



**noghl@hotmail.com**

# Aurora's Community Newspaper

Week of August 9, 2011

**Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre** 289 Wellington Street East Aurora - 905-727-4751



COMING EVENTS

AUGUST 9-10

Aurora Cultural Centre presents a series of two individual Camp Days for children ages 6 to 12. A full day brimming with a variety of music, dance, art projects, improv and theatre games; \$45 per child. Bonus before-and-after care included in price; inquire about special rates for sibling/friend registration. Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street. For information or to register call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

AUGUST 9-20

Theatre Aurora kick starts its 54th season with The Cemetery Club, a comedy by Ivan Menchell. The first performance is August 9, and continues August 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, finishing August 20. All performances are at 8 p.m. Theatre Aurora is located at 150 Henderson Drive, Aurora. You can now purchase tickets on-line through the web-site www.theatreaurora.com, or you may contact the Theatre Aurora Box Office by phone at 905-727-3669, or by email at taboxoffice@bellnet.ca.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

A fundraiser, called "Goats For Africa", will be held this evening from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Timberlane Athletic Club, 155 Vandorf Road. A barbecue, catered by the Roving Chef, will kick things off and participants will be able to listen to music provided by "The Timecats". Also included in the evening's events will be a raffle, wine tasting and a cash bar. Admittance is \$45 with all proceeds going to P.R.E.F.E.R (poverty - reduction - education - family empowerment - Rwanda) to send children to school and buy goats to sustain families. Tickets are available from Dorothy Campbell. Call her at home 905-237-9066, at work 905-830-4444, extension 2303 or on her cell at 905-751-6342. She is also available by e-mail at dorothy.campbell1119@gmail.com or dorothy.campbell@york.ca.

\*\*\*\*

The second Chamber of Commerce Pub Night will be held at Boston Pizza from 5.30 to 7.30 p.m. tonight.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

The 38th Annual Antique & Classic Car Show will be held today from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum on Don Mills (Woodbine) Road. Rain date is August 21. Join in as exhibitors from across southern Ontario display their prized antique and classic cars. Food is available in the tea room or off the barbecue. Historic buildings will be open with heritage demonstrations, children's activities and live entertainment. Admission is \$7 (children under 7 free) or \$17 per family of up to four. For more information call 905-727-8954.

AUGUST 15-18

Here's your chance to join Dr. Hyoun Park and bridge the gap between Grade 12 Calculus/Vectors and first year university calculus. Join Dr. Park at the Aurora Public Library for four days of calculus problem-solving in preparation for university. Classes begin at 6 p.m. for two hours in the Optimist room. The event, while restricted to students entering 1st year university calculus only, is free although seating is limited. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16

Movie tonight at the Aurora Seniors' Centre is "Jane Eyre" starring Mia Wasikowska, Michael Fassbender and Jamie Bell. After a bleak childhood, Jane Eyre goes out into the world to become a governess. As she lives happily in her new position at Thornfield Hall, she meets the dark, cold, and abrupt master of the house, Mr. Rochester. Jane and her employer grow close in friendship and she soon finds herself falling in love with him. Happiness seems to have found Jane at last, but could Mr. Rochester's terrible secret be about to destroy it forever? Movies start at 6.30 p.m. sharp and cost \$1.50 for members and \$2 for non-members.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23

Movie tonight at the Aurora Seniors' Centre is "Something Borrowed", starring Kate Hudson, Ginnifer Goodwin and Colin Egglesfield. Rachel is a lawyer. When she was in law school she fell for another student Dex who comes from an affluent family. But she's too shy to say anything. When Dex meets her best friend Darcy who treats her like dirt sometimes, who was visiting her, she makes a move on him and gets him. Eventually they get engaged and Darcy asks Rachel to be her Maid of Honour. But Rachel stills has feelings for Dex and still can't say anything. But Ethan, Rachel's close friend, tells her that she'll spend her entire life regretting that if she does nothing. Movies start at 6.30 p.m. sharp and cost \$1.50 for members and \$2 for non-members.

AUGUST 23, 24

Aurora Cultural Centre presents a series of two individual Camp Days for children ages 6 to 12. A full day brimming with a variety of music, dance, art projects, improv and theatre games; \$45 per child. Bonus before-and-after care included in price; inquire about special rates for sibling/friend registration. The Aurora Cultural

Centre is located at 22 Church Street. For information or to register call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30

Movie tonight at the Aurora Seniors' Centre is "Win Win" starring Paul Giamatti, Amy Ryan and Jeffrey Tambor. Disheartened attorney Mike Flaherty (Giamatti), who moonlights as a high school wrestling coach, stumbles across a star athlete through some questionable business dealings while trying to support his family. Just as it looks like he will get a double payday, the boy's mother shows up fresh from rehab and flat broke, threatening to derail everything. Movies start at 6.30 p.m. sharp and cost \$1.50 for members and \$2 for non-members.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Money Talks. A free, informal discussion group will be held tonight at the Aurora Public Library to share ideas and exchange unbiased financial planning information, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room. Moderator Roger Strong is not affiliated with any financial institution. RSVP is required.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

The Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society is hosting its Annual Flower Show today where members exhibit exceptional specimens from their gardens and display unique artistic floral designs. The flower show will be held at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, from noon to 4 p.m. For more information call Cindy at 905-713-6660.

SEPTEMBER 9-11

The sixth annual Ribfest will be held this weekend in Machell Park. It will operate Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and on Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

The Aurora Seniors' Centre will hold its final event of the season tonight in the form of a Corn Roast for ASA members, families and friends on the deck of their headquarters at 96 John West Way beginning at 6 p.m. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children. A cash bar, serving beer, white and red wine soft drinks and water will be operating. Following the corn roast will be a video concert. Advance tickets are now on sale at the ASC reception desk. For more information, contact Marie Leone at 905-713-0608.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

The 14th Annual Aurora and Newmarket Parkinson SuperWalk will take place at Fairy Lake in Newmarket. Registration, a Yoga demonstration by The Royal Pathways Inc., and speeches begin at 9.30 a.m. under the main pavilion closest to the Water Street entrance. The walk begins at 10.30 a.m. For more information or to volunteer call Kim Rouse-Parypa at 905-713-0774 or e-mail kimp@sympatico.ca For more information on Parkinson's or to register on-line visit www.parkinsonsuperwalk.ca.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Baby Talk supports language development with Blue Balloon and will be part of a free seminar with a pediatric health specialist covering normal language development and how best to support language acquisition in your child, with games and activities at the Aurora Public Library beginning at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

The Aurora Seniors' Centre will hold its second annual Dog and Mutt Show behind the centre at 96 John West Way from 1 p.m. (rain or shine). A barbecue will also be available. Registration forms are now available from the centre. Maximum is 30 entrants. For further information contact Michelle Stemer at 905-727-3123, ext. 3611.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

The Art of Stenciling, with Deborah Mores, an artist, teacher, home furnishing designer and business owner. She will bring more than 30 years of expertise to this workshop from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Lebovic Room. \$20 per person and you must be 18 years and older. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

The Triple P Parenting workshop series returns to Aurora Public Library. Join the group the last Wednesday of each month, September to May, excluding December. A variety of topics will help you answer your parenting questions and needs. All meetings at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

OCTOBER 1, 2, 6 AND 7

The Canadian Cancer Society: Holland River Unit will be running the Pink Ribbon event in October. October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and volunteers from the Canadian Cancer Society will be selling pink ribbons on the above dates to raise awareness about breast health. Funds raised during this campaign will support breast cancer research and community programs for people living with breast cancer and their families.

ple living with breast cancer and their families.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

The Juno nominated Sultans of String bring their CD release tour to the Aurora Cultural Centre tonight at 7.30. Tickets are available at the door from the Cultural Centre for general admission seating for \$30. Advance tickets are \$25.

\*\*\*\*

You're invited to be part of the Aurora Artist Studio Tour 2011, a group of professional artists along with emerging artists from Aurora, inviting the public into our homes for our second year two day annual studio tour on Saturday and Sunday, October 1st and 2nd, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The following artists are already participating: Jean Beard, David Beard, Deborah Campo, Eva Folks, Maya Rodrigues, Judy Sherman and Christine Valentini. E-mail Deborah Campo to be added to the list by August 13th at deborah.campoart@sympatico.ca 905-727-1447. Artists are asking that you attend the studio tour meeting at the Aurora Public Library, 2nd floor, Tuesday August 16th at 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4

The Tuesday Philosophy Club meets tonight at the Aurora Public Library in the Lebovic Room at 7 p.m. What is the meaning of life? Why are we here? Is there an ultimate purpose to my existence? If these questions have ever crossed your mind, join the club. No prior experience in philosophy is required. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

CONTINUING

Trinity Anglican Church "Clothes Closet", located at 44 Metcalfe Street, Aurora, is the local source for gently used women's, children's and men's clothing. All monies raised are used to support the needy of Aurora, since it goes directly to the "Welcoming Arms" Ministry. Open weekday mornings, 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. and Wednesday evenings 6.30 to 7.30 p.m. The Bag Sale happens the last Monday of each month.

\*\*\*\*

At the request of its director, Richard Heinze, the Evergreen Choir's time of practice will be increased to 90 minutes, and will meet on Wednesday, September 7th in the West McKenzie Room at 1.45 p.m. to 3.15 p.m. Registration is now available at the front desk of the Aurora Seniors' Centre for the season commencing September 7th to June 2012. The fee for the coming sessions remains the same: \$50 per member. New members are always welcome. If you can carry a tune and like to sing we would be happy to have you come and join us. It is not necessary to be able to read music, nor will you be asked to audition, to enjoy being part of this happy experience. In addition to its regular Christmas and Spring concerts, the group will also perform at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts on Sunday, January 29th 2012, and take part in the 'Big Sing' at Roy Thompson Hall on Sunday, November 6th 2011. For more information call the desk at 905-726-4767.

\*\*\*\*

Aurora Probus Club, which meets every second Wednesday of the month at the Aurora Legion, will not meet during August but will reconvene September 14th. Memberships consist of retired and semi-retired PROfessional and BUSiness people, hence the name. New members are welcome. For more information, call Marilyn Munslow at 905-727-9344 or Bob Saunders at 905-841-3558.

\*\*\*\*

GRANAurora, the local Grandmothers To Grandmothers group, meets monthly to raise awareness, generate funds and lobby on behalf of the grandmother care-givers in AIDS-ravaged Africa. For more information call Kay at 905-841-9318 or Joan at 905-727-5586.

\*\*\*\*

Alateen meets every Sunday at 8 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, corner of Victoria and Mosley Streets. AI-Anon meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at the Aurora United Church on Yonge Street. For more information go to al-anon.alateen.on.ca.

\*\*\*\*

The Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. Visitors are welcome for only \$2. For more information call Ray at 905-727-6168.

\*\*\*\*

York Highlands Chorus is an award-winning a capella Sweet Adelines chorus, a group of women who gather Tuesday evenings at the Old Fire Hall, Newmarket, to sing, share in the harmony of friendship and learn the barbershop art form. York Highlands is always looking for new women who share the love of a capella music. Call Karen at 905-726-2113 or e-mail Vikki at information@yorkhighlands.com.

\*\*\*\*

The Upper Canada Chordsmen, Aurora-Newmarket's award winning chorus, is looking for male singers. The group meets every Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Old Fire Hall, 140 Main Street South, in Newmarket.

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The Optimist Club of Aurora meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Aurora Legion. New members are welcome. Call 905-727-5012 for more information.

\*\*\*\*

The Aurora Lions Club meets the second and fourth Thursdays at the Aurora Lions Hall, corner of Mosley and Victoria Streets. Co-ed club welcomes new members. For further information, call 905-727-6079.

\*\*\*\*

Martha's Table, the community lunch program offered at St. Andrew's Church, Aurora, will open again on Thursday, September 1, after closing for the summer.

\*\*\*\*

The York Regional Police Male Chorus is looking for new members. You do not have to be a police officer nor are you required to read music to volunteer. The group rehearses Monday evenings between 7.30 and 9.30 p.m. For further information, contact the chorus supervisor at 905-727-9676 or the co-ordinator of volunteer services for YRP at 905-830-0303, extension 6717.

\*\*\*\*

Aurora's Air Cadets meet every Tuesday night at Cardinal Carter School from 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m., and offer a program for 12 years and older boys and girls.

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Queen's York Rangers Army cadet corps has openings for boys and girls aged 12 to 18. The group parades every Friday night between 7 and 9 p.m. There is no membership fee and those in high school can earn community service hours through the program. For further information, call 905-726-8600.

\*\*\*\*

Aurora Opera Children's Chorus welcomes treble voices. It is a choir dedicated to nurturing and providing opportunities for children to express their musical abilities. The chorus is open to boys and girls ages 5-17. Contact the general director at keepsinging@rogers.com.

\*\*\*\*

Community Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS) is looking for volunteers to assist with the activities in its Adult Day Program. The positions call for a commitment of a few hours a week at its Aurora location. Various times are available. Call Christine at 905-713-3494.

\*\*\*\*

Every Wednesday from 6.30 to 8 p.m. the Pioneer Club for boys and girls, age three to Grade 4 and the Junior High Club for boys and girls, Grades 5 to 8, will be held at the Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. For more information call 905-841-8884.

\*\*\*\*

A drop-in centre will operate every Wednesday at the Community Bible Church on Bathurst Street just south of Henderson from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information e-mail Judy Hoffmann at jhoffmann@sympatico.ca.

\*\*\*\*

Scottish Country Dancing on Tuesday evenings at 8.15 p.m. at the Aurora Heights Public School and Friday mornings at St. Andrews' Presbyterian Church beginning at 10.30 a.m. No partners are needed and beginners are welcome. For more information, call Helen at 905-713-3439 or Agnes at 905-841-2747.

\*\*\*\*

Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday at 6.30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members are welcome.

\*\*\*\*

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge 148 meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. at 15216 Yonge Street, south of Wellington. For more information call 905-830-9205.

\*\*\*\*

Masonic Rising Sun Lodge meets the first Thursday of each month at the Rising Sun Temple, 57 Mosley Street, Aurora at 7.30 p.m.

\*\*\*\*

Robertson Masonic Lodge meets the third Saturday each month at 57 Mosley Street at 10.30 a.m. Coffee Club at 9 a.m. and lunch at noon. Call 905-727-3032 or 905-727-1080 for more information.

\*\*\*\*

Gamblers Anonymous meets every Tuesday night at Trinity Anglican Church, Victoria Street, at 7.30 p.m.

\*\*\*\*

Progressive Euchre every Thursday night at the Aurora Legion at 7.30 p.m. Call 905-727-9932.

\*\*\*\*

Canadian Federation of University Women holds monthly meetings at the Aurora Legion with a variety of speakers. Contact Beverley at 905-727-2151.



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Melvin Laidlaw, above, on Saturday morning was serving up Jerk Chicken on Whole Wheat Coco Bread at the Aurora Farmer's Market. Each Saturday morning Melvin treats visitors to the market with cooking demonstrations as well as explanations on the type of spices, and breads that he uses.

*Auroran photo by David Falconer*

## 6,000 at festival: organizer

While they were flagging in energy as they got closer to the big day, Aurora Jazz+ Festival organizers were re-energized last week as they looked ahead to the 2012 event, according to Susan Morton Leonard, spokesperson for the organizing Aurora Festival of the Arts.

Ms. Morton Leonard spoke to The Auroran Tuesday from her Wells Street home as workers dismantled the fencing that had gone up around Town Park on the Civic Holiday weekend for the concert event.

Although they were basking in the glow of a festival that "exceeded their wildest expectations", the coordinators are taking a breather before regrouping for their wrap up meeting, where they will crunch the numbers on attendance and revenue.

"Prior to going into the festival we were really tired because the last two weeks was almost like 24 hours a day, seven day workweeks for us, so we were really exhausted and we were all looking at each other asking, 'Can we do this again?'" said Ms. Morton Leonard. "Then on Monday morning we were in the park doing the last bits of cleanup - because you can't see at 11.30 at night-and we're all just re-energized and saying, 'Hey, you know, let's do it again' because now we know a few things we would like to add, things we would like to do a little bit different.

"We're all taking a much needed break. We do have some numbers in and our treasurer is probably as we speak finishing up her report and we have promised ourselves two weeks away and we'll come together as a board and then all the information will start going out."

The Aurora Festival of the Arts (AFA) will present a report on the 2011 Jazz Fest at council in October with the final tallies.

"Remember, we are non-profit and certainly we are supporting both through awareness and to a certain degree some

limited funding to our two charities, Safehaven and the Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness, so in fairness to all those people we're not going to release any final numbers until everybody who has worked on this are together."

That being said, Ms. Morton Leonard said the Jazz Fest was "everything we had hoped for and that much more."

Saturday evening, she said, was a particularly busy time for the festival with people lined up at down the street at the west admission gate.

"I didn't quite see what was happening at the east gates, but we had well over 2,000 people in the park on Saturday and everybody was happy as clams, enjoying [the music of] George Oliver," she said.

Although a final number is still outstanding, Ms. Morton Leonard said attendance was up and it "certainly outdid" last year's count of 5,000.

Her best guesstimate was between 6,000 and 6,500 patrons.

In addition to increased patronage, the Aurora Jazz Fest also enjoyed 100 volunteers this year, up from 2010's 40, ranging in ages from teens to members of the Aurora Seniors' Centre.

These individuals, she indicated, were more than eager to lend a helping hand.

"We ran out of volunteer hats," she said. "We had 11 hats and we ran out, so that tells you what kind of effort it takes to put on a festival. We had people coming in and volunteering during the festival itself and because we actually needed people we were accepting their offers to volunteer right at that moment.

"As a volunteer coordinator you're never sure because that is the nature of volunteerism. People can make choices; it's not like a job. It's always a delight when somebody shows up and it is a further delight when they understand what we need them to do and people just worked so hard together.

The team effort was just outstanding."

The support from the community was also outstanding and, she added, a key in the success of the festival.

Citing other similar nearby festivals which fizzled, in comparison community support from organizations and residents alike have sustained it - along with the guidance of Sher and George St. Kitts, she added. Another factor is that the St. Kitts' grew the initiative from a smaller, manageable size, and fostered its growth.

"It then captured more of the public's attention and they began to catch the vision and, as a result, we were able to take it to the next level, to incorporate a board and become non-profit and be able to start getting grants to improve the festival every year," she said.

But while Ms. Morton Leonard emphasizes the success of the Aurora Jazz Festival, the lead up to the event was not without its controversies, particularly the issues surrounding the money it received from the Town of Aurora and criticisms at the council table.

When asked about these "bumps in the road", Ms. Morton Leonard said that the only bump came in the support from "several" council members.

"To be honest with you, the only bump was certain members of council and certain staff, but I would have to say overall there has been more support on staff this year and certainly there are those on council who are hugely supportive," said Ms. Morton Leonard. "Both Wendy Gaertner and Sandra Humfries were two of our volunteers who worked just as hard as anybody. We have had John Gallo and Chris Ballard who backed us up 100 per cent during the whole time of bringing our proposal forward for sponsorship. I'm not going to say about the others.

"We would like to be friends with them but it is their call whether they choose to be friends with us or not."

# Town and church agree on paving

When the Town of Aurora renewed its lapsed lease agreement with the Aurora United Church for use of its downtown parking lot last June, the agreement was contingent on the Town giving the lot a facelift to improve conditions - but after work last year repaving parking lots at Town Hall and the Aurora Cultural Centre, the Town appears to have scored a deal with the church lot.

The Town and the church have had several lease agreements dating from 1951, and costs for parking lot maintenance and snow clearing have been performed by the Town in exchange for surplus parking spaces, according to a recent report from Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure.

"The most recent agreement was signed in 1992, renewable every five years for up to three terms," he said. "This agreement expired in 2007 and reverted to an annual tenancy.

"The proposed license agreement will be for a 10-year term with the option to extend for two additional five year terms. The previous agreement included an annual fee of \$200 payable to the United Church. The fee is reasonable in exchange for the use of the lands."

Pavement conditions in the church parking were described as "poor" and in need of replacement, and the church, he said, had not been able to accumulate "sufficient reserves" to undertake the repavement project.

A total of \$50,000 was approved by council in 2010 for the surfacing.

"The overall term of the agreement will be of sufficient duration to recover the benefits of this investment while providing improved access and parking conditions for the owner," he said. "There is also a provision to allow for the recovery of up to 50 per cent of this investment should the agreement be terminated by the owner before the 10 years has elapsed."

The matter of the United Church parking lot came back up for council discussion at last month's meeting, where councillors approved a \$43,460 tender for the project. In a further report to members.

Mr. Simanovskis said the agreement as executed gave the Town 90 days to address the parking lot situation, with the church expressing a preference for having the matter tended to during the summer.

"Completing the project prior to September would benefit the day care operations at the church as the facility does not restart operations until September," he said. "The quiet period over the summer months would be ideal to completing the work with minimal service disruption."

Completion of the parking lot will benefit from favourable

pricing obtained in last year's parking lot reconstruction at both Town Hall and the Aurora Cultural Centre by C. Valley Paving.

"They completed their work in a timely manner with good performance," noted Mr. Simanovskis. "Considering their status, staff evaluated their pricing to determine if

the costs would be competitive to 2011 pricing."

They came in at \$32.50 per square metre.

"As a comparison, a recent 2011 tender for the removal and replacement of the asphalt parking lot at the GO Train station on Berczy Street was \$39.90 per square metre or 23 per cent higher."

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## Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

# More about our holidays

I haven't had two weeks off in a long time. Therefore, it follows that there should be two week-s' worth of writing about how Patricia and I enjoyed our holiday.

Last week, I told you about the light show on Parliament Hill that is a must-see if you're in the Ottawa area this summer.

It had an effect on Suzanne Illingworth - yes, the late Dick's daughter - who just happens to live about half an hour south of Ottawa, and she, after a trip last week to Aurora, promised to make it a point to see the show.

She currently works across the river in Hull, Quebec, so she knows where the Centre Block of the parliament buildings is located.

Hull is the central and oldest part of the city of Gatineau, but it will always be Hull to me.

Whether she has visited the light show yet, I dunno, but it would be worth her while to do so.

I digress.

During our adventure to the eastern part of the province and New York state, Patricia had made reservations for a dinner aboard a boat that went though a bunch of locks on the Trent-Severn waterway in Peterborough.

Once we found out where the boat would start from, we enjoyed a three-hour ride up the Trent with dinner and entertainment included.

At one point we were so high above the rest of the world in the lift-lock, I started to get a bit nervous.

We spent an afternoon in Westport, Ontario, one of the most beautiful towns in Ontario.

This heart warming village has kept its charm and quaint feel for the past 50 years.

Patricia's father, Ted, also one day owned property there, and I suspect that's why we were there. Westport is surrounded by lakes and is linked to the Rideau Canal so your options for fishing, boating and water sports are limitless.

If you enjoy shopping, Westport has become a tourist shopping destination; another reason why we were there.

The downtown area of Westport is filled with unique shops and fun boutiques, although I think you can still get your hair cut and buy bait at the same place.

There are several great restaurants and we enjoyed lunch at the outside cafe of the Cove Inn.

Westport is a landmark between Kingston and Ottawa, so it's the perfect escape from the business of those two cities.

From the vantage point of the lookout up on Spy Rock, they swear you can almost see Kingston on a clear day. Well, not really, but what an incredible view of the Upper and Lower Rideau Lakes and the surrounding areas.

I didn't see a copy of the Westport weekly newspaper, the Review Mirror, even though weekly newspapers are in my blood. I did, however, read it online when I got home.

We spent two days in Gananoque, which were uneventful, except for the boat trip through the Thousand Islands to historical Boldt Castle, then headed for the Finger Lakes in the State of New York.

We toured Geneva, a city located on Seneca Lake, in an area famous for wineries.

As a matter of fact, our hotel room overlooked the lake and we had one meal in an out-of-the-way restaurant known as the Ports Cafe, where reservations are a must.

The place was packed when we got there, and we had to wait for a table, but it was worth it as we dined on a fabulous meal from a creative kitchen and local wine.

A train rumbled by across the street, between Seneca Lake and the highway, so I was in my glory.

Then it was on to Buffalo where we met up with the Keans - Nigel and Cathy - from Aurora.

Following three days in Niagara Falls, doing touristy things neither of us had done before, we came home, tired and broke.

Did you notice how many locations had nearby casinos? Peterborough, Ottawa, Gananoque, Niagara Falls?

Coincidence? I don't think so.



Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, was 18 when the above painting was made and when he toured Canada, including a stop in Aurora. Inset shows the prince's badge that was located on a train panel.

# When royalty came to this area

By BROCK WEIR  
Auroran writer

When we ran a column on the recent Royal Visit to Canada by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge last month, we received a couple of suggestions about previous instances of the Royals paying a visit to Aurora rather than Aurorans going to them.

The first time a member of the Royal Family visited Aurora occurred 141 years ago this September, when Queen Victoria's second child and eldest son, Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, made a whistle-stop visit to the area, a journey which also included stops in Newmarket and Bradford.

Arriving at Aurora's train depot on Monday, September 10, 1860, Albert Edward - who reigned as Edward VII from 1901 to 1910 following the death of his mother - was met by countless residents and a number of triumphal arches to mark the occasion.

While primary recollections from Aurora citizens on the visit could not be found in the archives of the Aurora Historical Society, contemporary accounts from our neighbours to the north on Aurora's welcom-

ing ceremony could be found in the pages of Newmarket's New Era newspaper in the issue from Friday, September 14.

Paying particular attention to the arches erected by Aurora by the local Mechanics Institute, the Masons and the Orangemen, the New Era said the reception for the Prince of Wales was "all that could be desired."

"Between two and three thousand people assembled, and gave the Prince a loyal and enthusiastic greeting," the paper wrote. "As the Royal Car approached the Depot, cheer after cheer was given and as soon as the train stopped the enthusiasm the assembled multitude was almost unbounded."

The crowd, they said, gave another enthusiastic cheer when the local band struck up with a rendition of God Save The Queen, and the Prince of Wales "bowed in the acknowledgements."

"We understand the train halted about 15 minutes and as His Royal Highness occupied the open car during most of the time, all present had ample opportunity of seeing him," the paper continued.

The New Era describes

the three arches constructed in the Prince of Wales' honour as extensive and "equal to that of Newmarket, if not superior".

One was built at the entrance of the depot grounds between the station platform and the freight house, and one on Wellington Street across the train track near the hotel.

The arch offered by the Mechanics is described as being built in "Gothic style" bearing the emblems of both Queen Victoria and the Prince of Wales, which were depicted in flowers.

The Masons took the "Roman" approach with their arch and was "well proportioned" according to the paper, something that received "great credit" from contemporaries.

Built of evergreens and flowers, the arch was inscribed with "God Save the Queen", "Welcome the Grand-son of a Grand Master", as well as the Masonic insignia, and topped with a crown.

The Orangemen took less of a classical approach with offerings, building their arch in the "Tuscan style", complete with a portrait of

Queen Victoria as well as the inscriptions "God Save the Queen" and "Welcome to our Prince."

Evidently the New Era thought very highly of the Orangemen's arch, and said it was "well worthy" of the village.

"We cannot but congratulate the good people of Aurora upon the success that crowned their labours, and compliment them upon their very creditable display made on the above auspicious occasion."

For those of you who followed the visit of the newlywed great-great-grandson of this 19th century Prince of Wales simply for the fashions his new bride offered and waited with baited breath for the daily roundup of "What Kate Wore", we wanted to conclude this piece with a "What Albert Edward Wore" segment just for you, but the account from The New Era was not obliging.

"The personal appearance of the Prince, having been previously published and re-published, again and again, [it] is unnecessary for us to describe him here."

## —THE AURORAN—

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### Editorial policy

Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and letter writers are not necessarily those of The Auroran. Letters must include name and phone number, although number will not be published, and be limited to 600 words. Letters may be edited or refused. All contents protected by copyright.

### Advertising policy

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.

## Letter to the Editor

# Reader still looking for hummingbirds

To the editor,

On behalf of the Wildlife and Naturalization Working Group, I would like to thank that more than 40 people who phoned in response to my letter in The Auroran about hummingbirds visiting feeders in their area.

As a result of their efforts I estimate we have between 10 and 15 hummingbird pairs nesting in the Town of Aurora.

Interestingly, all the records came from the built up portion of the Town with no reports of hummingbirds at feeders in the rural areas east of

Bayview Avenue, but there must be pairs in this area.

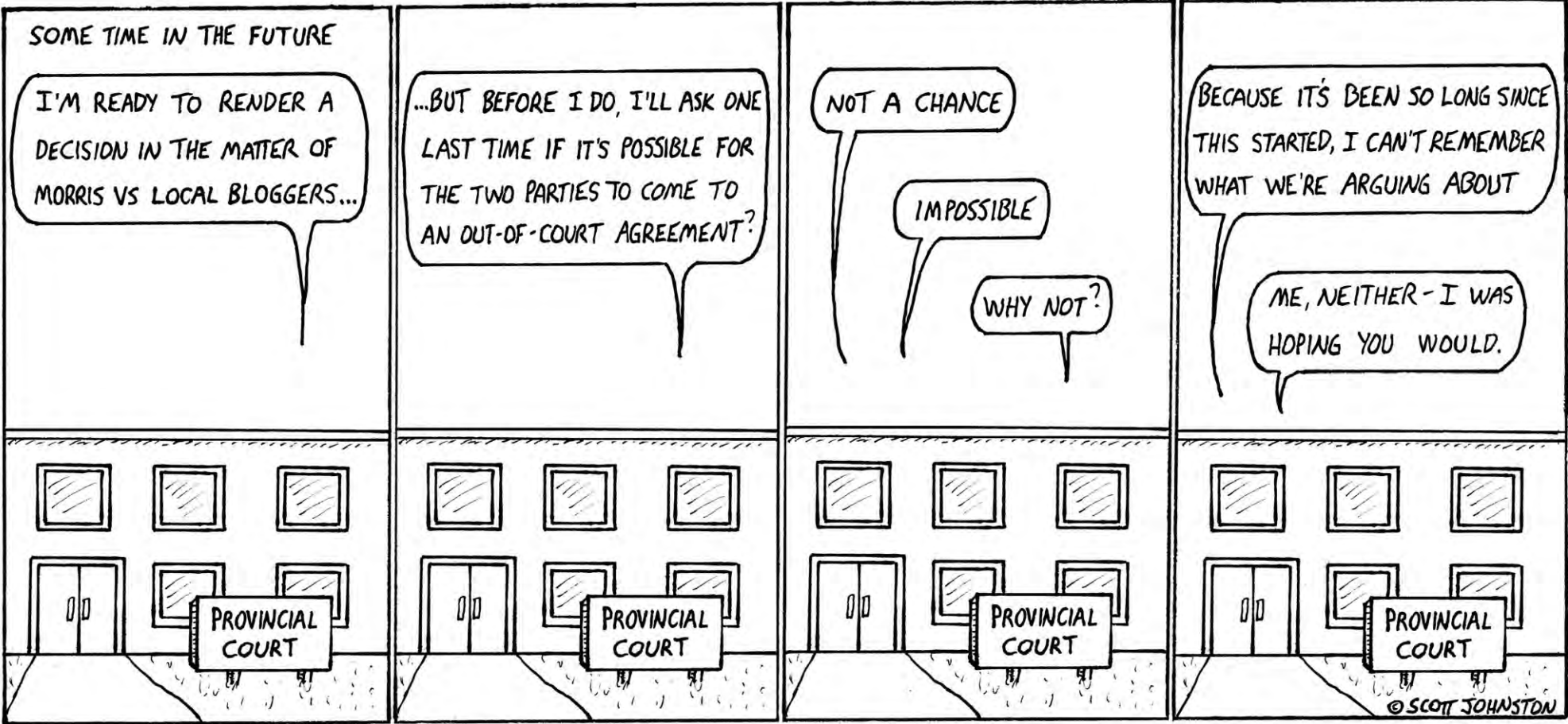
I would be grateful to hear from residents in the area east of Bayview who have a hummingbird feeder on their property whether it was visited by hummingbirds between June 20 and July 20.

All sitings will be greatly appreciated.

And if anyone did not see my original letter or didn't respond the first time, your records would be valuable, too.

My telephone number is 905-727-8979.

**David Tomlinson**  
Aurora



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

One of our local fast food restaurants is out to get me. I suppose that by indulging in the occasional fast food dinner I'm kind of asking for trouble, anyway, with all the associated salt, cholesterol, fat, MSG, and other less than healthy ingredients that make this stuff taste so good. But that risk applies to everyone who indulges. I think I'm being targeted. It all started several years ago. One Friday night in December, I thought I'd bring in a quick dinner on my way home, as I had a commitment that evening. I went into the restaurant (which shall remain nameless, although I'd really love to say which one it was), picked up my order, and headed out across the dimly lit parking lot. The next thing I remember was being flat on my back next to the car. Fortunately, my head was okay - it must be especially thick - but my elbow really hurt. Standing up gingerly, I noticed how icy a big area of the lot was near my car. I went back inside, no doubt looking slightly dishevelled after having spent a few minutes lying down on frozen concrete, and told the person behind the counter (no manager around, of course) that they'd better put some salt down, or someone else was going to fall.

I was met with a non-committal "huh". No apology. No "are you okay?" Who knows; maybe I was the eighth person to stagger back in there that evening. Or perhaps their fear of being sued outweighs any sort of concern for their customers' welfare. By that time, I could no longer bend my elbow, and tossed aside my previous engagement in order to spend an enjoyable evening at Southlake's emergency department. Feeling miffed that I hadn't received some sort of apology, and optimistically hoping I'd get my Southlake parking reimbursed, later that evening I called the restaurant's customer 800 number, and related what happened. They said they'd pass it along. While I did eventually get a call back, I wasn't home. They must have felt that was all that was required, because while I returned the call, I never heard from them again. I was so annoyed at their response, or lack thereof, that it was several years before they saw me in there again. But as they say, time heals all wounds, so eventually I started going back on occasion, but not in winter, as I don't think they ever repaved the parking lot. Well, they must have remembered me, or had my photo posted in the back, because last week when I returned

home with my food, I found an added surprise in it; hair - multiple long strands (apologies if you're reading this at the breakfast table). I tried their 800 number, hoping I'd have more luck than last time, and discovered that they no longer answered calls in the evening. Now that's customer service. So I tried e-mailing them, and each of the three times I sent my comment, the system crashed. I finally got hold of them at the restaurant (the original number listed for them was out of service), where to their credit, they promptly offered me a new meal. But with visions of them combing all the hair out of it before I got there, I declined. Needless-to say, I'm not anxious to return. But based on my previous experience, I won't stay mad forever, and expect that sooner or later, I'll break down, and try the place again. I can't wait to see what they have in store for me next time.

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

ED. NOTE: Okay, Scott, what was the name of the restaurant?



Lois Brown

By Lois Brown  
MP Newmarket-Aurora

2011 has been declared the Year of the Entrepreneur, in order to help increase public awareness of the important role played by small businesses. There are a number of reasons to celebrate Canadian entrepreneurship. For one, small and medium-sized businesses contribute to Canada's ongoing economic success. Resilient and innovative Canadian entrepreneurs help create jobs, strengthen communities and encourage competitiveness. They are key engines of wealth generation and play a critical role in sustaining the economic recovery. This is especially true in Newmarket-Aurora. A constant priority of mine is to support our small businesses and entrepreneurs by informing them of tax credits or programs as they become available, and by advocating for supportive legislation. For example, several local companies took advantage of programs launched through Canada's Economic Action Plan, resulting in new job opportunities and increased economic activity. I was a strong advocate for the extension of the ecoENERGY Retrofit-Homes program and pleased to see its extension with the benefits it brings to our local

economy. There are about 2.3 million Canadians who are either self-employed or business owners. Small business confidence remains positive and more companies now report plans to hire rather than downsize. Indeed, the Canadian economy is the envy of much of the developed world. We have experienced seven straight quarters of economic growth and nearly 600,000 more Canadians are working today than in July, 2009. Since mid-2009, Canada has had the strongest employment growth among the G7. Budget 2011 also introduced a temporary Hiring Credit for Small Business, lowered the small business tax rate to 11 per cent from 12 per cent, and increased the amount of small business income eligible for this reduced rate to \$500,000 from \$300,000. Our government has taken steps to reduce the amount of red tape facing our small and medium sized businesses so they may focus on growing their businesses, instead of filling out government forms. Since 2009 our government has eliminated almost

80,000 red tape requirements. As a member of the Red Tape Reduction Commission I look forward to the release of our upcoming report with recommendations to further reduce the burden of federal regulatory requirements on Canadian enterprises. Other actions our government has taken to support a stronger Canadian economy include assistance to Canada's manufacturing and processing sector by extending the temporary accelerated capital cost allowance rate for investment in machinery and equipment for two additional years, supporting business innovation, and opening new international markets for Canadian exporters through an ambitious trade agenda, including negotiating trade agreements with the European Union and India. All of these initiatives - and more - are designed to support economic growth and job creation in this country. Canadians can be assured that, in our new mandate, we will continue to keep our focus on the economy - and keep it on the right track. I welcome your ideas and suggestions and can be reached by phone at 905-953-7515 or email at Lois.Brown@parl.gc.ca.

2011- Year of the Entrepreneur





# Removal of Fed gas tax “suicidal”, he says

Gas tax revenue from the Federal government currently enjoyed by Ontario municipalities, including Aurora, is only guaranteed until 2014, but if the Feds took the gas tax revenue off the table when the matter comes up for review, it would be "suicidal" according to Aurora Treasurer Dan Elliott.

Mr. Elliott made his remarks in a presentation to council this summer in a special general committee meeting for council to go over the Town's long-term capital investment plan.

Town Staff have made "two major assumptions" when determining cash flow for the future, one of which was the gas tax up until 2014 and beyond.

"The reason why I think that is a strong and reliable assumption [that it will continue] is because it would be silly for the Federal government - it would be suicidal, I think, quite frankly - to cancel the program," he told councillors. "If anything, they would boost it, once they begin to get a handle of what the infrastructure deficit is across Canada."

The second assumption Mr. Elliott made in his forecast was a one per cent levy that is contributed by council to the Town's cash to capital fund annually, a rate that is set during each year's budget process.

When Councillor Paul Pirri, however, enquired about this rate, mentioning that it was his understanding that the one per

cent annual rate was not "enough by any means" to get the Town to where it needs to be, Mr. Elliott said it keeps the Town afloat for infrastructure.

"Using those two assumptions, I get one per cent each year on top of the year prior for 10 years," said Mr. Elliott of his forecast. "For nine years, it shows that we never go into the tank overall for repair and replacement and we end up with what appears to be a reserve balance roughly approximate to what our annual spending is and a contribution about equal to our spending."

"The goal I set out for you during budget time was the reserve balance should be one or two times the average annual spending provided your contribution is about your average annual spending as well."

"Then your reserve is just a buffer [for] your year to year fluctuation. In the nine years we achieve that goal on this page with the two assumptions. If we end up with a hiatus on the one per cent for three or four years that would not be achieved."

According to Mr. Elliott, the reserve balance accounts for the good part of the Town's average spending.

Although he said that might suggest to him that the compounding "one per cent times nine might be a little too much over time", he hadn't the numbers to suggest what a model of any lesser number might be

at the time.

If the Federal gas tax credit is removed, however, his forecast drops down in the fourth year with a loss of \$1.4 million.

"We now have four negative years of reserve balance happening," he said, of the outlook down the road.

"We end the nine years still overdrawn in our reserves by about \$4 million. If we put the gas tax back in and I exclude the one per cent compounding levy contribution you can see it gets steadily worse," he told councillors, illustrating his point on a graph. "You can guess what the next slide is if we take them both off. You're quickly approaching \$15 to \$16 million in the tank - not a place we want to be because, personally, I'm not an advocate of borrowing money to repair the assets that are in place."

Repair and replacement, he added, should be funded while assets are being consumed and paid for primarily - and up front - with development charges, and replacements should be funded as you go.

"If we don't get those two assumptions, it is pretty grave," he cautioned. "I think the first assumption with the gas tax is fairly safe. The one per cent is going to be subject to annual budget discussion and we will refine this model over the coming weeks and months as we go into budget."

Areas slated for repair and replacement in the coming decade include 53 Aurora

streets (with scheduled reconstructions for Spruce Street, Glass Drive, Keystone Court, Walton Court, Hildale Road, Hillside Drive, Kenlea Court, Vandorf Sideroad, Centre

Street, Hunters Glen Groat, and Fox Point in 2012), a number of repairs and upgrades to playgrounds, sports fields and other recreational facilities, the repair and replacement of sev-

eral fleet vehicles, and investing in Town assets ranging from the hydro building, which is to be taken over by the Department of National Defence, to Victoria Hall.

Public budget consultations this fall will herald an earlier-than-usual start to the upcoming municipal budget process this year.

The initial budget overview meeting for the public has been scheduled for Monday, November 7 after council approval last month.

The meeting is open for the public and staff and councillors will begin receiving citizen input at that time.

The November 7 meeting will be followed by one the following Monday, November 14 which will be an all-day session looking at the capital budget.

The capital discussion will continue November 21, while councillors will discuss the operating budget at an all-day meeting November 28, spilling over to December 5.

If all goes according to plan, the budget will be finalized at a special general committee meeting on December 12 - to be continued the following Monday if necessary - with the final document coming forward for council's final approval at a regularly scheduled meeting in January.

In the meantime, the Town's departmental directors are preparing their individual budgets.

"The Chief Administrative Officer makes final decisions as to inclusions or exclusions with respect to the final draft budget presented to council for review and deliberation," said Town Treasurer Dan Elliott in a report to council. "Corporate and Financial Services staff coordinate the overall development, consolidation and presentation of the budget materials, and monitor and track all approved and proposed budget amendments throughout the process."

According to Mr. Elliott a number of directions will be considered while the directors draft their budgets, which will be divided into three sections - base budget, which will look at maintaining existing service levels in a cost efficient manner; previously approved enhancements; and enhanced

## Town budget could end earlier than usual

levels of services. Those preparing the operating budget will form the document based on maintaining existing service levels "with cost containment and efficiencies to be priorities".

Additional drivers include updating existing fees, budgeting for fixed costs of operations and maintenance for sewers and water delivery and its integration into operating budgets, and reducing dependency on what is described as "non-recurring revenue sources" in order to balance the budget.

This, said Mr. Elliott, should be reduced, phased-out, and eliminated "where possible".

Any change to the Town's water rates could once again come as a separate item as late as the spring, Mr. Elliott added.

This potential delay could be attributed to waiting for final wholesale water rates from the Region of York as well their trunk sewer rates.

Department directors aim to have their budgets submitted by mid-September.



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3. Investing In Health Care And Education

4. Cleaning Up The Waste in Government

5. Keeping Our Neighbourhoods Safe

Full details can be found by visiting my campaign website at [www.frankklees.com](http://www.frankklees.com).

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# Residents pleased with dog attack outcome

From page 1

"A dog came bounding across the road and started circling," said Mr. Bensley, of Rex. "All of a sudden the dog just jumped behind us and it bit the female dog. She just yelped very loudly. The woman came across the road and said she was sorry about the dog, but in the meantime I just bent down and tried to look at my dog and see if she was bitten and I couldn't see anything at the time."

Mr. Bensley said he later looked at what he described as a "gash" and found two puncture wounds which were treated by a veterinarian with appropriate shots and antibiotic prescriptions.

Notes from the vet were not included in evidence and, as such, the Meadows contended that there was not sufficient proof to conclude beyond a reasonable doubt that their dog had been behind Annie's injuries.

"There is reasonable doubt

and there is no evidence from the veterinarian of what might have occurred," said Mr. Meadows. "It's clear that the gash wound that is being claimed without verifiable evidence from any professional veterinarian and it appears as though there is some reasonable doubt that a bite actually did occur on July 5."

According to Animal Control Officer Eric Schafrank, he responded to the case the following day and questioned Mrs. Meadows about the incident.

"While speaking with Ms. Meadows, I asked what occurred and she did admit that her dog did indeed run across the street unleashed and there was a form of communication between the two dogs via barking and growling, but she did not admit to a potential dog bite."

When he laid the charges on the Meadows, they claimed in their testimony last week that they felt "threatened" and "intimidated" by the officer and

the fines and Ms. Meadows indicated that the matter could have been sorted out if it was handled between the two dog owners.

When asked by Councillor Abel if she would have paid the veterinary bill if presented to her, Ms. Meadows said she would.

"But when I felt bullied and intimidated [by the Officer]," she said. "I thought, 'Now he's bullying me and I'm not going to pay.' If the owner approached me it would have been a whole different scenario."

Following the hearing, both Mr. Bensley and Mr. and Ms. Meadows said they were pleased with the outcome.

"It looks like they took a very responsible view of the current bylaw and there is obviously an opportunity here to have Rex live a free and open life in Aurora with just a training program and six months of no issues," said Mr. Meadows. "I believe that is fair."

# Town hall needs a change

From page 1

to accommodate the current staff complement and expansion of existing common use spaces is impossible, she added, noting that additional staff members cannot be accommodated without "major rethinking and reconfiguration".

"Band aid solutions entertained for new hires over many years created a big mess in workplace sizes," she said. "There are five or six different office sizes for the same position. Although the building is maintained very well and appears clean and fresh, it lacks innovation and creativity."

Deficiencies identified by Ms. Mamiche in her presentation included the two main entry points to town hall, excessive and inefficient filing done in Town departments, the way customers are led and directed through the building, a lack of "community presence", a number of areas that are not quite barrier free, a lack of exciting use for the upper floor's Skylight Gallery, and a lack of space to "foster collaborative work styles".

"There is no place to gather and we know now that most creative ideas are not necessarily made over the boardroom table, but done in a much freer environment," she said. "People are not intimidated, they feel equal."

"This building was designed 20 years ago and we know 20 years ago technology was totally different and the presence and use of the technology was totally different than it is now. The young genera-

tions are used to technology in day to day life. They live with it and they have to be able to plug in anywhere at any time and they are not really working in a cubicle. They can work in a coffee area and they are able to be as productive as working in a closed office space."

Improvements could also be made in reconfiguring offices and corridors to take optimum advantage of natural light in the building, she said, noting that several of the windows allow light only into corridors rather than in offices.

Increasing access to natural light could also be improved by lowering cubicles or dividing off workstations with glazing, either clear or frosted to allow light to come in but also foster a semblance of privacy, and revamping the layout to have meeting rooms located along the outside windows.

The workplace, she said, should support all generations and what is currently offered at Town Hall does not.

"For the first time we are going to have three generations in the workplace - generation Y, generation X, and boomers," she said. "This is a very unique situation: we've had to provide a space which appeals to and is comfortable for a big spread in age."

This can be fostered by increasing collaborative workspaces such as layout counters and computer and media hubs where people can work, gather ideas, and get the job done outside a cubicle, she said.

"We have three generations at work, we want the young people to learn from the knowledge-rich baby boomers and give them the advantage of having the older generation still at work," she added. "We feel [workplace culture] should be fun and engaging, celebrate diversities, emphasize similarities and promote high retention."

"If you have 1/20th of the space dedicated to shared spaces there is something wrong. Building future expansion is also a must. If you want to be prepared for the future then you need to have some plans for future expansion. There are areas that could be converted to collaboration spaces."

"I didn't want to sound negative, but I think the building is really desperate for a change and I think people are really desperate for a change and we need to do something really great. We're excited to be a part of this process because we see that we can transform this building together into something unique and exciting."

While Councillor Evelyn Buck had previously expressed some scepticism over the space needs analysis, she did agree with some of the points Ms. Mamiche made in her presentation.

"The only thing I agree with wholeheartedly with is everybody should have daylight in their workspace," said Councillor Buck. "I like the idea of gathering spaces and people sitting around chatting while still doing their work."



Neil MacNeil, Aurora Knights of Columbus #6519 charity committee chairman, recently presented Lorna Rumenie with a cheque for \$1,200 to be used to purchase food for the Aurora Food Pantry. With the cheque was a letter from Grand Knight Jim Clark, who could not attend the presentation. It is not the first time the Aurora Knights of Columbus have assisted the food bank, and several members helped the bank move to its present location on Industrial Parkway.

Auroran photo by Diane Buchanan

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# THE AURORAN

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Week of August 9, 2011



In spite of the rain, those who did show up for the Town of Aurora's Concert in the Park Wednesday night were entertained by Lazo, left, a Juno award winner and top reggae performer of the Canada Reggae Music Awards, who paid tribute to the King of Reggae, Bob Marley. He performed at the Town Park.  
*Auroran photo by David Falconer*

### She'll answer tree questions next Wednesday

On Wednesday, August 17, Edith George will answer that oft-asked question "What Is A Heritage Tree?"

It's all part of an evening being presented at Hillary House by the Aurora Historical Society, called "Preserving Our Natural Roots".

Why is it important to protect heritage trees?

Edith George will answer that question and more.

You'll learn how a tree can be designated as "heritage" using the toolkit produced by the Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance.

The speaker will focus on how to identify a tree's historical and cultural significance.

She uses one of her neighbourhood's own special red oaks as the example tree in her presentation.

Edith is an Advisor to the Ontario Urban Forest Council and is a Past Director of the Weston Historical Society.

Evening officials warn, however, that seating is limited.

Respond to [ahs@aurorahs.com](mailto:ahs@aurorahs.com) or call 905-727-8991 to reserve a seat.



### Aurora Minor Hockey Association

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING 2011/2012 REGISTRATION

We will be available for In-House Registration at the Hockey Office located at the **Aurora Community Centre** for the following dates in August.

- Wednesday August 10, 2011, 7 - 9 pm
- Wednesday August 17, 2011, 7 - 9 pm
- Wednesday August 24, 2011, 7 - 9 pm
- Wednesday August 31, 2011, 7 - 9 pm

*Please refer to our website [www.auroraminorhockey.net](http://www.auroraminorhockey.net) for further information.*

Midget rep tryouts will commence **SEPTEMBER 10, 2011.**

**Players MUST be registered prior to tryouts and MUST purchase a "Tryout Passport" to attend any Midget AA, A or AE tryouts.**

Please refer to our website for full details on times and locations.

*Tyke players born in 2004 and 2005 must submit a copy of a birth certificate.*  
*It is recommended that 2005 players have either taken skating lessons or completed one year of Opti Hockey.*

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# Diverting glass from landfill aim of new container

A new bottle recycling container is helping to divert glass from needlessly being sent to landfill and it's an Aurora company invention.

The Bottle Bin™ reusable container helps Ontarians to conveniently store, sort and return their empty wine, beer and spirit bottles and it's part of Aurora-based Sustain It Inc.

Glass containers are diverted from landfill and consumers are assisted to take full advantage of the Ontario Deposit Return Program (ODRP).

On average, 40 per cent of all glass bottles put in single-stream recycling bins end up in landfill, according to a 2009 Container Recycling Institute study.

Recycling glass is a challenge because it has to first be separated by colour and in single-stream programs it is virtually impossible to prevent glass from breaking.

Mixed or contaminated glass cannot be recycled; a contributing factor to the implementation of the ODRP in 2007.

"Everyone wants to do

their part for the environment," said Chris Williams, Marketing Director of Sustain It Inc., located at 117 Wellington Street East. "Most understand the obligation to participate in the Deposit Return Program, just as they do for the Blue Box and Green Bin programs; however, it is not always convenient, or simple, to do so. Bottle Bin makes it easy to return bottles and rewards users by putting money back in their pocket. Instead of tossing bottles into regular recycling, consumers can use

the Bottle Bin container to sort, store and transport their bottles back to The Beer Store knowing their efforts are achieving a 100 per cent recycling rate."

The Bottle Bin™ container fits up to 18 standard wine or spirit bottles or 48 standard beer bottles and can be purchased at the Beer Store for \$9.99.

"At The Beer Store, we strive to make each visit as convenient as possible for our customers," said Ted Moroz, President of The Beer Store. "The

launch of our new Bottle Bin™ is another green initiative that makes it easier for customers to organize and return their empty bottles."

The Beer Store administers the ODRP for wine and spirit containers sold by LCBO, winery and distillery retail stores.

The program encourages consumers to return their empty containers for a deposit refund; allowing them to do their part for the environment, while rewarding them financially.

Aurora-based Sustain It Inc. had identified a need to improve the flow of bottles all along the

product life chain.

The company recently launched the "Bring Your Bottles Back" initiative to help promote solutions to saving energy, conserving resources and reducing waste sent to landfill.

Along with developing the Bottle Bin™ container, made of 100 per cent recycled materials, the company has launched a website [www.bringyourbottlesback.com](http://www.bringyourbottlesback.com) to help educate consumers on glass recycling.

For further information, contact Jackie Cousins at 416-543-7700 or e-mail her at [jcousins@larter.ca](mailto:jcousins@larter.ca).



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## Saturday is seniors' day at the Market

This Saturday will be Aurora Seniors' Centre day at the Aurora Farmers' Market.

"We will have three booths selling specialty items our members have lovingly made, said ASA president Charles Sequeira. "Maybe you will need some bags to carry home all your treasures."

He reminded those who plan to attend to bring a folding chair to "watch our talented "Silver Stars" perform on the stage from 10 a.m. until 11.30 a.m.

He also said there would be chess enthusiasts on hand who would

be "pleased to challenge anyone to a game".

The market will be held in its normal position at the Town Park.

Mr. Sequeira may be contacted at [charles.sequeira@rogers.com](mailto:charles.sequeira@rogers.com) if further information is required.



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# Pirri “loves every second” being a councillor

By **BROCK WEIR**  
Auroran writer

Although Council has had its ups and downs, its youngest member - and newest if you take into account his re-count face-off against Stephen Granger - Paul Pirri says he has been "loving every second of the ride" so far.

"I think the biggest high I have felt so far was at the very first meeting when I sat around the table and looked at everybody and thought, 'I still can't believe that I am lucky enough to do this,'" says Councillor Pirri, looking back on the first six months of the new council, a milestone which was reached this spring.

With over half of his first year behind him, Councillor Pirri is reluctant to point out any "lows" as, he said, there is "no point in trying to dwell on negative moments" because you learn from them and "hopefully are able to move forward from them."

"I would be happy to say that we're all getting along for the most part," he said of his council colleagues. "We have our tiffs at the table but I think we're able to step away from the table and be cordial to

each other and enjoy the presence of each other. I think that is a huge benefit to this council; we enjoy working together."

Since he officially took council's eighth seat in December, Councillor Pirri said one of the best pieces of feedback he has received so far is that laughter has returned to the council chamber and "our sentiments at council seem genuine".

"There is nothing forced in the way that we act, we all enjoy being there, so it is nice to see a council that is not afraid of levity in the work that they do," said Councillor Pirri, relaying some of the feedback he has received.

This feedback hasn't significantly changed as the first six months of council has progressed, he notes.

People are still happy with the way they are running business, he adds, but said that might be due to the fact council is "still in a bit of a honeymoon stage".

"I'm more than happy to listen to criticism or positive feedback, but I haven't really gotten much criticism," he said.

When Councillor Pirri first threw his hat into the ring during the 2010 municipal election campaign, he said he



**COUNCILLOR PAUL PIRRI**

wanted to bring a youth perspective to the table.

When we asked whether he felt he has been successful in bringing this voice to the table thus far, he replies in the affirmative but offers some qualification.

"I think I bring a youth's per-

spective," he said. "I represent my generation as best as I can, but do I represent all youth or tailor specifically to youth? No. Do I offer perspective that comes from a youth? Yes."

Looking back over the first six months of council, from his

perspective some of the more significant achievements of council include dealing with the pool allocation policy as well as finding a use and what might be a viable future for the Petch House, a building that is alternately an albatross or important piece of Aurora's heritage, depending on who you ask.

"I think one of the good things about this council is that we're able to give some thought and think about it from different perspectives but ultimately, at the end of the day, we are elected to make decisions," he said. "I think as a council, as a whole, we are willing and ready to make decisions on important matters."

Looking ahead for the next six months and when council resumes full force after the summer break, Councillor Pirri said he is looking forward to discussions surrounding the proposed Aurora youth centre and how a facility like that will work within the community, as well as tackling any issues from citizens that may crop up.

"I really like hearing people's comments and questions, so when there is an issue that comes to the floor, I like dealing with those types of issues as well," he said. "I look forward to citizens bringing their concerns

to the fore and us being able to help them as best we can as well."

Recently, former councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas devoted the bulk of her weekly online series Our Town to speaking with Councillor Pirri on various matters related to council and Town as a whole.

To watch the interview, visit [www.livestream.com/theaurorancom](http://www.livestream.com/theaurorancom) and select the July 27, 2011 edition of Our Town.

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**Senior Scape**

By **CHARLES  
SEQUEIRA**

Our participation at the Farmer's Market on Saturday, August 13th at the Town Park in Aurora: we will have three booths selling specialty items.

Please don't forget to bring a folding chair to watch our talented "Silver Stars" perform on the stage from 10 a.m. until 11.30 a.m.

And our Chess ENTHUSIASTS will be pleased to challenge anyone to a game. We hope to see you there.

## **CORN ROAST**

ASA Members, Families & Friends join us for the Final Blast of Summer at the Aurora Seniors' Centre (ASC), 96 John West Way, Aurora on Friday, September 9th at 6 p.m. on the deck.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children.

Seniors will be serving corn on the cob, pulled pork on a bun OR beef, hot dogs, baked beans, coleslaw, apple OR peach crisp, vanilla ice cream, coffee and tea.

Tickets are available at the Seniors' Centre front desk.

## **TEA AND CHAT**

The Tea and Chat meeting held last Wednesday at the Seniors' Centre where seniors were invited to provide input in the Town's Strategic plan in stages up to 2031 was very productive and pro-

vided some good suggestions.

Main issues that were discussed included Transportation accessibility for Seniors; Efficiency in YRT bus routes in Aurora and neighbouring communities; Education facility like a College to be located in Aurora; Lack of parking spaces in the downtown core as well as on some of our walking trails where seniors would like to walk; Further development of the Aurora Promenade and 2C lands; Provide Incentives or premiums for small or large businesses to locate in Aurora; and Encourage development of affordable housing for seniors and low income families, etc.

## **ASA-EVERGREEN CHOIR**

New members are always welcome.

If you can carry a tune and like to sing we would be happy to have you come and join us.

It is not necessary to be able to read music, nor will you be asked to audition, to enjoy being part of this happy experience.

Music and shared pleasure is not only good for the soul, but also for the heart and the lungs. Registration is now available at the front desk of the Aurora Seniors' Centre for the season from September 7th, to June 2012.

The fee for the coming sessions remains the

same: \$50 per member.

We would appreciate your registering early so that we will be all set to go on the first day.

The ASA Evergreen Choir's time of practice will be increased to 1½ hours.

We will be meeting on Wednesday, September 7th in the West McKenzie Room from 1.45 p.m. to 3.15 p.m.

It is advised, however, that members come earlier to pick up their music.

We are looking forward to a great season.

In addition to our regular Christmas and Spring concerts, we will be performing at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts on Sunday, January 29th, and also taking part in the 'Big Sing' at Roy Thompson Hall on Sunday, November 6th.

## **CANADA DAY PARADE**

The Aurora Seniors' Centre entered a float in the parade on July 1.

The float had a canoe on board depicting one of the first modes of transportation.

The canoe was built by ASA member, Murray Bieset.

The committee was co-chaired by Ron Coe and Judy Buchanan and committee members were Marianne Urbach, Doug Jarvie, Blanche Hill and Rozlin Laber.

On board the float on July 1 was Marianne Urbach, Norma Dover

and Judy Buchanan.

We are pleased to report that the float won a "Best Original Float" award.

Thanks to the committee members who worked very hard in the planning of this float.

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# Indemnification policy for staff coming

Town Staff should bring a report to council this month on instituting an indemnification policy for Town employees, according to Councillor Wendy Gaertner.

Councillor Gaertner made her request at a recent council meeting where she gave notice of motion, in which she said that "the Town of Aurora

has a duty to protect staff acting in good faith in their capacity as employees" and "also has a duty to protect the financial interest of taxpayers."

Public concern, she said in her notice, has been expressed "over mounting legal expenses", and she called for a full report regarding an indemnification policy

"that includes parameters and limits to the Town's financial exposure."

Preparations for an indemnification policy were previously announced earlier this year in the controversial press release issued after the Town followed legal advice to pay the costs incurred to

December by former mayor Phyllis Morris in her defamation lawsuit against three local bloggers, among others.

The intent of the media release recognized that the Town was striving to repair the "damaged" trust of residents that resulted from the legal fallout.

"The Town will be

preparing an indemnification policy," Jason Ballantyne, Aurora's Manager of Corporate Communications, said in the statement.

"This Indemnification Policy will address, among other things, when and how a member of council or an employee of the Town can be reimbursed for legal

expenses that were incurred in their capacity as members of council or employees of the Town."

Councillor Gaertner had previously expressed discontent that policy such as this was mentioned in a media release before it came to the council table for discussion although, she said, she was aware that there was an intent to bring an indemnification policy forward.

"I remember definitely the indemnity policy was going to be discussed, but I didn't have knowledge of the other policies that were being discussed by members of staff and possibly members of this council table," she said at the time. "Everything needs to be discussed at this council table. It needs to be open and transparent and any discussions on policy or decisions of council need to be done at this table and I am very upset there was no discussion about this media release because it wasn't from the Town it was from the council and I had no part in it and I believe that is wrong."

Councillor Gaertner will have the opportunity to speak to her motion at Council on August 16.

# Sign bylaw use questioned

It should either be scrapped or followed to the letter – those were the two very different viewpoints on the Town of Aurora's existing sign bylaw expressed by councillors at last month's council meeting

after considering a variance request from a new Rogers outlet in Aurora's downtown.

The councillors made their comments in July after the owners of the new Rogers store on the east side of Yonge Street

just north of Edward Street, requested permission to include a larger than currently allowed for sign on the facade of the building, which it shares with RBC and the Edward Street Grill.

"I have a concern that

since January or so, this is maybe the third or fourth time it has come to council where a business wants a sign variance, they want a larger sign, and one begins to question why we have a sign bylaw at all," said Councillor Chris Ballard in response to the matter that was before council.

"Is the bylaw too restrictive? Does it need to be reviewed?"

Councillor Ballard, who said he was not in favour of voting for the recommendation said if he was seeking rental space for a business, he would keep the sign requirements in mind before taking out a lease.

"I certainly wouldn't lease it and then realize there is no room for a sign," he said. "I have concerns with it and I know I keep alluding back to the Aurora Promenade Study, but a vision for Yonge Street isn't one with larger and bigger and brighter signs, and that is certainly something that I do not want to see."

For Councillor Evelyn Buck, however, the matter was simple – if the Town has a sign bylaw on the books, why isn't it enforced?

But, at the end of the day, the bylaw itself is problematic, she said.

"One of my notices of motion is to have the sign bylaw reviewed because I believe it creates far more problems than it solves," she said, also addressing comments that Rogers' sign variance request had also been reviewed and okayed by the Town's heritage planner.

"Councillor Ballard's comment about the Promenade Study and there is a vision – I hope the vision is to have all those stores in the downtown core occupied and the Town giving every help and consideration and support to any business that might choose to make its investment in the Town of Aurora instead of putting roadblocks in the way in terms of what size of a sign and whether or not it matches with one hundred year old buildings which never had much of an architectural value in the first place.

"I find this whole conversation totally irrelevant to the reality of people trying to make a business succeed in the year 2011."

The current sign bylaw for the building in question restricts signage to be 20 per cent of the unit facade.

What Rogers is requesting would take up 35 per cent of the unit frontage, which would go over the building's overhead garage facade due to the small size of the Rogers unit's recessed facade.

The owner of the building has expressed support of Rogers' request.

Council approved the staff recommendation to support the sign variance.

# Watergames event slated for August 24

The Town of Aurora's Department of Parks and Recreation - Aquatics division, is presenting the 11th annual Watergames event, aimed at promoting water safety later this month.

With the high number of water-related deaths that occur every year, the Aquatics division participates in several events that work toward communicating the water safety message to Aurora's

community.

One of these events is Watergames, which is held annually with proceeds going to the Lifesaving Society's Water Smart Campaign for drowning prevention.

This year, Watergames will be held Wednesday, August 24 during the regular leisure swim from 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex

(SARC).

The event is open to Aurora residents and visitors.

Regular admission fees of \$2.75 per person apply, with all monies being donated to the Lifesaving Society's Water Smart Campaign.

No pre-registration is necessary, but the number of admissions is limited to the pool's capacity of about 345 people.

## Letters to the Editor

# Sold out hoedown tickets baffles him

To the editor,

I am a little baffled to hear that the Hoedown (Magna) tickets are already sold out.

Good for the Charities but a little weird given the fact that no one knows who is playing yet.

But last Thursday I hear some disturbing news, and I reiterate that this is

only a rumour, but if it's true, it really bugs me.

The story is that bundles of ticket were sold (100 to 200 at a time).

These tickets in turn are going to show up on Kijiji etc., after the acts are announced, at an increased price.

I hope this isn't true but, nowadays, it wouldn't surprise me.

This is a fund raiser and now we might have individuals taking advantage of this and turning a profit at the Charities' expense.

I know this is only a rumour but why else would tickets be sold in bunches of 50, 100 or 200?

P. Cooke  
Aurora

# President thanks the volunteers

To the editor,

Our weekly Wednesday barbecue lunches are very popular.

Our thanks to Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and Councillor John Abel who on two separate occasions each did the whole barbecue, grilling burgers and sausages for our seniors at our weekly lunches.

Our thanks to all the volunteers who also did the barbecue, served the food, etc, etc.

Our remaining barbecue lunches for August are the 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st.

Hope to see you all there.

Charles Sequiera  
President  
Aurora Seniors

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The successful applicant will have excellent writing and photography skills, a valid driver's licence and a reliable vehicle, as well as a willingness to work evenings and weekends as required. A diploma in journalism would be an asset, as well as proficiency in using social media, Mac computers, QuarkXPress, Photoshop and other programs required for the production of a weekly newspaper.

Interested and qualified candidates should forward their cover letter and resume to [rs@simcoeyorkprinting.com](mailto:rs@simcoeyorkprinting.com)

Simcoe-York Group of Newspapers

EDITOR

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

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- Candidates should have experience working on the editorial side of the newspaper industry
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The ideal candidate will have a distinct willingness to cover both community events, local politics, and be able to work in a team-oriented yet self-motivated environment.

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# Aurora native hopes fund-raiser a success

It was the fulfilment of a long-held dream for Aurora native Dorothy Campbell when she volunteered at an orphanage in Tanzania and, she said, the experience made a profound difference in her life. Now, Ms. Campbell is springing into action this week to give a hand-up to people in Rwanda with a fundraiser called "Goats for Africa" Thursday night.

Goats for Africa, which will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. at Timberlane Athletic club will benefit P.R.E.F.E.R. (Poverty Reduction - Education - Family Empowerment - Rwanda), which aims to send kids to school and purchase goats to keep families sustainable.

A \$45 ticket will get you admittance to the event,

which will include music provided by The Timecats, a raffle, wine tasting, and a barbeque catered by Tanis Hargrave of the Roving Chef.

As the event date gets nearer, details continue to fall into place and tickets continue to move, but while Ms. Campbell said she has a target in mind, she is not quite optimistic at this point that the goal will be reached.

"I'm selling tickets, people are very interested, and I am very optimistic that minimum 75 people will be there," she said. "I'm hoping it will be 100, but you just never know. I just keep remembering why I am doing it and I've stopped panicking."

A mother who raised two now-grown children on her own, as her kids love to travel,

their adventures around the globe inspired her to undertake a trek on her own, she said.

After talking about visiting Africa for quite some time, her son told her to stop talking and start doing, and that is just what she did.

"My kids have really inspired me just to go for it and live life," she said.

Volunteering in Tanzania for two months last year, Ms. Campbell said she worked very hard and as soon as she returned to Canada she immediately had the itch to go back to the continent.

Further research led her to Cathy Emmerson of P.R.E.F.E.R., whose mission statement resonated with how she wanted to make a difference in Rwanda.

"Sixty-seven per cent of the population is under 18," she said of the country's demographics following the 1994 genocide which resulted in the murder of approximately 800,000 people. "There is a big, big push for education and that is Cathy's passion - education and empowering families."

"A country can't heal unless it has educated children. It is so powerful, and a goat is only \$40, a goat that could sustain a family. What I have been saying [to possible event patrons] is that a goat is as important to a family in Rwanda as a car is to a family in York Region. It is all about survival."

Ms. Emmerson's P.R.E.F.E.R. program provides English classes for children in the mornings, allowing mothers to go out and work during the day.

Focusing primarily on families with teenagers or a single parent at the head, the group also administers the goat program, which provides female goats to families for milk.

While the recipient families can raise, sell, or slaughter the goat's offspring, they are required to care for the original animal.

Following the Thursday fundraiser, which will see all profits go to P.R.E.F.E.R., Ms. Campbell will soon set off for her first trip to Rwanda, where she will be living in a town about two hours outside of the capital Kigali near Volcanoes National Park, renowned for its population of silverback gorillas.

There she plans on teaching in a local school, and working with a program that will help women start their own small businesses.

"I'm going to do a lot of work with the children because that is what I do here, so I'm making a lot of things, taking school supplies and so on, but I will doing a lot of work with children."

Ms. Campbell, who works

as a child development specialist with the Region of York said she hopes her journey and efforts will inspire other young people to take a wider view of their own world and help out where they can.

"The last year just inspired me so much and really changed me, and one of the reasons why I am doing the fundraiser is...that some of the [children] might get interested

in global issues," she said. "That is very powerful to me, if I can get kids to get excited about a world that is not just theirs, but thinking about the whole world."

For tickets to Goats To Africa, contact Ms. Campbell directly at 905-751-6342, 905-237-9066, or 905-830-4444 (ext.2303), or via email at dorothy.campbell119@gmail.com.



From left to right, Ann Smith as Ida, Susan Lane as Lucille, and Susan McLay as Doris go through a “dress rehearsal” at Jonathan’s Restaurant Thursday night. They are the main characters in “The Cemetery Club”, which has just opened at Theatre Aurora. The show is produced by Sue Meacock and directed by Harry Lavigne, and it continues on various dates until August 20. The theatre is on Henderson Drive in Aurora. *Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*

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