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Aurora's Community Newspaper



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theauroran.com

FREE Week of April 16, 2013

Woman continues fight for life after Friday attack



Police are continuing investigations this week at a home on Lewis Honey Drive at Conover Avenue, following a domestic assault which has left one woman clinging to life and one man charged with attempted murder. Mohammed Mahdi, 46, was apprehended at the scene following the incident on Friday night and was formally charged on Saturday. He is expected to appear before the courts this Tuesday, April 16, for a bail hearing.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Mohammed Mahdi, 46, charged with attempted murder

A 32-year-old Aurora woman remains fighting for her life in hospital following a domestic assault Friday night.

The woman's husband, 46-year-old Mohammed Mahdi, has been charged with attempted murder following the incident at a home on Lewis Honey Drive at Conover Avenue.

"She is still in critical condition at Sunnybrook Hospital and the hospital is doing everything that is necessary to keep her alive," said Detective Bob Papineau of the York Regional Police's Homicide Investigation Unit. "I'll leave the definition of critical care up to the specialists."

York Regional Police received a 911 call at 8.12 p.m. on Friday reporting a domestic situation at the home near Bayview and St. John's Sideroad. Police arrived at the scene by 8.17 p.m.

The morning after the incident, Inspector Gary Miner said in a statement they found the victim unresponsive with signs of head trauma. She was first taken to Southlake Regional Health Centre before being transferred to Sunnybrook.

"We're hoping against hope for her," Inspector Miner told The Auroran. "We're hoping the medical intervention takes hold, but [as for] the quality of life, we don't know what is going to happen there."

"We responded to a 911 call from a male caller and there were interpreters needed. We got there very quickly but the situation was not a mystery once we got there. She needed immediate medical help, [Mahdi] was apprehended and has now been charged with

Continued on page 8

Aurora's eldest resident dies at 109

Ada Johnson 1903 – 2013

By Brock Weir

Ada Johnson, the Grande Dame of Aurora, has died at 109.

Park Place Manor, Mrs. Johnson's residence, confirmed that the Town's eldest resident died early Sunday morning.

Mrs. Johnson was born in Purpleville, now part of the City of Vaughan, in 1903 and after her father died when she was just a toddler, her family settled with her grandfather in Aurora, making her not only Aurora's eldest but also longest resident.

She was an invaluable resource for both historians and interested citizens alike eager to learn more about the early days of their community, and this eagerness was returned as she shared stories of an Aurora that is now a distant memory.

When she celebrated her 108th birthday surrounded by over 30 family members

spanning four generations of descendants, from her son David to her great-great grandchildren, she told The Auroran the best advice she could give fellow residents was to "laugh and enjoy yourself."

"Enjoy each day and make the most of it every day because that day never comes again," she said.

Mrs. Johnson said at the time she planned to follow her own advice and laugh and enjoy herself on her birthday, and added that she was heading into her 109th year with goals she still wanted to accomplish. In offering her key to a long and healthy life, Mrs. Johnson said it is the simple things that keep one going.

"Try to keep enough food in the crock so that you have enough to do your daily work," she said, noting that money was often tight in her youth. "When we had the whole family fed and clothed, we felt we did alright."

Continued on page 27



After nearly 104 years as a resident of Aurora, Ada Johnson died early Sunday morning at her home at Park Place Manor. Mrs. Johnson is pictured above at her 108th birthday celebration. She would have been 110 on July 17.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



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COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday, April 16	7 p.m.	General Committee
Wednesday, April 17	7 p.m.	Aurora Public Library Board
Wednesday, April 17	7 p.m.	Sesquicentennial Ad Hoc Committee
Thursday, April 18	7 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Friday, April 19	10 a.m.	Trails and Active Transportation Committee
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

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

Fleury (1859)

Joseph Fleury established a plough works/foundry on Wellington Street, West of Yonge Street in 1859. His sons took over the business in 1886. In 1940, the foundry in Aurora closed.

NEXT AURORA 150 EVENT:

Aurora Tattoo

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

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, 158186 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!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Dinner and a Movie

Breaking Dawn Part II

Where: Aurora Public Library
When: **Saturday, April 20** 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.

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

Summer Camps 2013

Register your child at camp today for a summer filled with fun, friends and great memories! We offer a variety of day camp programs to choose from for children and youth three to 17 years old.

For more information or to register, please refer to the 2013 Spring & Summer Parks & Recreation Program Guide or visit www.aurora.ca

We look forward to seeing you this summer!

Aurora Seniors Centre Trips

The Aurora Seniors Centre offers many exciting trips for both members and non-members.

Next trip: **Tuesday, June 11, 2013**
Grand River Cruise
Trip includes transportation, luncheon cruise, driver gratuity and all taxes

For more information, please contact Karie Papillon at 905-727-3123 ext. 3610.

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

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, BBQ, Craft, Books and more! For more information, please call 905-726-4767.

Street Sweeping Notice

The Town's Infrastructure and Environmental Services Department is scheduling the start of the winter sand street sweeping program to begin the week of **April 15th**.

All streets and sidewalks that are owned and assumed by the Town will be swept.

To provide efficient and quick sweeping, our equipment needs to get to the curb and sidewalk without obstructions.

Please:

- Try to avoid Monday to Friday daytime parking on your street if possible
- Do not park vehicles over the curb or sidewalk
- Place your garbage/recycling/yard waste on your driveway
- Safety is important for everyone, so please watch children carefully when the sweepers are on the roadway

The spring street sweeping program typically takes about two to three weeks to complete but may be delayed by cold or wet weather, parked vehicles or excessive amounts of winter sand and debris.

Your co-operation and patience is greatly appreciated. For more information, please call the Town's Infrastructure and Environmental Services Department at 905-727-3123 ext. 3449.

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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



Session 1: Landowners, Property Developers, Property Owners and Managers

Date: Monday, April 22
Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Location: Aurora Seniors' Centre
90 John West Way

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

JOIN THE DISCUSSION!



Lori Futterer, centre, pictured at the McKenzie Marsh with her husband Casey, and children Brady, Eve, and Tyler, will serve as the Honourary Survivor in Aurora's Relay for Life. This year's event will take place at the Magna Campus on June 7 from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Honourary Survivor made every moment count during cancer journey

By Brock Weir

"Expect to lose about a year of your life." That was one of the messages Lori Futterer, then 37, received over five years ago when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. The words may have been well-meaning preparation for what was to come as the mother of three got into the right mindset to battle her illness, but turned out to be more than a simple caution. It was a watershed moment, a catalyst to do her utmost to make the exact opposite a reality.

"At the time, what went through in my head is I can't imagine losing a year of my life when I don't know how long my life was going to be," says Ms. Futterer. "It was at that moment I made a very conscious decision I was going to make it the best year I could under the circumstances and mapped out a plan moving forward. How could I make this the best possible scenario for me, my kids, for my friends and approach it in a way that is going to make it okay?"

During her illness, she took a year's leave of absence from her work as a business professor at Toronto's George Brown College, started to make the preparations for the year ahead, underwent a double-mastectomy and then prepared her children for what was to come. They were 13, 10 and seven at the time and she and her husband decided the best approach was complete honesty but still accentuating the positive.

"Once I had my surgery and could look them in the eye and say I was cancer free, and we started from there," she recalls. "When I went through chemotherapy, I told them. 'Mom's cancer free and isn't this a wonderful thing that we have this medicine that is going to make sure she stays healthy?'"

"When I was going to lose my hair, and instead of waiting for it to fall out, I had a big party and invited all my girlfriends over. My kids actually shaved my head for me, we celebrated and made it a

really cool thing. We went through all the milestones as celebrations to make them feel comfortable with everything."

Ms. Futterer is doing a lot of reflection these days over her battles and will be sharing her remarkable story of survival and positivity with people who may be battling the disease, survivors, or those who may be affected by it next month as the Honourary Survivor for Aurora's Relay for Life.

She first got involved with the Canadian Cancer Society, the hosts of the Relay, in the early days of her cancer journey. A native of Elora, ON, her mother and her life-long family friends wanted to do more to support her in her battle than just dropping off a casserole or taking turns driving her to her appointments. They decided to enter a team in their local relay in her honour. According to Ms. Futterer, they were so successful their first year out they decided to do it again and she herself joined in at her own one year mark. Eventually they brought their "Circle of Sisters" team to the Aurora Relay where they have been ever since.

As part of her Honourary Survivor duties, the Aurora resident will not only be asked to share her story but lead the way in the moving "survivors lap", one of the showpieces of the annual event.

"It is going to be very emotional," she says. "I have always said you need to find our milestone and


getting there was big in my recovery. That will be emotional and the fact that my kids will be there and my friends and family, it feels to me that I have achieved a lot in my life, but this is the biggest accomplishment so far.

"I think the lesson sounds cliché, but I think awareness of living in the moment heightened my appreciation for it," she says. "One of the biggest messages I tell my students is that positive and negative are directions and you have to choose which direction you're going to take. It is a choice and any obstacle that we can come against, we can choose to either feel beaten down and scared, frustrated, and lonely, or we can choose another path and to live that path. Sometimes you're dealt a crappy hand, but you still have to go all in. Put the poker chips on the table and live like you're engaged, all-in, there and present."

This positive attitude has been passed onto the next generation. Ms. Futterer's son, Tyler, now 16, is undertaking a fundraiser of his own to raise money for the Circle of Sisters, organizing a night of good music and good food in Oak Ridges on May 5. Having singlehandedly booked the bands and the venue, he aims to raise \$6,000 for the team. For more information on the event, email futterer@sympatico.ca.

For more information on Relay for Life, visit www.relayforlife.ca/aurora.

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- FREE admission



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For more information, please call 905-726-4762 or visit www.aurora150.ca

Briefly

AURORA 150 GETS FEDERAL BOOST

Aurora's Sesquicentennial Celebrations received a boost from the Federal Government. The Sesquicentennial Ad Hoc Committee and Town Staff were successful in their request, receiving a grant of \$13,200 towards the Town's 150th birthday party. "The committee is extremely grateful for the generous grant from Heritage Canada," says Alison Collins-Mrakas, chair of the Aurora 150 Committee. "This funding will go to support the many fantastic events celebrating Aurora's 150th anniversary. We express our sincere thanks to MP Lois Brown for her tireless efforts – and a tremendous thank you to our committee member, Stewart McLaren, who spearheaded the grant application. It is because of these efforts that we have this wonderful outcome."

ALTERNATE BUSINESS AWARDS MOVE FORWARD

The Town's Economic Development Advisory Committee has picked up the idea of a new awards program for Aurora 150 that could honour Aurora's longest-standing businesses. The committee passed a resolution Thursday to set up a subcommittee to work out the details in time for next month's meeting. The ceremony was floated as a way to fill the gap left by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce who put their Business Achievement Awards on hold for this year. They will re-instate the awards in 2014.

Klees' bill has important implications

All three levels of government are therefore, co-defendants. This is not just shifting the cost. It recognizes serious responsibilities at each level. If a council should make frivolous rulings, the region and province will deliver appropriate adult supervision.

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

“Nobody asked me,” said Mayor Dawe on Saturday when asked why he didn’t volunteer that the bill was his.

AURORAN NEW POLL

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

- A) Yes
- B) No
- C) Undecided

RESULTS OF LAST WEEK’S POLL

Should more Aurora retail stores, such as Spuds Skate Shop, sign up with the AIDS Committee of York Region to distribute free condoms to the public?

RESULTS April 15, 2013	Yes	No	Undecided
	41%	50%	9%



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 in the First World War, parade up Victoria Street, past the Mechanics Hall, now home to the Romanian Orthodox Church. Trinity Anglican Church can be seen in the distance.

Image courtesy of the Aurora Historical Society

Health Ministry Infected With Cronic Disease: Lack of Oversight

It’s no wonder that people are cynical about politics, politicians and government. Those were my thoughts as I watched the Premier and the Minister of Health once again deflecting responsibility for the latest scandal to rock the government and the Ministry of Health.

I knew that both would be spending considerable time on their feet during this Question Period and that a good number of questions would focus on the morning’s headline stories. Hundreds of cancer patients had been administered watered-down chemotherapy treatments in Ontario hospitals over the past year and 137 of those patients had died.

How could this happen?
Who was responsible?
Where was the Ministry of Health?

The hospitals where the diluted drugs were administered included the London Health Sciences Centre, Windsor Regional Hospital, Lakeridge Health in Oshawa and the Peterborough Regional Health Centre.

London hospital officials confirmed that 691 patients had been treated with the diluted drugs, of which 40 were children. It was also confirmed that 117 of those adult patients had died. Windsor Regional Hospital confirmed that 290 of its patients received the diluted drug and 20 of those patients have since died. The 37 patients at Lakeridge Health in Oshawa and the one patient at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre who were affected are still alive.

My mind went to those patients who had undergone what they were counting on to be life-saving treatments and were

now being told that they had received diluted doses of chemotherapy. And what about the families of the deceased patients? Their questions would never be answered.

How would the Premier and the Minister of Health answer the questions that every resident of Ontario needs answered in the wake of this revelation?

Angered, but not surprised. As I listened to the responses from both the Premier and the Minister of Health I shook my head in disgust. They served up the same answers and defiant attitude that characterized the responses to the Ornge and eHealth scandals. As if their handlers simply did a ‘cut and paste’ into their briefing notes that morning.

The responses were all too familiar. The Premier and the Minister empathized with those affected. They knew nothing, but would get to the bottom of it. Apparently, not one of the thousands of health ministry bureaucrats, including the Deputy Minister of Health who is drawing down more than \$450,000 a year, had oversight responsibility for something as important as quality assurance of the chemotherapy drugs being used to treat cancer patients in our hospitals.

As the story unfolded, it was revealed that the Ministry of Health approved the outsourcing of hospital-



FRANKLY SPEAKING

Frank Klees
MPP NEWMARKET-AURORA

pharmacy services in 2005, and either didn’t think to put in place the appropriate oversight mechanism or as with Ornge Air Ambulance, failed to exercise its oversight responsibilities.

The same Minister of Health, Deb Mathews, presided over both files. It came as no surprise that her response is the same. I knew nothing, my ministry knew nothing, no need for an inquiry.

Here’s what we know so far. Marchese Hospital Solutions, located in Mississauga, was authorized to provide the chemotherapy cocktails to hospitals. Hospital officials are saying that the saline bags they came in were overfilled, with the result that the drug was diluted by as much as 20 per cent. Marchese insists they delivered the drug as ordered and that the hospitals are at fault for not administering the drug properly. While that finger-pointing goes on, we know this...

No government body ever inspected the Marchese facility.

The Premier’s response was to appoint Jake Thiessen, founding director of the University of Waterloo’s School of Pharmacy, to lead “a review”. While no one questions Mr. Thiessen’s abilities, I believe patients and their families and

the Ontario public deserve answers to questions that go beyond what went wrong with the delivery system of this chemotherapy drug cocktail. They deserve to know who was responsible and why the Ministry of Health has once again failed so miserably in its oversight responsibilities. That’s why we need an open and transparent investigation, not a government controlled review.

The Ontario PC Caucus will be asking the Standing Committee on Social Policy to initiate an inquiry into all matters pertaining to this scandal, including the ministry’s apparent lack of oversight and role in failing to monitor and regulate non-accredited pharmaceutical companies.

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

After months of hearings into the Ornge scandal, witness after witness confirmed the Auditor General’s conclusion that the Ministry of Health had failed in its oversight responsibilities. The consequence for the Minister of Health was a promotion to Deputy Premier. What will her reward be this time?

www.frankklees.com

(Editor’s note: nearly 3,000 people from Aurora, Newmarket and beyond called into a telephone town hall hosted by Mr. Klees to discuss his Private Members’ Bill to give municipalities more authority on local developments above the Ontario Municipal Board. A recording of the discussions can now be found at his website listed above.)

Winter Tired

I used to laugh whenever I came across those signs that noted that street parking was forbidden in Aurora up until April 15 to ensure that snow plows could properly clear the roads.

After all, since the last Ice Age, when has enough snow ever fallen in April that actually resulted in any sort of accumulation?

Well, Mother Nature certainly seems to be getting the last laugh now. Or maybe she’s making us pay the price for last year.

If you remember, March of 2012 managed to bypass the spring season completely, and went right from winter to summer.

One minute there were cold winds and snow, and the next there were sunny days in the high teens, hoards of coatless pedestrians, and flowers blooming everywhere. It was amazing.

Compare that to this year.

Well into April we see overnight temperatures below freezing, winter boots and clothing still piled inside doorways, and snow on the ground in places - even

before it was nicely replenished by the dumping we had last Thursday.

As for the ground hogs that predicted an early spring, they’re all in witness protection programs.

The days may be longer, but the shirtsleeves certainly aren’t getting any shorter.

Some folks rely on local events to get them into a more temperate frame of mind. But even the traditional Aurora harbingers of spring are having a hard time convincing people that the season’s here.

There were probably more questions about snow blowers and de-icing salt at the recent Home Show than there were about patios and pools. And in the annual Rotary Club frog race in Tannery



INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

Creek, the winning entry was actually a chunk of ice.

In this week-end’s Mayor’s Clean-up Day, I wouldn’t be surprised if there are areas of town where participants will need to shovel the snow off of the ground first before they can see if there’s any trash to pick up.

At this stage, apart from the ski-hill operators,

many of whom are still doing a booming business, I don’t think there’s anyone out there who isn’t anticipating the change in seasons.

That goes for animals, too. The chipmunks and racoons are probably getting tired of rolling over and hitting the snooze alarms on their hibernation alarm clocks.

On the plus side, the delayed spring may mean that we’ll just bypass it again like last year, although a month or two later,

and go right into the warm temperatures.

But that has problems of its own. In a quick seasonal transition the tasks you’d normally spread out over several weeks are compressed into a shorter timeframe.

For example, in a morning where you would normally rake and seed the lawn, you may also have to fit in cleaning off the patio furniture, changing the snow tires, putting up the screens, servicing the lawnmower, and for the real procrastinators out there, and taking down the Christmas lights.

But even if spring (or perhaps summer) is closer, it doesn’t seem to be here yet, so just in case winter is hanging in there, I better move my car from my street parking spot. Since the 15th has come and gone, I’m no longer worried about getting a ticket, but there’s no guarantee that I won’t awake one morning to find my car’s been buried by a passing snow plow.

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



SENIOR
SCAPE

Sylvia Dickens

What was your favourite
music as a teen?

While my peers were chanting, “Elvis Presley, what a goon. All we want is dear Pat Boone,” I was listening to Andy Williams singing “Blue Bayou” and “Moon River”. My brother and sister, meanwhile, were enjoying country singers like Hank Snow.

Later in my teens, I discovered Hawaiian music. Ah, the magic sound of the islands! My favorite albums were instrumental. They gave me tremendous peace, especially useful when I cruised into the more difficult portions of my life.

In my thirties, I found a Latin album that was both lively and romantic. It was the music of preference while I dined by candlelight, alone or with my companion.

Do you have select music for specific activities? Maybe you liked Jane Fonda’s workouts from the 70s/80s. Or is it “Sweatin’ to the Oldies” with that curly-headed sprite Richard Simmons.

Over the past 10-plus years, my albums have sat idle. Why? Because three summers ago, I finally bit the bullet and tossed out my radio/record player/8-track stereo I purchased in 1975. Immediately after, I was kicking myself. I could have fixed the record player. It only needed a needle.

It finally became evident that it’s time to catch up with the rest of society and move to CDs (or would it be a DVD?). About 20 years ago, I saw my first CD player. Last month, I finally bought one so I don’t have to sit in my car to listen to the few CDs I do have.

Today I’m looking at my stack of albums (vinyl, they call it now). It’s a well-rounded collection: the Platters, Neil Diamond, Elvis, rock era collections, Hawaiian, Latin, Bing Crosby, Herb Alpert, Bert Kaempfert, a group called The String-a-Longs who sang a popular song “Wheels” in the ‘60s, and many more I’d love to listen to again.

Last week, I was at the Centre talking with Bob Hedenberg, the computer guy. They have a record player now that enables us to transfer our records to CD through the computer. It’s real time so you can imagine how long it’ll take to play and record 60 or more albums. Still, you can do one at a time over an hour which isn’t bad. You could buy a system yourself for around \$300 but why, when you can use

the Centre’s facilities?

If you have records you’d like to copy onto a more useful CD, drop by the computer room during a Tuesday afternoon drop-in and he’ll gladly show you how it works.

Imagine, once again being able to enjoy those old musical memories, scratches and all.

Fall avoidance tip

Last week, Jim mentioned the York Region Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653 where you can get information on how to prevent falls. Here’s a tip from me.

If you have a small front stoop with one or two steps down as I do, consider putting a railing around it if it doesn’t already have one. We removed our rusted metal one when we moved the steps to the front from the side years ago.

Last year, after collecting the flyers distributors had dropped on my stoop, I turned to go down the steps, but I was too close. One foot landed right on the edge of the concrete and the other missed. I fell. For about five minutes I lay there in agony, wondering if the pain in my ankles meant I’d broken them. Fortunately, I hadn’t, and when I cracked my forehead on the concrete, I didn’t do any damage there either. Ok. Maybe I have a hard head, but the resulting bump was quite impressive.

It could have been disastrous. A railing would have prevented this. Until this happened, I had not foreseen such a potential hazard. It’s been like that for 35 years without incident.

Don’t be like me. Check your house carefully, including cracks in sidewalks (I have some of them, too) and make adjustments now.

Aurora Anti-Litter Day

It is scheduled for Saturday, April 20 from 9
Continued on page 22

Letters to the editor
Councillor explains why she has little faith in 2013 budget

When budget approval slipped through without note or comment to the satisfaction of the Mayor and entertainment of others, I admit to being caught unawares.

I have no excuses.

No further opportunity was or will likely be available to affect change to the bottom line. I would like, however, to inform the community of the reason for my inability to recommend this budget any more than I have been able to support a budget in the last seven years.

Despite increased assessment and financial support from senior levels of government, the municipal tax rate continues to rise in double digits. Twice I requested tables reflecting increases in spending as opposed to taxes. I requested double digit increase in water rates be included in tax increases where they belong.

Neither request was met.

I do not accept the validity of exorbitant increases in water rates. A new agreement with the managing board of Church Street School was presented as giving Council authority over spending in that program.

The authority was not exercised.

Funds provided for 2013 exceeded what would have been provided under the former agreement.

The Aurora Historical Society has received a grant of \$50,000 every year for ten years. The purpose was to defray costs of operating the town museum in Church Street School.

There has been no museum. Half a million dollars have changed hands with no return.

The possibility of space being provided under the new agreement will mean additional cost to the town. Instead of the grant to the Historical Society being terminated, the grant was increased in the 2013 budget.

Numerous programs recommended to Council by staff, failed to stand up to scrutiny. They were reduced or rejected by Council. I have little confidence that spending in general recommended by the elected body is valid.

I cannot provide my assurance the 2013 budget represents sound and efficient management of tax revenues.

Councillor Evelyn Buck
Aurora

United Church plans choral celebration

In honour of Aurora’s 150th anniversary, a choral concert will be held at the United Church in Aurora on Saturday, April 27 in celebration of this event. Seven choirs will be participating. Each choir will sing on their own for about 10 minutes and then the choirs will come together at the end of the concert to form a mass choir of about 150 voices.

The music selected by the individual choirs includes:

- Imagine by John Lennon
- What Shall We Do With the Drunken Sailor
- You’ll Never Walk Alone
- Climb Every Mountain
- Blame It On The Bossa Nova
- And a Selection of French folk songs
- As well as many more well known and not so well known but very beautiful songs.
- The seven choirs are:
 - The Aurora Evergreen Choir, which is the host choir
 - The Aurora United Chancel Choir
 - Newmarket Keynotes Seniors Choir
 - La Chorale Francophone de la Region York (The York Region French Choir)
 - The Men of Note Male Voice Choir
 - The Youthful Spirits of the United Church
 - The York Region Community Choir

The Mayor of Aurora, Geoffrey Dawe will be present and will say a few words before the mass choir.

The finale with the 150

voices will be amazing. The two pieces selected by music director, Dr. Richard Heinzle are:

All The Little Rivers, a beautiful new piece by Canadian Larry Nickel that talks about all the rivers of Canada.

Ye Boundless Realms of Joy by Handel, which will be accompanied by the church organ.

This will be quite a rousing finale to what should be a wonderful celebration of music to honour Aurora’s 150th anniversary.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 27 and come to the Aurora

United Church on Yonge Street. The concert starts at 6.30 p.m. and the doors open at 5.30 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 each and are available from the participating choirs, CHATS on Wellington Street, or the Aurora

Seniors’ Centre as well as at the door. It will be an amazing evening of music. I hope to see you there.

Sylvia Gilchrist
Chair, Choral Celebration
Organizing Committee

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Last traffic calming measures will stay in place in NE Quad

By Brock Weir

Remaining traffic calming measures in Aurora’s downtown northeast quadrant are here to stay, following a Council decision last week.

Council opted to leave the measures, including traffic diverters and one-way streets, in place after a change of heart from their direction the previous week. They came into last Tuesday’s meeting set to go back to the residents and the neighbourhood at large to determine the future of what is left, after the removal of the contentious traffic chicanes last fall, but ultimately decided to leave things as they were.

The chicanes were removed last year following extensive consultation in the area. Residents in the neighbourhood in question, and those polled in Aurora at large, identified the chicanes as the chief traffic irritant that should go. After a week to sleep on it, Council decided the results of the surveys were enough to chart the way forward.

“We have all heard from the residents and we all know what the issues are, and I agree with the residents,” said Councillor Wendy Gaertner.

For Councillor Michael Thompson, residents made it “abundantly clear” that the chicanes had to go, but that consensus was not there as far as the other traffic calming measures were concerned.

“Certainly in the case of the chicanes the information was abundantly clear that it was not effective and the majority of those both within the area and outside the area thought the chicanes should be removed and we took that action,” he said. “At this point, I see no reason to go back to the residents. We have enough information before us.”

Since Council’s decision at the committee level the previous week, very few people had come forward to express their opinion one way or another, Councillors said. Approximately 20 emails were received arguing in favour of the status quo, but no one saying that the diverters needed to be removed.

“This has been studied to death and what I have always heard from residents is while they had trouble with the chicanes, other people have talked about the diversion of traffic giving them back their neighbourhood,” said Councillor Chris Ballard on the previous staff recommendation to do nothing.

Councillor Evelyn Buck, however, was of a different opinion. Last Tuesday, she reiterated her previous stance that the traffic calming measures shouldn’t have been installed in the first place as anything that would hinder the flow of drivers in traffic is a hindrance to the very people who have paid for the roads. She said diverting and “obstructing” traffic flow was a “complete contradiction” to the planning of roads.

“The whole community paid for the construction and reconstruction of the roads and we added a quarter of a million to deter people who had paid for the roads from using them,” said Councillor Buck. “All of the emails you have received are from people who are really revelling in the transformation of their neighbourhood and some of them have said that if you take away the diverters they will have to go and live somewhere else. Yes, we had to make a choice. We had to find a quiet street where it was safe for our children to play in the streets if they wanted to.”

These arguments were just that and did not offer a constructive solution, however, argued Councillor John Gallo.



Seniors almost blew the roof off the Aurora Seniors’ Centre last week as they hosted A Night of Dixie and Mardi Gras with a live band, dinner, and dancing. Guests, like Tom, Joanne, Annette and John, above, were encouraged to come dressed with their masks, beads, and everything to represent the spirit of Mardi Gras. Aurorans of all ages didn’t disappoint! Auroran photo by David Falconer

The argument was on the table that money shouldn’t have been spent to install the traffic calming measures in the first place, but further money would have to be spent to remove them, he argued.

“If the point is to trash on what has happened in the past and what decisions that were made, I find that a complete waste of time,” he said.

For Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, the traffic calming measures were a reflection of the evolving nature of the community over the past century when the

neighbourhood was previously laid out.

“There was no such thing as people trying to blast their way to Yonge Street,” he said. “The usage has changed. We need to recognize these usage changes. One person who lives directly in the area wants the one-way at Centre Street gone because, ‘Why can’t I go down my own street?’”

“My comment was I didn’t have a good answer. There are two other people who aren’t happy with the diverter, but those are the only ones I have heard from.”

\$10 million Aurora Heritage Park gets boost in first step to study

By Brock Weir

It started life as a \$10 million idea that involved into a \$10 million plan, but Hillary-McIntyre Park, the proposed four acre heritage park just north of Aurora’s Downtown Core could soon have some extra clout.

Council approved last week laying the groundwork for a possible feasibility study to determine the next steps in making the heritage park a reality. The plan consists of three Yonge Street buildings – the historic Hillary House and Horton Place at Yonge and Irwin Avenue, and the Readman House sandwiched between the two.

Proponents of the plan envision compassing the three buildings into a heritage park with the middle house expanded to include a permanent home of the Aurora Collection, the future Aurora Sport Hall of Fame, and a revenue generating conference centre.

“The grounds are an untapped resource,” said Bill Albino, Chair of the Hillary-McIntyre Park Committee. “You have 4.8 acres in the middle of Town which will end up being an asset for people to use forever. It will build Aurora’s identity and personality. It will preserve some invaluable historic assets which today define our Town and are unique [assets]. It will

restore Downtown Aurora as a destination and a place to go and a place to be, and will showcase the hidden treasures. We believe it will put Aurora back on the map [and will be] a legacy that Aurorans will enjoy all through their lives and will make a huge difference to Aurora as a place to live.”

The proponents of the plan came forward to Council last week to make their pitch in support of a motion from Councillor John Abel, calling on staff to look at the possibility of undertaking a feasibility study on the proposal.

They said a feasibility study would look not only at the land issues that could crop up, but steer it in a direction that would ensure it fit into various Town projects already ongoing, or in the works, including the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the Downtown Revitalization Plan, and the future Cultural Master Plan.

It would also take a closer look at costs, and contributions from stakeholders and other possible investors.

The people behind the plan estimate when all is

said and done, (including the transfer of Hillary House, the purchase of Horton Place at reduced market value from local historian John McIntyre, and the market value sale of Readman House from a local realtor) the project will clock in at approximately \$10million, including the renovations and additions. Half, they hope, will come from the Town’s Hydro Reserve Account with the remainder coming from Federal, Provincial and

private grants, as well as private fundraising.

Councillors approved taking the next step on the road to a feasibility study 7 – 2 with Councillors Evelyn Buck and Wendy Gaertner voting against the plan.

The former said she viewed what was before Council as little more than a real estate deal.

“I was particularly underwhelmed by your proposal,” Councillor Buck told Mr. Albino. “All I see here is a high

pitch sale of two real estate properties and all I see here is an attempt to sell two properties to the Town and nothing else.”

Councillor Sandra Humfries, however, spoke in favour of Councillor Abel’s motion.

“This group has come forward with a vision and a plan,” she said. “One thing that struck me in the presentation was keeping the buildings true and there in perpetuity. Those sites are able to

Continued on page 26

Advertorial

Hope for Sufferers of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome and Wrist/Hand Pain

If you suffer from Carpal Tunnel Syndrome or wrist / hand pain you should be aware that an upcoming workshop in Oak Ridges will reveal eye-opening solutions to help those suffering with these conditions.

The workshop will reveal the underlying causes of most wrist and hand pain as well as share why these causes are frequently overlooked by doctors.

Attendees will discover why a failure to address these underlying causes usually results in continuing pain and suffering. These ongoing symptoms may include: pain, tingling, numbness, burning, aching, stiffness, swelling, weakness and limited movements.

The workshop will discuss the track record

of common treatments including: pills, surgery, splints and exercise and reveal exciting non drug, nonsurgical treatments that are safe and effective.

A major concern is that many patients continue to be plagued by wrist pain, despite repeated visits to their doctor.

Many patients fear the risks and invasive nature of wrist surgery. The workshop will reveal that many patients that have wrist surgery wind up frustrated that their pain only resolves partially or not at all. In many cases the pain reoccurs later after surgery.

Surprisingly, a very common but hidden cause of hand and wrist pain is not even located in the wrist! The presentation will explain why most

doctors are not trained to check for this underlying cause.

Symptoms may include: pain, tingling, numbness, burning, aching, stiffness, swelling, weakness and limited movements.

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

The workshop will take place Wed April 24, 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm Seating is limited.

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Alcohol expense debate hangs over Council

By Brock Weir

Further details of what Councillors have spent and when are now available on the Town’s website, following a decision last week to make more details available.

While the reporting for 2012 remains the same, the drive for further information has led to a greater breakdown in last year’s numbers. Among the details was Mayor Dawe was reimbursed \$56 for alcohol purchases.

This information was released the day after the alcohol issue, and whether it should be an allowable expense, was at the focus of a heated Council debate. The issue has lingered over Council since late last year following a motion from Councillor Chris Ballard to ban the expense outright.

“It was nice to see that [in 2013] there were no reports of Council members spending anything on alcohol so, in my mind, this is a very simple motion to pass that just confirms what we engaged in the past year,” he said.

The matter, however, was not such a simple one to other members of Council.

“I don’t find anything simple or innocuous about this,” said Councillor Evelyn Buck to the motion. “When Councillor Ballard readily acknowledges there has been no alcohol expense, why would we choose to put forward such an

amendment? I know the answer to that and I think we all know the answer to that. There is a question of your own responsibilities.”

She went on to say that the motion would be tying the hands of the individuals in question. If the Mayor, as “the good will ambassador of Aurora, the host of the community, the chief sales person for the Town of Aurora” was in a situation of offering hospitality to someone, no one would give it a second thought and allow the office-holder to exercise his or her judgement, she said.

“The idea that we would put this amendment in the resolution is absolutely abhorrent if not disgusting,” she concluded.

Councillor Ballard made his motion as an amendment to the wider-ranging issue on the table, which was to report Councillors’ expenses twice yearly on the Town’s website. His motion failed 6 – 3, garnering further support only from Councillors Wendy Gaertner and John Gallo.

That wasn’t the end of the discussion, however, and was brought back on the floor by Councillor John Abel who demanded answers from Councillor Ballard. Throughout the debate, Councillor Ballard said he had documentation which proved that contrary to other arguments made around the table that

a member of Council had indeed expensed alcohol in the previous full calendar year. That documentation, however, was not readily put forward.

“It is not fair to make false accusations,” said Councillor Abel. “Anyone can accuse anyone of anything. I don’t think that Councillor Ballard appreciates the effects of unproven accusations. He said he would have proof and there is none before us. There is no evidence of what he is saying and I think one should think soberly before blasting off with wild charges against his fellow Councillors.”

When Councillor Abel, however, suggested Councillor Ballard was “trying to make a name for himself”, the person at the receiving end called a Point of Order claiming the comments were disparaging.

“If the Councillor would like sabres at dawn to defend the good honour of his fellow Council members, I am sure that can be arranged” he said, before Mayor Dawe decided against his point of privilege and ultimately challenging the chair. “I stand by what I said before. I have the documentation that was provided to me by staff, receipts, expenses, copies of bills, not large amounts of money, but I have never made this a huge issue until was pushed into a corner.”

He was asked by

Council to come back with the documentation in two weeks. Speaking after the meeting, Councillor Ballard said when the documentation is provided, certain Councillors who had “rushed to defend” the issue would be left with “egg on their face”, but the expense reports were released on the Town’s website shortly thereafter.

When asked why he didn’t just speak up during the many debates surrounding this issue, rather than allow it to continue, Mayor Dawe responded, “Why didn’t anybody ask me?”

“No one asked me,” he said. “All there was was accusations of wrongdoing. Those who are interested could have saved hours of time simply by asking. If someone was truly interested in working collaboratively and moving to a better place in the Town you work with people and you ask as opposed to accuse and bully.”

Explaining the expense, Mayor Dawe said he donated two rounds of golf to charity events, as he does very summer. People bid on them and after the matches, he took the winning bidders out to lunch.

“Much ado about nothing,” said Councillor Abel when asked about the numbers. “I think [the debate] is continuing to try to paint this Council in a bad light. I think we will try to move forward with positive things that concern the Town.”

When asked about having any eggs on his face, he said he “knows who is throwing the eggs”, but admitted he might have handled the situation differently if he was in the Mayor’s shoes.

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Accused to appear in court this week

From page 1
her attempted murder.”

He was taken at the scene and transported to One District Headquarters in Newmarket where police say he was questioned and charged with one count of attempted murder. He was remanded into custody after a brief court appearance on Saturday morning and is expected to appear once again at the Newmarket Courthouse this Tuesday morning, April 16, for a bail hearing.

“For the charges he is charged with, he is remanded until he can get bail, if he even qualifies for bail,” said Inspector Miner. He added it was hoped a clearer picture of the victim’s condition would emerge over the weekend to determine her chances of survival.

“If she deteriorates further and succumbs, then the charge will be upgraded,” he said.

Police have not released the victim’s name.

Victim Services of York Region have been called in to assist the family members with the crisis. The family, according to

Detective Papineau, has asked for privacy on who else was in the home at the time of the incident.

The home where the attack took place was previously known to the police, having been called there for situations in the past, but they could not confirm whether the calls involved the same family as a different last name had been involved.

“[Previous calls were for] nothing insurmountable and nothing that would [seem to] say we would be coming back for something like this,” added Inspector Miner.

In the days following the attack, the home was sealed pending a search warrant. By Monday, the

home had been opened for police to continue their investigations and by the afternoon searches were still taking place inside the dwelling for any evidence that will aid in their investigations.

Police ask anyone with information on the case to call the York Regional Police Homicide Unit at 1-866-846-5423 x. 6630, or leave an anonymous tip by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), going online at www.1800222tips.com, or texting their tip to CRIMES (274637) starting with the word YORK.

For updates on this story throughout the week, visit www.theauroran.com.

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Staff expenses put under microscope at Town Hall

By Brock Weir

Are Aurora’s municipal staff accountable to the public, or to the Council that hires them?

This was a question grappled with last week by Councillors on whether they needed to get more involved with how directors of municipal departments make expense claims. The discussions sprang out of discussions related to Councillors and their own expenses, but some Councillors argued that this extra layer of oversight should apply to Town staff as well.

“Staff, by letter of the law, are not accountable to members of the public, but they are accountable to the [administration],” said Councillor John Gallo, suggesting reports on directors and managers’ expenses be presented privately to Council. “We are accountable to the public and we implement public policy that drives how this corporation works and we are accountable to staff and their expenses through the budget process.”

This idea, however, was defeated 5-4, with Councillors Chris Ballard, Evelyn Buck, and Wendy Gaertner supporting the motion. For them, it was a matter of being fully accountable to the public.

“I think for Council to be able to be accountable to the public, we should be aware of what is happening,” said Councillor Evelyn Buck. “If it is appropriate for the public to have access on a regular basis to the expenses of Councillors then it is appropriate for Councillors to have access to staff [expenses] because we are the ones who are directly accountable to the public and the public has to depend on us. It is okay for us and therefore the same principle applies to staff”

This sentiment was shared by Councillor Wendy Gaertner. She rejected suggestions put forward earlier in the meeting that this would put Councillors in the position of being able to “throw staff under the bus”, but rather was sound governance.

“I believe that we do need to be responsible and look to staff’s expenses. If something [was] a big issue and there was misspending on the part of staff, the public would look to us as the people holding the bag.”

Municipal Staff currently are able to attend conferences and expenses are allotted out of a nominal pot. Councillors in favour of this disagreed with suggestions made by Councillor Michael

Thompson that asking for further reports on how this money is being spent was akin to “micromanagement.”

He argued that Council “empowers staff to make decisions” and it is their responsibility to make sure the money is spent wisely.

“That level of micromanagement undermines their authority we give them to do their job. Their role is that the money in their department is spent wisely. To micromanage this process, it is not a far leap to then say, ‘Let me see your work plan and let me see that you’re doing a full day’s work.’”

From Councillor Paul Pirri’s perspective, Councillors are in a much different position to staff when it comes to the public. It is Council’s responsibility to receive the criticisms as they’re the ones who set policies.

“We allocate funds for staff to use,” he said. “If we don’t expect them to use those funds, and we don’t want them to use those funds, then let’s not give them the budget.”

Rounding the discussion were Councillors Sandra Humfries and, finally, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe. Both expressed a similar viewpoint that this is not Council’s responsibility to

oversee, but that of Neil Garbe, Aurora’s Chief Administrative Officer over his administration.

“We have directors who are accountable to the CAO,” said Councillor Humfries. “They have the budgets set every year. They are asked to reduce the budgets and do the best they can in the most efficient way to manage a department. I don’t want to micromanage the directors. That’s not what I am here for. I am here to manage the corporations as best we can through the information that we receive from a Council perspective.”

Added Mayor Dawe: “I firmly believe this is micro management. It is not an area that we should go down. This is why we have Mr. Garbe. There’s four levels of signatures on expense reports, depending on the amount, and at least four people who are signing off. If we need to look at those then we don’t trust those four people.

“I take offense at the comments that we’re somehow lax in our duty in not analysing what staff spend. We are directors of a public corporation. I defy you to find any other public corporation that sits there and looks at their senior staff or anyone else’s expenses.”

cumbersome to access. “I would like to [make sure] the greatest number of people benefit from the additional service that we are providing.”

Councillor Wendy Gaertner agreed.

“This speaks to open, accessible and transparent government and is a good thing,” she said. “I hope a lot of people are watching it and even if they aren’t, it makes me feel good that it will be available for them to be able to.”

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Plans come forward for 2013 music fest: The Pitches

By Brock Weir

When it rains, it pours – but the recent music festival drought in Aurora was quenched last week by a two interested parties wanting to pick up the slack.

Little more than a week after Council decided to scrap hopes for a 2013 music festival and cast their sights on 2014 instead, two groups came forward see if something could be salvaged for this year. While the proposals came from both from within and outside of the community, community is the very focus of what both groups pitched to Council on Tuesday. The first, was a music and arts festival pitched by Habachat, a local social media company.

“Our main mandate is to support our local community, local charities and local businesses by running local events,” said Tim Newnham of Habachat. “We have successfully created a number of events like Iron Chef Aurora, and Taste of Aurora, and we have a strong belief that engaging the local community members and local events is the way we have a vital community. That is our belief and we will continue to do that with events four times a year throughout the Town to engage that.

“Our vision is to have more of a grassroots type of thing and take it back to Aurora Town Park. We would like this not just to be a music festival, but a cultural event that includes music, the arts and crafts, and local food artisans.”

In his presentation, Mr. Newnham underscored Habachat’s relationships with local restaurants and “foodies” through their two upcoming events this week and said their vision for the Town Park event included running it in a similar way to Concerts in the Park and Dancing In The Park, two existing Town initiatives, but run over two days instead.

“We want to run the event with local business owners and committees, the same as we’re doing with Taste of Aurora

and Iron Chef Aurora. Our desire is to have 100 per cent local involved, he added, noting this extends to local sponsorships and revenue generation.

Their plan also looks to the Town with help towards street and electronic signage.

The second proposal came from Farley Flex, former Canadian Idol judge, and a former principle of Lucid Community Development, which previously came forward with a plan for the Aurora Live! music festival at Machell Park for the last weekend of July.

That plan imploded earlier this spring when Mr. Flex and a number of celebrities associated with Lucid broke away from the company and formed one of their own. Mr. Flex’s REAL Corp proposed the “Celebrate Aurora” festival in the same location and the same weekend.

“Foundational to our intent is the inclusion of the community, especially youth through the REAL School model,” said Mr. Flex, citing his plan to provide youth with hands-on experiences with every facet of the entertainment business both on stage and behind the scenes.

“We are aware that time is running short, however, our wheels have not stopped turning,” he said. “If approved, we will welcome any and all support that Council and any community members may provide. Sponsorship opportunities will be sought, as well as community partnerships and local talent, to us, is an absolute must. In terms of the features, Celebrate Aurora is 19 hours of live stage entertainment with talent of all sorts, secured locally and through some really great working relationships.”

If approved, Mr. Flex said his model would include “colourful and exciting” play areas for children, local vendors and artisans, a beer tent, and involvement from community organizations.

“Celebrate Aurora is about inclusivity,” he concluded. “Diversity



Tim Newnham, left, and Farley Flex presented their two different ideas for a music festival this year in Aurora. While Mr. Newnham’s group would like to see a music festival in Town Park on the last weekend of July and Mr. Flex is proposing an event in Machell Park the same weekend, the duo are now exploring the possibility of a collaboration.

Auroran photo by Diane Buchanan

is one of Ontario’s most appealing attributes and we believe that an inclusive approach better prepares residents of Aurora for the changing demographics of the Region. Our culture is defined by its food, its music, its art, its fashion and its languages. We welcome participants from the entire spectrum to reach out to us and get involved as we will reach out to them.”

Although Council authorised staff to discuss options with both parties for what will ultimately happen that weekend, there is no clear picture yet on the horizon of what that picture will be. Nevertheless, after their presentations, both men expressed a willingness to look at the possibility of putting their heads together and forming some sort of collaboration in the weeks ahead.



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Rep League	Minor Pee wee AE - Tigers: 5 Milton Winterhawks: 1 Kyle Fowler 1G 1A, Luke Catania 2G 1A, Cory Read 2G, Matthew McConnell 1A, Anthony Iacovetta 1A	Minor Pee wee AE - Tigers: 6 na: 1 Anthony Iacovetta 2G, Brendan Sanford 1G, Noah Dempsey 1G 1A, Luke Catania 2A, Owen Romano 1A, Thomas Childerhose 1A, Matthew McConnell 1A, Kyle Fowler 2G 1A	2 Toronto Aeros: 2	1G 2A, Carter Wilmsmeyer 1G, Mathew Hastings 1G 1A, Colin Windle 2A, Ryan Jamieson 2A, Andrew Cundari 1A, Nicholas Vamvakaris 1A	Huxley SO
Atom A - AuroraTigers: 0 East Gwillimbury: 0		Pee wee A - AuroraTigers: 11 Ted Reeve Thunder: 0			Pee wee AE - Whitby Wildcats: 3 Aurora Tigers: 2 Finn Reeves 1G, Mathew Hastings 1G, Fraser Ciocca 1A
Atom A - AuroraTigers: 4 Orillia: 0		Pee wee AE - Aurora Tigers: 1 East Gwillimbury: 1 Ryan Jamieson 1G, Nicholas Vamvakaris 1A, Joseph Grassa 1A		Pee wee AE - Aurora Tigers: 8 Uxbridge: 0 Finn Reeves 2G 1A, Carter Wilmsmeyer 1G 2A, Nicholas Vamvakaris 1G 1A, Mathew Hastings 1G, Thomas Morra 1G, Justin Evans 1G, Colin Windle 1G, Callum Gorrell 1A, Ryan Jamieson 1A, Nic	
Atom A - Aurora Tigers: 2 Port Perry Predators: 2	Minor Pee wee AE - Tigers: 4 Oakville: 1 Jack Patterson 1G, Brendan Sanford 1G 1A, Thomas Childerhose 1G, Matthew McConnell 1G, Cory Read 1A, Jeremy Gonsalves 1A, Noah Dempsey 1A	Pee wee A - Aurora Tigers: 8 Ted Reeve Thunder: 0			Pee wee AE - Aurora Tigers: 5 Clarington Toros: 4 Finn Reeves 2G 1A, Thomas Morra 1G, Carter Wilmsmeyer 1G, Justin Evans 1G, Nicholas Vamvakaris 1A
Atom A - Aurora Tigers: 2 Whitby White: 1		Pee wee A - Aurora Tigers: 2 TNT Tornados: 0	Pee wee AE - Aurora Tigers: 7 Bradford: 1 Callum Gorrell 2G, Finn Reeves 2G 1A, Justin Evans		
Atom A - TBD: 1 Aurora Tigers: 0					



Aurora Minor Hockey Association

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING 2013/2014 REGISTRATION





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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)
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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.

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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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Outgoing Aurora Tiger, Justin Nice, will play for Massachusetts' Curry College this fall. Photo by Brian Watts/OJHL Images

A last word from Tiger Justin Nice

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 gritty forward Justin Nice.

Born: Mississauga (Now in Aurora)

Age/birthday: May 23, 1993 (19)

Seasons with Tigers: 3

Shoots: Left

Position: Left wing

Past hockey career: "I played with the Young Nationals in my draft year and the Jr. Canadiens the year after that (Both Toronto teams). I've played all over the GTHL."

Season Stats with Tigers: GP 51 – G 4 – A 6 – PTS 10 – PIM 41

Best memory playing with Tigers: "The locker room and all the guys and everything. They're just a great group of guys – the memories I

have with all of them, I don't think I could even try to share them all. This season was a highlight, because we finished first. That was definitely a big accomplishment for us."

What's on tap for next season: Has committed to Curry College in Massachusetts, like Tigers teammate Brett Sinclair. He will be taking management and most likely finance.

Why this school? "They had me down there for a visit and the coach met with my dad and I and he seemed like a great guy. I also visited Wentworth when I went down and it was located right downtown, but between the two, Curry College is more like a campus type school and I just liked the atmosphere and a lot of school spirit. It's a beautiful campus."

What will it be like going down to Massachusetts to play with teammate Brett Sinclair? "I've known him since last year and

Continued on page 16

Evolution Gymnasts hit new heights at competitions

By Jeff Doner

They've only been around for three years, but Evolution Gymnastics Aurora, (EGA) and its crop of young gymnasts has been earning some sparkling competition results recently.

At the provincials in Windsor, hosted by Rose City Gymnastics Club, the crew from EGA finished at the top of the class.

"Our boys did really well," said coach Sarah Smith. "Considering that we're a new club and a small club, we were really happy to be named the number four, level one men's club in Ontario, which was amongst clubs that were a lot larger and more established than we are."

Budding star Kieran Sutch had a stellar showing, winning gold on the parallel bars, bronze on pommel, rings and floor exercise and claimed fourth all around in the level four, age 13 years and up category.

On a side note, Sutch has been named to attend the Eastern Canadian Championships in Newfoundland next month after a strong season overall.

Brandan Canning (level two, 13 years and up) earned silver on high bar and rings, bronze on parallel bars, fourth on pommel and fourth all around.

The EGA also had multiple competitors in the level one, 10-12 years category, with great results.

Jamie Koscak came tenth on vault and floor, Ryan Baudin claimed bronze on floor and placed fifth overall. Also striking gold was Kieran Heaslip on both vault and

pommel horse, silver on parallel bars and all around and also placed fifth on floor and highbar.

And Phillip Carson (level one, ages eight and nine) had a strong showing, finishing fourth on vault, fifth on floor, sixth on high bar, seventh on parallel bars and eighth all around.

The results are even more impressive considering the caliber of skills at provincial competitions.

Smith said she is proud of all the EGA athletes who competed at provincials and added the season did not end there.

"We actually have boys competing this week out in Brampton and our current invitational girls will be competing in two weeks time in Orangeville, so we have a lot of competitions to go still for the season, but the provincial program is technically done."

For a small club in just its third year, Smith said gymnastics overall seems to be gaining some steam in popularity.

"Our boy's team is growing faster than our girl's team, but that's primarily because more clubs just offer girls programs, not all clubs offer boys," said the veteran coach.

"But it seems to be growing. It's always been relatively popular with girls, but boys are now finding it more attractive ever since Kyle Shewfelt got that gold medal at the Olympics. I think then it became a more legitimate sport in Canada."

For more information on Evolution Gymnastics Aurora visit www.evolutiongymnastics.ca.

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Nice is bound for Boston

From page 15
we've been best friends – he lived with Dylan Sikura, who lives right down the road from me, so we were always hanging out. It's going to be a lot of fun with him. It's nice to know someone that will be down there.”

Hobbies: “I love golf. I'm a big golfer. I also like to go up to cottages and go wakeboarding. But I also work a lot, so I don't have a lot of spare time.”

Any other sports? “Growing up I played a lot of lacrosse. I went to St. Andrew's from Grade Nine to 11, so I played on the varsity lacrosse team. From there, hockey just kind of took over with training and everything and going down to tournaments, so I just dropped that. I still get out and golf whenever I can.”

Favourite movie: “I'd say Miracle. That's just a great inspiring story that always gets me fired up to play hockey. But I'm not really a movie or TV guy.”

On your ipod: “I'll listen to whatever. One of the guys on the team actually loads stuff on my iPod for me (Adam Moody). I'll listen to whatever is popular at the time. I listen to a lot of country as well. But I have a workout playlist and then some country to relax to.”

Favourite hockey team and why? “Toronto Maple Leafs. I was born and raised a Leaf fan even though they haven't been that great in past seasons, although they are playing well now, but I'll always be a Leaf fan.”

Who will win the Stanley Cup this year? “The Pittsburgh Penguins. Once they get Crosby back they'll be unstoppable, I feel.”

Favourite NHL player: “Sidney Crosby. He's just an all-around great leader and just class on the ice.”

Which super hero would you want to be, why? “Superman. He's invincible except for kryptonite, right?”

Who is your hero/idol/role model? “I'd like to say my parents for that, just sticking with me throughout all my years playing hockey, driving me around to practices and helping me through the hard times and everything. I really appreciate everything they've done for me.”

Best thing about playing for the Tigers: “The coaching staff. JR was a great coach and he really helped develop me a lot and become a better player and he showed me the way. The equipment mangers,

Dave and Randy and the owners, they got everything we needed, so I really appreciated all that. They always kind of spoiled us, which was nice.”

What will you miss about it: “The Junior A lifestyle, just not working or going to school or anything. I'll miss that quite a bit. I'm excited to go play hockey down in the States. That's always been my dream.”

What type of hockey player are you, what are you known for? “I'm more of a grinder, or a gritty player. I dig in the corner and get the puck out to the guys. I always try to motivate the team.”

Best accomplishment on and off the ice: “This year I got in a couple fights to try and get the guys going. We had a good year. Off the ice, going down to Boston to pursue my dream is the big one.”

If you had a slogan or motto, what would it be: “Don't ever let anyone tell you you can't do something. If you want it bad enough, just go out and get it yourself.”

Are you superstitious? “No. I'm not superstitious at all.”

Stance on fighting in hockey: “It'll always be a part of the game. It has been ever since it has started. I think [junior] should just have a five-minute fighting rule just like the OHL. I think it's just a part of hockey and I don't think it'll ever be taken out.”

Should all NHL players be made to wear visors? “It's a smart idea. The amount of guys that are getting hit nowadays – I would wear a visor if I was playing in the NHL, that's for sure.”

If you were GM of Team Canada, who would be your top forward, defenseman and goalie? “Sidney Crosby at forward, Shea Weber on defense and Carey Price in goal.”

Coach's comment [James Richmond]: “Justin came to the Tigers three seasons ago and filled the role as a player that played with a lot of energy and sandpaper. He has been a good team guy in the dressing room and always the first player to come to the defense of one of his teammates. Justin will take his energy game and strong puck pursuit to Curry College Massachusetts this fall where he has accepted a hockey scholarship. The Aurora Tiger family wishes Justin the very best and thank him for his commitment to the team and Town of Aurora.”



Aurora's Pee wee AE Tigers won the 11th annual EG Spring Fling Tournament last weekend. The boys faced the Clarington Toros in the Finals and the game had to go to overtime and a shootout before a winner could be declared. What better way to end the season!

Submitted photo

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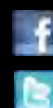
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Aurora Home Show returns for 27th year!



(1) Calvin, Russ and John Barfitt manned the Home Hardware Booth. (2) Dino Kitsikas of Atlas Landscape Inc. won Best Garden/Landscape booth. (3) Ne wmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown stopped for a chat with Judy Marshall, CEO of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. (4) Sasha, Victoria and Anna gave Home Show goers a preview of what's to come at the new Aurora Farmers' Market season which opens next month. (5) Madison showed off her smile while promoting next weekend's Nature's Emporium Run/Walk for Southlake on April 28. (6) Businesses were able to reach an even younger demographic when 19-month-old Aubree hit the show with her mother Kristen. (7) Mayor Geoffrey Dawe was on hand in the Aurora booth, promoting Town events and initiatives, including the Aurora 150 Tattoo on May 5. (8) Aislyn and Jack of Jack's Landscaping took a moment to relax near their eye-catching water feature. (9) The Aurora Youth Soccer Club could see a boost in their numbers this week as the 99 Boys Team 2 and the 98 Girls Team recruited new players.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

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Heritage lecture will be a homecoming for Cultural Centre architect

By Brock Weir

A successful vision can be seen in just about every corner every time architect Mary Jane Lynch of Lynch & Comisso Architects returns to the Aurora Cultural Centre.

Ms. Lynch's architectural firm was responsible for renovating the deteriorating, divided and extensively modified Church Street School landmark back to its former glory, one that is enjoyed by countless visitors to the Centre each year.

She is returning once more to the Centre this Wednesday to speak about the journey it took from the proposed new site of the Aurora Museum to a thriving Cultural Hub and explain the benefits, pitfalls, and even the discoveries encountered along the way.

"It's really positive feedback for us because as an architect and a designer, there was a little bit of trepidation in inserting new, progressive, modern detailing to a heritage building, but the feedback has been all good," she says.

Ms. Lynch's journey with the Church Street School began when it was under the auspices of the Aurora Historical Society, with an aim in creating a new museum. The task may have seemed a bit daunting from the architect's perspective when they ventured into

the building. It had been unoccupied for a little while, so some neglect had begun to show, but previously it was divided up almost haphazardly for a variety of uses including offices for Scouts Canada and the York Region District School Board.

They tackled these challenges head-on, invited the public inside multiple times to see not just the bones of the building, but also provide input of what they would like to see in the building when all was said and done.

They also had to tackle some of the things that had been installed that would be more difficult to remove, such as making the most of steel beams that had been installed at a later date and figuring out the best way to retrofit the windows to maintain historical integrity but also bring some energy conservation.

"Drop ceilings had been put in, partitions had been put in, and there were a lot of interventions that were not so sensitive to the original architecture," says Ms. Lynch diplomatically. "One of the first steps was just going through a demolition phase and hiring a contractor to pull out the more modern pieces of material that had been put in so we could look at what the bones of the building were."

"One of the most beautiful aspects [we

found when peeling back the layers] are the old tin ceilings that were at 13 foot levels. It had four large classrooms per floor and all of those four classrooms on both floors had remnants. We salvaged it in as many places as we could, especially when those spaces were proposed to be transformed into galleries and we reused some of the tin from the more administrative areas and we then had to have a few of those tin panels fabricated to match so we could complete the ceiling."

Another surprise that delighted the team was the discovery of an old chalkboard behind the walls of the upper floor classroom on the southeast corner of the building. The discovery still had writing on it from the last teacher who used it and it is now the centrepiece behind glass of the Aurora Room. The Aurora Room is now designated as permanent museum space for the Aurora Historical Society and, in this move, Ms. Lynch says it is going back to its roots.

"That's what it was always intended for," she said. "With the AHS being our first client, as you know it shifted over to the Town midway through the project, but it was their intention that they would always maintain one of the galleries as more a historical story area and highlight the local culture."



Janet and Karen, board members of the Aurora Cultural Centre, joined Yanding of Bonsai Hill Tea at the Centre over the weekend to go over plans for the second annual Art of Tea fundraiser. Featuring tea supplied by Bonsai Hill and special gifts from the Pine Tree Potters, the event will be held at the Centre's Brevik Hall next month, on Saturday, May 4, from 1 – 3 p.m. Tickets are \$45.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

"For me, one of the most interesting things about this project is it wasn't just an obscure client and working with an out-of-town architect and doing the whole thing in a sort of vacuum where there was no community input and it was all dark until you unveiled it to the public. I want to let people know that good project can happen through community involvement."

The Heritage Lecture "The Making of a Centre: Adapting Our Heritage for Relevancy Tomorrow" will take place at the Aurora Cultural Centre this Wednesday, April 17, at 7 p.m.

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Amalgamated fire service brought back in focus

By Brock Weir

In the aftermath of Good Friday's fire tragedy in Sharon which claimed four members of the Dunsmuir Family, focus has been increasingly put on the time it took East Gwillimbury volunteer fire fighters to respond to the blaze.

The fire broke out just days after Aurora Council debated a motion signing off on York Region municipalities to investigate the possibility of amalgamating their fire services into one body that would serve the entire Region of York. Since then, that too has become part of the focus, with some wondering whether an amalgamated service would benefit smaller communities served by volunteers.

"Anything that would provide a better level of fire protection for the residents and the fire fighters would be something we would need to really look at," says Chief Ian Laing of the Central York Fire Services (CYFS), the amalgamated service governed by Aurora and Newmarket. "Central York is, in my opinion, a success story and if a similar type of exercise could be undertaken to look

at what the advantages or disadvantages would be for a consolidated fire service on a larger scale that is something we would have to look at. How could we not do that?"

Since the Good Friday fire, Chief Laing says it has put things into focus but has also instigated a balancing act in seeking answers while avoiding "rubbing at the wound."

"It is a nasty thing for the community and it is a nasty thing for the residents, and it is a nasty thing for the fire services to deal with stuff like this and they have to work hard," he said. "The fire service up there works hard and they are volunteers, or paid on call, but they give up their own time to go in and train, and they are trained to the level that they can provide adequate levels of protection. They give up a lot for their neighbours."

Too much time has been spent on saying that a Newmarket station was closer and Newmarket should have gone, but that points to a fundamental misunderstanding about how the local service works, he adds.

All fire services in York Region have a mutual aid agreement whereby there is a "home department"

in each municipality that has overall jurisdiction when they get the call. If they feel they need more manpower or don't have enough people on call whether it is staff or frontline workers, or even equipment, they call on other fire departments in York Region to provide the backup.

Other configurations between York Region Municipalities have automatic aid agreements that would allow fire fighters to cross borders without getting a call from the home department. The Central York Fire Services has such agreements in place with King Township and Whitchurch-Stouffville, and each municipality pays for the services required, but no such agreement exists between Central York and East Gwillimbury.

"It is interesting to note that nobody wants to talk about this until there is a tragedy because it all focuses back," says Chief Laing. "I prefer not to speak at all to what is going on up the road because it is not my jurisdiction and I do not have jurisdiction."

Discussion, however, did recently spill over to the last meeting of Aurora Council with Councillor Evelyn Buck

demanding to know where the failure lay.

"The fire hall was five minutes away from that house and we need to know what the failure was that the full-time fire department wasn't there," she said. "Even without a contract there was a mutual aid agreement that if you get the call, you know that you might be needed. I think we need to know, as operators of a joint fire department. I think there are some very serious questions that have not been answered by the Ontario Fire Marshall. It is a joint fire department and I think we share joint responsibility."

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HRAI



Theatre Aurora’s Jitters: A Review

By Scott Johnston

In a live performance, there’s always the possibility that nothing, or everything, will go wrong. Fortunately for us, the latter is the focus of Theatre Aurora’s latest comedy, “Jitters” by David French, now showing at the Factory Theatre. “Jitters” is set during final rehearsals before the opening of the fictitious play “The Care and Treatment of Roses.” Sadly for the director, he is faced with a playwright agonizing over syllables, a stage manager with an overeager eye on the clock, and a cast that demonstrates varying degrees of unpreparedness, anxiety, animosity, tardiness, and even inebriation. Will the director be able to overcome everything from mis-matched feet to the spectre of a noted Broadway producer to be in the audience on opening night, and bring everything together? Probably not, but as they say in the theatre, the show must go on. An excellent cast has been assembled for this final show of the season. Barb Jones plays Jessica, “Canada’s treasure”, an actress who has gained acclaim in the U.S. and has recently returned to Canada. This character has a rocky relationship with her co-star Patrick, played by Jeff Naworynski, who isn’t as appreciative of her return from

south of the border. Also in the fictitious cast is Phil, played by Cam Lund. He is less than confident about his lines, wardrobe, and pretty much anything else. Keith Kupsch plays overeager young actor Tom, who always seems to be there when he isn’t needed, and not around when he is required. Keeping things moving backstage through countless aborted rehearsals are temperamental stage manager Nick (Steve Wolfer), director’s assistant Peggy (Anna Pelc-Draper) and Susi (Ariana Leask), who works front-of-house. Theatre Aurora regular Mark Rival plays playwright Robert, who displays a perfect amount of angst in every potential line change, and in how his new show will be received. Trying to bring order to the chaos is Brad Fuller as George, the director. As the central character, he has wonderful interactions with each of the players, as he copes with their various quirks and anxieties. (Real) Director Michael Clipperton keeps things moving along at a good pace, and makes excellent use of the entire theatre for the many stage entrances and exits throughout the show. This production will bring both smiles and laughs, and perhaps, an appreciation for the sort of things that may occur behind the scenes of a typical show.



Like the cast pictured above, be ready to smile at “Jitters”, Theatre Aurora’s current production. The comedy tells the story of the many things that can go wrong, and the challenges faced, in getting a fictitious play ready for opening night. Auroran photo by David Falconer

Evening performances of “Jitters” continue at Theatre Aurora, 150 Henderson Drive, April 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26 and 27 with a matinee April 21. Tickets are available through the box office at 905-727-3669.

Marquee assists Dunsmuir son at Sound of Music

By Brock Weir

Auroras’s Marquee Theatrical Productions brought their latest production of The Sound of Music to the Newmarket Theatre last week, but ticket holders to the final run of shows starting Thursday, will also have a chance to support David Dunsmuir, the surviving son of the family killed in the Sharon house fire on Good Friday morning. “We always partner with organizations in our community to try to give back, sometimes we do it through ticket proceeds on a given night and sometimes we do it through a 50/50 draw,”

says Sheryl Thomas of Marquee. When the show was in Richmond Hill the previous week, their efforts raised nearly \$600 for a family supporting a daughter living with leukemia, but a change in location means a change of focus for someone very close to home. At both performances on Saturday and Sunday, audience members will be able to participate in a 50/50 prize draw. 50 per cent of the money in the 50/50 will go to the winner while 25 per cent will go into the David Dunsmuir Trust Fund. “We have some cast members from Sharon and they have to pass

the house every day,” says Ms. Thomas. “It is a constant reminder. They were there the day it happened, they knew the family and they knew the mother’s struggles. They were well-known and well-liked in the area. This is a small community and when we stick together that is

what we try to do – help our neighbour.” The Sound of Music returns to the Newmarket Theatre this Thursday, April 18 at 7.30 p.m. Further shows are on Friday at 7.30 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7.30 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. For more information, visit www.newtix.ca.



Aurora’s Marquee Theatrical Productions has brought their production of The Sound of Music to the Newmarket Theatre after a run in Richmond Hill. Photo by David Moore

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“Jitters” is all too familiar to director Michael Clipperton

By Brock Weir

The backstage – and onstage – shenanigans presented in Jitters, Theatre Aurora’s latest production, are all too familiar to director Michael Clipperton.

The theatre veteran, who is actually new to the Theatre Aurora family, has had his fair share of experiences from falling set pieces, to wigs going rogue in the middle of a performance, experiences that are shared by every actor. This, he said, was part of the appeal when the opportunity came opportunity came up to direct David French’s play for Theatre Aurora.

“I think almost every word David French wrote in this play, somebody spoke at one time or another in the theatre and he heard it,” says Mr. Clipperton, a retired drama teacher hailing from Barrie. “I think it is a pretty realistic portrayal of what theatre can be like sometimes when everything seems to go wrong, including wrong costumes, bad wigs, actors late, actors getting lost, actors being drunk, and stage managers who are little tyrants. We have all seen that in the backstage world and that is part of the appeal of this play.

“I have had scenery fall down. I have had a wig come off. I was in a show where an actor slipped, fell, broke his ankle, and had to literally crawl off the stage in the middle of a dance number. There have been wardrobe malfunctions – need I say more? – standing on the stage with your fly open...

a horror story.”

It was also on stage in a two-person one-act play that Mr. Clipperton experienced any actor’s horror of horrors.

“It was just me and another woman and we missed seven and a half pages of dialogue,” he recalls in a not altogether convincing chuckle. “We could see it in each other’s eyes that we all knew what we had missed and we just could not get back to pick it up. It was a nightmare that seemed to go on and on forever.”

Thankfully, however, as director, things at Theatre Aurora seem to be going very smoothly. As a fan of Mr. French’s work, he jumped at the opportunity to direct when he saw the listing online.

His interest in the theatre began at the tender age of five. His parents and family, although musically inclined, did not have the slightest interest in the theatre, but within their son was a love of being on stage and performing. He chased the dream through high school and university, gaining experience through community theatre and also as a jack-of-all-trades high school teacher with a particular penchant for drama.

“I always felt at home in the theatre,” he says. “The part I enjoy most is working in the rehearsal hall and getting the piece to the point where it is ready for an audience. That is the most appealing to me and once we get to opening night my job is over. It is about the creative process and bringing all those various and diverse

Theatre Aurora’s latest production is directed by a newcomer to the venerable local theatre community. While a newcomer to TA, Michael Clipperton is no stranger to community theatre. Hailing from Barrie, the recently retired high school English and drama teacher has directed actors of all ages, which has given him a special appreciation for this behind-the-scenes look at theatre.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

talents together from the actors to the designers, to the technicians, and coming together to create something.”

He says he finds the behind the scenes work more fulfilling and part of that might stem from a fondness of “being in charge and telling people what to do. I have been accused of that on more than one occasion!” But, he says, this is driven by a vision of seeing how all the “parts” of a production fit together.

Putting Jitters together has been a “great” experience, he says, particularly as a new member of the venerable local theatre company and in casting nine roles from the 25 people who tried out, it was a quick introduction to the theatre community. Thankfully, as actors, they too feel the connection with David French’s work, focusing on the things they themselves might have experienced while treading the boards but also something they feel the wider community can connect to as well.

“There is a great deal of humour, but it is also a very honest portrayal of what can happen, how actors react, and how actors behave, and how stage managers behave,” says Mr. Clipperton. “Because David French knew that world so well and he has captured it in these moments that are so telling to me because I have experienced so many of them one way or another. There is a great deal of humour, but there will also be a great deal of honesty.”

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS

- Leave out
- Salt water candy
- Suffragist Carrie Chapman
- Northeastern Pennsylvania
- Be in accord
- 6th Jewish month
- Young sheep
- Mary mourning Jesus
- Wolf (Spanish)
- A public promotion
- A lyric poem
- City of Angels
- Annual
- Cinctures
- Military mailbox
- One and only
- Rushed
- Press onward forcibly
- Apprehends
- Guinea currency to 1985
- Master of ceremonies

CLUES DOWN

- Applied over
- Gettysburg Union Gen.
- Inches per minute (abbr.)
- The bill in a restaurant
- Draw on
- Currency exchange fee
- 19th C. Polish composer
- A festival or feast
- Affirmative
- UC Berkeley
- Rapid bustling movement
- Dining, coffee or game
- Region surrounding ancient Troy
- Rad squared
- An old phonograph record
- Sang in a Swiss folk style
- Guided the car
- Exclamation of surprise
- A senate member
- Very fast airplane
- Myanmar monetary unit
- Right angle building wing

- Swiss river
- W. Samoan monetary unit
- Los Angeles team member
- Native of Bangkok
- One point E of due N
- The self
- Humiliated
- Disposed to take risks
- Atomic number 13
- Foot digit
- Three-toed-sloth
- Chopped beef and potatoes
- Spanish appetizers
- Crust-like healing surface
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- Slides without control
- Add alcohol beverages
- Showing
- Medieval merchant guild
- Current units

- Returned merchandise authorization
- “Rubber Ball” singer Bobby
- Express pleasure
- Women’s undergarment
- 3rd largest whale
- Exist
- The 4th state
- Expressed pleasure
- Cutting part of a knife
- Civil Rights group
- Makes taunting remarks
- = 100 paisa in Bangladesh
- American steam engineer James
- Golfer Snead
- Type of health insurance
- Thyroid-stimulating hormone
- Point midway between S and SE
- Patti Hearst’s captors
- E. British University river

Last Week’s Puzzle Solution

PUZZLE SOLUTION	F	T	C				D	E	B			S	C	H
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COMING EVENTS

ON NOW

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 – 21

Marquee Theatrical Productions presents The Sound of Music at the Newmarket Theatre. During this week's performances, Marquee will be supporting the David Dunsmuir Trust Fund with fundraising activities at the performance. For tickets to the evening and matinee performances, call Newmarket Theatre at 905-953-5122 or visit www.newtix.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 patters 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.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

The Newmarket-Aurora French Language Meetup Group meets this evening at 7 p.m. in Newmarket at Heavenly Bite European Café at 1100 Davis Drive, Unit 20 (Leslie and Davis). This MeetUp is for those who want to practice their French in conversation and for those who want to study French. The meetings are fun, informal and fully oriented towards self-help and individual member initiative. The normal routine is to break into self-organised groups for French at various levels. They promise fun with

French and in meeting great new people.

APRIL 19 – 20

The Aurora United Church will hold its annual Spring Rummage Sale Friday and Saturday at the Church (15186 Yonge Street at Tyler). Friday's sale will consist of individually priced items from 1 p.m. – 8 p.m., while shoppers on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. can enjoy a bag sale for clothes, linen, books, toys, and garage sale items. For more information, call 905-727-1935.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

The Aurora Cultural Centre hosts a Wrap Up Party for the “Mentorship in Motion” art exhibition. “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. All are welcome to the party. Art will be on display through April 27. For more information, visit www.artcures.ca.

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

Trinity Anglican Church hosts the concert “Springtime in Europe” this afternoon at 2.30 p.m. Popular Music in English, French, Italian, German, as well as operatic selections and music from the Phantom, My Fair Lady, etc. Charlene Santoni, soprano, Jean-Paul Reymont, baritone and emcee, Ryan Wang, concert pianist (Music from Chopin, Debussy, Schubert), and Jennifer Alderson, accompanist. Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria St., Aurora. Call 905-833-5368 /905 898-5686. Benefit Concert for Marylake Monastery. \$30 / \$25 senior/students.

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.

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 barbeque. Aurora Seniors' Centre. 90 John West Way, Aurora.

* * * *

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.

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 barbeque, pet comfort station and family fun. For more information, including registration, contact Doane House Hospice at 905967-0259 or visit www.doanehospice.org.

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.

* * * *

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contact Anne Lucie at annelucie.setrakian@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.






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Senior Scape

From page 6

a.m. to noon followed by a thank you BBQ from noon to 2 p.m. in Town Park for all those who have signed up and participated. To register, call 905-727-8214 or e-mail infoaurora@aurora.ca. Register in advance to be provided with garbage bags and gloves. Seniors are encouraged to create small groups and submit your names to Karie, our Seniors Coordinator. For more details see the notice on our bulletin board or the e-flash sent to you.

More on the Games

The York Region Games scheduled for May 3 to June 20 includes lawn and carpet bowling, bid euchre, cribbage, Bocce, 5-pin bowling, shuffleboard, darts, progressive euchre, 8-ball pool, 9-ball pool, horseshoes, pickle ball (we won this recently), prediction and Nordic walk, golf and cart, contract bridge, snooker, and lawn bowling.

Get registration forms at the Centre, the Legions and York Region municipal offices. Or download a form from www.ontarioseniorgames.ca (District 14). For more information, call Don Waldie at 905-722-4541.

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.

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ASK TOM
Tom Mrakas
Choosing the
Right Sheen

A quick word of thanks to the Aurora Chamber of Commerce for putting on a great Home Show! I hope everyone enjoyed it and came away with some great ideas and plans for their homes. I know I did.

I was asked recently by a client what sheen is the proper sheen for a particular room (in this case a powder room). Given that paints come in a number of sheens including flat, eggshell, satin, pearl, semi-gloss and high gloss, it is a common question that many homeowners have. My answer is the appropriate sheen depends on what you are painting and, of course, the look you hope to achieve. But there are a few general tips that may

prove helpful.

In almost all cases, it is best to use paint with a flat sheen for all ceilings. Why? Well, flat paint on a ceiling hides a multitude of sins. Quite simply, the more sheen you have, the more imperfections will show and if you have a lot of natural light coming in, it will show it all on the ceiling.

Yes, flat paint is difficult to keep clean, and shows every mark and scratch, but that's why it's great for the ceiling. No one touches the ceiling so you won't have dirty little finger and hand prints.

For your walls you are best to use any one of the various sheens of eggshell and/or satin. This is due to the fact that walls in your

hallways and family rooms are subject to quite a bit more wear and tear and thus you need a little more durability in your paint. The eggshell or satin sheens can be cleaned fairly regularly by wiping with just a damp cloth and will not affect the paint.

Lastly, we have trims and doors. These are the painted surfaces in your house where it seems like every hand touches them and they get the most abuse, so you want to use something that will hold up – such as a semi-gloss for its durability. Or, if you don't want that much of a gloss, then you can use a pearl and get the best of both worlds. A pearl sheen has a little less shine and a little more of the hiding power of the flat.

Now, some people (like my mom) like to have all the walls in semi-gloss.

It makes it much easier to keep everything very clean. With all the walls semi-gloss, they can be wiped down every day. But, any imperfection on the surface will also be very visible, so it's a bit of a tradeoff.

At the other extreme is using flat paint on the walls (which is what most builders use for its hide ability). But once you move in, those nice flat walls will show literally every finger print that touches it, and won't hold up to a cleaning with a damp cloth.

That is why sheen is a personal preference

So, when it comes time to paint, consider what you are painting.

Is it a high traffic area, or is it a ceiling? What do you expect out of your paint finish? Do you want to be able to wipe it down occasionally or every day?

Think about what you are painting and what you expect of the surface.

Once you've decided on the sheen, then all you'll need to do is decide on the colour! But that's a whole other topic...

That's all for this week. Remember a good job, is a job well done!

If you have any questions you can always reach me at www.facebook.com/anastasisdesign or on twitter, @ADesign_build and email of course Anastasis@anastasisdesign.ca.

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The Auroran KingSentinel

NHL Playoff Pool

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

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Choose 1 player from each of the 12 groups

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- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <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"/> Onze 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.

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| <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) |

Grand Prize**: \$1000
First Place*: \$400
Second Place*: \$200
Third place*: \$100

**Grand prize goes to the winner with the most points out of the winners of the Aurora/King, Innisfil/New Tecumseth and Caledon/Orangeville pools.
*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.

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Deadline is noon Friday, April 26, 2013. All entries must be in by that date.



POLITICS
AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

Enough with the expenses

I am going to resist the urge to discuss – nay, whine – about the weather. I think it would be stating the obvious to say that so far this spring has been less than spectacular.

It has, in fact, been truly horrendous.

Friday pretty much took the cake for incredibly awful weather. I mean, an ice storm? I’ve heard of April showers, but April ice pellets? No thank you! However, in the words of the indomitable Dolly Parton (yes, I am quoting Dolly Parton), “If you want the rainbows, ya gotta put up with the rain...” So enough about the weather. It will change for the better. Soon.

Speaking of changing like the weather, can we please change the channel regarding, or at least the focus of, Council discussions please? I know we won’t be able to manage to get all councillors off what seems to be a never ending silly script of inanities, but I hope we can get the majority to move it along.

I have said this before but I will say it again as it bears repeating. With less than 18 months of the term left and just 8 scant months before the silly season of electioneering begins, there is a great deal of work to be done, so they should get to it.

After this week’s meeting, I have to say that I am beginning to find the discussions downright tiresome. I don’t know if you readers managed to catch the last Council meeting (April 9) on Rogers, but suffice to say, it started early and ended very late – with two extensions of the hour, and still I don’t know if they managed to complete the agenda or not (I gave up watching at around 11 p.m.).

The meeting was bogged down with circular discussions about matters that should have been addressed quickly and with little fanfare. For example, the ongoing “discussion” about the apparent need to post Council expense reports on a more frequent basis to ensure “transparency”.

The current practice is to report out on Council members’ expenses on an annual basis. The proposal before Council is to report out at least every six months but preferably quarterly. Staff had indicated that such reporting would require considerable amount of staff time. I would add, with little or any value added.

Considering that Aurora’s councillors have the lowest expense budgets in the Region, if media reports are to be believed, and spend only half of what they are allowed to spend in the first place, it begs the question - why is this considered a burning issue for this Council? I don’t understand. Unless there is something the general public is not aware of, Council expenses and reporting out of same does not seem to be a significant issue.

For example, I have not seen even one letter to the editor demanding to know on a month by month basis, or quarterly basis, how much councillors spend attending conferences or what have you.

There have been no allegations of misuse, or other kinds of shenanigans. There have been no reports of which I am aware alleging that Council members have done anything wrong; members spend what they are allowed to spend, and expense what they are currently allowed to expense and are apparently quite “frugal” about it, as one paper reported – so why the need to increase the reporting of what amounts to a non-issue? I can think of many better things for Council to be considering than a non-issue such as frequency of reporting expenses.

The multiple debates at the table and elsewhere about the issue are even more curious. Why the need to go round and round (and round!) about this? For heaven’s sake, let’s move on! Expenses are reported out annually, as per the requirements of the Municipal Act.

Staff has indicated that increased reporting is not required (or warranted) and will actually increase costs to the municipality due to the staff time required to prepare the reports. So it’s a non-starter, really. To continue to harp on the need for transparency when there’s no evidence to suggest that the current process provides insufficient transparency is to waste Council’s – and by extension – our, time.

Some municipalities report less than Aurora – simply stating the aggregate expenses of Council on an annual basis. Other municipalities have real time reporting of expenses on-line, replete with scanned receipts (such as the City of Toronto.) Still others report on a quarterly basis (such as Richmond Hill), but the enhanced reporting comes at a cost – either in staff time or software upgrades. And the change in their expense reporting generally followed some kind of scandal (like a councillor expensing golf clubs for example). That is not the case in Aurora.

Continued on page 26

THE AURORED
CLASSIFIEDS

Deadline: Saturday at 1 p.m. week of publication. 905-727-3300 ext. 102 Monday – Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

DEATH NOTICE

JOHNSON, Ada Viola



Passed away peacefully at Park Place Manor, Aurora, Ontario on Sunday, April 14, 2013 in her 110th year. Ada Johnson daughter of the late Robert Kerr and Mathilda (nee Robson). Beloved wife of the late Norman Johnson and predeceased by her son Ted. Ada will be sadly missed by her son David, her nieces and nephews, 8 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren and their partners, 4 great great grandchildren and her extended family. Ada was an outstanding lady who lived her life with dignity, respect for others and joyfulness. She lived a life consistent with the qualities expressed in her favourite hymn, “Brighten the corner where you are”. Since arriving in Aurora at the age of five, Ada was a much-loved, active member of the community at the Aurora United Church, the Canadian Red Cross, the Cancer Society, Aurora High School’s “Night School”, and at Kingcraft. Her many and long-standing contributions to Aurora were recognized by the naming of a park in her honour, Ada Johnson Park. A Memorial Service will be held at Aurora United Church, 15186 Yonge St. on Monday, April 22, 2013 at 2 p.m. followed by a reception at the church. In lieu of flowers, if so desired, memorial donations to the Aurora United Church will be appreciated. A special thanks to the very caring staff at Park Place Manor and Community Care Access Centre of York Region, who have diligently cared for Ada for the past 10 years. Arrangements entrusted to Thompson Funeral Home, 530 Industrial Parkway South, Aurora (905) 727-5421 www.thompsonfh-aurora.com

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STREET STORIES

Susan Werden

The "Mosley" Streets (Pt. 2)

When Aurora was established in 1863, a significant portion of the land that made up the village was property subdivided in 1853 from the farm owned by John Mosley. The streets located on the Mosley farm that were actually built are: **Mosley, Church, Victoria, Metcalfe, Ross, Mary, Wells, Larmont and Berczy.**

Last month this column featured the story behind Mosley Street. This month I am going to tell you about **Church, Victoria, Metcalfe, Ross and Mary Streets.**

The Mosley farm consisted of 79 acres

purchased by John Mosley in 1836. It ran from Yonge Street to just east of the train tracks and from Wellington Street south to just below Church Street, excluding one acre at the southeast corner of Yonge and Wellington, which had previously been sold to Richard Machell in 1832.

Church Street was positioned to provide a view of Trinity Anglican Church from Yonge Street and was named such because of the church being at its end. Trinity Anglican Church was built in 1846 on land donated by John Mosley.

In 1853 Queen Victoria was ruling monarch and

as such was also head of the Church of England (Anglican). **Victoria Street** was named in her honour. It was positioned along one edge of the Trinity Anglican Church property and the Church was built to face it. Queen Victoria reigned from 1837 to 1901.

Local historians have two theories regarding **Metcalfe Street**. One is that it was named for Charles Theophilus Metcalfe, Governor General of British North America from 1843 to 1845. The other possibility is that it is a variant of a prominent name in the Mosley family. John Mosley's oldest brother's name

was Henry Metcalf Mosley and the spelling on the original plan of subdivision as well as early maps of the town was "Metcalf".

John Mosley's mother's maiden name was Mary Ross. **Mary and Ross Streets** were named in her honour. For those new to Aurora, Ross Street no longer exists. In 2010 it was sold to Metrolinx (GO Transit) in order to create a better access to the GO Station and its new parking structure. Prior to that it ran north and south on the east side of the railway tracks from Wellington to Industrial Parkway South.

Brought to you by the Aurora Welcome Wagon, welcoming new residents, new babies and new businesses to Aurora.

A special thanks is extended to staff at the Town of Aurora, the Aurora Historical Society and local historian Jacqueline Stuart, for their assistance with this project.

Please send comments or suggestions to me at WelcomeWagonAurora@gmail.com.

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By Brock Weir

As he stood at his grandmother's side rolling out pastry, putting it into a tin and filling it up with all the good stuff that makes a pie a pie, there was little indication at the time that every stroke of the rolling pin was one more stroke towards a passion and a career.

But that is exactly what happened to Rob Lizotte, chef at Edward Street Market Bistro, when at the age of five, he helped his grandmother make dessert.

It is his earliest food memory and through his self-described cooking style of “rustic refined”, he hopes to conjure up similar memories in those who sample his food.

"I like to do simple things, nothing too complicated or complex when you actually become disconnected with the food," he says. "[In my cooking] everyone identifies what the food is and brings back those memories of when you're sitting with your family and having amazing lasagna that your aunt made and, 10 years later, you're having a lasagna and those memories come

back. Those connections are where I think food has its greatest impact.”

Mr. Lizotte is one of five local chefs preparing to face off this Thursday as the Aurora Community Centre is transformed into kitchen stadium for the first Iron Chef Aurora. The competition was developed by Debbie McGrath and Tim Newnham of Habachat, a local social media company, as a way to highlight everything that local restaurants have to offer, all the while raising significant amounts of money for local charities. Mr. Lizotte is paired with Haddan Eby Endowment Fund which supports Camp Ooch, a camp for children with cancer.

Each chef is tasked with creating a menu incorporating the same two secret ingredients and the winner will be chosen by those in the audience. Beyond the Thursday event into the weekend, the Community Centre will continue to be a destination for Aurora foodies as the Taste of Aurora festival runs through the weekend.

"It is great to show the residents of Aurora there is great food north of the city and we have great chefs who have lots of

passion,” says Mr. Lizotte. “I have worked in Aurora and the community for about 10 years, so I have noticed a slow change that retailers are starting to offer more variety and more of a range of products [to show] quality goes beyond the city. This is just a further extension to get us to that point.”

From the early days cooking with the family matriarch, it was soon clear cooking was what Mr. Lizotte wanted to do with his life. She showed him the importance of cooking things properly for a family, but also that cooking goes beyond the actual act of preparing food. It is the whole experience, he says, of sharing it with others and having people share in the experience together fuels the passion to get to the next level.

"I got into the profession not by choice, but it chose me," he says. "When you're passionate about something and you have that kind of an interest and drive, it is sort of a natural path to take."

He first honed his craft through high school with part time jobs, but sampled other professions while at university, but nothing but cooking



Rob Lizotte, chef at Edward Street Market and Bistro, will bring what he describes as a “rustic refined” style of cooking to Iron Chef Aurora, which takes place this Thursday at the Aurora Community Centre.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

seemed to click.

“When you get up and go to work and it is not a grudge, you know you’re on the right path.”

Since that time, he has also seen the collective palates of the community evolve as the cooking market evolves with continuing influences from sources such as Food Network, which has exploded in recent year. With this development, more international flavours and ingredients

are more readily available and becoming standards. Ontario is also blessed, he said, with diversity, and this is reflected through cooking.

"I think people expect far more eclectic ingredients and more variety in their food and where they get their food from," he says. "They have more knowledge of food now and they have more expectations. Before there was a bit of smoke and mirrors when

it comes to cooking.”

What Mr. Lizotte will have to offer at Iron Chef Aurora this week, he says, will be, however, a bit of a step back to the simpler fundamentals of cooking.

"I am focusing on the spring: light, nothing too healthy, but also freshness and a little health conscious," he says. "That means fresh ingredients put together really well that speak to the person who is enjoying it."

From page 24

Do I think some changes need to be made to the method by which expenses are reported? Absolutely.

I think Council should consider revisiting its expense policy in totality. It should work to clarify what can – or should – be expensed and what cannot rather than engage in the sensationalizing of one particular expense.

Currently, it's all a bit too vague in my opinion.

Personally, I would like to know what events were attended – and expensed – by which councillor. A better breakdown of what was spent by whom and on what (i.e. X tickets to X gala, or X charity) would be advantageous. But I think this can be accomplished by expanding on what is reported in the annual report – not increasing

the number of times it is reported.

Transparency of reporting is achieved when relevant information is readily accessible. What matters, therefore, is not how many times you issue a report but what's actually in the report.

Until next week, stay informed, stay involved, because this is after all Our Town.

From page 7

be developed in any which direction, so this is an opportunity for us to investigate and see through our strategic direction if this is something we would like to consider.

"This is not asking to go forward with a study. It is asking staff to review the vision before the Town and if this is something we would like to consider, if it fits within the strategies of our Town."

Looking at the wider picture appeared to be foremost in Councillors minds. Although he said he would have preferred more of an indication that Council was keen on supporting the multi-million dollar project before he tasked staff with coming up with a feasibility study for the feasibility study, Councillor John Gallo said it would answer many questions.

"I don't know where I sit because I am a little bit concerned about putting

the cart before the horse and whether or not I support a study with a price tag of whatever it is. Do I support the bigger picture? Maybe I will. Maybe the report will tell me, yes, this will pay for itself, and the funding model is excellent, but I struggle with whether or not I want to move forward to get that study because I don't know if I support the bigger picture." Warming to her theme, however, Councillor Buck questioned whether the proponents of the plan, and individual Councillors would be supportive of what is on the table if the money earned from the sale of Aurora Hydro was not available as a funding source.

"If we didn't have the hydro fund, would you seriously consider borrowing millions of dollars to even consider this idea?" she asked.

Mayor Dawe, however, said she couldn't have it both ways.

“Let’s assume [this is a play for the Hydro Money] and I don’t buy that for a minute,” he said. “It was this Council that put out the request to the public [asking] how you would like to use the \$33 million we have in the piggy bank. You, Councillor Buck, brought that forward [asking] how we should use this money.

"If this was strictly a play from these folks for the Hydro money, they gave us exactly what they wanted, so we should be thanking them because they actually did a heck of a lot of work, more than someone coming in and saying let's just reduce taxes.

"We have a group of engaged citizens who have brought forward a terrific project to town. At the very least, we should say thank you for doing that work. We're now going to take a very serious look of where we want to go if we want to do it. Let's not be criticising people for bringing forward ideas."

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Ken White keeps Legion members on the straight and narrow

By Brock Weir

When Ken White is leading you in parade, you had better be well prepared!

Mr. White, the Parade Commander for the Aurora-based Ontario Command for the Royal Canadian Legion takes his job very seriously. If you have turned out to Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Aurora Cenotaph or any other event that might have a colour party, chances are the face is familiar – but what exactly is his job?

He's there to keep traditions and order alive and ensure procedures and protocols are met. If he runs a tight ship, it is apparently appreciated as he was recently awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his efforts.

In all seriousness, Mr. White's involvement with the Royal Canadian Legion goes far beyond making sure people are marching correctly and rules are adhered to, however important that might be. As an important "face" to the Legion, he has been integral in steering the ship of the Ontario Command through some pretty heady waters, particularly with the changing demographics coming through those doors.

"It is about seeing the smile on faces when they see people doing what they remember, or what they perceive to be the correct respect," says Mr. White. "When we run our drill seminars to civilians at this stage, there is some ex-military which helps, but we understand what we're dealing with but we try to truly appreciate the proper decorum, the deportment and the dress.

"They need to remember when they're wearing a uniform...we have an oath, we have taken allegiance to the Queen and

the Sovereign and loyalty to our country and to be true to each other. For me, [the reward] is seeing the satisfaction that is the smile on their faces to say, yes, we are doing it properly."

With the last of the First World War veterans gone, the Second World War and Korean War veterans continue to make way for newer crops of veterans from recent Canadian missions in places like Bosnia and Afghanistan, the smiles Mr. White sees are also becoming increasingly younger with each passing year. With the shrinking number of veterans, he is also increasingly seeing civilians coming into the Legion ranks.

"Our approach has probably been the same for much of the last 10 to 15 years but we are looking at some new ideas vis-à-vis bringing some of the new veterans into the fold to help out with the drill because it gives you a fresh look and gives the guys a new concept. There are questions they can ask, like what it was like over there, and it infuses them with more distinguished care and concern for the veteran and it brings it back full circle."

Mr. White's involvement with the Royal Canadian Legion has also come somewhat full circle. His father himself a veteran, first captured his son's imagination with his stories. As a young boy, the Legion became a second home and he often stayed around to help clean up and do the odd chore here and there before joining the Queen's York Rangers Cadet Corps at the age of 12. From there, he rose through the ranks, went out to Calgary and served in the Canadian Armed Forces for six years before returning to civilian life in Ontario.

Changing demographics vary from



Ken White, Parade Commander for the Ontario Command of the Royal Canadian Legion, seen here at a tribute breakfast to the Queen's York Rangers, was proudly sporting his Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. Mr. White was awarded the medal by MP Lois Brown for his Legion work and if Councillors pass a resolution this week, his name could be one of several added to a new permanent marker honouring Aurora medallists.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

branch to branch with the trend the Legion is moving more from a club simply of ex-service men and women to a more social and service club. Wherever that impetus for evolution and meeting the needs both for members and the wider community comes from, the philosophy remains the same.

"To join the Legion is to keep

tradition and history alive," said Mr. White. "The Legion won't survive unless it has the bodies in there that are enjoying the sports or whatever function it is they enjoy. It could just be a social night, birthday parties, or anniversaries, graduations, they can use it as their own private club but the thing is you have to get the people to keep the Legions alive."

Johnson's life was honoured with park

From page 1

Mrs. Johnson was born Ada Kerr. After her father's death, they settled with her Grandfather Robson in a house located near what is now Yonge Street and Aurora Heights Drive.

After making her way through school, she went to business college before beginning her working life in a number of Aurora businesses, including Collis Leather.

She married Norman Johnson in 1924, and they settled on Connaught Avenue, where they raised two sons. Norman was an integral part in what is now Dr. G.W. Williams High School, eventually working his way to the position of principal. There, his wife was also an important part of the school community, instigating such initiatives as a precursor to what would now be known as continuing education.

On hearing the news of Mrs. Johnson's death, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe extended his sympathies to her family.

"I think Ms. Johnson showed a zeal for life that can be an example for all of us," he says. "Physical age is only half the battle!"

To mark her 100th year of living in Aurora, Ada Johnson Park was dedicated by then mayor Phyllis Morris along with Mrs. Johnson's son, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

"Ada Johnson was

so much more than Aurora's oldest citizen," says Ms. Morris. "Over more than a century of life, she was much loved and respected by her family and many friends. Ada was a practical woman with progressive ideas; ahead of her time in many ways.

"Because of her many contributions to the Town, it was fitting that the most significant community park developed since the original Aurora Town Park should bear the name of such a special woman."

Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees also recalled the many stories she shared over the years of growing up in Aurora when it was little more than a village.

"I don't think there is anyone left in the Town of Aurora that can tell the stories that she did, such as when she herded a cow up Yonge Street," he said. "I remember her saying that she thought when her time came that it will simply be a continuation of here. She once said, 'when the time comes, I'll be ready.' She certainly had many years to prepare.

"She has left her mark on this Town and I think that every time someone passed the Ada Johnson Park there was a recognition of her contribution to this Town and our community."

Former deputy mayor Bob McRoberts referred

to Mrs. Johnson as his "grandmother-in-law", as her son David was married to his aunt, Ruth. Mrs. Johnson prepared him well on the road to also becoming an educator and, later, entering politics, by typing his university essays on his behalf.

"I have known her all my life, as have many people in Aurora," says Mr. McRoberts. "I remember as a youngster in my grandparents' house listening to my grandmother chat away with Ada on the telephone. When I was very young, she knit a Christmas stocking for each of her grandchildren and me, and mine is still hung each year."

She was also a valuable resource to Mr. McRoberts as he compiled his collection of vintage Aurora postcards into a book to honour the Town's Sesquicentennial, providing much needed assistance identifying the people in the photographs dated well before the 1920s.

"I believe my fondest memory is how I would feel after having had a visit with her," says Mr. McRoberts. "She was truly interested in what you had to say and she had a powerful knack for making you feel good about yourself. She put a positive spin on everything and everyone around her. I'm sure that's what helped to carry her to 109."



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