it's not just postcards, letters, greeting cards and other, what now seem old-fashioned, forms of communication that have been replaced. Everything else from bills, to statements, to magazines that used to arrive four or five times a week in our physical mailboxes, are all now available 24/7 in our electronic mailboxes, and on thousands of websites.

So it's not a surprise that the post office is closing. In fact, it joins a long line of businesses that are falling victim to advances in communication technology, such as printing companies, video rental places, record/CD stores, photography shops, and many others.

And this does not even touch on companies that are suffering from competition from increases in on-line sales.

As for the latest victim in town of electronic progress, when the post office does move out in a few weeks, I will be curious to see what fate awaits the building itself, which sits on a nice sized piece of land right in the middle of town.

Will it be used for other government or municipal purposes (all together now ... "youth centre!")? Will it join the ranks of shuttered shops in Aurora's downtown core?

Or will it perhaps be taken over by some new store, gamely trying to make a go of it, despite the busy traffic and lack of convenient parking?

I hope it's the latter, even if it has recently been suggested that there are too many retail shops in town.

I far prefer them to the empty ones.

Feel free to e-mail Scott at: [machellscorners@gmail.com](mailto:machellscorners@gmail.com)



As Promised



POOR  
RONNIE

Ron Wallace

As promised two weeks ago, here is the reason I am not driving anymore.

Seems some doctor in Toronto said so. And one of his workers told the Ministry which sent me a note saying I had to have medical clearance to have my drivers' license reinstated.

So, in the meantime, I have been using CHATS drivers to get around. And they, as I told you, have been doing a wonderful job.

The doctor responsible for all this – his name is Lang – says I probably have Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, a disease which has affected about one in 100,000 people over the age of 60 in the United States and most have probably never heard of it.

The word “progressive” was included in the name of the disease because, unfortunately, the early symptoms get worse and new symptoms develop sooner or later, according to a write-up by Lawrence Golbe, MD, who is a professor of neurology.

The disease, known as PSP, has similar symptoms to a form of Parkinson's.

It was first described as a distinct disorder in 1964 when three scientists published a paper that distinguished the condition from Parkinson's disease.

For the most part, I can't type, nor can I sign my name the way I used to. I never could play hockey, although my right foot has been “asleep” for several years now. I don't know if I can hit a golf ball, but I hope to find that out soon.

The whole thing is very frustrating. And this happened right after I had bought myself a new car. Wouldn't you know it?

REMEMBERING BARBARA HORSMAN  
& CY BUCK

After a long and difficult battle, Barbara Horsman died from metastatic melanoma (cancer) on the evening of July 23 at home with her family.

Barb had been the subject of a group of nearly 70 guides at her Stoddart Drive, Aurora, home a couple of weeks prior to her death.

Her husband, Phil, was an instructor for the York Region Board of Education before he retired several years ago.

Barb was also the mother of Leanne and Adam and was the grandmother of Cameron.

Patricia and I attended the funeral Friday afternoon at Thompson's and were immediately sent to the “overflow” room which indicates the popularity of the woman.

Donations can be made in her name to the Stronach Cancer Centre at Southlake Regional Health Centre where a plaque in her name is being sponsored.

The second death I want to comment on is Cy Buck, who was married to Councillor Evelyn Buck.

He was in the Eagle Terrace Long Term Care in Newmarket when he died July 20.

Cy leaves behind several children, including Stephen, Frank, Martin, Theresa, Heather, Mark and Andrew.

An avid drummer, Cy was a lifetime member of Theatre Aurora, the location of his Celebration of Life, which will take place Sunday, August 12, from 2 to 4 p.m.

The theatre is located at 150 Henderson Drive, in Aurora's south end.

Sincere sympathies to both families from Patricia and me.

Feel free to email Ron at:  
RWall9999@rogers.com

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Letters to the editor  
Putting the finishing touches on the Jazz Fest

With just days remaining until the fourth annual Aurora Jazz Festival, teams of local citizens are rushing to get everything ready for you!

The festival is grateful for support from citizens of Aurora and all over York Region! We appreciate dedicated sponsorship from Enbridge Gas and, this year, a Canadian Heritage grant thanks to efforts from MP Lois Brown. We thank all our sponsors, partners and

festival friends!

Hundreds of York Region citizen volunteers assist the Aurora jazz+ Festival to showcase hundreds of our home grown musicians, entertainers and visual artists - creating a festival enjoyed by thousands! Their dedication catapulted the Aurora jazz+ Festival into the Top 100 in the Province of Ontario!

On Saturday night, MP Lois Brown, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of

International Cooperation and Minister Michael Chan, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport will join us on stage just before the performance by George St. Kitts & Sounds of Motown!

On Sunday night, Murray Foster - bass player of The Great Big Sea and Mike Ford - perform as the Cocksure Lads followed by amazing local rocker Neil Chapman!

Enjoy festive fun! Take time to celebrate the arts, laugh and dance in your own community! Don't cook! Try festival food vendors. Forget the gym! Try Zumba and other on site activities: What A Ball! Fly a Kite! Create a Masterpiece at Paint-Inn/Craft Blast Zone/First Nations Art with Suzanne Smoke! Create a Mandela with artist David Rankine! Sound a Drum with Shaw Percussion & Rhythmic by Nature! Strum a Guitar with My Jam Space... Be the Artist!

Saturday morning, alongside the Aurora Farmers' Market, the AFA offers free entertainment from 10 a.m. in the Band Shell - featuring the Jaymor Dancers, Laughter Yoga and a Zumba class! Saturday afternoon help us inaugurate our First

Festival Kings - King Alexander and King David! Enjoy our diverse Canadian Cultural Mosaic - South Asian Media Inc. presents folk singer Doll Madhar.

Sunday brings Peace in the Park at 12 noon - Bless the Festival! 11am-1pm Art/Music Workshops free at Aurora Cultural Centre (Register [www.auroraaz-zfest.com](http://www.auroraaz-zfest.com)). Learn about 5000 years of Chinese dance/music history Shen Yun Performing Arts [www.shenyun2013.com](http://www.shenyun2013.com) Sunday afternoon build the Largest Drum Circle Ever in York Region. Bring your drum!

GO transit to Festival - Weekend GO Trains now travel to Aurora several times daily. Barrie & Toronto leave the car, take GO and "Walk a Block" to festival!

Enjoy local Visual Artists Plein Air, local Musicians and Entertainers including 28 bands on three stages! See full festival line-up [www.aurorajazzfest.com](http://www.aurorajazzfest.com)

Admission \$5 daily for Adults - Kids 12 and under free!

Sher St. Kitts  
Aurora Festival of the Arts

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## Seniors enjoy the London Olympic opening ceremonies

You might recall that our seniors participated in their own mini-Olympics recently.

In a way, it's sad that they didn't get the fanfare that the international Olympians receive. After all, they too work hard, practice diligently, and focus on staying fit and healthy in order to compete.

Yes, I know. The celebrations in London last week would be overkill for our small competition. Even so, the organizers really ought to think about providing more exposure in future for the games and the senior winners.

Did they have an opening ceremony of substance? I didn't hear of any, although I know they did hold a small closing event.

Admittedly, I was lax in eyeing the papers early on for announcements, but when the summer games began, I didn't need the information. When I did, it was

scant or too close to the event.

The international Summer Olympics were announced in plenty of time for us to catch the opening ceremonies. This enabled some forward-thinking people at the Centre to schedule time to show them on the big screen in the lounge.

This was good for people with small television sets at home. Imagine trying to watch the elaborate displays on a small screen. Besides, watching them in a group adds to the enjoyment.

That's one of the great things about the Centre. You never know when you'll get a special treat.

### Ottawa trip

On June 27, MP Lois Brown paid a visit to the Centre during our Great Canadian BBQ. Subsequently, a group took a trip to Ottawa where they were given a "gracious welcome and personal tour" of

the House of Commons, according to A S A President Charles Sequeira. As it happens, the House was in session that day which added to their enjoyment of the trip.

### Senior dancers

If you haven't had the benefit of seeing our dancers perform, you'll get a chance at the upcoming Farmers' Market on August 11. The ASA Square Dancers will be demonstrating some of the dances they've been doing over the past year.

They're also looking for new members when they start up again on October 15. You don't have to know how to dance because the current members are more than



## SENIOR SCAPE

Sylvia Dickens

happy to teach you, step by step. It's something to put on your list for the fall.

### Crafters needed

The Knotty Knitters is a bit of a misnomer. They don't just

knit. They make almost anything to do with needlework. Right now, they're rushing to create a good quantity of items to sell at the upcoming Aurora Farmers' Market on August 11. Your help is needed.

If you are a needlecraft hobbyist, you are invited to join them on a Monday morning.

### Jazz tickets

The Centre is selling a limited number of Aurora Jazz Festival tickets for

Saturday and Sunday, August 4 and 5. Tickets are \$2.50 per person per day. If you'd like to take advantage of this special offer, ask at the reception desk. Tickets are sold on a first come, first served basis, so don't miss out.

### Walking Club Outings

Get your walking shoes on and join the Walking Club on August 8 as they enjoy Willow Farm, Lakeview and Wimpey Trail, Aurora Heights to Tom's Park. You don't need to pre-register. Just show up at the Centre at 9.30 a.m. in proper gear. Don't forget water. From there, participants will car pool to the starting location. The group is always looking for new members to join them each week.

### Fun programs

It's always great to learn something new, which is why the Centre offers a good variety of programs. The Town of Aurora has just announced its senior programs which will be start in September. You can grab one of the Fall 2012 program guides from the Centre, the Town Hall and at other locations.

To tempt you, take a look at this short list:

Ivory Keys is for beginners who would like to learn

how to read music and play simple melodies.

Golden Voices teaches you proper breathing techniques, vocal development, voice exercises, pitch development and more.

Sculpting with Clay is a great beginner course that introduces you to conceptual and practical aspects of modelling with clay.

Yoga Meditation shows you how to release stress and tension through breathing, movement and relaxation.

Nutrition and You guides you in how proper nutrition can renew your energy and help to make your body and immune system stronger and healthier.

### Our 2012 Directors

The ASA recently named its new directors for 2012. They are: Ron Coe, Food Services Committee; Winnie Gritten, Membership & Volunteers; Carol Hedenberg, Operations & Activities; Bill Moore, Social Committee; Louise Miller, Sponsorship Committee.

For more information on the Aurora Seniors' Centre and all it has to offer, drop by 90 John West Way, visit the web site [www.aurorase-niors.ca](http://www.aurorase-niors.ca), email [aurorase-niors@rogers.com](mailto:aurorase-niors@rogers.com) or call 905-726-4767 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

## Digital changes everything

This will mark the second article in a departure from my regular "100 Watts" column. The idea behind it is to tackle a series on digital culture for Aurora.

My previous article was to frame the series with one overriding observation: digital changes everything. This article will explore what is being changed and how.

Back in 2000, in his book "Digital Capital", University of Toronto Professor Don Tapscott explains how industrial age production, communications, commerce and distribution all implode in this digital age.

As companies rush to rethink their value propositions the question everyone is asking is: what is valuable in a digital world?

One easy way to determine how valuable something is to try living without it for a while.

Take for example, an everyday object like the phone. Phones used to be available on street corners contained in large urine soaked boxes. Now they are found in your pocket.

What would life be like without your mobile phone?

Like phones, computers were large and tethered devices which have now become small and mobile.

These changes have increased their value.

Here are some more notable shifts:

Life stories used to adorn walls. Now they are widely accessible through personalized social media feeds like Facebook.

News used to consist of dedicated reports, often delayed by the production stream. Now, real-time citizen reporting through mobile devices provides global reach.

Directories used to be heavy printed yellow volumes with no search features and no reviews. Now with location aware services like Yelp, one can discover user reviews through a search that includes images and recommendations.

Photography required

dedicated cameras. Now cameras are built into multiple devices and photos can be edited, shared and discovered within moments of being taken.

Magazines were bound by the print medium. Now with the advent of Flipboard, digital magazines bring more personalized content, accessible everywhere and always up to date and including rich media items.

Books were also victims of their printed constraints. Now a wide range of e-readers allows for a highly personalized reading experience and allows for readers to travel with a large library on their mobile device.

The music industry required their audience to buy albums in stores and play them on dedicated players. Now music discovery is more social; instant on-demand streaming to enabled devices has opened up the playback realm.

The video industry is see-



## W@TTS THE FREQUENCY?

Christopher Watts

providing linear programming on pre-set channels with little control offered to the viewer. Now, On Demand personalized content is leading a trend in homes, cutting their limited and pricey cable.

Marketplaces themselves have shifted from street fairs to integrated platforms for listings, advertising, payment and inventory management through services like Etsy.

Business collaboration has changed from meetings, whiteboards and teleconferences to online working groups complete with data sharing and instant messaging capabilities with services like Salesforce, Yammer and Jive.

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ing the same transition, as retail stores like Blockbuster have busted in favor of on-demand/instant streaming services like YouTube and Netflix.

The television industry made its money by

Changes that will likely be taken for granted by children the same way adults take the air for granted.

That is... until it is missing.

Stay tuned.

## Fibromyalgia: Natural Approaches for Lasting Relief

Fibromyalgia is reaching alarming levels and ineffective treatment is common. If you suffer from Fibromyalgia you need to know poorly known facts about the condition in order to avoid years of pain and suffering.

You have probably been told by your doctor you have constant, unrelenting joint pain ... tender, achy spots all over your body... including your neck and upper back... pain between your shoulder blades ... chronic fatigue ... and maybe constant or intermittent headaches. You can't sleep at night and are exhausted all day.

You can't even enjoy the simple things in life anymore, such as playing with your children. Getting out of bed every day is an unbelievable challenge.

Life Has Become Unbearable...

Your doctor does an exam...negative. He takes some X-rays...nega-

tive. Does a few blood tests... negative. Maybe even an MRI... negative.

Then he tells you you have Fibromyalgia and gives you anti-inflammatory drugs. You find that the approaches you try do not help and often make it worse.

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 with horrible side effects.

It is clear that sufferers need much more information on what Fibromyalgia really is and how they can help

themselves.

Sufferers also need to know there are many natural ways of helping themselves feel better by improving the function of muscles and nerves to help the body to heal.

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

There are other approaches that are sensible, natural and safe that have helped many Fibromyalgia sufferers improve their life forever.

To help sufferers, a workshop is being offered as a community service to reveal effective ways to feel better, increase energy and improve the quality of life. The workshop is free.

The workshop will be held on Wed Aug 8, 7.30 – 9 pm. at the King West Wellness Centre 141 King Rd Unit 10 Richmond Hill

Seating is limited. Call to make reservations (888) 837 0407.



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# Seniors advocate humbled by Jubilee medal

By Brock Weir

When people innumerate the contributions Aurora resident Derek Murray has made to this Town's senior's community, it is invariably qualified somehow by people saying he is far too young to be a member.

Nevertheless, a proud and tireless member he is, and his work for local seniors was recently recognized by Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees, who nominated Mr. Murray, 76, for the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal.

Mr. Murray received his medal, along with five other Aurora residents, at a ceremony at Queen's Park earlier this month. During the presentation, Mr. Klees saluted Mr. Murray as an "inspiration" to the community.

"That's how people describe Derek, regardless of the circumstances under which they meet him," said Mr. Klees. "Age is irrelevant. If there is something to be done, he wants to do it and it gets done with excellence. Derek is a tireless advocate for seniors' issues and dedicates countless volumes of hours to senior organizations throughout our community.

"He has done extensive service through the Community Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS) where his years of business experience combine with a heart for the community who gets things done. Derek comes by my office every Friday and he checks on me to ensure that the person Newmarket-Aurora elected is doing his job and I thank him for that. He is someone who is always ready to serve."

Derek's sense of contributing to his community and making a difference was instilled in him at an early age. His Canadian journey began in 1948 as a young arrival from Ireland with his mother and father. Three years after their arrival, his father died at the untimely age of 47 and he was raised by his mother who lived until her early 90s.

"I went to work and built my career because of a work ethic I got from my mother; my father had left way to early,"

Mr. Murray told The Auroran at a reception at Queen's Park's Legislative Dining Room following his investiture. "I have always had that work ethic, so I feel I owe something back. I live a pretty good life because of where I am in Canada."

The work ethic instilled in Mr. Murray by his mother is, perhaps, most recognized with his 35 year stint with the Prudential Insurance Company of North America, rising through the ranks to become Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing. When the company was bought out by London Life over 15 years ago, he chose not to undertake the big move to London, ON, and kept an eye on the people that faced a similar situation close to retirement age.

"What I did was help form a retirement branch of people who were suddenly left in a country to support the firm and the firm was gone," he said. Now I am president of that association. There are probably 600 members still in that and I have arranged for the head office in Newark, NJ to supply us with funding every year of \$25,000 so we can keep in contact and develop a comradeship of these older people who were suddenly abandoned in the country. I say abandoned by the roots of the company they worked for and now that company was gone and they felt their support was gone. We now have this association which lets them know their support hasn't gone."

Forming this network of support for likeminded individuals is counted among his proudest achievements. The group, he said, let him to becoming involved with Aurora's seniors community and also to work with Mr. Klees (Mr. Murray acted as an honorary campaign co-chair for Mr. Klees in the last provincial election). He now works for PACE Credit Union, which is based on Yonge Street just south of Kennedy Street West, where he serves as a consultant and executive director of business development. This, in turn, has lead him to forming a connection with CHATS which, among home assistance, also provides transportation for the aging



A long-time advocate for Aurora's senior community and community champion, Derek Murray was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal at Queen's Park ceremony this month by Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees.

Photo by David Falconer

population.

"It was supposed to be a three day job, but most jobs I take are not three day jobs!" said Mr. Murray. "I do that because I need to be busy. I have just gone through a process with PACE where we supplied cars to CHATS. We supplied two at a very reduced rate and now we just did a contract with them for six more vans where CHATS supplements part of the cost of the lease so they can have more cars on the road."

Being awarded his medal on an afternoon with such a distinguished crowd of individuals, including philanthropists, public servants, volunteers, clergy, and even a local newspaperman, it was clear Mr. Murray was moved by the entire experience.

"I am 76 and this is the most humbled I have felt in years," he said. "You do things

in your life for a reason, and to get recognized gives you a certain feeling - and I got that feeling today.

"I thought, why me? I never felt I did anything exceptional and what I did I thought I was supposed to do anyway. That's the way I approached things.

"I got involved with seniors and managed trying to consider myself not a senior and I connected with Frank years ago. He would send me on projects on how we would do things for seniors, people in homes, and as the population [ages] more and more people can't stay at home and it is a major problem in this province.

"Prisoners get more money per day for food than seniors do in nursing homes. That's pretty alarming in my mind and makes people my age think, 'I don't want to be in a nursing home.' I think we have to make a lot of changes."

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# Town, Region need consensus on underpasses: advocates

By Brock Weir

The Town and the Region need to put their heads together and come up with reasonable cost estimates for pedestrian underpasses on St. John's Sideroad.

So say trail advocates who argue that the impasse between the Region of York and the Town of Aurora needs to be rectified to ensure pedestrians and cyclists, regular users of Aurora's trails, have a way to get across busy thoroughfares like St. John's Sideroad and Leslie Street without having to battle busy traffic.

The comments came after Councillors considered a recommendation from the Town's Trails and Active Transportation Committee this month.

Earlier this Spring, the committee recommended that Council "reconfirm its position" that trail underpasses proposed for the reconstruction of Leslie Street and St. John's Sideroad be included in the Region's plans for the road widening. So far the Region maintains its position that only "at grade" crossings (read: street-level crosswalks) are necessary in the area.

Specifically, the committee recommends four grade separated crossings for the Leslie Street and St. John's Area and that the Region and Town share the costs in the design and implementation of the four crossings.

Mr. Wehrenberg's arguments, which can be seen in his letter on page 6 this week, over the cost garnered some support at the Council table.

"[He] raised an issue which would be of great interest to our taxpayers with respect to the cost of the grade separation," said Councillor Wendy Gaertner.

According to Aurora CAO Neil Garbe, the Town - Parks and Recreation Director Al Downey in particular - is working with the Regional representatives for transportation to move the project along, including getting a definitive answer on costs.

Aurora Council has previously approved approaching the Region to seek a 50/50 cost sharing agreement. This came down last November. The approval saw the approval in principle of 50.50 funding with the region for underpasses which were, at the time, expected to clock in at \$1.2 million. The price tag was then expected to increase if additional amenities such as lighting were approved.

\$50,000 was included in the budget for the design of each proposed crossing, not exceeding four designs.

"I have experienced the same frustration as Mr. Wehrenberg in dealing with the Region in the matter of coming to grips with the actual costs," said Councillor Evelyn Buck at the July meeting. "They are obviously not, right or wrong, in support of these underpasses and whether or not they are expensive is a canard, that they don't want to do it and I think they have to come to grips with some actual figures.

"Tell us. Give us some specific figures of what it is actually going to cost to design it. It shouldn't be beyond their capability to work out those figures. They're working with designers all the time.

"We have to take responsibility for those services that are municipal in nature.

We know that the region has a cost sharing for some of them but we also know they have a limited budget. They can't approve of everything they would request, or I would be surprised if we got everything that we asked for. We have to know what the costs are, or a near figure of what the costs might be and take the responsibility for that cost if the Region doesn't have the resources or if the Region has some but not all of the resources. We need to be prepared to accept those costs. If we're really determined that these underpasses will be provided and that people will have the

opportunity to walk under these major transportation routes, I think we [should put our money where our mouth is]."

Councillor Buck's arguments found agreement with Councillor Michael Thompson who said no matter how many times the issue of pedestrian underpasses circles the table, costs

It may not be easy being green, but after lengthy debate at the Council table, new trucks for the Town's Parks Department will now be green.

For some, including Councillor Buck and former Councillor and Parks Director Norm Weller, this is a return to tradition and something the two have been advocating for ever since white parks vehicles entered the Aurora fleet.

It was not all smooth sailing, however, getting to this point as Councillors - since Councillor Buck put forward a notice of motion calling for all new trucks to bear the symbolic hue early this spring - questioned whether this would cost the Town more money in the long-run not just in the colours that vehicle dealers may have available, but also limit options in terms of makes and models.

"The only thing that remained to be discovered or decided was whether it cost more money for the vehicles to be green," said Councillor Evelyn Buck at this month's Council meeting, speaking not just to her motion, but also to a report from Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure.

In his report, Mr. Simanovskis examined several impacts such a colour change would have on his department's ability to replace vehicles in his fleet. These considerations included trends in popular colours, so green might not be a readily available option, the colour's effect on

always cause the Town and the Region to hit the brakes.

"We have heard different numbers from different people about these costs and I think we're all just happy to make a decision and determine the direction but we just need that one crucial piece of information," he said.

resale value, and Town branding.

"Every time a vehicle enters the public space, it represents a message to our residents," said Mr. Simanovskis in his report. "Consistency [is an important message] in creating a cohesive and connected image of all Town services. When internal divisions are brought into the public space, there is some loss of perceived cohesion and potential confusion in how the Town is represented in the public realm.

"Vehicle colour is a significant branding tool and clearly communicates how the Town is represented. The preference of the administration is to promote a more cohesive and united image that increases recognition and supports a consistent brand message."

This consistency, he said, is also reflected with white vehicles used in the fleets of Richmond Hill, Newmarket, and municipalities and agencies in the surrounding area.

As for the sticky matter of paint costs, Mr. Simanovskis' survey found that there would be no additional charge for Ford vehicles, but trucks tendered through General Motors would result in a \$200 additional fee and possible delays in getting vehicles on time.

While this report addressed many of the concerns that were brought to the table resulting from Councillor Buck's original motion, there were still some lingering issues at the table, particularly

Continued on page 18

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Week of July 31, 2012

## Aurora teens take on provincial rugby teams

By Brock Weir

Rugby players in Atlantic Canada will have to face some tough, home-grown competition this week as two Aurora players - both local high school students - pack their bags and head to the Maritimes with the rest of their Ontario U-15 Team.

Austin Insley, 15, an Aurora resident who goes to Unionville's Bill Crothers Secondary School for its sports programs, and Cole Johnson, 15, a student at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School, leave Tuesday for a two week tour of Atlantic Canada to face off against teams from Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

Both teens are members of the Aurora Barbarians and have been selected to represent the province this time around. While this is the first time Austin has been a member of the U-15 team, it is the second time running for Cole, but the first time excitement is still there.

"I'm most looking forward to just experiencing rugby in a different part of Canada and seeing how it will be

played," he said. "I was quite happy [to be selected] again and I am thrilled to be playing again. It will be a fun tour playing the U-16 Provincial teams and I think it is going to be an interesting experience."

Cole responded once again to calls for open tryouts at Markham's Fletcher's Fields and it was evident that he had what it took to make the provincial team.

"I'm fast and I just like to take it all in pace," he said. "My biggest disadvantage is my hands. I have to focus on catching and passing balls. I have been working on that since March trying to prepare for this and I have to improve. Mentally is an important aspect of the game, so I have to focus and be dialed in before I play, talking to my teammates, and getting that communication going."

Cole's interest in rugby began at the encouragement of a hockey friend who pushed him to go out and play. He was taken by the team aspect of the sport and the training and, three years on, the rest is history. Austin, on the other hand, had his first taste of rugby after seeing it on TV as a Grade Eight

student. He said he thought it would be a fun sport to try and joined the team when he arrived at Bill Crothers.

He went to Unionville for secondary school to focus on hockey and soccer, but once he started playing rugby, that took up most of his time.

"I just like the contact in rugby because I am a goalie in hockey and I don't get much contact," said Austin with a chuckle. "I like to get out there and hit people hard. When you go on a big run down the field, it feels good."

When he found out he was selected for this year's provincial team, Austin said he was ecstatic and is most looking forward to seeing how Ontario matches up against Atlantic Canada.

"I think we're probably a lot better!" he said. "Every Sunday we have been training at Fletcher's Field for about eight hours non-stop and we're eating right and getting prepared for it."

"I think my [biggest asset] is my speed because I'm one of the fastest kids on our team and I just like to run. [A disadvantage] is just my size because I am one of the smaller kids too, so making tackles on bigger people is hard for me."



Aurora Barbarians players Austin Insley and Cole Johnson are heading to the Maritimes this week as part of Ontario's U-15 Rugby Teams. On their tour of Atlantic Canada, the duo will see how their team stacks up against other provinces.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

## Ducks keeping cool in the summer heat

By Tania Edwards  
 (Aurora Special Ducks)

Ducks Swimming is on the go at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex.

Swimmers are working hard in the special summer camps. Head coach Sam Montgomery, with over 20 years of international

coaching experience, led the camps assisted by experienced coaches Jim Talbot and Eric Lane.

Swimmers were exposed to new stroke techniques, skill development, and had lots of practice opportunities including technique, fitness, endurance and sprint challenges.

Training in the summer

is a lot of fun! It's a great way to get a boost on the next season and a great way to cool off over the hot summer months. Spaces are still available for Duck camps during the last two weeks of August!

Ducks swimmer, and Canadian National Champion, Summer Mortimer is off to London for the 2012 Paralympic games with veteran coach, and Ducks founder, Reg Chappell.

The whole team is cheering for her and it is a great honor for us to have a swimmer on the team. Ducks Swimming wishes all of the Canadian Olympic and Paralympic team members the best of luck at the games!

Ducks Swimming is also pleased to announce that we have been selected as one of 20 non-profit and charitable organizations across York Region to receive proceeds from the 2012 Magna Hoedown!

To celebrate we will be having a Car Wash on Saturday, August 11 from 9.30 a.m.- 2 p.m. Thanks to the generosity of Our Lady of Grace Church, we will be

having our car wash in their parking lot, located at 15347 Yonge Street, just north of Wellington in Aurora. Please join us to get your car shiny clean! Cost is \$20/car and includes 3 Hoedown raffle tickets. The Grand Prize is \$75,000!

Event tickets (pending availability) will also be available on that day. Magna Hoedown is on September 15, from 5 p.m. - Midnight, and tickets are \$70 each. Cash only please.

The 2012 - 2013 swimming season will begin in September with the first competitions for the Ducks taking place in October.

The team is growing and future prospects look bright! Ducks are shaping up nicely and expect to dominate the chlorinated waters of Ontario.

Building on the momentum of the very successful 2011/2012 season, Team Ducks is ready to make a splash!

For more info on our summer camps, fall programs or Magna Hoedown tickets, please call 905-888-9994 or visit our website [www.ducksswimming.ca](http://www.ducksswimming.ca).



Members of the Aurora Ducks celebrate at the end of a recent swim meet. Top Row (left to right): Sydney LeBlanc, Holly Biasi, Tania Edwards, Isabella Hernandez, Stephanie Boston, Soorna Choheili (Middle), Rosemary Jones, Isabelle Russo, Lucie Matton, Hunter Edwards, Alessia Russo, Eleanor Jones, (Front) Brianna Eady, Connor Crozier, and Julia Stratton.



  
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# Victim services will increase training for specialized volunteers

**From page 1**  
risk," she said. "There are different types of risk in domestic violence. They are all serious, but we have

some that are incredibly serious - there is attempted murder, for instance, and those people we have to know where they are at all

times."

"I call our volunteers a unique type of person because they respond to scenes of domestic assault,

suicide, sudden death, robbery, homicide, motor vehicle fatalities, so you have to be a certain kind of person to respond to people in need at the most vulnerable in their lives."

These crimes, she said, happen almost uniformly across the Region, from top to bottom, and it is not dictated by any demographic trends like location, age, culture, gender, or income bracket. Per capita figures of cases handled by Victim Services, of course, can spike in communities with larger populations, but that is a given.

"Sudden deaths happen every day," she said. "We send teams of volunteers almost every day to respond to a sudden death or suicide call and several times a day we speak to victims of domestic violence right across the Region. There is

no prejudice to it at all."

Aside from the emergency response system, the most pressing need facing Victim Services is expanding their existing volunteer base simply to accommodate the case volumes.

"You would think 80 volunteers is enough, but they take two 12 hour shifts a day," said Ms. Cetnarski. "That is an awful lot of people when you look at two 12 hour shifts seven days a week. We need to expand our training to our volunteer base and, depending on the amount of money that is left over, if we can help out in the office at all, we have a high insistence of crisis situations that we deal with on a daily basis, so expanding our volunteer program would only help out in the office if we can get some further help volunteer-wise. The money

won't be going to salaries. It will all be going to help expand our volunteer base and our emergency response systems."

If you would like to support Victim Services of York Region through ticket sales, there's some good news and some bad news. The bad news - depending on your perspective - is that their allocation of event tickets sold out like hotcakes. The good news? There are still tickets available for the Prospector's Raffle, with a top prize of \$75,000.

Victim Services will be selling the tickets at their own location and at various points of sale throughout York Region in the lead up to the September 15 event. For more information on where to get your raffle ticket, visit [www.victimservices-york.org](http://www.victimservices-york.org).



Kelly Cetnarski, Lauren Alexis, and Rick Massa set up their booth at Newmarket's LA Fitness over the weekend to sell Hoedown Raffle tickets.

Auroran photo by Diane Buchanan

## Smart Centres vote sparks debate

By Brock Weir

Council recently approved new, additional commercial uses in the SmartCentres development in east Aurora.

It was a lengthy debate, which brought about issues which could become factors in future Council decisions, but for some, the debate itself was difficult to get on the table.

July 17 was the second time this recommendation had come up for approval, but the first time, however, it was defeated on a tie vote. This, argued Town staff, resulted in a motion defeated by default without clear reasons for its rejection being given to developers, something that is required under existing policies. This reason, however, was not enough for some Councillors who argued that it was against the standard process of Council.

"It is my understanding from the procedural bylaw that a tie vote is a defeated vote," said Councillor John Gallo. "A decision by Council was made at that meeting to defeat the motion that was now before us. It is my view that in order for this to come back to Council we either wait six months or we have a procedural bylaw that indicates we waive procedural bylaw and two-thirds majority is back on the table. It is explicit in our procedural bylaw that a tie vote is defeated and a deci-

sion of Council was made that night."

According to John Leach, Aurora's Town Clerk, however, while it failed to carry on a tie vote, it "does not render a clear position on the matter" so it is necessary for Council to pass a motion to approve or refuse.

This was a view upheld by Mayor Geoffrey Dawe who had his ruling challenged by Councillor Gallo. His challenge was defeated with only Councillors Chris Ballard, Wendy Gaertner, and John Gallo voting to undo the ruling.

"In my time here this is the first such application where there was a defeated vote," said Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning. "What I can add is that the planning act is clear and I always include alternatives to the recommendation section in the report providing an option [to] refuse the application with an explanation for the refusal as required by the act."

Mr. Leach added he did find "a couple of examples" before Mr. Ramunno came to the Town where an application failed to carry and a "motion was put on the floor to refuse the application and the motion carried at the time."

These explanations did not carry with Councillor Gallo, however, who said in his view, a defeated motion reflects the decision of Council and there were cases in the past where the

matter didn't come back again. He suggested a review of the procedural bylaw.

The recommendation on the table, however, found support from the majority with most agreeing a motion defeated in a tie vote does not reflect any sort of decision.

"It is a stalemate and if that had been followed by a motion from two of the people who voted in opposition to accepting a recommendation that would have failed too," said Councillor Buck. "That's why a tie vote is not a decision - it is a non-decision."

"We voted but no explanation of the refusal was provided," added Councillor Michael Thompson. "To me, that is unfinished business."

One of the Councillors who was among the four who voted against the proposal the first time around was Councillor Paul Pirri. In this ensuing debate on whether it was proper procedure to have it back on the table, he explained why he had changed his mind over the proposal.

"I tried to make amendments along the way and those amendments were constantly defeated by Council and for me this application, although I don't like it, is based on sound planning principles," he said. "For that reason I have to vote in favour because I can't say no to sound planning principles although I disagree with them personally."

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# Carrier of the Month: Kalea Kirsh



Auroran photo by Brock Weir

By Brock Weir

It is a small wonder that Aurora's Carrier of the Month, Kalea Kirsh, has time to do any extra-curricular activities, considering she has nearly 250 homes on her routes.

But Kalea, who is enjoying an active summer anticipating entering Grade 8 at Northern Lights Public School in September, finds the time and is an active and engaged member of the Aurora community.

When asked what she enjoys most about being a student at Northern Lights, Kalea is able to rattle off a list of all the clubs and teams she is involved in to put most of us to shame. These activi-

ties include playing with the badminton, basketball, and volleyball teams, and taking part in We Day, a spinoff of the charitable endeavours of Craig and Marc Kielburger.

She is also a member of the Northern Lights' Robotics Club and Book Club. It is in describing the book club that her inner bookworm comes to light.

She and the rest of the team recently had a chance to go down to Toronto's Harbourfront to meet acclaimed authors including Alyxandra Harvey, Eric Walters, and her personal favourite, Kenneth Oppel.

In her spare time, Kalea has become a familiar face at the Aurora Farmers'

Continued on page 19

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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### CLUES ACROSS

1. Disrespectful talk  
5. Capital of Yemen  
9. Identifying tag  
14. Stare impertinently  
15. Cain and \_\_\_\_  
16. Old saying of a general truth  
17. A beloved person  
18. Job or chore  
19. Fuse  
20. Allergy medications  
23. Grant life-time employment  
24. Local area network  
25. Conducted  
26. In an angry way  
31. Vast plains of N. Argentina  
35. Teeter-totter  
36. Independent ruler
37. Pig meat (alt. sp.)  
38. Birchbark and dugout  
41. Loss of coordination  
43. 74801 OK  
45. Highest playing card  
46. Scottish cap  
47. Molten rocks  
51. Meissner effect machine  
56. Wraps hay or cotton  
57. One of the Greats  
58. Carbonated soft drink  
59. Forearm bones  
60. Esau's descendants (Bible)  
61. Small integers  
62. A man's facial hair  
63. Finished  
64. Affirmative! (slang)

### CLUES DOWN

1. Pop  
2. Keeps records or accounts  
3. List of candidates  
4. Small European finch  
5. Scorns through ridicule  
6. Degraded  
7. Bird shelter  
8. Opposite of acid  
9. Layered pieces  
10. Arabian Gulf  
11. Naked  
12. Scrambled or poached  
13. The sheltered side  
21. Hawaiian dance  
22. 4th planet from the sun  
27. C6H12N3OP insect sterilant  
28. Pickerel genus  
29. Georgian monetary unit  
30. Urban gym
31. Large muscles of the chest  
32. Indian wet nurse  
33. 1/60 of an ancient talent  
34. Ship's bow  
39. Went into  
40. Scorch the surface  
41. The academic world  
42. Tupinambis nigropunctatus  
44. A master of ceremonies  
45. Bird's embryonic sac  
48. Hatfield's enemy  
49. Turn away from sin  
50. European sole genus  
51. Selling at reduced prices  
52. Longest forearm bone  
53. Anjou or bartlett  
54. Annual mass calendar  
55. Skin inflammation  
56. Guy (slang)

## Last Week's Puzzle Solution

PUZZLE SOLUTION					C	L	A	R	O					R	A	G					
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## Olympic experience was "like Oz"

From page 1

the excitement of the kids' questions fielded by Ms. Ottenbrite-Muylaert. The interaction also provided her with an opportunity to reflect on her own experiences marching into the stadium in 1984.

"It was absolutely incredible," she said. "We had many moments when we walk through the whole thing and then walk into the Olympic Village, for example, and I describe it as like walking the Yellow Brick Road. You walk in there and you go into Oz. It is just a different world. Being at the village, you're with all the athletes from all over the world, all different sports, all with the same goal, and that is to be the best they can be."

Unlike many of the athletes bustling around "Oz", however, Ms. Ottenbrite-Muylaert was in the minority earning the opportunity to climb up on the podium three different times.

"It was an experience that you can't really put into words, except that your life flashes before your eyes," she said. "You worked very hard for that moment and you savour that moment. I think it is, of course, being on the podium and receiving it. It was the entire trail to that point. That's what creates character, that's what creates the character you become, so that to me has more value

than [the medals themselves].

"These are nice to have but the value was the journey."

Although her winning Olympiad was in 1984, Ms. Ottenbrite-Muylaert has yet to fully step out of the pool. She is the head coach of the Pickering Swim Club and tries to instill these values in the 160 kids within the club. She emphasizes how to train, but also mental skills to keep in the zone.

"I think it is about how do you make yourself better. It should always be how do you improve yourself and how do you make yourself be the best person you can be and never look back and doubt that you didn't give the best that you can give."

Although Aurora hopefuls, such as champion rower Peter McClelland, did not make the cut for London 2012, plenty of York Region athletes are representing the area in the games. Among their ranks is Newmarket's Sheila Reid, who will be competing in the 5000m competition.

"I know everyone in Newmarket-Aurora will join me in wishing her all the best on the days ahead," said MP Lois Brown in a statement. "Our country's athletes are a source of inspiration and great pride, and Canadians around the world will be united in cheering them on."



**Three-time Olympic medallist Anne Ottenbrite-Muylaert shows her gold, silver, and bronze medals for swimming won in the 1984 Olympiad in Los Angeles to young gymnasts Mateo Zeppierri and Chelsea and Madison Fontane.**

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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**David Blaser (L) and Alexander Pope (C) will be formally crowned co-kings of the 2012 Aurora jazz+ Festival this week. The two won their royal positions at a Festival kick-off party at Jonathan's Restaurant earlier this month and had their crowns sized up by Festival organizer Sher St. Kitts (R).**

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

## jazz+ Fest starts Friday

By Brock Weir

Crowds are expected to fill Town Park this weekend as the 2012 Aurora jazz+ Festival and Artisan Fair gets underway.

The music starts at 6 p.m. on Friday with Vanck - Mark Pezzalato on the MasterCut Stage. Additional performers include Sounds Caribbean, the Julian Troiano Band, the Astro Droids, and K.C. Roberts.

Saturday is a full day, officially opening at 2 p.m. after the Aurora Farmers' Market has wrapped up for the day, but from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in Town Park revellers will be able to enjoy activities ranging from laughter yoga to a Zumba

class.

Kevin Myles Wilson kicks off the performance schedule at 2 p.m. followed by the After Hours Big Band, North of Dixie, B.F. Soul. Six Ways to Sunday, Juice, Patricia Duffy, and La Nai - The Free People before George St. Kitts and the Sounds of Motown take the stage to cap the evening at 9.15.

More subdued activities mark the start of the festival on Sunday with a noontime Peace in the Park event, "a non-denominational multi-faith gathering blessing the Aurora jazz+ Festival and York Region arts", before Courtenay Field gets the park jamming again at 12.30. Courtenay will be followed by acts ranging

from the Boogie Boy Blues Concert (with a kid friendly program), the Manatee Band, Michael Massaro, Glen Marais, a drums circle, the Kush Ensemble, Rob Tardik, Jamie Miller, Stacey Kaniuk, and the Cocksure Lads before Neil Chapman takes to the stage at 9.30 p.m. for a Big Rock finale.

As for the "plus" in "jazz+ Festival", arts activities will be ongoing throughout Town Park and the surrounding area during the Festival, including First Nations crafts, custom kite-making, a "paint in", and free art and music workshops.

For more information, visit [www.aurorajazzfest.com](http://www.aurorajazzfest.com).

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# Deciding fate of Hydro money is more than a simple vote

By Brock Weir

While Town staff prepare a fall education campaign over the summer on what options are available for the \$33 million in Aurora's Hydro Fund, deciding on the results of a public survey isn't as simple as coming to a decision on popular opinion.

In 2006, when the Council of the day sold Aurora Hydro, Councillors bound themselves and future Councils in a series of stringent conditions on how the money can be spent.

As things stand now, any decision on what to do with the money will require the approval of two thirds of the entire Council. Under the bylaw, this is interpreted to mean that all members are present in the Council chamber at the time of the vote. If not, it is deferred until the next time every Councillor is in his or her seat. If that doesn't happen for three consecutive meetings, the number of Councillors needed to reach 100 per cent drops by one.

According to a report released by Town Treasurer Dan Elliott in advance of this month's Council meeting where Councillors voted to go ahead with an education plan, this restriction presents its own set of problems to the Council of 2012 and has suggested a number of changes which will, if his recommendations are accepted, be debated in September.

Not only does the existing bylaw only cover the initial amount garnered from the sale and not the substantial interest that has accrued since then, but the voting itself presents its own headaches.

"The restrictive vote rule indirectly gives unilateral veto power to any one member on the proposal near the time of the vote, as any one member only need to back away from the table or leave the room just prior to calling the vote," said Mr. Elliott. "Should this occur, procedurally the vote would not be able to be taken for three such meetings. Subsequent to the first three meetings where the allocation is intended to be voted upon, the veto power moves to any two members who choose to leave the table prior to the actual vote being taken. There is no limit as to how long the veto power rests with any two persons on the matter.

"Clearly the restrictive voting rule as currently adopted has the potential to impair the progress of Council in making decisions in the best interest of the community. Despite the restrictive voting rule, the 30 days public notice must still be given."

Suggested ways to "clean up" this issue include repealing the rule and replace it to require the approval of 2/3 of the members present, replace it with a simple majority vote, or go their own way in determining how to vote. Any changes, added Mr. Elliott, would be a matter of a simple majority

vote of this Council.

"A reserve fund bylaw is standard municipal practice, and for the larger Aurora Hydro Sale Investment Fund, such a bylaw was previously resolved to be adopted, but was never presented for adoption," said Mr. Elliott. "Consolidating into reserve fund bylaws the past decisions of Council which took place over a number of months or years will serve to clarify for all members of Council and the public the final intentions of Council for the purposes and processes for allocation of the hydro sale proceeds.

"This will serve all parties well as the community and Council contemplate possible community projects as we prepare for public consultations on various proposed uses."

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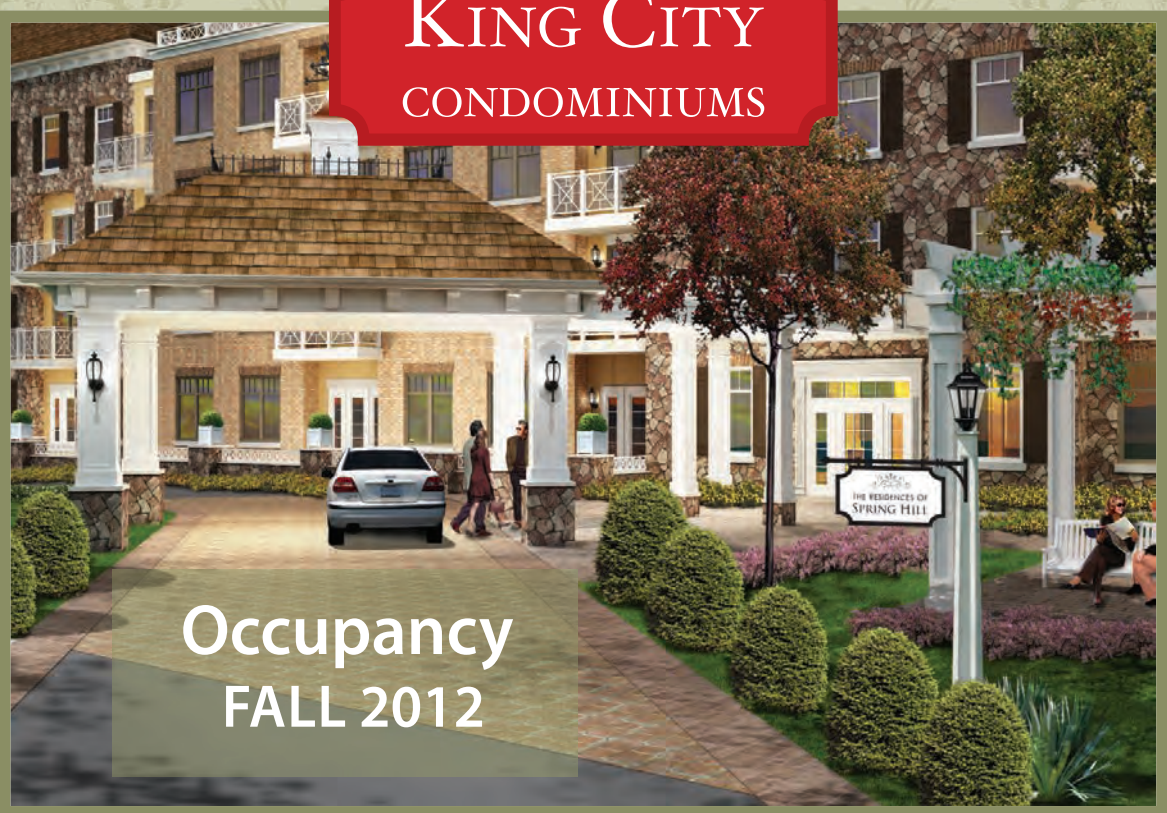
  
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# Committee meetings: Coming to a computer near you!

**By Brock Weir**

Aurora's General Committee meetings - the prelude to the main Council event - could soon be coming to a computer near you.

Councillors recently approved a new pilot project which will see general committee meetings broadcast on Aurora's website at [www.aurora.ca](http://www.aurora.ca). This has been a long-proposed idea, but one which has failed to clear several hurdles in recent years, including claims by Town officials that the Town's existing website server did not have enough bandwidth to make live streaming a reality.

Over the winter, however, there was a one-off meeting live streamed to the public surrounding the Aurora's Strategic Plan, which was evidently a success.

"The public consultation was successfully streamed for approximately one hour," said Aurora CAO Neil Garbe in his report to Council earlier this month. "The live session was recorded, edited, and later posted to the Strategic Plan website."

In his report, certain equipment needs to be available and criteria met to make the project happen, including adequate cameras and web servers, and he proposed a combination of in-house and independent services for council consideration.

"Streaming media via internet is feasible, as evidenced by a successful broadcast of the Strategic Plan consultation," said Mr. Garbe. "To stream other events or General Committee meetings, further testing would not be required to determine an optimal configuration to balance technical capacity and cost, as well as examine the potential for different audio and video capture options."

Rogers Television, which continues to broadcast regularly scheduled Council meetings, installed a handful of new cameras in the Council chamber last year, controlled from a small

annexe adjoining the Council chamber, to remove the necessity of bringing in a full camera crew and broadcasting truck each week.

At the time, Rogers and Town Staff reported these new cameras would be available for Town use for non-Council meetings with a staff member trained on how to operate the system. Why this option was not on the table, however, was one of the many concerns Councillors had with the live streaming proposal before it gained final approval.

When asked by Councillor Chris Ballard what happened with that proposal, Mr. Garbe said that is still being investigated and it might not be an issue with the cameras themselves, but how the Rogers cameras tie into the live streaming system proposed. If there are no barriers, that could save the Town some money, said Mr. Garbe.

"If we can use what is here, let's do so and let's see if there are some volunteers who would be able to use some equipment because we may be able to utilize it for other meetings," said Councillor Chris Ballard.

Although Councillor John Gallo questioned why Council meetings proper could not be live streamed on the Town's website (Councillor Thompson suggested including a link to the Rogers feed on the Town's site as well), the reception was largely positive, with Councillors backing any initiatives to increase citizen engagement. One argument was addressing the number of people in this Town who use alternatives to Rogers.

"There are a lot of res-

idents who don't have Rogers Cable and [have] satellite through other vendors, so having a link like that would allow the GC meetings and Councils to be broadcast through different means," said Councillor Sandra Humfries.

"We all want to see more engagement by the community," added Councillor Thompson, noting broadcasts should go beyond General Committee. "I would add that the budget meetings too are all about engaging the community. Anything we can do to get the information out to those who wish to watch it [is] wonderful!"

Councillor Evelyn Buck, who also questioned the feasibility of having Council meetings streamed on the Town's website, she said this was an idea she brought up two councils ago and is looking forward to finally seeing something come of it. Online broadcasts, she said, only positively impact the public.

"The Auroran has Alison [Collins-Mrakas] doing her show on the newspaper's website, and I see [this] as a greater amenity for all the thousands of people who like to watch Council and see what we're up to," she said with her tongue slightly in her cheek. "I am thinking of how we pull in the viewers. I am thinking of what the introduction to what the Town of Aurora General Committee meetings would be. A chorus of dancing girls, perhaps, or something to make people realise what they are about to watch and have excitement?"

"[How about] 'Warning: Not suitable for all ages?'" replied Mayor Dawe.



Aurora Councillor Paul Pirri took on the persona of the Man in Black at last Wednesday's Concert in the Park where he was joined by Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and Councillor John Abel to form a musical trio during an interlude in the main concert. Auroran photo by David Falconer

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# There must have been some magic in the old felt hat he found

**By Brock Weir**

Some might go home disappointed if your eagerly anticipated flight to Las Vegas got cancelled due to plane trouble - especially if you were hoping to strike it rich at the poker tables.

This may have been going through the mind of Aurora real estate agent Farid Ameryoun, when after waiting for a continually delayed flight to Sin City to cash in his Aeroplan miles, he got frustrated and decided to go to Washington D.C. instead.

Little did he realise it was the first time Lady Luck was on his side. As soon as he changed his destination, his original flight was cancelled but he was on his way.

Mr. Ameryoun is a representative for York National Realty, which is now housed in the historic Hartman's Corners School House on Wellington Street near Berczy, which was painstakingly restored by his brother Farsheed.

While he wanted to do a bit of gabling, given his love of history and historic curios, a weekend of site seeing and souvenir hunting in the Washington area seemed the next best thing - and he would be able to work in a last-minute Iron Maiden concert to boot!

"I got on the smallest plane you can imagine, it was like a bus with wings," Mr. Ameryoun said of his trip. "I came out [on the other side] and there was a huge electrical storm and there

was no power in Virginia. Before I came back to Canada on Sunday, I decided I was going to go shopping for antiques."

There was really nothing else to do, he said, aside from a quick visit to a shooting range, which was populated by grandmothers packing heat, and taking a few scenic snaps, so it was off to historic Leesburg, Virginia, to take in the antiques scene. There, he happened upon a large Victorian house and here is where Lady Luck rejoined the trip.

"This Victorian house was filled," he said. "You could not walk around without knocking something over and it was filled with every odd item you can imagine. I went from room to room and towards the end I saw this hat sitting on box. It was an interesting looking hat. I picked it up and it was in very good condition, but tried it on and it didn't quite fit."

As he was about to walk away from the eye-catching vintage headwear, a young woman approached him in the store and insisted he buy the hat, so he produced \$30 for both the hat and the box and headed to the airport.

"There's something amongst all these thousands of items that I was just drawn to the hat to begin with," he said. "I like anything antique, but especially a gentleman's hat from that time period. I have similar hat of orange leather and it was one of the few items [along with my wife's

wedding band and Japanese dolls] that I salvaged from my house that burned down four years ago."

This hat, however, might now take pride of place in this collection, because with his \$30 purchase, Mr. Ameryoun got far more than he bargained for.

Upon arriving at the airport with his luggage and his latest purchases in tow, he discovered that the hatbox would not fit into his suitcase. He went to throw the box into the trash, but true to airport convenience, it wouldn't fit into the bin either. The only option was to rip the box apart. As he began to tear it apart, he was quick to discover there was more to the box than meets the eye - a packet from the Bank of Shreveport.

"Right away when I started to pick up the envelope, something told me there were valuables in there," he said. "The paper clip looks like it hasn't been touched in quite a while."

What was inside was \$1,300 worth of \$100 bills dated from the early 1930s to the mid 1960s, all in an unmarked envelope from the now-defunct financial institution.

"When I was sitting down waiting for my flight, I was trying to look at the envelope and read all the details and the locations and just trying to imagine where this money might have come from," he said. "I assumed it came from a man because it was a gentleman's hat. He may have



Local real estate agent Farid Ameryoun got more than he bargained for when he picked up the hat, shown above, at a antiques store in Virginia this summer. Auroran photo by Brock Weir

been taking his life savings and putting it a hat box. He certainly didn't tell anyone and my assumption is when he passed away, his next of kin or his children sold all his items. The interesting thing is the hat and the box stayed together and they sat on the shelf. It was just waiting for me to come and pick it up."

"At the airport, I was in a rush and I really had to catch the flight. I thought I might be late for my flight, so I really wish I had kept the box. I really regret throwing that box out. The other thing that went through my mind was a few minutes earlier I was going to toss the box in the trash with all this money sitting in there and that would have been the end of the story."

"As soon as I looked at the envelope before opening it my heart skipped a beat. I knew there was something interesting about this. As soon as I saw the money, I thought these things only happen

in the movies."

Mr. Ameryoun is currently content to be the latest custodian of this hat and its previous owner's money. With some of the bills now worth more than face value, he said he is unlikely to cash or sell the rest, but one person who is a bit richer out of the deal was the woman in the antiques store who talked him into buying

the ill-fitting hat. She was wired \$300 out of the windfall.

Although he concedes it is probably a lost cause, he would like to find out more about its owner and its journey from Shreveport to Leesburg and now to Aurora. The first port of call is the millinery company, Dobbs, which still thrives in its New York City location on Fifth Avenue.

## First green trucks expected soon

**From page 9**

pertaining to colour.

"If we go with this, is it true to say that when we go out to tender, depending on which manufacturer we go with, there is a good probability we will get different colours of green?" asked Councillor John Gallo. "Is that a fair statement?"

The short answer from Mr. Simanovskis was yes.

"I don't know how noticeable those differences will be," he said. "They do change the colours from manufacturer to manufacturer so they would be different, but I don't know if you would be able to notice it. [In our survey] General Motors identified a charge of \$200 for vans and passenger vehicles based on a green colour and that was due to the way they manufactured their lots, so it would be to factor them into production, whereas Ford didn't have a charge."

"We have a [Ford] out to tender, so in the current proposal they will not have additional charges so it depends on the manufacturer"

Three new green trucks

will soon be noticeable in the Town's fleet in a deal which is likely to be tendered at next month's Council meeting.

"The preferred vendor was contacted to determine any impacts to the cost or delivery of changing from white to green and verified that there would be no impact based on this change," said Mr. Simanovskis in his report.

This was, said Councillor Buck, in line with her own research.

"With the three suppliers I contacted, there was no impact for anything," she said. "The green that we're talking about is a generic green. If you ask for a fancy green, you'll likely add an additional cost. We're not asking for a fancy green. We're asking for a commercial green

which was the traditional colour of parks vehicles ever since we had a parks department."

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# Curb Appeal

Several times a week my husband and I try to get out for a long walk in our neighbourhood to spend some time together and give both ourselves and our dog some much needed exercise.



## BRINGING DESIGN TO LIFE

Janice Clements

house. There is likely a primary colour coupled with a secondary, lesser colour in the brick facade. Consider matching as best possible the paint colour for your garage door and front door to the lesser of these hues. If your brick is a one-dimensional solid colour, look to a keystone over the garage door or the cornerstone detail to select the colours for your exterior doors, windows, eaves, posts, and shutters.

Don't be afraid to use a darker colour for your front door than for the garage, it will add interest and provide a focal point for your property.

If your home is of the siding variety, your palette is wide open, but you may need to start by basing your selections on the shingle colour. A good rule of thumb is if you want to draw attention to it, make the colour different from everything around it. If you want an element to blend away, make it the same or a tone lighter (or darker) than the surrounding colours.

The good news is that the number of colour options available for new shingles, soffits, fascia and eaves are not extensive, so perhaps by a process of elimination the manufacturers of these products are helping keep the colour selections simple. It's always prudent when selecting these elements (or when repainting the materials that can be painted) that you stick to more neutral colours like almond, grey, black, brown, beige or white so that you can easily make changes to the other exterior paint colours without complicating matters.

My feeling is that mistakes are made on exterior colour selection because many think that given the abundance of light any colour will work. It is simply not the case. While the availability of light definitely comes into play and allows you to make deeper and more saturated colour selections, it does not mean that you should put just any colour on your home. An appealing exterior colour scheme that highlights your home's dominant features will provide broad curb appeal and can help you hone in on your home's individual charm.

**Janice Clements is a Certified Interior Decorator, President of Clements Interiors and a member of CDECA. Visit her on the web at [www.clementsinteriors.com](http://www.clementsinteriors.com), or follow her blog at <http://www.40somethingandcounting.blogspot.com>.**

Initially the conversation during our walks focuses on the kids, the house and what we're planning for the weeks ahead. After a good purge of all that is on our minds, we begin to take stock of what's going on around us and enjoy the sights and sounds of our community.

Inevitably, the discussion turns to our respective businesses and our attention turns to the houses and properties that line our local streets. We live in a beautiful neighbourhood filled with home owners who take great care of houses framed by lush multi-coloured gardens, a canopy of mature trees and well-manicured lawns. Gathering inspiration from the creativity of those around me, I find myself observing the choices people make for the exteriors of their homes. Doing what I do for a living, it's difficult not to consider how others dress their homes and as with interiors spaces, it seems that homeowners frequently struggle with exterior colour selection.

For many, colour is a baffling concept simply because there seems to be an endless number of choices available. Used properly, colour can be tailored to blend with the other finishes of your home resulting in a subtle and homogenous colour scheme while highlighting and setting off the enduring elements you might want to make the most of.

Given the number of paint colours options, how do you create a colour scheme that will make the most of the face your home? Well, since many aren't willing to change the largest and most permanent element of the house, the brick or stone finish provides an easy and natural jumping off point for any colour palette.

I am a firm believer that one should highlight the major features of your home and not be concerned about drawing attention to its lesser elements. For example, focus on highlighting and working with the brick and not the mortar on your home. Similarly, the interlock and edging stone you select for your patio and garden should firstly work with the brick colour.

Stand back and take a really good look at your

## Carrier of the Month

From page 12

Market, making pitches to potential customers at her family's booth, Captain Ted's Knick-Knack-a-Tory, where she makes wooden puzzles, bird houses, and even aprons and doggie bandanas.

"I love it there," she says.

Although after Grade 8 there seems to be some debate within her family on where she will attend high school - Dr. G.W. Williams and Aurora High School are currently neck and neck - her post-secondary goals are clear.

"I want to become a human body scientist," says Kalea. "I want everyone to live forever and I can't imagine anyone in my family getting sick and stuff. If I can cure it, It would be nice not to have any worries or anything. It is not a job I want to do, but more like a

chore that has to get done!"

To fulfil this chore, of course, she will need to have money and delivering The Auroran to your door is just one of the many ways she plans on saving money - and delivering The Auroran doesn't just increase her cash flow. Kalea says there is an added bonus.

"It's fun and it is just going for a walk around the block," she says, encouraging other people to sign up. "By the time you do it, it is worth it because you walk around the block anyway. Why not grab some papers and go out and get fresh air?"

Kalea's routes include Baywell Crescent, Stiles Avenue, Bridgenorth Drive, Dovercourt Lane, Watkins Glen Crescent, Earl Stewart Drive, and Hollandview Trail.

Congratulations, Kalea!



Laura Brown of Park Place Manor put out some healthy snacks last week at the Cooking for a Cause BBQ held at Newmarket's Seniors' Meeting Place. The event was in support of the Canadian Diabetes Association and included staff representation from many area retirement residences.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



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## Underpasses are key

From page 6

level to discourage even entertaining the idea of including those structures during the re-construction of Leslie Street and St John's Sideroad.

The underpasses are key to making traffic-free, safe commuter traffic possible. They are key to getting

Aurorans from one side of those widened four lane Regional roads to the other, on foot or on bicycle, in green, off-road corridors.

The Region of York's cost estimates are deceptive. The estimates are designed to dupe Aurorans.

Klaus Wehrenberg  
Aurora

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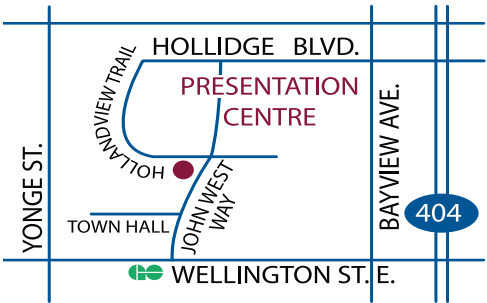


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