



TOWN OF AURORA Weekly Notice Board



Aurora Town Hall
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COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday, April 23	7 p.m.	Council
Wednesday, April 24	7 p.m.	Public Planning
Tuesday, April 30	7 p.m.	Special General Committee – Public Procurement
Monday, May 6	7 p.m.	Environmental Advisory Committee
Tuesday, May 7	10:30 a.m.	Joint Council Committee – Rescheduled to May 14
Tuesday, May 7	7 p.m.	General Committee
Wednesday, May 8	7 p.m.	Accessibility Advisory Committee
Thursday, May 9	7 p.m.	Economic Development Advisory Committee
Thursday, May 9	7:30 p.m.	Committee of Adjustment

Meetings are open to the public and held at Aurora Town Hall. Council meetings can be seen on Rogers TV, channel 10. For a full list of upcoming meetings, please visit www.aurora.ca/calendar

General Committee meetings can be viewed online by visiting www.aurora.ca/gcstream

AURORA 150 FACT:



Image Courtesy of Aurora Historical Society

Radial Railways (1899)

Radial railways were electric railway lines which “radiated” out of the city. Like streetcars, the cars were topped by poles which made the connection to the overhead electrical power lines. In 1899, the line ran from North Toronto to Aurora. The track ran along the east side of Yonge Street. The radial railway line closed in the spring of 1930 and the tracks were torn up the following year.

NEXT AURORA 150 EVENT:

Aurora Tattoo

Sunday, May 5
Please see our ad in today's Auroran

Like the Aurora 150 committee on Facebook
www.facebook.com/aurora150

Follow the Aurora 150 committee on Twitter
www.twitter.com/aurora_150

G.W. Williams 125th Reunion

Friday, May 3 to Saturday, May 4
To register, please visit www.reunion125.com or email reunion125@bell.net

A Choral Celebration presented by Evergreen Choir

In honour of Aurora's 150th anniversary, a Choral Celebration will be held at the Aurora United Church, 15186 Yonge Street on **Saturday, April 27** at 6:30 p.m.

Participating Choirs:

- Aurora Evergreen Choir (Host)
- Aurora United Church Chancel Choir
- Men of Note Male Voice Choir
- Newmarket Keynotes Seniors Choir
- York Region Community Choir
- York Region French Choir
- Youthful Spirits (Aurora United Church)

For more information, please call Sylvia Gilchrist, Chairperson of the Choral Celebration Organizing Committee or Ruth Church at The Aurora Seniors' Centre, 905-726-4767.

Sign the Town's Memory Book

Share your stories and memories of Aurora by signing the Town's memory book at the following locations:

- The Aurora Seniors' Centre, 90 John West Way
- Aurora Town Hall, 100 John West Way
- Aurora Public Library, 15145 Yonge Street

The books will be placed in a time capsule at the end of the Aurora 150th Birthday celebrations. Thank you!

THANK YOU

The annual Mayor's Anti-Litter Day event this past weekend was a great success, with more than 350 volunteers.

Sincere thanks to our residents and community for their time and commitment to cleaning up our beautiful Town.

Special thanks to our sponsors, Info Aurora, Pitch-in Canada, Tim Hortons and Water for Tomorrow.

Thank you to Town staff, Info Aurora, Green for Life Environmental Corporation and everyone who helped to plan this event and make it a success!

It's nice to see our community coming together to keep our Town litter free! Let's continue the great work!

Sincerely,
Mayor Geoffrey Dawe

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Please visit www.aurora.ca/employment to view the job postings for Manager of Customer Service (13-26) and for Part-Time Facility Receptionist/Registration Clerk (13-27)

WHAT'S HAPPENING



New Hours of Operation at Town Hall

Beginning in May, The Town of Aurora will be extending hours at Town Hall for core services from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A list of services will appear in the Notice Board throughout May.

Dinner and a Movie

Men in Black 3

Where: Aurora Public Library
When: **Saturday, April 27** from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Rating: Rated PG
Ages: 11 to 14 year-olds
Price: Entry is \$3 per person and pizza will be served.
For more information, please call 905-726-4760.

Tree Planting event on Saturday, May 4

The Aurora Community Arboretum, in partnership with The Town of Aurora and Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority will hold their annual tree planting event on **Saturday, May 4** from 10 a.m. to Noon (rain or shine). Bring the whole family and plant a tree!

The group will meet at the intersection of Billingham Heights & Birkshire Drive in the northeast area of Aurora. For more information, please visit the website www.auroraarboretum.ca

Aurora Seniors' Centre Spring Sale

Visit the Aurora Seniors' Centre Spring Sale on **Saturday, April 27** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vendors, White Elephant, barbeque, craft, books and more! For more information, please call 905-726-4767.

Seeking nominations for the 2013 Citizen of the Year

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe invites residents to submit a nomination for the 2013 *Aurora Citizen of the Year*. Nominations for this significant award are open to citizens of The Town of Aurora that are 16 years of age and over, with the exception of Members of Council.

The deadline for nominations is **Tuesday, April 30**.

The 2013 *Citizen of the Year* nomination form is available on the Town's website at www.aurora.ca. To obtain a hard copy, please contact Betty De Bartolo, Executive Assistant to the Mayor at 905-726-4741.

Judging will be based on the information received in the nominations, with an emphasis on the all-round activities within the community.

The winner of the *Citizen of the Year Award* will be announced at a Council meeting in June.

Please send your nomination form to:

Citizen of the Year Award
Attention: Mayor's Office
Town of Aurora
100 John West Way, Box 1000
Aurora, Ontario L4G 6J1
CONFIDENTIAL

Don't miss the 51st Annual Juried Art Show and Sale

Join us for the 51st Annual Juried Art Show and Sale presented by The Town of Aurora in association with the Society of York Region Artists.

Date: **Saturday, May 4** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday, May 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: Aurora Town Hall, 100 John West Way, Aurora

Admission is free! For more information, please contact 905-726-4762 or visit www.aurora.ca

Space Available in selected Family Programs

There is some space available in the following family programs:

Family Cyclefit

Age group: 13 to 17 year olds and adults
Date: Saturday's starting on April 27
Time: 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
Location: Aurora Family Leisure Complex – Cyclefit Room
Code: 32115
Cost: \$52 per person (8 weeks)

Calling all families! Join us for 45 minutes of energizing, invigorating fun! An experienced and enthusiastic instructor will lead you through an exciting and upbeat workout while you enjoy some quality time with your loved ones.

Family Volleyball

Age group: 12 to 15 year olds and adults
Date: Friday's starting on April 26
Time: 7:15 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Location: St. Max Kolbe Catholic High School
Code: 32104
Cost: \$48 per person (8 weeks)

Are you looking for a way to spend some quality time with your family and stay active? Come out for our Family Volleyball night! Each week you have the chance to compete with or against your family, as the referee changes up the teams so you can also meet new people! This program will provide a safe and social environment for all to enjoy.

For registration information, please call 905-841-7529. For more details on these classes, please call 905-726-4760.

Calling for nominations – 2013 Community Recognition Awards

Do you know a person or organization that is making Aurora a better place to live because of their volunteer activities?

The Town of Aurora believes in recognizing citizens who have made a positive impact in our community. We are once again calling for nominations for the 2013 Community Recognition Awards. The awards honour individuals, groups and businesses that have actively supported the Town's development and enhanced the overall community.

Nomination forms can be downloaded and printed at www.aurora.ca/2013communityawards.

Nominations must be mailed and will be accepted until **Thursday, June 6, 2013**.

For more information about the Community Recognition Awards, please contact Jennifer Norton at 905-727-3123, ext. 4232 or email jnorton@aurora.ca

Blood Donor Clinic at Aurora Town Hall

A Blood Donor Clinic will take place at Aurora Town Hall, 100 John West Way on **Friday, April 26** from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Donors will need photo ID or a blood donor card, must be in good health and should eat something before they come to donate.

For more information or to book an appointment, please call 1-888-2-DONATE, or visit www.blood.ca



Rick Hansen, Canada's Man in Motion, was welcomed to his namesake Rick Hansen Public School on Mavrinac Boulevard on Thursday afternoon by principal Steve Gardner. Mr. Hansen was on hand to open the school and brought with him a special message from astronaut Commander Chris Hadfield.
Photo by Erinn Teeuwen, SNAP Aurora

Rick Hansen dedicates namesake school with help from Hadfield

By Brock Weir

Students experienced an “out of this world” school day on Thursday as Rick Hansen came to open his namesake school on Mavrinac Boulevard.

It was no ordinary school opening, however: Canada's Man in Motion brought with him a rather long-distance message from Commander Chris Hadfield, the Canadian astronaut currently overseeing the International Space Station.

Over 300 students filled the school gym eagerly anticipating words from Mr. Hansen, who has inspired generations of Canadians through his original Man in Motion tour around the world in his wheelchair and the continuing efforts of his foundation to find a cure for spinal cord injuries and increase accessibility in communities around the world.

He told students, who participated in the ceremony dressed as some of their favourite people who had made a difference in the world they lived in – from Abraham Lincoln to Mother Theresa – that the naming of the school was an honour not just for him but the

people that have made a difference in his own world.

“The opening of the Rick Hansen Public School in Aurora is such an honour for me personally as I continue my journey to encourage young people that there are no boundaries to their potential and to inspire them to make a difference in their communities,” said Mr. Hansen. “It has always been very important to me to inspire youth to make a difference in their communities and I am very appreciative that students, teachers, and staff at the Rick Hansen Public School are committed to our shared values of determination, courage, strength, inspiration, and hope.”

It was these values that Commander Hadfield drove home in his message for students. Looking out of the space station onto the surface of the earth, he said he was inspired by the possibilities on the surface below.

“[Rick Hansen] wanted to make the world more accessible but more importantly he wanted to show the potential of people with disabilities,”

See “School” on page 22

Aurora Promenade Area: Community Improvement Plan

The Town of Aurora has retained Sierra Planning & Management to prepare a Community Improvement Plan (CIP) for the Aurora Promenade Area.

Landowners, business owners, property developers and property owners and managers are invited to provide input at the beginning of the project to help identify development and investment needs in the Promenade.

Members of the public will also have an opportunity to participate as the project moves forward.

www.aurora.ca

JOIN THE DISCUSSION!

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Session 2: Business and Property Owners

Date: Monday, April 29
Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Location: Aurora Seniors' Centre
90 John West Way

Please RSVP your attendance by emailing aurorarsvp@sierraplan.com

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Letters must include name and phone number, although
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AURORAN NEW POLL

Would you like to see a music festival in Aurora for 2013?

- A) Yes
- B) No

RESULTS April 22, 2013	Yes	No
	63%	37%



It is less than three weeks until the Aurora Tattoo, planned for the Aurora Community Centre on May 5, to mark Aurora's 150th anniversary and in the lead-up to what promises to be a memorable occasion, the Aurora Historical Society shares photos of Aurora's proud military history. Here, soldiers gathered at the radial railway station during the First World War en route to camp in Niagara. The length of Banbury's Livery is visible.

Image courtesy of the Aurora Historical Society

Ottawa Report

Get Prepared!

Emergency Preparedness Week is May 5 to 11th, and is a great time to ensure you and your family are prepared for any emergency situation that may occur.

The GetPrepared.ca website is an excellent resource to help you complete your own emergency plan. It has sections on preparing children for emergencies, planning for pets and service animals, and using technology to keep in touch during emergencies. You can also access the Canadian Disaster Database and find out the risks that have affected your region since 1990 to allow you to better prepare.

Mobile users can bookmark m.GetPrepared.ca for quick tips on what to do during different kinds of emergencies like floods, or thunderstorms, and to create a custom emergency kit shopping list.

New Measures to Protect Families

- Families will be pleased to know that new health and safety measures will soon be enacted to:
 - Ensure that drug labels are written in plain language;
 - Remove products from the marketplace that contain small, powerful magnets which threaten the safety of young children;

- Establish a new research center which will strengthen Canada's ability to pinpoint and stop food-borne illnesses;
- Improve the way Health Canada monitors the safety of drugs, including adverse reactions; and
- Enhance safety standards for playpens sold in Canada.

Canada: A World Leader in Science

Canada ranks fourth in the world and is growing in both output and impact according to a recent survey, conducted by the Council of Canadian Academies, of 5,000 top international scientists. Between 2005 and 2010, Canada produced almost 60 per cent more papers than during the previous five years, the only G7 country to increase its output above the world average. Since 2006 our government has provided over \$9 billion in new funding to support science, technology, world-class research excellence and linkages between knowledge and the capacity to innovate in the global economy. I encourage you to find out more about science in Canada at www.science.gc.ca.

Call for Proposals, Status of Women



LOIS BROWN
MP Newmarket-Aurora

The Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Public Works and Government Services and Minister for Status of Women, has announced a call for proposals for projects that will increase opportunities for women in non-traditional roles. In 2009, women represented just 22.3 per cent of Canadians with occupations in engineering, mathematics and natural sciences. In 2012, women represented only 4% of those working in construction trades, and 20% of those working in primary industries such as forestry, mining, oil and gas.

Economic Action Plan 2013 announced a number of measures to better connect Canadians with job opportunities. These measures will increase economic opportunities for women in Canada and increase their representation in all occupations, including skilled trades and other non-traditional occupations.

New Military Honour

Applications for the new Bomber Command honour are now being accepted. The new honour will be in the form of a bar to be worn on the ribbon of

the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal (CVSM). Some 50,000 Canadians in the Royal Canadian Air Force and Royal Air Force served over occupied Europe in defending our commonwealth, and were one of Canada's most significant contributions during the Second World War. With this bar, our Government is honouring those Canadians who fought for peace, freedom and democracy through their service in Bomber Command. Approximately 10,000 Canadians in the Bomber Command made the ultimate sacrifice in defending our country's freedoms and values.

All Canadian Veterans who were awarded the CVSM and served a minimum of one day with Bomber Command, regardless of rank or role, are eligible for this new bar. Loved ones of a deceased Canadian Bomber Command Veteran who hold the Veteran's CVSM may also apply to receive this bar. The new honour is a significant and memorable step in the recognition of these unsung heroes. To apply online for the honour, or to download a hardcopy of the application form, please visit veterans.gc.ca. Lest we forget.

If you would like to contact me on these or any other issue, please call 905-953-7515 or visit my website at www.loisbrown.ca. I look forward to hearing from you.

Remembering Jim Day

There seems to be a couple of different phases to one's life.

For a while, we attend a number of weddings, then its baby showers, then funerals and then more weddings.

Over the last few years I have found myself attending a lot more visitations/funerals than weddings.

In the past three years I have attended funerals for three remarkable men in our community, who I had gotten to know through my involvement with the local federal and provincial Conservative parties.

Back in March 2010 I attended the funeral for Marten Mol, who was a long time resident of Aurora and a pillar of this community.

He was a successful businessman, and, as was published in The Auroran, he was "a Leader in the Dutch community, and knighted by Queen Beatrix for his work with Dutch Canadian organizations".

He was also a prolific letter writer to The Auroran. I always enjoyed reading his letters; they were uplifting, had a spiritual element and were always positive - just like the man.

I was also amazed to learn more about the depth and breadth and success of his business career and the fact that he sat on nineteen different community boards and that he even found time to co-author a book.

As I sat in the pew that Saturday three years ago it made me recall

another community activist who had recently passed away; Ian Munro.

He was a professional engineer by training, a former president of a local rate payers association, and he was a volunteer on the Ontario Power Authority's Working Group examining the energy options in our community.

A few weeks back I attended the funeral at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church for Jim Day.

Jim was the big, strong and silent type. He was the type of guy who did not say much, but when he did, you always listened and he always had something insightful and thoughtful to say.

I did not know Jim (or his wife Jennifer) overly well - other than he was a general contractor - but we did serve together on local Conservative Party Riding Association Boards and participated as volunteers in various federal and provincial elections over the years. We would always have a quick chat when we would see each other at various community events.

It was a lovely service, with a great choir. The three readings were well chosen.



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

Father Tim Hanley gave a very moving and eloquent homily that fit the occasion well.

Because it was a traditional Catholic service, there was not the usual eulogy associated with funerals where various family members reminisce about the life of the

dearly departed.

But I learned a lot about this great man from the unbelievable obituary that his wife Jennifer posted in the Toronto Star.

Jim was a "successful, self-made business man who approached all challenges and projects with commanding knowledge, steady confidence and quite personal pride.

"Over the years he taught and trained many young apprentice trades people enabling them to secure a good job and provide for their families; some went on to run their own businesses.

"Although Jim loved his solitude, his favourite times were with family and friends sitting around a camp fire, the BBQ or relaxing beside the wood stove with his pets beside him. Jim loved to cook, his specialties were poached salmon or a full English breakfast cooked on the BBQ and the

best home baked lasagna.

"Jim was most at home in the outdoors. He loved driving the Ranger through the bush especially with his nieces and nephews, cutting trails and chopping wood, sledding in Ontario and Quebec with friends.

"Jim was a visionary with a genuine fascination and passion for all things mechanical, historical and architectural which was reflected in his career and the many destinations he travelled to within Canada, England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and the U.S.

"Your heart is my heart, we walked as one from the moment we met 33 years ago and we shall remain as one. I'll love you, honour you and be thankful for you always, Jennifer."

My sincere condolences to Jennifer for her loss.

We have so many wonderful people around us and it seems we really don't get a chance to know them well. Although I served with Jim, Marten and Ian on political associations, it was not until they left us that I really understood what remarkable men they were.

Our community is a much better place to live because of the involvement of people like Jim, Marten and Ian.

Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



SENIOR
SCAPE

Jim L. Abram

I like Crazy People

I am sitting down at my computer and pondering in deep thought as to what I might choose to write about for your Senior Scape article.

As I contemplate at length, I consider and reconsider all the good advice that all my well-meaning friends and acquaintances at the Seniors’ Centre give to offer. I then realize that all of my senior friends have much good advice to offer given that our lives offer much to be shared.

Should I write about politics, as there is an important election impending at the Seniors’ Centre? Should I write about the honest yet seemingly devious tactics of the Scrabble club as I have a vendetta to fulfill following their welcoming me into their lair as the spider said to the fly? No, that would be unnice (a word that is not in the dictionary but would potentially create a scrabble squabble).

I decided I would sit down in the Centre Lounge, enjoy a few cups of coffee for 25 cents apiece and listen to the stories of anyone who might be brave enough to sit near me. I met and conversed with some wonderful people. Let me share with you my adventures.

Sitting next to me in one of the comfy armchairs was Mike. Mike asked me if I shared his concerns over how difficult it is for seniors to keep up with demands of continued home ownership.

We commiserated over how difficult it is to maintain the traditional family home with the ongoing need for a new driveway, windows, eaves troughs, roof, furnace, air conditioner...the list is endless. We shared many of the same concerns and agreed there are no easy solutions and every one of us has to make very personal and often agonizing decisions as to how to deal with their aging homes in light of our aging bones.

Mike got up and said good-bye in order to go to work as many seniors need to continue to work to keep healthy, active and to put bread on the table. I shared with Mike that I too worked part-time for the very same reasons. Mike’s vacated comfy chair was then occupied by another Mike. I thought to myself, why is everyone named Mike?

This Mike was equally nice. Only louder. We all come in different shapes, sizes and volumes. Volume can occasionally be a good thing as we were inadvertently able to engage all of those persons within hearing range as part of the conversation. We now had a quorum and the debate over how people like Conrad Black have been represented by the media went viral in the lounge!

Everyone not only had an opinion to state, but each participant was good enough to listen to and acknowledge all others’ views. What a pleasant environment for collective and communal discussion.

So this was an afternoon at the Seniors’ Centre. But wait! There were other sightings at the Centre! Brigid was seen in her trendy new “Roots” wear...trendy in pink for spring. Ruth was overheard saying that the ASA Walking Club might be fortunate enough to see the first signs of spring flowers during the walking club walk this week.

I overheard Karie, our valued Seniors Coordinator mention how appreciative all “staff” (I hate that misnomer...they are not staff, but rather, family) at the Seniors’ Centre are of the great many contributions of valued volunteers. Karie made a point of expressing that this sentiment was not just because April is “volunteer appreciation month” but rather, at the ASC, every month is volunteer appreciation month.

Annual Spring Sale

Don’t miss it! The Annual Spring Sale will be held on April 27. There will be a wide variety of books, crafts, treasures and a great BBQ. I am going to volunteer to be chef at the BBQ so that I can meet and feed as many hungry people welcome to attend.

Aurora Seniors’ Centre Board of Directors Election

Get to know your candidates. Vote and vote often! (Couldn’t miss expressing the obvious joke.) Your candidates want to hear and respond to what is important to you as an active member of your Seniors’ Centre. Please come out to the All Candidates Meeting on Wednesday, April 24 at 11 a.m. and please stay for the Budget Bistro for a delicious lunch for only \$4! It’ll be fun and the deviled eggs and ham are no reflection on the devilishness and hamming it up of the candidates!

Today’s Advice: (This is my personal favourite of all time) “Don’t Eat Anything Bigger than Your Head.” And by the way, crazy people like me. A good thing.

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.auroraseniors.ca, email auroraseniors@rogers.com or call 905-726-4767 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Letters to the editor

Town needs trails donation account

During this month’s meeting of the Trails and Active Transportation Committee, a recommendation was made, to establish a Trails Donation Account.

The account is meant to facilitate donations for which tax receipts will be issued.

The donations would be used to pay for the purchase of off-road trails right-of-ways across private lands, and for structures that are necessary to be able to safely cross major roads and railroad tracks.

In Aurora, the off-road trails that we do have are pretty well all routed through parks, valley lands, and conservation lands. Just about all of those lands have been acquired free of charge, mostly during the land development process.

Two years ago, the Aurora Trails Master Plan was adopted, by the current Council. Before that, there was an outline of a trails network vision in the Official Plan, which was not binding during the land development process.

While there were budget allocations for the construction of trails, and even a boardwalk, no Aurora Council has spent any tax dollars for the purchase of off-road trail

lands, or other needed structures.

In order to eventually retrofit Aurora with a Town-wide off-road trails network, in line with the Aurora Trails Master Plan, it will be necessary to buy privately owned table lands, for connectors and spurs, and for perhaps some sections of trails. It will also be necessary to construct grade separating structures, to allow the self-propelled trail users to safely cross major roads, and railroad tracks, under or above these corridors, which were built to facilitate the motorized traffic.

As an example, the Nokkidaa Trail, which runs in the Holland River valley, crosses all major Newmarket roads in a grade separated fashion - but not in Aurora. That needs to change. Also, the Oak Ridges Trail, running east-west through Aurora, should cross the Rail tracks and Industrial Parkway South, in a grade separated fashion.

It will not be cheap to create the grade separated crossings for those major trails. Nor will it be cheap to buy private lands, at market prices. In order to facilitate such undertakings, a donation account could be used, at

least for partial funding.

The Cousins Drive crossing of the rail tracks and the Industrial Parkway is regularly used by commuting students and employees, as well as the recreation oriented residents from the south-east quadrant of our Town. Traffic on the Industrial road has already increased, over the last few years. Traffic on the rail tracks as well as on that road can be expected to increase substantially, still, over the coming years. It is time for a safe, grade separated crossing of those two major traffic arteries, for the self-propelled traffic. That is for the sake of all of the current users, and for those who will use this routing, if it were safer.

In a statistically valid survey conducted during the study that led to the latest revision of the Recreation and Parks Master Plan, Aurora’s residents heavily favored spending tax dollars on trails infrastructure. But that is not happening.

There is reason to believe that the residents of Aurora are willing to pay for getting more acceptable trails infrastructure, and are willing to donate - provided that they can be assured that those donations will be used to advance Aurora’s off-road Trails Network.

That is what a Trails Donation Account is meant to facilitate.

Klaus Wehrenberg
Aurora



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Mobility Maze will build awareness of accessibility challenges

By Brock Weir

The old saying goes, you can't truly know what someone experiences until you walk a mile in their shoes.

But what if walking is not necessarily an option and people have to make their way around in cumbersome wheelchairs or other challenging mobility devices, and then have to take on the added challenge of taking public transit?

That is something the Community Legal Clinic of York Region hopes to raise awareness of with their Mobility Maze, a three hour experiential and educational workshop planned for the Aurora Community Centre this June.

"We realised quickly as a group that many people are unaware of the difficulties many people face when trying to get to doctors' appointments, school, work, grocery stores, and special occasions and trying to access the community," said Kim McKinnon of the Community Legal Clinic, which provides legal assistance to low-income York Region residents. "Our group decided we wanted to do something on Accessibility Awareness Week in 2013 to highlight these difficulties in York Region and work toward a better transportation system in York Region for those of us with disabilities."

The event will serve, she said, to highlight the many challenges and barriers that people face in the realm of accessible transportation, with a particular focus on York Region Transit's Mobility Plus service.

"The more people that are involved, the more awareness is created."

The group got the idea from the Poverty Maze, which challenges community and

business leaders to go through a variety of challenges faced every day by low-income or even homeless York Region residents to access services, shelter, and food in the wider community.

"The Mobility Maze will replicate as best as possible what it would be like to take Mobility Plus services in York Region from the point of application to the point of travel destination, making an appointment and travelling back," said Ms. McKinnon. "There will be booths set up and people will come in, get instructions on what will happen that day, and they will be given identities with a journey outlining where it is they are supposed to be going. They will then begin their journey and attend different booths to determine how to get to their destination and back."

"Employers, doctors, places where people would go for appointments, grade school kids, and everybody is welcome to come and try and understand the difficulties people might face. It is opened up to whomever might be impacted or involved with anybody who has a disability and have to get to an appointment, or a blood test, or shopping, and we would particularly love medical people to come out."

One of the biggest challenges facing communities and people within them living with disabilities is trying to make the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) work and meet the objectives they are trying to achieve, she added. In looking at the broader guidelines and implication of the act, communities can sometimes lose focus of the people the act was designed to assist.

"In the attempt to follow the guidelines



Members of Concerned Citizens for Accessibility and the Community Legal Clinic of York Region, including Kim McKinnon, left, have put their heads together for the Mobility Maze which will give people an idea of the challenges disabled people face in accessing local transit.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

they are sort of not seeing the people, who it is impacting and their abilities," she said. "They are clumping people together as disabilities and they are not a clump. Everyone is an individual. One of the key things that is a problem we see is they are trying to do just a brush stroke when implementing the act and ensuring inclusivity and integration of the system without really looking at whether or not it is working."

"I hope with the Mobility Maze, people who can make a difference like community leaders and people with York Region Transit are prepared to sit down

with the people and listen to them and make appropriate changes that will be beneficial for the individuals who have to ride the service and make it a fair and transparent process for people.

"If the Region is not willing to do it, there might be someone of influence who will say, 'Come on, get on board and let's move forward and get some positive change for people!'"

The Mobility Maze takes place at the Aurora Community Centre on Wednesday, June 5. Registration begins at 1 p.m. For more information, call 905-508-5018.

Yonge and Wellington is at the root of traffic problem: Councillors

By Brock Weir

With the future of traffic calming in the historic downtown core settled, at least for now, some Councillors say renewed energy should be focused on what could be the real root of the problem – traffic congestion at Yonge and Wellington.

Congestion at Aurora's busiest intersection has long been a source of debate through Town Planning, developing the Aurora Promenade Study, as well as the more recent moves for Downtown Revitalization. No concrete solutions, however, have been borne out of these discussions.

Now as new developments start to take shape just over the northern edge of the intersection, now might be the time to be proactive about finding one, say some Councillors.

"The Region and the Town have spent a lot of energy looking at the intersection over the years and we have done a number of reports and studies have been completed, most recently through our master transportation work over the last year," said Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure. "We did a timing and configuration of the entire north-south section of Yonge Street to make sure that the lighting right up Yonge

Street was synchronised to maximise efficiency. There was also a period where there were left turn restrictions at that intersection to try and streamline that traffic, so there have been a number of changes and alterations to that intersection and a number of studies done. We're also continuing to review that intersection going forward."

Mr. Simanovskis made his comments this month during a discussion on the remaining traffic calming features in the downtown core. One of the primary reasons traffic calming measures were installed was complaints from neighbours that drivers were using the neighbourhood streets to avoid the traffic artery. Some, however, have argued that the traffic calming only made matters worse in the intersection.

"We have created and exacerbated the problem by this traffic ban," said Councillor Evelyn Buck. "It was never anything but a political boondoggle. Imagine the problem we would have on Wellington and Yonge

if every road exiting off Yonge Street had obstructions placed onto it to deter people from turning off Yonge Street and finding another way home. We would have every bit of traffic on Yonge Street."

The call to revisit the intersection was made by Councillor Michael Thompson, who suggested now might be the ideal time to deal with it as property owners look to redevelop key properties in the area, including the Centro condominium already under construction on the northeast side of the intersection, the plans for a multi-storey residential and retail complex to replace the existing Liquidation Warehouse plaza on the northwest side, and a proposed apartment building adjacent to the recently sold Aurora Post Office building on Wellington Street East.

"I would like to see us put energy more towards a proactive approach to that intersection and maybe through discussions with the Region look at what is the optimised solution to that intersection and

plan forward, and look over the years at how we are going to realise that," he said.

"I recognize that as it stands now, physically there are limitations but we know at some point there will be some development at that corner and that may provide those opportunities. I think we need to continually spend that time and look for the optimal solution and let people know that this is what Aurora is going to look like in the future and we're actively

working towards a proactive solution that will help lessen the impact."

While Councillors ultimately supported the motion to keep the status quo as far as traffic calming was concerned, their resolution the previous week to seek further community consultation stemmed from the new buildings slated to become parts of the neighbourhood. Some Councillors wanted further studies made on how the new residential buildings,

particularly Centro and the one proposed for Wellington Street would impact traffic flow in the neighbourhood, and still felt the same way.

"I do think we should set a deadline for once those buildings are up, we will re-investigate the situation," said Councillor Paul Pirri.

Added Mayor Geoffrey Dawe: "I supported the concept of going back and looking at the kind of impact [they] would have [but] we always have an opportunity to go back."

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The workshop is free and is being offered as a community service. It is provided to help eliminate pain and suffering in those affected.

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Civic Square Park could get royal honours

By Brock Weir

Civic Square Park, the popular soccer pitch on John West Way near Town Hall, could soon be known as the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Park.

Councillors are set this week to ratify a decision made last Tuesday to re-name the park in honour of the Queen's 60th anniversary on the throne, a milestone which was marked in celebrations throughout the Commonwealth last year.

The decision comes after an initial recommendation from Town Staff to name a parkette near St. John's Sideroad and Bayview Avenue to commemorate the anniversary, but Council decided earlier this year that a parkette wasn't "significant" enough to mark such a significant anniversary. They tasked staff with coming back with a shortlist of parks neither named after a person in the community nor a significant anniversary that could get a name change.

Among the short list of parks were the originally suggested parkette, Town Park in Aurora's historic downtown core, and Civic Square Park, and the latter won the day.

Renaming Civic Square Park was originally suggested by Councillor John Gallo,

who lives in the area, who said the name always bothered him because the park never fulfilled its original purpose to be a community hub.

"It is close to Town Hall, the park is a little bit underused, and maybe then it might get a little bit more used," said Councillor Michael Thompson in support of the motion.

Other Councillors, such as Chris Ballard said he agreed with the Civic Square idea because of its proximity to what is now the geographic centre of Town, while Councillor Evelyn Buck heralded its possibilities.

"It has a high visibility and it has the potential of having a beautiful garden created that will be enjoyed every day criss-crossing to go shopping," she said of the park, which lies between significant residential development and the plaza housing the Cineplex movie theatre, Sobeys, and recently opened Target store. "I believe people should be given an opportunity to say whether or not they would be in favour of creating a beautiful garden and whatever else that would make it a place where people would like to linger and enjoy."

While there was support for the name change, others were a slightly more hesitant in giving the idea their overall support until

there was more of a vision on just what might be included in the park. Councillor Paul Pirri, for instance, said he was not opposed to renaming the park but the end result should be a "destination park" where people would want to come.

"If I were the Queen, I wouldn't want an empty patch of grass [to] commemorate me," he said. "I would want to go to a place where there is a nice garden and where there are children playing and amenities that people want to go and want to enjoy. I am not opposed to this park being our Diamond Jubilee Park in commemoration of what the Queen has done over the past 60 years, but I think we need to make it a destination for people, either a playground, a garden, a location for a small concession stand to get people out and enjoy it."

Councillor Thompson, however, said that might be getting a bit ahead of what is on the table. A name should be settled on first and then a discussion of what amenities, if any, needed to be added in the future. Civic Square Park, he said, has many possibilities that can be made without sacrificing the soccer field, a commodity which is in short supply in Aurora, but any further plans should be run by area residents to make sure



Hurricane Mike Thompson of the "Lymphomaniacs" joined his fellow Lymphos in entertaining the crowd at the KC's Cancer Cushion fundraising bash, held at The Manor on Saturday night. Featuring music, dignitaries, and a silent and live auction, their seventh annual pub night raised funds for the charity giving individuals and families living with cancer a "cushion" when struggling to make ends meet.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

they have no objections.

"This is a great example of scope creep," agreed Councillor Ballard. "What started off as a way of simply honouring the memory of the Diamond Jubilee has turned into the beautification of a park and probably spending a lot of money, but hopefully not. If it is the intent of Councillors to have a destination park in honour of the Queen, we shouldn't be passing anything tonight except to make that intent known and ask staff to report back on the possibilities of creating a destination park in honour of the Diamond Jubilee.

"If we go and pick a park tonight and then ask staff how to make it beautiful, this is putting the cart before the horse. I don't think the Queen would be amused if we were spending a lot of taxpayers' dollars in honour of her. I think she would be quite happy to see youngsters kicking a football around."

"Right Back At Ya" pays it forward for Aurora United

By Brock Weir

Aurora United Church goes out of its way with community programs throughout the year, but now members of the church are taking an evening out of their busy schedules to say, 'Right back at ya!' in a special benefit concert.

The Right Back at Ya! Bash, an evening of dinner and dancing will take place this Friday, April 26 at Oakview Terrace in Oak Ridges. Featuring music from The Thursday Night Jam Band, organizers promise an evening of Motown and disco, a buffet, silent auction, and cash bar to support the many community programs that emanate from the church.

Julie Belgue, one of the organizers of the event cites the Church's Rise & Shine Breakfasts, morning coffee events, semi-annual rummage sales, Welcoming Arms nursery schools, parental supports, and Scouts and Brownies as just the tip of the iceberg of what the church provides to the community. Now it is time to give something back.

"The point is to raise some money to help the church keep plugging along, but when we stepped back and realised what our church offers back to the community, that is how we got the name because all the funds that come in go

to our coffers and general account," she says. "In running our church we support all this stuff in our community. We're really giving right back just by existing and being on Yonge Street."

As for the concert itself, it is something she says is a little bit different than your average church fundraiser and a far cry from what might first come to mind when parishioners think when they consider church fundraiser: The group of 40-somethings decided they wanted to have an event that appealed not only to their own demographics but a wide range of people looking to have a good time.

"I think people may have a perception that very stuffy people attend church," she says. "We are obviously Christian based people, but we know how to kick off our shoes and have a good time too. We had a couple last year who walked through the door and I thought this was going to be a gong show because the band gets loud, but they stayed on until the very end and had a great time. It's for all ages, but we're trying to draw on maybe the younger demographic side to start them attending our church and staying on into their later years."

Tickets for the Bash are \$50 and to put this face value into a greater context, Ms.

Belgue turns to the Rise and Shine Breakfasts, which recently wrapped up their season and is set to return

See "Concert" on page 22

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Organizers promise great show on Canada Day weekend

From page 1

[we wanted a big name band] is to be a draw and keep people in Aurora that weekend. People go away the Canada Day weekend and we're trying to keep people here to celebrate the 150th. The whole day is really run by the Rotary Club. There are going to be various bands playing throughout the afternoon starting at 2 p.m. While it is a Rotary event on that day, what we're trying to do is enhance it and give it back to the Town."

Lighthouse was chosen after looking at several potential bands. Early on, Lighthouse was one that was eyed keenly by the group after some committee members saw them live last year.

The band had its early foundations in 1968 when Paul Hoffert, Skip Prokop and Ralph Cole put their talents together, fusing

rock, jazz and classical influences. Having worked with the talents of Janis Joplin, Peter, Paul and Mary and Carlos Santana, Prokop's drumming is considered one of the highlights of the stage show, along with Hoffert on vocals, and Cole on guitar.

Releasing three albums in 1969 alone, and playing countless stops around North America, they have been awarded several Juno Awards and have the distinction of earning Canada's first platinum album with Lighthouse Live.

The original three are now a 10-member band featuring Dan Clancy on lead vocals, Doug Moore on bass, Don Paulton on keyboard, Chris Howell on trumpet, Russ Little on trombone, Simon Wallis and Steve Kennedy on sax.

"They had the whole crowd up on their feet and

the whole audience going and they just made it a fun night," said Mr. North. "Come out and have a great night. How often do you get to see a band like this for nothing?"

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe said he was excited about the announcement.

"I remember seeing 'The Paupers' at St. Michael's College when I went there and they were the precursor to Lighthouse, with the original founders," he said, noting some of his favourite songs of theirs are Sunny Days, Broken Guitar Blues, and 1849. "I am an old rock and roll guy!" he adds with a laugh.

"They are a good band and they put on a good live show."

This year's Dance in the Park will take place in Town Park on Sunday, June 30 from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. Lighthouse is slated to hit the stage at 9 p.m.



Lighthouse was announced Monday as the headliner for Aurora's Dance in the Park, held during Canada Day Weekend.

Supplied photo

While traditionally the kick-start of the Canada Day Celebrations, the festivities begin a bit earlier this year on the Saturday with what is shaping up to be a youth day with the potential for young artists to show off their talent with an "art jam" and a possible jam session with younger up-and-coming bands in a showcase of youth music.

Canada Day celebration will take place, of course, on July 1, the big day itself and, in addition to the parade and regular events at Lambert Willson Park, the Committee hopes to

form a collaboration with the Aurora Historical Society and Theatre Aurora to make sure Aurora's history comes to life as it parades down Yonge Street.

For more information on the Aurora 150 celebrations, visit www.aurora150.ca.

Cultural Master Plan may take longer than anticipated

By Brock Weir

What was originally viewed as a six month plan to strategize and coordinate all the components that make up Aurora's cultural sector might now take a little longer to come into being after Councillors expressed scepticism over the proposed timeframe.

This Tuesday, Council is set to approve terms of reference for the Cultural Master Plan, a plan which, when completed, could be the guiding force in how Aurora handles its culture and works with bodies such as the Aurora's Cultural Centre, Historical Society and Public Library. The plan will not be limited to these public bodies, however, and will provide guiding principles on a number of issues including public art, performing arts, built and natural cultural heritage, community events and festivals, traditions, media, tourism, and multiculturalism.

When completed, goals hoped to be achieved by the plan include increasing awareness of "cultural assets" throughout the Town", "stimulate community pride", earmark investment opportunities in the cultural sector, and look at enhancement of local culture.

The plan to bring this to fruition included public consultation, consultation with the stakeholders and questions, a cultural precinct plan for the Library Square area, and funding possibilities with a six month deadline. For some Councillors, however, that was setting the process up for a fall.

"I have a real concern we are rushing this," said Councillor Chris Ballard. "Six months to get it done? Most reports this Town has done, whether it is heritage or business planning or strategic planning, it is a good 12 month cycle and I can see that we would want to cut it back a bit, but I am really concerned this will get done in six months."

Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation, said he didn't disagree that what was before Council was a "somewhat accelerated process" but his department was concerned with moving it forward in a timely manner.

"If we extend past the budget cycle or the end of the year, then that won't happen and our concern is we're asking the consultants to accelerate the process to ensure that not only can this Council get an opportunity to approve this master plan, but also move

it forward through budget discussions in 2014," said Mr. Downey.

Concerns over the timing were also raised by Councillor Sandra Humfries. She too said it was an "aggressive" plan, but the results would be "critical" to the future of the Town as "it touches upon all things and geographical changes."

Council ultimately voted to make the plan to hire consultants to do the work more open-ended time-wise, with points being awarded accordingly in this criterion.

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe recalled the length it took for the Town to have a Master Parks and Recreation Plan in place and Mr. Downey conceded he would indeed prefer a longer window to get the plan done. Part of the previous evaluation model, he said, was how consultants could conform to the work schedule as outlined and agreed to the constraint being lifted.

Others, although not overly concerned about the time as such, expressed worry about how this timing would fall in the calendar.

"I agree that this isn't a long enough consulting period because it falls over the summer months when most of the consultation would have been done over the summer," said Councillor Wendy Gaertner. "As Councillor Buck has said, consulting with Aurorans over the summer is a useless process, so I would like to see this extended out."

Councillor Thompson agreed that more discussion within the community was ideal, possibly looking for "sustainability and synergy" amongst Aurora's cultural institutions, but the costs of what shakes down in the finished Cultural Master Plan need to be carefully watched.

"I have seen these types of documents and [they] will inevitably say 'spend more money on culture' and they keep asking for more funds, whether it be for culture, or museums, or whatever and the reality is...these funds are limited," he said. "I am hoping to get out of the master plan some discussions around the funding models, the sustainability, especially given that there are a limited amount of resources and how best to utilize those dollars so that those institutions are sustainable. I would like to see more emphasis placed on the opportunities to coordinate cultural assets, as well as guiding approaches for funding models."

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Iron Chef & Taste of Aurora



Crowds filled the Aurora Community Centre on Thursday night for the inaugural Iron Chef Aurora Competition, before returning over the weekend for Taste of Aurora showcasing local restaurants, entertainers and professionals. (1) Audiences decided the cuisine of Orchid Thai's Thay Siharath reigned supreme in his preparation of Royal Beef Salad and Emerald Shrimp Curry with Jasmine Rice. (2) Grant Robertson of Aw Shucks prepared fresh perch and quail. (3) Oakland Hall's David Charyk's herb crusted ostrich carpaccio and lobster thermidor were popular. (4) Rob Lizotte and Lauren Zimbalatti from Edward Street Market Bistro served up beer-brined pork tenderloin with risotto, while Maunder's Food Shop served up scallops and lamb. (5) Councillor Sandra Humfries congratulated Orchid Thai. The next day at Taste of Aurora, (6) Peter Risi and Nathaly of Villa Risi served up lasagna and tortellini while (7) Scott and Marcia of Aw Shucks kept stomachs full with shrimp. Auroran photos by David Falconer



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Gary is passionate about taking a home-style approach to food and then adding some professional flair. "At Revera, we hire culinary experts to manage our kitchens – people who love food and understand fine dining," he explains. In the words of one Revera resident, "The meals really are fabulous."

Flexible fare

At Revera, choice is always on the menu. There are two or three options at lunch and dinner and residents can always request a sandwich, omelette, hamburger, or soup instead. They can also make simple meals in their own rooms – and

host dinners for family and friends in one of the private dining rooms.

Amenities abound in a luxury setting

The food isn't the only attraction at Brookside Court & Hilltop Place, a cozy setting designed for comfort just steps from an array of shops, community services, places of worship, parks, public transit and minutes away from major highways. Residents love to gather in the fireside lounges, gazebo and picturesque patio area.

Many of the spacious suites have a garden view and all have roomy closets and private bathrooms with an in suite call bell system for safety and peace of mind. Residents love bringing in their own furniture and setting their place up the way they like it.

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Revera hosts numerous activities, such as customized fitness classes; movie nights, shopping trips and gardening groups to

foster fun and friendships; excursions to theatres, concerts, museums, The Kortright Centre; educational seminars, guest lecturers; and opportunities for spiritual reflection.

Vibrant, sociable residents

Pam Starr, National Director of Sales, "Revera is full of active, independent people who like to do things for themselves. They pick the movies and parties they want, such as fireside chats, cocktails and snacks. It's all about understanding people's needs."

Jai Sukhai, Executive Director, has been at Revera for more than 10 years and is at the heart of the community. In his words, what makes it so special is the warmth of the staff and residents. "This is not a formal place, there is real generosity and friendliness."



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There is lots to do during Volunteer Week

By Brock Weir

There are no shortage of things to do during National Volunteer Week this month. Unfortunately, that means the same can't be said for volunteers.

Canada's National Volunteer Week, which kicked off Sunday, April 21 aims to "recognize and celebrate" the work that volunteers do across the county. Neighbourhood Network, the division of Magna for the Community, which seeks to connect volunteers with like-minded groups and volunteer opportunities, will cap the week with their annual tree planting day, bringing together hundreds of volunteers across Aurora, Newmarket, and East Gwillimbury to plant saplings in five different locations. Since its inception five years ago this event has grown from the neighbourhood of 900 trees planted in the early days to an annual average of 2,500, according to Tom Taylor, former mayor of Newmarket, and an ambassador for the community group.

"Imagine Canada, an organization run out of Ottawa right across Canada, provides a formula for calculating the dollar value for volunteering in a community," he said. "Using Aurora's population of those over 15 years of age and taking 48 per cent of the population at \$19.50 per hour for 149 hours per year per person – these are the averages which are being experienced in this part of Canada and Ontario – it works out to \$67.6 million in Aurora alone.

"Looking at it another way, it means if our taxes had to pay for all of these volunteer services, if they all stopped volunteering and we had to pay for those services, the municipal portion of your tax bill triples. Fortunately for us, the thousands and thousands of people who volunteer here in Aurora don't look at it that way. They all just want to help."

Volunteer opportunities available during the length of National Volunteer Week showcase a wide breadth of groups and events across the Region that are in need of assistance.

Large scale events alone include A Taste for Life, held by the AIDS Committee of York Region, bringing together area restaurants (in Aurora's case, Chinook and Bonsai Hill Tea House) where 25 per cent of bills will be donated to the AIDS Committee. Held this Wednesday, April 24, Bonsai Hill will offer two seatings of high tea with reservations at 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. Chinook is also taking reservations for a set dinner menu at \$45 per person. For more information, visit www.atasteforlife.org/york-region.html.

Volunteers are also needed for blood drives for the Canadian Blood Services at a number of events in Aurora. The first is on Thursday, April 25 at the Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion (105 Industrial Parkway) from 2 p.m. – 8 p.m., on the Friday at Town Hall from 11.30 a.m. – 2.30 p.m., and up in Newmarket at the York Region Headquarters on Yonge Street from 9 a.m. – 12 noon.

Beyond Volunteer Week, Neighbourhood Network's website, www.neighbourhoodnetwork.org, showcases an ever-growing list of volunteer opportunities throughout the Region. Upcoming chances include placements for pantry help at the Aurora Food Pantry, gala volunteers for the Alzheimer's Society of York Region, tree planters with the Aurora Community Arboretum, daffodil sales for the Canadian Cancer Society, and drivers for CHATS – Community and Home Assistance to Seniors.

Beyond these often seasonal placements, seasons also bring a change in what volunteers are needed to do. With winter not yet a memory, the need for people shovelling snow for those who are otherwise unable to do so themselves has also been a growing mandate for the group.

When Mr. Taylor appeared before Council this month, this was underscored by Councillor Wendy Gaertner who said with the ageing population, ensuring seniors have shovelled driveways is becoming a serious problem.

"Clearing sidewalks is what we try to do," said Mr. Taylor. "We try to find someone in their community area and pair a youth with a senior to come and do their walks. We currently have about 55 different seniors who are using that facility each year. It is very important and we would like to increase that, but it also takes a volunteer who makes it a priority through the night to be there in the morning."

Solar panels coming to public buildings

By Brock Weir

Town Hall and the Aurora Public Library are set to become two local hubs of solar power.

Council is set to approve this week a new contract which will see two separate 10 kW solar panel systems located at the public buildings under the Province of Ontario's microFIT program.

The program, otherwise known as the Feed-In Tariff initiative, encourages property owners both public and private to install solar power generation stations on their property. Through the program, electricity that is generated is fed directly back into the provincial power grid and the property owners are able to reap payment for the electricity provided.

Local initiatives under both the FIT program and the microFIT program have been a long time coming in Aurora. Other initiatives proposed in this Town include the leasing out of roof space at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex (SARC) to a third party for solar generation with the contract holder making money from



Volunteers fanned out across Aurora Saturday for the Mayor's Anti-Litter. The Muzyk Family – Sharyn, Jasmyne and DJ joined Mayor Dawe in picking up litter on the north side of Wellington Street at Bayview Avenue near Longos. Afterwards, volunteers were welcomed back to Town Park where the Mayor and Greg Foster of M&M Meats whipped up hamburgers for the hardworking crowd.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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The Exhibitors, the staff at the Aurora Community Centre, Maltby Electric, Boneyard Event Services, The Optimist Club of Aurora, Ellis Studios, Dad's BBQ Zone, Jonathan's Restaurant, and the many volunteers throughout the show, especially the Home Show Committee, led by Robin Taylor-Smith of The Partnership Network.

Thanks also to the Feature Area committee:

Janice Clements of Clements Interiors, Jack Roeleveld of Jack's Landscaping, and George Hughes of Lifestyle Windows and Doors, together with all the local businesses who supplied the furniture and accessories for the Designer Rooms and the many volunteers who worked to set up and take down these rooms.



Grant and Pat Purssell, centre, were congratulated by Judy Marshall, CEO of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and Chamber Chair Paul Smith last week. The Purssells were the Grand Prize winners of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Home Show contest of two tickets to travel anywhere in the world Westjet flies.

Auroran photo by Diane Buchanan

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Tigers welcome new associate coach

By Jeff Doner

The Aurora Tigers Junior A hockey club has announced Tomas Milne has been hired as an associate coach and will immediately join the team in preparation of the upcoming 2013-14 season. Milne has been coaching the York-Simcoe AAA minor midget hockey team and running his Aurora based business, Raised Edge Inc. The Aurora native has previous coaching experience with the Tigers, running the team's defense during its Royal Bank Cup winning season in 2004. Milne said he is excited to be back in fold. "It's great. The last time I was with the Tigers was


almost 10 years ago when we won the Royal Bank Cup," he said. "JR [James Richmond] approached me recently, asked if I would be interested and we sat down and chatted over the last couple days and we came to an agreement and I'm going to be named associate coach and I'm going to run the defense, so I'm pretty happy." Milne joins head coach Richmond and assistants Mike Doyle and John Ceci on the bench and said he has already started recruiting players for next season. Richmond said Milne is a great fit for the Tigers who are looking to shore up their defensive system for next season. "We were looking to get a guy that's been with Aurora, is from Aurora and he's won the RBC with


Aurora before," said Richmond. "He's comfortable running the defense and he knows the minor league players well with the background he's got." Richmond added he has a past working with Milne (recently as coaches with the under-17 program) and knows what he brings to the table. "We've got some history there between he and I and he really wanted to come on board, so it was a great fit for us. It's great that he's coming on board." Milne also has extensive background with recruitment and developing young players, which will also help the Tigers in the long run. "He's really good at developing young guys," said Richmond. "He seems to be best at running the defense and that's a hole that we needed to fill."



Aurora Minor Hockey Association

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING
2013/2014 REGISTRATION





On-Line Registration begins: April 1, 2013*

In-House Registration dates: April 3, 10, 17, 24, 25, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (6 – 9 pm)
April 6, 20, 27, May 11, 18, 25 (10 am – 1:00 pm)
AMHA Office at ACC1

Tryout Passports must be purchased prior to rep tryouts and can be purchased during the in-house registration dates. Please refer to our website www.auroraminorhockey.net for Rep tryouts policies and schedule.

REGISTRATION fees for the 2013/2014 season are:

- \$530.00** Players born 1993 through 2007*
- \$ 50.00** Late fee effective June 1 – 30, 2013
- \$100.00** Late fee effective July 1, 2013
- \$ 50.00** Non-Resident Fee (if applicable)

***First time registrants in Tyke born 2006/2007 must register in person & provide a copy of a birth certificate and proof of residency. It is recommended that 2007 players have either taken skating lessons or completed one year of Opti Hockey.**

A 10% discount applies to families with 3 or more players.


Late fees do not apply to new registrants.

The payment schedule is posted on the website.

Full refunds will be issued to anyone withdrawing prior to September 1, 2013.

Players MUST be registered PRIOR to any tryouts for AAA or any AMHA rep team. AMHA tryouts begin May 1, 2013.

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Exit interview with Aurora Tiger Blake Forslund

By Jeff Doner

Over the next few weeks, The Auroran is doing a series of Q and A's with some of the Aurora Tigers Junior A players who are moving on to the next step in their hockey and academic careers. Next up is steady centreman Blake Forslund.

Born: Owen Sound, ON

Age/birthday: Feb. 25, 1992 (21)

Seasons with Tigers: 1

Shoots: Left
Position: Centre

Past hockey career: Played a year each in Collingwood and Niagara Falls, then two years in Orangeville with the Flyers before being traded to Aurora at the trade deadline.

Season Stats with Tigers: GP 15 – G 5 – A 7 – PTS 12 – PIM 6

Best memory playing with Tigers: "That would be the first playoff win, because that was my first ever Jr. A playoff win."

What's on tap for next season: "Next year I've committed to Fredonia State University just over the border in New York. I'm going to be taking law there."

Why this school? "I liked the coaches. I've heard good things about the program and it's in a division that's not too far from my house – only about four hours from Owen Sound. I went down twice before I made my

decision. Fredonia just felt good. I'm really glad I get to move on with hockey."

Hobbies: "I do a lot of fishing and I like to go to the beach."

Any other sports? "I played baseball and lacrosse growing up."

Favourite movie: "Dazed and Confused. It's a great movie."

Favourite sports movie: "Youngblood."

On your ipod: "I don't know how to use an iPod – I'm not very good with technology. But I listen to mostly country. Jason Aldean would probably be my favourite country artist."

Favourite hockey team and why? "Definitely the Leafers. For sure they could be a good team in the playoffs."

Who will win the Stanley Cup this year? "If I had to pick one team, it would have to be the Penguins. I think Crosby is going to get back by the second round and they are just too deep."

Favourite NHL player: "Darcy Tucker. I love Tucker."

Which super hero would you want to be, why? "I would definitely be Spider Man, because I grew up watching him."

Who is your hero/idol/role model? "Family. I look up to my family. I've been moved away for a while, so it's sometimes hard to keep real tight, but I'm close to them all. My brother plays for Orangeville

now."

Best thing about playing for the Tigers: "I got to win. That was easily the best part. I think we only lost one game in the 15 games I was there until the playoffs, so that was pretty fun."

What will you miss about it: "The boys. I'll miss them a lot. They're all beauties there."

Who is the funniest guy on the team: "The guy that made me laugh the most was definitely Sikura."

What type of hockey player are you, what are you known for? "I'm a two-way guy and I like to stir the pot a bit."

Best accomplishment on and off the ice: "Probably having two 20 plus goal seasons. Off the ice, would definitely be graduating with good enough marks to get into university. I'm not the best in school and I battled hard in Grade 12 to get the grades."

If you had a slogan or motto, what would it be: "Mine is from a movie: "Knowledge of non knowledge is power man." [From Fubar].

Are you superstitious? "Not at all, no. I find that superstitions just mess with my head, because if you can't do something, you automatically think you're going to play bad, so I just try to go out there with a steady attitude and just try to be prepared. But some guys love it, so

Continued on page 24



Aurora Tigers' Blake Forslund.
Photo by Shawn Muir/OJHL Images

York Police take on Czechs in three game tourney

By Jeff Doner

Police officers from two hockey nations are about to collide on the ice at the Stronach Recreation Complex this week – Canada and the Czech Republic.

The event is being organized by retired police officer Chris Barratt, president of the local chapter for the International Police Association (IPA), which is an organization that promotes friendship among all law enforcement officers all over the world.

Its membership currently exceeds 400,000 in 63 countries.

Barrett, with help from a friend in Prague, has arranged for a hockey team of both active and retired police officers and firemen from the Czech Republic to come all the way to Aurora to face off against some of York Regions finest in a three game tournament.

Barratt said the idea for the series was drawn up between himself and a retired officer from Prague, Vladimir Macek, who Barratt has kept in touch with over the years since meeting at an IPA event some years ago.

"He's an avid hockey player and we jived back and forth about the Canadian team and the Czech team and he got a hold of me and said he is going to bring a team composed of several police officers and

government employees from the Czech Republic to play our guys here," he said.

Macek is the captain of the Czech Panthers hockey team and will be leading a team of seven police officers, two firefighters and one civil servant into the tournament.

The Czech team has players from 30 to over 50 years old and will be evenly matched against three separate York Regional Police teams.

Macek said his team features a good mix of speed and skill and the teams should match up evenly.

"It's going to be a friendly game for fun. Although hockey players will be hockey players and the competitive nature can come out," Barratt said with a laugh.

There is no charge for admission and the hope is to get a good crowd for this fun series.

"We're not charging and we'd love to see some people out there cheering," said Barratt.

The series kicks off on Friday, April 26 at 9 a.m., followed by game two on Sunday, April 28 at 8 a.m. and finally game three on Monday, April 29 at 3 p.m.

All games will be played at the Stronach Recreation Complex located at 1400 Wellington St. E. in the Town of Aurora.

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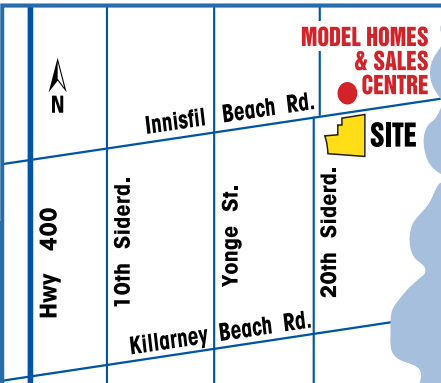
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THE AURORAN

150

Arts & Culture



(Left) Budding artists Michael Teuma-Castelletti, Ben Dobson, Katie Pryde, Lindsey Chalmers, and Alex Hawkins were among the six York Region artists paired with professional, practicing artists through Artcures Inc's Mentorship in Motion program. The program was founded by (right) Aurora's Herbert Pryke, who joined the artists, MP Lois Brown, and Mayor Geoffrey Dawe for the exhibition's wrap-up reception at the Aurora Cultural Centre Saturday.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir

Mentorship in Motion could get boost from McMichael gallery

By Brock Weir

Mentorship in Motion, the artistic collaboration between six established York Region artists and six budding artists working through challenges, wrapped their 2012 tour at the Aurora Cultural Centre on Saturday.

The program, which was founded by Aurora's Herbert Pryke through his Artcures Inc. initiative, was an offshoot of his belief that art can provide an outlet to "express, inform, evaluate, provide therapy, and to heal" and provide a way through the creative process to "soothe and heal the mind, body and soul."

Among the collaborators in this year's initiative were Mr. Pyke and his mentee Michael Teuma-Castelletti who have both battled cancer. Their work, benefiting KC's Cancer Cushion Fund, was inspired by The Avengers, showcasing the superheroes doing battle with a cancer cell.

Ernestine Tahedl teamed up with Lindsey Chalmers to create a colourful work

of peonies to benefit DramaWay, a program to provide fine arts to people with special needs. The work of Joan Armour and Alex Hawkins depicting a landscape they found by chance walking through the Oak Ridges Moraine helped support Bereaved Families of Ontario – York Region, while the team of Lilian Ghazarian and Kanta Khalid helped the Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness.

Jill Segal and Katie Pryde's embracing work went to highlight the Sick Kids Foundation, while the work of Cesan d'Ornellas Levine and Ben Dobson, the largest mixed media piece in the gallery, went to benefit the Geneva Centre for Autism.

"I know it is called Mentorship in Motion, and no disrespect to the mentors that provided all the training, but I would call it Through Your Eyes," said Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown at the closing reception on Saturday afternoon. "What we have seen through these pieces of art is through to the souls of some of these young people who have participated and you have let us touch a little piece of what your life is

about...and I believe that is what art truly is."

Ms. Brown was joined at the reception by Mayor Geoffrey Dawe. He said that looking around the exhibition he was truly engaged in the work.

"There are three main transformatives in life – love, culture and learning – and all three of them are perfectly exemplified here," he said. "What is mentorship if it is not learning or teaching someone else? There is obvious love just looking at art. You can see the love there and it is so fabulous in this exhibition [to show] the transference of one group of artists to another group, creating some incredible pieces to partake in, to absorb, and take something away from it."

Laura Schembri, Executive Director of the Aurora Cultural Centre said recent visitors to the Church Street landmark had a chance to do exactly that, when they held training sessions for suicide prevention.

"The inspiration that your art gave to this group was commented on several times," Ms.

Schembri told the assembled artists. "Your stories helped formulate some of these very important discussions and it has created a lot of joy as well. That is what was really needed in there. The joy and celebration [the art] exhibits was really, really important. It had a positive impact on people and it is going to be paid forward."

Through the success of the exhibition, Mr. Pryke presented each group with a cheque for \$1,000 for their selected charities. This success could also play a key factor in the evolution of the Mentorship in Motion project itself.

Through its circuit of York Region, the show stopped for a two week run at Kleinberg's McMichael Gallery. Participating artist Jill Segal said she and Mr. Pryke had been in talks with the gallery after they expressed interest in taking on the responsibility of the program. Bringing the gallery on board would ensure its continued success and growth on a much larger scale not just through the facilities they offer, but also through their regular funding sources.



Auroran photo by David Falconer

Celebrations bring together 150 voices for 150 years

By Brock Weir

The sounds of over 150 voices from all over York Region will come together in song this Saturday, one for each year of Aurora's years.

Aurora United Church will host the choral celebration Saturday evening at 6.30 p.m., coming together in a celebration of Aurora's past, present and future.

"I thought since this is Aurora's 150th anniversary, if we're going to do it, we might as well do it now," said Sylvia Gilchrist, chair of the concert event. "I am a member of the choir committee and it was put to them we should do this. The consensus was this was too much work, but I was involved with the Aurora Horse Show and Fair for many years and I said it couldn't be any worse than that!"

The resulting organizing committee sprang out of the

Evergreen Choir whose home base is the Aurora Seniors' Centre. Under the direction of Dr. Richard Heinzele, the director himself is no stranger to similar choral celebrations.

From that starting point they sent out invitations to a slew of different choirs and several have joined up, including the Evergreen Choir; the York Region French Choir; the Men of Note Male Voice Choir; the York Region Community Choir; the United Church Youthful Spirits Choir and the York Region Keynotes.

"We have the seniors choir, we have the young, the in-between, the men, and the seniors, so there is something for everyone," says Ms. Gilchrist. "In terms of the music, each choir collected their own music for the part they are doing on their own and each choir will be performing for about 10 minutes on their own. Then we all come together

at the end for the massed choir. For the final two songs, there will be a massed choir of about 150 voices at least.

"Richard selected the two pieces for the massed choir. The first one we are singing is a new piece by a Canadian, Larry Nichol, and it is called All the Little Rivers. It is about all the rivers of Canada and we name them as we sing them. It is really quite effective as the images are projected onto the walls of the church. The final piece that ends the whole concert is a piece by Handel, Ye Boundless Realms of Joy which will be accompanied by an organist."

During the final number images of Aurora's past and present will also envelop the audience.

"It has really gotten to be quite an amazing event and just before the massed choir, Mayor Geoff Dawe will be saying a few words," Ms. Gilchrist elaborates

See "Church" on page 22

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Lindsay McBride won third place at the recent international Irish Dance competitions in Boston. Pictured at her Newmarket studio with her trophy, the Aurora dancer is determined to get to the top of the podium in 2014. Auroran photo by Brock Weir

McBride takes third in International Irish Dance competition

By Brock Weir

Some people don't take the sting of defeat in their stride.

Others take it and parlay it into something more useful and productive.

Aurora's Lindsay McBride falls into the second camp. The 20 year old Irish Dancer recently placed third in the world in the International Irish Dancing Championships in Boston last month.

An enthusiastic and passionate dancer for over 16 years, Ms. McBride is no stranger to the international competitions. In the first year attending the competition in Ireland, she placed 27th. The next year she didn't place at all. The following year she came in 24th place, but dropped down to 40th place by the time of the 2011 competitions.

"Then I got really angry," she says with a laugh. "Then I worked really hard and got seventh last year and now third. Once I got that 40th, I realised I didn't like that and started to work that much harder. You use it as motivation to make you better. Sometimes if people do badly, they think, 'Oh, I suck!' or 'I'm not very good,' but you just have to use it to make you mad and then make you better."

Ms. McBride, a native of Stouffville, moved to Aurora when she was in elementary school, attending Lester B. Pearson Public School and later Aurora High School. She first caught the Irish Dancing bug when she was just six, innocently spying a registration booth at Upper Canada Mall for the Newmarket-based Irish Dance Studio at Upper Canada Mall.

"I could do it!" she says of what initially sparked her imagination with the colourful and rhythmic performances. "I could pick up the steps really easily. I had no troubles

with remembering anything. I got it and I was good at it, I had lots of fun and it was just a passion that was found."

From there, she branched out into gymnastics and ballet, and dancing is now practically second nature to her.

While her family was always supportive, she jokes that some members, including her grandparents, were initially skeptical of her dreams to become a professional dancer. All doubts were erased, however, once she returned home from Boston with her third place trophy.

Taking her skills abroad has not been limited to the international competitions in Ireland and Massachusetts. She has travelled extensively with some of her teammates throughout the United States, the British Isles, and parts of continental Europe. The trips, she says, are a lot of fun and opportunities she would not have otherwise been able to take without her passion for Irish dancing, and also afford her the opportunities to see the unexpected.

"In Ireland they like to busk," she recalls, admitting that coming to perform Irish dancing on the Irish home turf can be a somewhat intimidating and daunting prospect. "When you do downtown there are people everywhere doing the accordion dancing, I saw one guy playing the piano in the streets and crazy stuff like that. There is a feeling of going over and crossing an ocean to a different country that...is freeing."

In preparing for her third place finish this year, Ms. McBride was determined to ensure that she stood out in the crowd. Having been in competition for so long, she was familiar with many of the people there and she could scope out the competition long before arriving in Boston. That too brings its own challenges. One of her chief competitors has gone head

to head with her for over six years ago and everyone, she says, expects her to be good. Sometimes worry creeps in that the judges place certain familiar faces out of somewhat of a routine but she said she was quick to banish those thoughts and persevere.

"I'm from Canada and people don't really know who I am, so I have to be bigger and better able to get noticed," she says. "That is a hard thing to do when nobody knows who you are. I just wanted to be really good. I had worked really, really, really hard and my dance teacher (Emily Babbyn) has put so much work into helping me become the dancer I am. I never give up and just keep pushing no matter what. There is no massive thing I can do than just work really hard."

Hard work aside, other factors helped her stand out, she says. This included a new wig that was more natural looking than the elaborate curls synonymous with Irish dancing, and a new dress. Costumes, she added, can be a challenge with the best of the best often clocking at over £1,200 a pop direct from Ireland but costing a bit extra for a little more bling.

"I go in for the bling, the more bling the merrier!"

This combination of hard work, perseverance, a new look, and, of course, the bling all conspired to make for a highly successful competition.

"Of course I wanted to win and of course I wanted to get top three, but I think being on the podium for now was a good goal because I had never been there before," she says. "I was really happy, my parents were really happy, and I think everyone was crying. It was exciting and random people I didn't know were coming up to me and congratulating me. One thing I really like is appreciating the work I have done and knowing that other people appreciate it too.

"Now I want to win!"

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Paul Devlin, a long-time educator and principal in the York Catholic District School Board system, was honoured by his provincial peers with their Distinguished Service Award. Supplied photo

Skate Board Park designs delayed

By Brock Weir

Aurora skaters could soon have input on the Town’s new skate park.

Council will be asked next month to take a closer look at some of the costs surrounding the proposed skate board park, which is slated to be built at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex in conjunction with the Town’s new Youth Centre/Community Space for Youth.

A recommendation was up for consideration by Council at the committee level last Tuesday calling for them to establish an upset limit for the design and construction of the park but, due to time, it was put over until May 7. During budget deliberations and discussions over the youth space, Council asked staff to come back with a variety of options that could be available to give them a better idea of what kind of bang they would get for the buck. These included a \$200,000 plan, a \$500,000 plan and an \$800,000 plan set as the maximum.

“In response to Council direction, staff contacted representatives of the Canadian Ramp Company (CRC), a firm that deals exclusively with the design and construction of skateboard parks throughout Canada,” said Al Downey, Aurora’s Director of Parks and Recreation, in a report to Council.

He goes on to note that working with the group, they visited the proposed site at the complex and the company has provided them with examples of skate parks they have

established around the province at the three pricing levels. With this in place, the next step is the implementation plan.

In addition to establishing the preferred site – the report notes that staff and the company are in agreement that the right spot is where the complex’ turning circle is – community engagement will take place.

This is the first step in an eight step design process they propose, he said. The other seven being a site review, 3-D illustrations, video demonstrations, a cost estimate, materials analysis, landscaping and an overall plan to ensure its future success.

“This service is available for \$5,000,” he said. “Staff recommend moving forward with this proposal once the skateboard park budget is approved by Council.”

\$50,000 has been allocated for design work.

When Council took the youth space concept out to students last year, a skate park was one of the most buzzed about components to the plan. While some students expressed some excitement about the possibilities of an outdoor skate park, others said that since Hickson Park already has a similar design, they would get better use out of an indoor park.

Staff, however, said that there is an opportunity to use Newmarket’s indoor skate park and there was no need to duplicate that service.

Local principal found fulfillment outside of first calling

By Brock Weir

Growing up almost in the middle of the pack with multiple older and younger siblings, Paul Devlin was a pretty ordinary kid.

He played football and hockey, he roughhoused, and attended Catholic Church with his family, but what might have set him apart for the others was his devout interest in everything that unfolded during and beyond the Sunday service.

It got to the point where he would sit his younger siblings around the dining room table, grab a loaf of Wonder bread, and a bottle cap to help carve out communion hosts from the loaf, and said his own little mass for them.

It shouldn’t have come as any surprise, therefore, that Mr. Devlin thought his calling was to be a priest. Growing up with a great amount of respect for his church leaders and the missionary work one priest in particular – his uncle – carried out at the local and international level, he wanted to follow their example.

But as the Aurora resident went through his education, through undergrad studies at St. Michael’s College and a Masters of Arts in Moral Theology from the Toronto School of Theology, he began to think his true calling lay elsewhere. Mildly disillusioned with some aspects of church hierarchy, he realised his energies would be best served as an educator after a chance meeting with an alumnus at a University of Toronto function.

“When I studied moral theology, it said to me the priesthood wasn’t for me,” he says. “I couldn’t make that type of commitment. There were issues I had certainly from an academic perspective. Not at any time did I question my faith, but I did question the dictates I don’t think are particularly based in Jesus.”

When discussing his faith, there are several issues that could be considered to set him apart from what many view as the pillars of the faith. In order for the church’s survival, there have been several key points that the Catholic faith has had to adapt to ensure its survival, he says. These include setting up a church hierarchy not dissimilar to the Roman senate of the fourth century, to what he suspects are present day church leaders trying to slow the reforms brought about in the 1960s through Vatican II in the fear of moving too fast in society.

He is also open to the concept of a changing clergy, including women who have genuinely had the calling to be priests, but have had to look to outside the Catholic faith for the opportunities to find their fulfilment.

When the chance encounter showed him that his talents might be put to better use elsewhere, it started on a long road which recently brought him significant recognition.

“One fall, I was involved with a touch football game with some alumni and at the end of one of these Saturday afternoons over some beer and hot dogs we got to talking and [the alumnus] told me he taught religion,” he recalls. “He had a great sense of humour and he invited me to come to high school and see what it was like. I went and was mesmerized by this gentleman and the way he interacted with the young guys in his class. He touched something in me. I was interested in justice issues and he was preaching a social gospel in the classroom and I loved it.”

From there, he pursued his new goal, obtaining a Masters of Education degree

and eventually put this education into action as a teacher, a vice principal, and then for several years as a principal. He recently retired as principal of St. Luke’s Catholic Learning Centre, an organization under the umbrella of the York Catholic District School Board in Woodbridge. For his work, he was recently recognised with the Distinguished Service Award from the Catholic Principals’ Council of Ontario.

When he received the award, Mr. Devlin says he was “shocked” to receive the honour from his peers at the provincial level.

Through the last five years of his career with St. Luke’s, he worked with troubled youth and those who were not otherwise finding his place in – to use a phrase Mr. Devlin says he is reluctant to use – “regular” school. Some of them had dropped out of school, some of them had brushes with the law, and he found himself in a very supportive environment and very fulfilling role.

“I really felt I was back to my roots of service,” he says. “You go to court with kids because there is no adult

to go with them. You be with the kids and when the judge asks, ‘is there anyone here with you?’ the kid can say, ‘Yes, my principal is here with me.’ That helps and it shows the support of the kids.”

Support was also shown through other ways including helping them make the connection with groups such as Addiction Services of York Region, morning food programs for those who might not have eaten anything since the day before, finding co-op placements which could parlay into further work opportunities, all the while maintaining an environment in which the kids are not judged.

“It brought me back to my roots in justice working with kids because the structures of society keep teenagers who are troubled [pushed] to the side and I just thought this was real advocacy work, and a real base, community kind of work.”

In his retirement, Mr. Devlin is helping pick up the slack at Cardinal Carter Catholic High School while a friend, a vice principal at the school, recovers from illness.

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MARCH 1 – MAY 3

Register now for the Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School Reunion on Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4. All alumni and guests are welcome. Many events and social functions are being planned. A new history book has been created. Space and history books are limited. Don't be disappointed! For more information and to register, visit www.reunion125.com, or email reunion125@bell.net.

APRIL 4 – 27

The Aurora Cultural Centre hosts the art exhibition "Mentorship in Motion". "Mentorship in Motion" is a partnership of six accomplished artists mentoring six young students living with a challenge. Together, each team produced a collaborative piece of art showcasing how creativity can restore, repair, and renew. Art will be on display through April 27. For more information, visit www.artcures.ca.

APRIL 11 – MAY 16

Eating Disorders of York Region launches a new group for teens – Healthy Coping Skills for Anxiety and Depression. Very often anxiety and depression are familiar feelings to someone struggling with disordered eating, body image issues and low self esteem. During this group you will learn how your negative thinking patterns might be affecting your feelings and behaviors. You will be able to explore the "mechanisms" of anxiety and depression and learn why they are triggered. You will learn healthy coping techniques with your symptoms and you will be able to share your struggles and worries in a safe environment. Location: EDOYR, 15213 Yonge St., Ste. 15, Aurora, Main Floor. \$60.00 for six weeks. EDOYR is a registered non-profit organization. For more information email info@edoyr.com, call 905-886-6632 or visit www.edoyr.com.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce will host a Networking Breakfast "How to Grow your Business Using Library Resources" this morning at the Aurora Public Library. The breakfast runs from 7.30 a.m. to 9 a.m. and admission is complementary to Chamber Members.

APRIL 23 – JUNE 4

Eating Disorders of York Region presents "On the Road to Recovery" Support Group with Flora Svinarenko. The Recovery group is intended for those who currently are actively working on maintaining changes which they have made in regards to their eating behaviours while attending other group programs through EDOYR or participating in eating disorder treatment. The road to recovery is challenging sometimes and emotional support is necessary to overcome or prevent lapses. In a safe and empathetic environment this group will provide you with coping tools and support needed to address complicated emotions, unhealthy behaviors or unhelpful thoughts. Cost is \$50 for the four weeks. To register, please visit <http://www.edoyr.com/support-groups.html> or email info@edoyr.com.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

Garden Aurora! The Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society invites you to learn how to wean your gardens off expensive and unhealthy chemicals. Hear Paul Cray, an organic gardener, speak on "What, Why and How to Compost". The meeting is held at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North and starts at 8 p.m. Our Youth Members, ages 5 to 15, will meet at 6.30 p.m. to show their prized tulips and daffodils and

to create a hat for the Easter Parade! Further information at www.gardenaurora.com or 905-713-6660.

The Character Community Foundation of York Region will host is 7th annual Character Community Awards Celebration tonight at 7 p.m. at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. The event will honour more than 180 York Region residents and organizations nominated for demonstrating exemplary character and contributed to the quality of life of others. This year's celebrations will include the inaugural Donald Cousens Award, presented to Rogers TV producer David Blackwell, Lina Bigioni of the Region of York, and Robert McCulloch of the York Region District School Board. For more information, visit www.charactercommunity.com.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

Eating Disorders of York Region hosts a free Stages of Recovery workshop this afternoon from 5 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. Are you ready to explore the possibility of change? If so, discover where you are in your Journey of Recovery. "Stages of Recovery" will help you explore the changes that you are seeking. In a safe and confidential setting, the costs and benefits of changing eating disorder behaviors will be presented. We will also try to identify barriers and explore healthy coping strategies. Individuals and supportive friends or family members may attend. Registration is required. Email info@edoyr.com or call 905-886-6632. Visit www.edoyr.com for more details.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce will host Coffee with the President. Drop in to the Chamber office for coffee with the President of the Board and the Executive Director. Get answers to your questions or just meet the staff, visit and see what's new at the Chamber. Aurora Chamber of Commerce, 14483 Yonge Street, Aurora. 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Complimentary and registration is not required.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

The Aurora Seniors' Centre will host their annual Spring Sale today from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Treasures for everyone – white elephant, books, jewellery, crafts, vendors, and a barbecue. Aurora Seniors' Centre. 90 John West Way, Aurora.

The Aurora Cultural Centre will launch "Terra Incognita: Unknown Landscapes" featuring the work of King artist Ernestine Tahedl.

In honour of Aurora's 150th anniversary, a Choral Celebration will be held at the Aurora United Church on Saturday, April 27 at 6.30 p.m. Seven choirs will be participating in this special event: Aurora's Evergreen Choir (the host choir), the Men of Note Male Voice Choir, the York Region Community Choir, the United Church Chancel Choir, the United Church Youthful Spirits Choir, the York Region French Choir and the Newmarket Keynotes Seniors Choir. Each choir will perform on their own but will come together at the end of the performance to form a mass choir of approximately 150 voices. Tickets are \$15 each and available from participating choirs, from CHATS at 126 Wellington Street West, Suite 103 and from the Aurora Seniors Centre, 90 John West Way (telephone: 905-726-4767). Tickets can also be obtained at the door, if available.

The One Parent Families Association will hold a dance this evening from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion. 105 Industrial

Parkway North). Hot and cold buffet. Cash Bar. The One Parent Families Association is a Not-For-Profit organization dedicated to assist parents and children who live in a non-traditional family structure. For more information, email Al Horwood at al_horwood@hotmail.com.

THURSDAY, MAY 2

The York Region Visions Dinner is an extraordinary CNIB fundraising event being held on this evening. Proceeds from the event will benefit CNIB's vital rehabilitation services that empower Canadians who are blind or partially sighted to overcome the challenges of vision loss and lead full, independent lives. The York Region Visions Dinner gives attendees a once-in-a-lifetime experience of sensory delights and includes a lively cocktail reception, entertainment by Adrien Breda and Markham-Unionville Rotary Club Choir and a delicious three-course meal. Guests will also have the opportunity to experience one of the courses while dining in the dark. Tickets are on sale for \$100. To purchase your tickets today or learn more about the York Region Visions Dinner, call 416-486-2500 ext. 3868 or email pamela.deveaux@cnib.ca.

A New French Toastmasters group meets the first and third Thursday of each month at the Richmond Hill Retirement Residence (70 Bernard Avenue). For fluent French speaking people. For more information, contact Anne Lucie at annelucie.setrakian@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, MAY 4

In partnership with the Town of Aurora, Lake Simcoe Regional Conservation Authority and the Aurora Community Arboretum, bring the family and plant a tree today from 10 a.m. – 12 noon rain or shine in the Community Tree Planting. Please wear appropriate clothing and bring a shovel if you have your own. Enter the Arboretum at Billingham Heights and Birkshire Drive in northeast Aurora. Parking on the street.

SUNDAY, MAY 5

The Town of Aurora will host the Sesquicentennial Aurora Tattoo today from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Machell Park and the Aurora Community Centre. Events include a Mess Lunch hosted by the Queen's York Rangers from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., a "tough mudder" obstacle course for kids and military displays. Events shift to the Community Centre across the street from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. with the Aurora Tattoo, comprising military pipes, and drums, and bands from communities throughout Ontario.

Doane House Hospice hosts the national Hike 4 Hospice event today at Newmarket's Fairy Lake. Registration is \$10 and children 12 and under are free. Registration begins at 8.30 a.m. with the walk starting at 10 a.m. Includes a barbecue, pet comfort station and family fun. For more information, including registration, contact Doane House Hospice at 905967-0259 or visit www.doanehospice.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 10

The Aurora Seniors Association's Silver Stars Drama Club will be producing a variety show called, "Let Us Entertain You". This will take place at the Aurora Seniors' Centre tonight at 7 p.m. This show will feature songs from The Wizard of Oz, dance routines by the Alley Cats and Hawaiian dancers. Lots of comedy including a skit, "Looney Lunch", singers (soloists, duets and groups), and musicians (pianists, guitarists, a harmonica and harp player). Tickets are on sale now at the Seniors' Centre, 90 John West Way, Aurora, for only \$5.00 each which includes refreshments. This is a show for the whole family, so get your tickets early and come and visit us.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

Aurora Home Hardware (289 Wellington Street East) will host Ladies Night from 7 – 9 p.m. Special in-store discounts for the evening. Demonstrations and raffles. The first 50 ladies get a free gift bag. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Aurora Food Pantry. Local retailers participation. Refreshments provided. Must have a flyer in hand to attend. Space is limited. Register by calling 905-727-4751.

THURSDAY, MAY 16

The Aurora Historical Society, in partnership with Southlake Regional Health Centre will launch its medical exhibit today at Hillary House. Artefacts from the Hillary Collection relating to medicine and health will be displayed along with their modern counterparts, provided by Southlake in a newly restored exhibition space in the National Historic Site. The exhibit will showcase a wide variety of implements and themes, including education and accreditation of medical professionals, record keeping and documentaion. For more information, contact the AHS at 905-727-8991 or visit www.aurorahistoricsociety.ca.

A New French Toastmasters group meets the first and third Thursday of each month at the Richmond Hill Retirement Residence (70 Bernard Avenue). For fluent French speaking people. For more information, contact Anne Lucie at annelucie.setrakian@gmail.com.

gmail.com.

TUESDAY, MAY 21

Stronach Regional Health Centre presents Breaking Up Is Hard To Do: Smoking – A Love/Hate Relationship. Presented by Rosemary Lamont, clinical nurse specialist, this is part of an ongoing Cancer Education Series presented at Southlake. Seminar runs from 5.15 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. in the Cancer Centre's main floor. 506 Davis Drive. Free. For more information, please visit www.southlakeregional.org and click on "Southlake Events".

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

Eating Disorders of York Region (EDOYR) invites you to a cozy " Fireside Conversation" this evening from 6 – 8 p.m. at the Richmond Hill Public Library. Members from the "Faces of Recovery" campaign invite you to join with them in conversation, together with guest speaker Naturopath Dr. Lorenzo Diana from Markham Natural Health Centre, to speak about recovery and to answer questions that may arise concerning physical wellness in the recovery process. This event is free of charge, but registration is required. Please register online at <http://www.edoyr.com/upcoming-events.html>. Call 905-886-6632 or email info@edoyr.com for more information.

SATURDAY, MAY 25

The Sharon Temple National Historic Site will present professional and emerging artists showcasing and selling their original artwork with thee Sharon Art Show and Sale today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission by donation to the Sharon Temple. Open to the public. Welcome to all lovers of art. Art mediums include fused glass, jewelry, paintings, pencil sketches, photography, pottery, scratchboard, stained glass, metal work, and wood carvings. For more information, visit www.sharonartshow.com, email

arbutuscrafts@gmail.com, or call 647-955-308 and ask for Laurie or Tony.

FRIDAY, MAY 31

TheAuroraCulturalCentre's Great Artists Piano Series concludes this evening with the dazzling American pianist William Wolfram, medalist at both the William Kapell and Naumburg International Piano Competitions, as well the Tchaikovsky Piano Competition. Mr. Wolfram has appeared with orchestras throughout the world, including The Pittsburgh Symphony under the baton of Leonard Slatkin. A graduate of the Juilliard School, Mr. Wolfram records on the Naxos label. Program to include works by Liszt, Schubert, Chopin & Ligeti. For more information, visit www.auroraculturalcentre.ca. Tickets are \$40 for adults, and \$25 for seniors and students. On sale now. Doors open at 7 p.m. Concert begins at 8.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

Come out to see some of the best Baton Twirlers in Canada. The Spectrum North Baton Club invites you to its Annual Show and Awards Night, a showcase of both competitive and recreational twirlers. Free admission! Newmarket High School, 515 Pickering Crescent, Newmarket.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Aurora Chamber Golf Classic today at St. Andrew's Valley Golf Club. For more information, visit www.aurorachamber.on.ca.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

A New French Toastmasters group meets the first and third Thursday of each month at the Richmond Hill Retirement Residence (70 Bernard Avenue). For fluent French speaking people. For more information, contact Anne Lucie at annelucie.setrakian@gmail.com.

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A lot more in store for Aurora 150!

As you readers know, the Town of Aurora is in the midst of celebrating its sesquicentennial year. Aurora is 150 years old and there are a number of special events sponsored by the Town that will occur throughout the year.

The first was the Mayor’s levee held at the historic Town Park on February 3 at the date of the Town’s actual birthday. On an absolutely frigid Sunday afternoon, crowds of residents enjoyed games of broomball, and wagon rides and tug of war and a beautiful multi-faith candle lighting service in honour of this milestone event. It was a great day enjoyed by all – even those of us with absolute popsicles for hands!

Well, there are more wonderful events to come!

On Sunday May 5, the Town of Aurora will play host to a very unique, first time event - the Aurora Tattoo. Starting at 11 a.m., in Machell Park, there will be a fun day jam packed with activities for the whole family.

There will be a lunch with the Queen’s York Rangers in collaboration with Aurora Optimists, static military displays, armoured vehicles, and a kid-friendly “mudder” (a military style obstacle course for the kids). All participants will get a ribbon - A keepsake to say they finished the Aurora Mudder! At 2 p.m., the day will get truly special as Aurora’s first Tattoo will be held across the street at the ACC.

In what promises to be a fantastic two hours of music and dance, we will have a show with pipe and drums from across the province. Bands will include the prestigious Governor General Horse Guards, among others.

The event is free but seats are limited so

get there early to make sure you get a seat and enjoy the show.

The following month – on the Canada Day weekend – there will be a variety of events to be held all weekend long. Saturday, June 29 will feature an art event, a showcase of the bands and youth dance (details will be made public a wee bit later so wait for that announcement!).

One of the highlights of the weekend will be, as The Auroran has reported elsewhere in this paper, that the iconic band Lighthouse will be the headlining act at the annual Dance in the Park! The Town of Aurora, in collaboration with the Rotary Club will have a truly special Dance in the Park this year.

With music starting at 2 p.m. in the afternoon, residents can enjoy hours of music - bands and singers of all kinds of genres – with the big show starting at 9 p.m. Lighthouse is a fantastic band, famous for its hit songs of the 70s and 80s. I know that residents are pretty excited about the band coming to Town and playing in our Town Park.

The Rotary Club will once again have a beer garden on site for patrons to enjoy while listening to the music. Again, the concert is free, so come early to make sure you get a spot.

That’s just a snapshot of what’s coming up in the next few weeks. If you’d like more information on Aurora 150, please consult the website at: www.aurora150.ca or check it out on twitter @aurora_150 or facebook Aurora150.

So that’s it for this week. Until next time them, stay informed, stay involved because this is after all, Our Town.

Church celebrate 150 years Saturday

From page 18

on the importance of the event. “Music is always a unifying thing. It brings people together; it makes them feel good, and I think it is a wonderful way to celebrate Aurora’s 150th anniversary to sing and listen to music. I think the people will leave the Aurora United Church feeling very good and uplifted.”

Ms. Gilchrist says she

thinks events such as these to mark Aurora’s milestone anniversary are important because it develops a stronger sense of where Aurorans have come from, where they are going and, in this sense, fosters a stronger sense of community.

She added she hopes people leave the church not only feeling uplifted, but thinking, “Wow, was that

ever a great way to spend a Saturday evening!”

The concert gets underway at 6.30 p.m. at the Aurora United Church on Yonge Street. Doors open at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and available from the participating choirs, CHATS (Community Home Assistance to Seniors), the Aurora Seniors’ Centre, or at the door.

and you are surrounded by a community that know you by your first name and know your life in general, it is an amazing support to have.”

Tickets for the event are not available at the door; but for further information on how to obtain them in advance from the Church, contact Ms. Belgue at 416-433-3285.

celebration at Town Hall in December of 2011. That being said, despite their achievements, he said there is much more work to be done.

“Maybe someone with a disability will be able to join us here and fly in space,” said Commander Hadfield “Now it is your turn to become a difference maker. You can make changes in your own community and you can make a difference in the world.”

happens in your life – good, bad, or indifferent – to have a church community around you is such an amazing support that if people would even just come through the doors and give it a go, I think they would have this huge support system,” she says. “It is like an extended family. You don’t have to all believe in the same things, but when you sit in a church

difference makers...of all ages and across the world, people who make a difference in their own way to make the world a better place.”

Commander Hadfield said he was honoured to be chosen as a difference maker himself and recalled the honour he had to participate in the medal relay to mark the 25th anniversary of the Man in Motion Tour; which also wound its way through Aurora, culminating in a

Concert gives back to Aurora United

From page 9

this fall. One \$50 ticket, she says, translates into feeding 90 people at those breakfasts which provide an economical and nutritious breakfast for people in the community who might not otherwise be able to afford it.

“When something

School is fourth in Canada named after Hansen

From page 3

said Commander Hadfield. “His incredible journey, which took two years, two months, and two days, showed everybody that anything is possible. He challenged people to also make a difference.

“Maybe more importantly Rick Hansen hasn’t stopped since. He... is a real difference maker and recently he celebrated the 25th anniversary of that world tour. He did it by recognizing his fellow

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
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43							44		45					
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	51	52	53					54						55
56							57				58			
59							60				61			
62							63				64			

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Maple genus
- 5. Not what it seems
- 9. Overly masculine
- 14. X2 = Vaitape’s island
- 15. Source of the Blue Nile
- 16. A way to dislike intensely
- 17. Copyread
- 18. Goidelic language of Ireland
- 19. TV advertising awards
- 20. Out of stock: purchase later
- 23. Ribbon belts
- 24. They ____
- 25. Winged goddess of the dawn
- 26. OK to go out with
- 31. Symposiums
- 35. Bewail
- 36. The den of wild animals
- 37. Go inside of

- 38. Result or consequence
- 41. Lolium temulentum
- 43. Wrote a short composition
- 45. Occupy a seat
- 46. Grand __, vintage
- 47. Paved outdoor spaces
- 51. 1954 Milland/Hitchcock movie
- 56. South American racoon
- 57. Cold (Spanish)
- 58. About aviation
- 59. Deliberate destructive burning
- 60. Any place of bliss or delight
- 61. Largest river in Transcaucasia
- 62. Binding
- 63. A man of high rank
- 64. Islamic leader

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Urge and help on
- 2. Musical endings
- 3. Writer Jong
- 4. Places in rank order
- 5. 2 photos = 3D
- 6. Annoy persistently
- 7. Am. Natl. Standards Inst.
- 8. Female Dionysus cult members
- 9. Panga knife
- 10. Having sufficient skill
- 11. Currently fashionable
- 12. Fishing barb
- 13. Many not ands
- 21. Polite interruption sound
- 22. Grouch
- 27. Arabian chieftain (var. sp.)
- 28. W. German capital 1949-90
- 29. Having died recently
- 30. Organic compound
- 31. Take to one’s heels

- 32. Klutzes
- 33. Jazz ostinato
- 34. Carbamide
- 39. Bike transportation
- 40. Length of office
- 41. April’s birthstone
- 42. Tip of Aleutian Islands
- 44. Army luggage bag
- 45. More nimble
- 48. A citizen of Iraq (alt. sp.)
- 49. Greek or Roman performance hall
- 50. Junipero __, Spanish priest
- 51. Walleye
- 52. Moldavian capital 1565-1859
- 53. Egyptian sun god
- 54. Latin word for order
- 55. Wander
- 56. Whip with 9 knotted cords

Last Week’s Puzzle Solution

PUZZLE SOLUTION	O	M	I	T		T	A	F	F	Y		C	A	T	T
	N	E	P	A		A	G	R	E	E		A	D	A	R
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	A	D				O	D	E						L	A
	Y	E	A	R	L	Y		E		S	A	S	H	E	S
				A	P	O		R		T	H	E			
	S	P	E	D			D	R	I	V	E		N	A	B
	S	Y	L	I			E	M	C	E	E		A	A	R
	T	A	L	A			L	A	K	E	R		T	H	A
				N	B	E		C		E	G	O			
	A	B	A	S	E	D		H		D	A	R	I	N	G
	A	L					T	O	E					A	I
	H	A	S	H			T	A	P	A	S		S	C	A
	E	D	A	M			S	K	I	D	S		L	A	C
	D	E	M	O			H	A	N	S	E		A	M	P

Region's finest first responders honoured

By Jeff Doner

The Regional Municipality of York honoured some of the Region's finest at the Tri-services Awards Ceremony at the York Region Administrative Centre this month.

Call takers and dispatchers from local police, fire and EMS were acknowledged for their very important work and exceptional service that is sometimes overlooked.

"The York Regional Police communicators are the ones at the other end of the 911 line 24 hours a day, seven days a week and for members of the public needing help, they are the frontline," said York Regional Police Chief Eric Jolliffe. "They are also part of the team of professionals who work in the communications centres of fire services and York Region Emergency Medical Services."

Two junior recipients were also awarded for their bravery and quick thinking, by calling

911 in an emergency situation.

David Adetuno, 11, of Markham quickly and calmly called 911 to get help for his younger brother who would not wake up.

"I called to help my brother," David said. "He has seizures a lot, so I just called 911 to help him."

Thanks to his actions, his brother was given the proper care and is in good health. David said young people should not be afraid to call 911 if they, or someone else, is in serious trouble or danger.

"If you or someone else is in serious danger you should definitely call 911 to get help," he said.

When asked how it felt to be honoured in front of a room full of police officers, fire fighters and EMS workers, David said with a huge grin, "it feels good."

Also a recipient of the Junior 911 award, was Gita Singh, 9, from Richmond Hill. Although she was not able to make

the ceremony, the crowd was amazed by her calmness and ability to deal with a frightening situation.

Many others were also recognized for their dedication and hard work at the annual awards ceremony.

P o l i c e c o m m u n i c a t i o n s: Call taker of the year, Veronica Sweeney. Dispatcher of the year, Adam Demers. Outstanding performance of a platoon, B Platoon.

A m b u l a n c e c o m m u n i c a t i o n s: Call taker of the year, Lisa Sheehy. Dispatcher of the year, Tracey Hyder. Outstanding performance of a platoon, B Platoon.

Fire communications – Markham Fire and Emergency Services: Call taker of the year, Lauren MacDonald.

Firecommunications–Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service: Outstanding performance of a platoon, Danielle Armstrong and Krista Wallace.



David Adetuno, 11, pictured front right with his brother and family was honoured at the ceremony. The Markham resident calmly called 911 to get help for his brother after he suffered a seizure.

Auroran photo by Jeff Doner

Runners gearing up for Sunday's Southlake Run

By Jeff Doner

The Nature's Emporium Run or Walk for Southlake is about to begin once again with registered participants looking for that last push of pledges and donations.

The run will take place on Sunday, April 28, starting at the Aurora Community Centre and the Southlake Foundation is hoping to raise \$150,000 collectively from 1,500 participants.

The Nature's Emporium Run or Walk for Southlake is one of Southlake Foundation's key fundraising events, raising much-needed funds to support the state-of-the-art facilities and leading programs at Southlake Regional Health Centre. The event offers something for everyone, with the option to walk or run 10K, 5K, 2.5K or, for the wee runners in the family, the Kids Mini Mile.

"The weather has been stunningly uncooperative so far this year, but with sunny skies ahead, we're confident that our community members will join us full-force on April

28th," said Neila Poscente, president of the Southlake Foundation. "This is a great opportunity for all of us to rally behind high-quality healthcare services in our community—the level of care that our neighbours, our friends and our family members so rightly deserve. It's time for all of us to strap on our running shoes and hit the pavement."

Aurora is going to be well represented at the event, with a few local teams coming together to participate in the race and raise donations.

Dr. Yin-Hui Siow (a doctor at Southlake) and wife Angela Trevivian have put together a team of their own for the event.

"My wife, who is a personal fitness trainer, has set up a team and she thought this would be a good way of getting some of her clients and some people that we know out to do this," said Dr. Siow. "It's a fun event and there's different things you can do, like the 2K walk and up to a 10K run, so there's varying difficulties of the event."

Dr. Siow and his wife

have participated in the event before, but this is the first time they have put together a team, which will be about 12-15 people.

"It's supporting a good cause, because the proceeds go to the Southlake Foundation, which supports the hospital and I've seen a lot of good work being done at the hospital, so it's all for a good cause and it should be wonderful. Hopefully we'll have good weather as well and everything is full steam ahead."

Neighbourhood Network, a volunteer based organization founded by Belinda Stronach, is also assembling a team for the event, led by Tanya Moor.

"When I first heard the discussion of it happening, I thought it was a good opportunity for not only myself, but the people that also work for Neighbourhood Network to get involved, because we do a lot of things within the community and this just another good opportunity for us to support the hospital."

It will be the first time Neighbourhood Network

submits a team for the event, but so far they're eight people strong and looking to raise \$1,000."

For more information on the event or to give a donation, visit www.runforsouthlake.ca

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HRAI HONESTY INTEGRITY RESPECT

Forslund is heading to SUNY Fredonia

who am I to judge.”

Stance on fighting in hockey: “Fighting in hockey? I love it. It looks like they’re trying to take it out, but I don’t think you can. You can try to take out the staged fights at face-offs and whatnot, but you can’t take out fights when you’re mad, like when someone hits you hard. There’s no way you can. It happens in all sports, so there’s no way to take it out. And staged fights, it’s fine – if guys want to do it, they’ll do it. You know there’s a risk when you get into a fight.”

Should all NHL players be made to wear visors? “I would keep it on if I went to the NHL, but I think it’s up to the players. Now with the new rule that if a player with a visor is the instigator in a fight, you get the extra two minutes, if you’re going to have that rule in place then you can’t make them mandatory because then fighters won’t be able to do their job.”

If you were GM of Team Canada, who would be your top forward, defenseman and goalie? “My top forward is Crosby, top defenseman is Kris Letang and my top goalie

I'd probably go back with Luongo. I'm a Luongo fan."

Coach's comment
[James Richmond]: "Blake Forslund came to the team just before the Jan. 10 trade deadline from the Orangeville Flyers along with teammate John Doyle. Bringing Blake in really added depth at our forward position which helped us make a push towards the playoffs. Blake was a versatile forward and played wing and centre for us and was a welcome addition to the Tiger family. We wish him well next season at Fredonia State University."



Local music lovers had a foot-stompin' good time Friday as Foggy Hometown Boys made their Aurora Cultural Centre debut. There were debuts all around that evening as not only was it the first time the Boys played the Centre as a group, it was also the first time the Centre has hosted a bluegrass band.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

You could WIN \$ 1000

The Auroran KingSentinel

NHL Playoff Pool

ALL PLAYERS INCLUDING GOALIES: GOAL = 1 POINT, ASSIST = 1 POINT

Choose 1 player from each of the 12 groups

2013 Playoffs

All Players including Goalies: goal = 1 point, assist = 1 point, shootout goal = 1 point

<input type="checkbox"/> Evgeni Malkin (PIT)	<input type="checkbox"/> John Tavares (NYI)	<input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Sedin (VAN)
<input type="checkbox"/> Marian Hossa (CHI)	<input type="checkbox"/> Henrik Zetterberg (DET)	<input type="checkbox"/> James Neal (PIT)
<input type="checkbox"/> P.K. Subban (MTL)	<input type="checkbox"/> Henrik Sedin (VAN)	<input type="checkbox"/> Joe Thornton (SJS)
<input type="checkbox"/> Pavel Datsyuk (DET)	<input type="checkbox"/> Rick Nash (NYR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Jonathon Toews (CHI)
<input type="checkbox"/> Anze Kopitar (LA)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sidney Crosby (PIT)	<input type="checkbox"/> Nazem Kadri (TOR)
<input type="checkbox"/> Alexander Ovechkin (WAS)	<input type="checkbox"/> Patrik Elias (NJD)	<input type="checkbox"/> Max Pacioretty (MTL)
<input type="checkbox"/> Joffrey Lupul (TOR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Tyler Seguin (BOS)	<input type="checkbox"/> Justin Williams (LA)
<input type="checkbox"/> Jarome Iginla (PIT)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ryan Kesler (VAN)	<input type="checkbox"/> Milan Lucic (BOS)
<input type="checkbox"/> Patrick Kane (CHI)	<input type="checkbox"/> David Backes (STL)	<input type="checkbox"/> Alexander Steen (STL)
<input type="checkbox"/> Ryan Getzlaf (ANA)	<input type="checkbox"/> Zach Parise (MINN)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mat Moulson (NYI)
<input type="checkbox"/> Zdeno Chara (BOS)	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Del Zotto (NYR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mikko Koiru (MNN)
<input type="checkbox"/> Thomas Plekanec (MTL)	<input type="checkbox"/> Duncan Keith (CHI)	<input type="checkbox"/> Alex Peiterangelo (STL)
<input type="checkbox"/> Keith Yandle (PHO)	<input type="checkbox"/> Phil Kessel (TOR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Alexander Edler (VAN)
<input type="checkbox"/> Kyle Turris (OTT)	<input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Alfredsson (OTT)	<input type="checkbox"/> Niklas Backstrom (WASH)
<input type="checkbox"/> Dan Boyle (SJS)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ryan Suter (MINN)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kris Letang (PIT)

Goalies: Win=1 point, Shutout=+2 points (3 total). They will also be credited for goals/assists.

<input type="checkbox"/> Henrik Lundqvist (NYR)	<input type="checkbox"/> James Reimer (TOR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Corey Crawford (CHI)
<input type="checkbox"/> Marc-Andre Fleury (PIT)	<input type="checkbox"/> Carey Price (MTL)	<input type="checkbox"/> Braden Holtby (WAS)
<input type="checkbox"/> Jonathan Quick (LA)	<input type="checkbox"/> Craig Anderson (OTT)	<input type="checkbox"/> Jaroslav Halak (STL)
<input type="checkbox"/> Cory Schneider (VAN)	<input type="checkbox"/> Martin Brodeur (NJ)	<input type="checkbox"/> Jimmy Howard (DET)
<input type="checkbox"/> Jonas Hiller (ANA)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Smith (PHX)	<input type="checkbox"/> Tukka Rask (BOS)

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*First, second and third place prizes go to the top three in points in each pool.

RULES:

1. Limit of one entry per person, maximum four entries per household.
2. All entries must be completed fully on original clipped forms.
3. All winners agree to the use of his/her name, address and photograph for publicity.
4. Decisions of the judges final in all matters.

**FREE
TO
ENTER**

Students go the extra mile to make disabled kids smile

By Brock Weir

The further Aurora student Lukas Weese and his classmates got involved with their volunteer work at Safehaven, the more they got a handle on just what they could do to benefit the local charity providing residential and respite care to disabled kids.

Rounding out the trio were fellow Country Day School (CDS) students Jessy Rosen and Jai Singh. They got involved with the charity through a civics program organized by their school's youth Philanthropy Initiative. The object of CDS' program is to inspire students to take a hands-on role in York Region-based grassroots charities, become involved and familiar with the work they do, and present their findings to the student body.

The best presentation garnered a \$5,000 grant from CDS to their charity of the students' choice.

Jai had previously been involved as a volunteer at Safehaven and it wasn't difficult to persuade the rest of the team to follow suit.

Solar

From page 12

the power and the town bringing in lease revenue from an otherwise useless space, and smaller scale projects dotted around Town.

Many of these initiatives were put forward in 2010 and 2011 but were put on the backburner due to the uncertainty over the FIT program during the last provincial election with each party having different ideas as to the program's usefulness and cost-effectiveness. The programs, however, were back on track by last fall.

The winning bidder for this project is Solera Sustainable Energies, which has collaborated with the Town on the SARC roof project. If approved, the new projects will be installed on the roofs of both buildings. According to Mr. Ramunno's report, the cost for the two systems will clock in at \$86,000 to install, less than what had already been approved in this year's budget. Based on the figures of generating about \$13,000 worth of power annually for 20 years, they expect a payback within seven.

"For me, Safehaven is an amazing charity," says Lukas. "It is a cause I think not a lot of people know about but I think needs to be raised throughout the community. To help these kids integrate within society is incredible because 30 - 40 years ago they were shunned by society and even stigmatized. I think what Safehaven is doing is giving these kids the opportunity to be equal members of society and integrated into the community."

Under the guiding principles of the Youth Philanthropy Initiative, the group made contact with staff and they got them up to speed with Safehaven initiatives and helped them connect with the kids they served. Lukas says meeting the kids inspired them to highlight the work Safehaven does in the wider community, highlight things they wouldn't otherwise know, and help them fill any and all service gaps.

Evidently this inspiration did the trick. Their presentations to students and teachers back at CDS rose to the top and Safehaven received the \$5,000 cheque. Not content with just a simple grant, the students put their heads together with Safehaven staff to decide the best way to use the money. The result is Miles for Smiles, an offshoot of the charity founded by Lukas, Jessy, and Jai to further their efforts in making sure their clients are able to be equal players in the community.

Miles for Smiles provides funds to cover transportation costs for the kids to be integrated into the community, whether it is to get to Safehaven or any other amenities the community has to offer. Lukas says when they were able to put this initiative into action it was an amazing moment for the group and one of the most worthwhile projects they have ever done through their school.

"Transportation can be costly for people and for these people to get integrated within their community they need those costs to be covered," he says, following discussions to see how Magna for the Community can come on board to provide further support to the organization.

"Hopefully these kids can now afford to be fully integrated into the community, go around

and do multiple different activities. I hope through Miles for Smiles and everything we have done for Safehaven, to continue to be an ambassador for this amazing charity, whether it is getting them involved in amazing companies like Magna who really support helping the community because I honestly believe there is no limit to how much change can occur and how much an individual can give

"I think, for me, I am always going to be connected with Safehaven and I hope, as I go on through my life, we will find other initiatives and other ways where we can raise awareness within the community and achieve a fundraiser that will support things like we did with Miles for Smiles. I have always been taught it is better to help others and always be a good community member who is always helping and I hope through Safehaven I am able to do that in the future."

The students say that the Youth Philanthropy Initiative through CDS helps fulfil one of their guiding principles to build character within their students. It affords them the opportunity to highlight an initiative they might not otherwise know anything about, and inspire kids to become more civic minded and "good moral citizens."

Through their presentation and the work they hope to continue doing for Safehaven, they say that getting out and volunteering for the organization gives one the chance to meet some amazing volunteers, some incredible kids, provides an invaluable learning opportunity that will make you set for life.

"For me, it was honestly about finding a passion and finding a cause you feel passionate about," says Lukas. "Anything you can do as a citizen in our world today to help local and international communities I think is pretty amazing. The youth have so much power and so much ability to go out and make a difference. I think if they find that passion and find that niche to help the community then it can just lead to a ripple effect of a massive amount of kids doing what my group-mates and I are doing - being very community-oriented citizens always willing to help when needed."



Country Day School students Lukas Weese and Jai Singh, above, along with fellow student Jessy Rosen, (inset with Safehaven's Kimberley Gadwah) have used \$5,000 in prize money to spearhead Miles for Smiles with Safehaven Aurora. The initiative supports transportation needs of the severely disabled children Safehaven supports to make sure they are fully integrated into their community.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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CASTEL HOMES

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The weather is starting to warm up – well, almost – so this week I feel the need to give some pointers on when it's a good time to do any exterior painting. The time is getting close, but not quite yet.

First, you will need at least three days of temperatures above 10 degrees to even consider doing exterior painting. Ideally, it should be five days, but three will do.

At the other end of the spectrum, you don't want it to be too hot either.

If it is too cold, then the paint will – to use my own term for it – freeze dry. If it is too hot, with extreme heat and sun blazing on the surface, the paint will dry too quickly. In either case you will have the same result – paint that

has not adhered properly to the surface and in a year's time you will undoubtedly have cracks and flakes. A considerable amount of wasted time and effort.

The best time is the spring or fall. Most will prefer to tackle the outdoor projects in the spring to spruce things up for the summer season. Why do it in the fall? It's going to be covered in snow soon enough!

Given our weather, and the extremes of the four seasons, our homes' exteriors take quite the beating – with painted or stained surfaces taking the worst of it. Careful and considered maintenance is the best way to protect your home's exterior from wear and tear.

The best way to maintain these surfaces for a long time, protect



ASK TOM

Tom Mrakas

Now is the time for outdoor maintenance

them from rotting and generally keep them looking like new is to do a kind of spring clean up – much like you do with the rest of your spring cleaning.

Once the weather warms up

sufficiently, choose the surfaces that need some care, do a quick sand of the surfaces and then a quick refresh coat of paint. If it's a deck you are maintaining, put on coat of water sealer.

I would recommend this basic outdoor surfaces maintenance at least once a year. The most I would let it go is two. The most common reason that you get the rotted window sills or deck boards rotting is because the maintenance has been neglected.

If you take care of the maintenance on a yearly basis your decks and windows will last much longer – which, in the long run saves you a great deal of money, and aggravation!

Now if you just don't like the idea of yearly maintenance, then there are a number of relatively

care free products you can use to minimize the need to do the outdoor work, but keep in mind though, maintenance free comes at a cost. These products are quite a bit more expensive than regular products.

If you take some time every year and take care of your decks, windows and doors you will have a stunning exterior for many years. Or you can pay a bit extra for products that allow for a relatively care-free exterior. The choice is yours!

So until next week, remember a good job, is a job well done! Also if you have any questions you can reach me at www.facebook.com/anastasisdesign or on twitter; @ADesign_build and email of course Anastasis@anastasisdesign.ca

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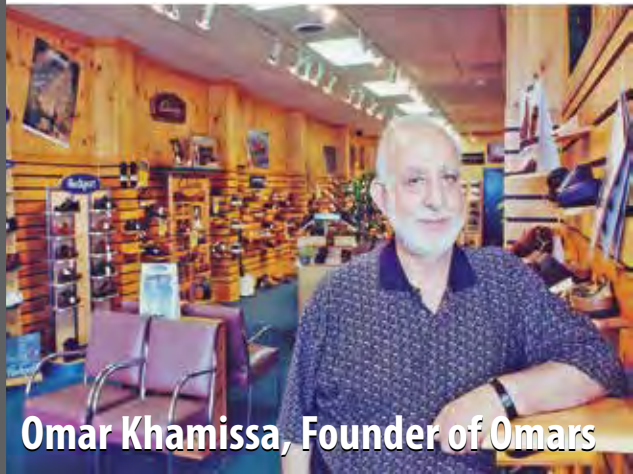
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