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# THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper





Vol. 13 No. 11 905-727-3300 theauroran.com FREE Week of January 22, 2013

## Town, Cultural Centre set to ink new deal this week

By Brock Weir

After nearly a year of heated debates and negotiations, Councillors are set to formally approve the new agreement between themselves and the Aurora Cultural Centre this week.

Councillors signed off on the agreement at the committee level last Tuesday following a lengthy debate over the draft plan's merits and a presentation from Frank Pulumbarit, president of the Aurora Cultural Centre's board.

The new agreement comes on the heels of months of talks between an ad-hoc committee established between members of the Cultural Centre Board and Town Staff to come up with a new Cultural Services Agreement that is beneficial to both parties.

Several shortcomings had been found in the previous agreement by Town Solicitor Warren Mar early last year, and the new agreement addresses both these concerns and those expressed by Councillors in the lead-up and ensuing debates.

Among other concessions in the new agreement, the Cultural Centre Board will now be required to make a budget presentation to Council on how they proposed to spend the money they receive from the Town (they previously received a lump sum in the mid \$300,000s per year depending on inflation), two Councillors could be appointed as full voting members of the board, space will be set aside for an Aurora museum space, and additional measures to boost transparency.

Continued on page 8

## Ward system should be on 2014 municipal ballot, says Pirri

By Brock Weir

The Municipal Election of 2014 is rapidly approaching, and what would the build-up to an election be without debate over whether Aurora should abandon its current Council model and develop wards?

This is a project Councillor Paul Pirri says should be considered by residents.

The Councillor is expected to introduce a notice of motion at the Council table this Tuesday calling on the Town to decide whether Aurora should adopt a ward system an election issue through a referendum question on next year's ballot.

In his motion, which will likely come up for discussion and debate on February 12, Councillor Pirri says adopting a ward system was a "prevalent" issue in the last two municipal elections and that "the decision of how an individual is to be represented at a municipal level should be theirs to make."

"There is a distinct change in the population and geographic location of individuals within the Town of Aurora," said Councillor Pirri in his notice of motion. "The majority of the Town of Aurora will be built out by the 2018 municipal election."

If passed by Council, two referendum questions will be put on the next ballot. The first question could determine the future make-up of Council itself, proposing reducing the number of Councillors

Continued on page 10



Toronto Argonauts' David Lee thrilled hundreds of students at St. Andrew's College last week during a visit with the venerable Grey Cup. The Argos, who won the 100th Grey Cup game against the Calgary Stampeders last fall, are taking the cup on the road to 43 schools across Ontario as part of their "Cuddle Up" program. Aurorans will have a chance to get up close and personal with the Grey Cup, the Argos and the Argos cheerleaders this Family Day, February 18. Details will be forthcoming. Auroran photo by David Falconer



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# TOWN OF AURORA Weekly Notice Board

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## COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 22	7 p.m.	Council
Wednesday, January 23	7 p.m.	Public Planning
Wednesday, January 23	7 p.m.	Sesquicentennial Ad Hoc Committee
Thursday, January 24	7 p.m.	Trails and Active Transportation Environmental Advisory Parks and Recreation Advisory Committees (Combined Meeting)
Monday, January 28	7 p.m.	Special General Committee – 2013 Budget Review
Tuesday, January 29	7 p.m.	Special General Committee – Administrative Policies 1, 5, and 57
Thursday, January 31	7 p.m.	Economic Development Advisory Committee

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](http://www.aurora.ca/calendar)

General Committee meetings can be viewed online by visiting [www.aurora.ca/gcstream](http://www.aurora.ca/gcstream)

## AURORA 150 FACT:



Workmen are photographed laying tracks for the Metropolitan Radial Railway, an electric streetcar line which eventually stretched from Toronto to Lake Simcoe. A branch line from the Schomberg and Aurora Railway linked Schomberg and Oak Ridges. The Metropolitan carried passengers, freight and mail.

## THANK YOU AURORA

Thanks to the generosity of our community, the 2012 Salvation Army Kettle Drive in Aurora was a great success with \$40,604.59 raised in support of the Salvation Army's community programs and services.

Support for the Kettle Drive has continued to build since it was championed by former Aurora Mayor John G. West in 1979.

Special thanks to the many individuals and groups who volunteered their time and the following businesses for hosting the kettle drive locations:

- LCBO, 14824 Yonge Street
- LCBO, 15830 Bayview Avenue
- Metro, 1 Henderson Drive
- Canadian Tire, 14700 Yonge Street
- Walmart Supercentre, 135 First Commerce Drive
- Brewer's Retail Store, 14800 Yonge Street
- Real Canadian Superstore, 15900 Bayview Avenue

Tremendous thanks to everyone who donated at a kettle in Aurora. Your donations will make a positive contribution to our community.

Sincerely,

John Abel  
Deputy Mayor

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### Dinner and a Movie

#### *Diary of a Wimpy Kid 3: Dog Days*

Where: Aurora Public Library

When: Saturday, January 26 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Rating: Rated G

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.

Mayor's Levee celebrating Aurora's 150th birthday on Sunday, February 3 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Please see our ad in *The Auran* for more details or visit [www.aurora.ca/150](http://www.aurora.ca/150)

### Winter Parking Restrictions in effect from November 15 to April 15, 2 a.m. to 6 a.m.

Please ensure that vehicles are not parked over sidewalks or onto the roadway.

This is a hazard for residents and it severely hinders the ability of our Infrastructure and Environmental Services staff to efficiently plow our roads and sidewalks.

For more information, please call 905-726-4751 or visit [www.aurora.ca](http://www.aurora.ca)

### Get involved in the 2013 Budget process!

Residents are invited and encouraged to have their voices heard on the 2013 Budget by attending and speaking at the upcoming session:

Operating Budget review and discussion

- Monday, January 28 at 7 p.m.
- Monday, February 4 at 7 p.m.
- Monday, February 11 at 7 p.m.
- Monday, February 25 at 7 p.m.

All meetings will be held in the Council Chambers, located at Aurora Town Hall.

Public input will be received at the beginning of each meeting. Those who wish to speak are encouraged to register with the Clerk's office in advance by emailing [CSecretariat@aurora.ca](mailto:CSecretariat@aurora.ca). Those who do not register will be allowed to make a presentation if time permits.

Budget information will be posted to the Town's website at [www.aurora.ca/2013budget](http://www.aurora.ca/2013budget) and updated throughout the process.

For more information about the 2013 Budget, please contact Dan Elliott, Director of Corporate & Financial Services/Treasurer at [ourtownbudget@aurora.ca](mailto:ourtownbudget@aurora.ca)

### Reminder: Renew your pet license

The Town of Aurora reminds owners of dogs and cats that licenses for pets must be renewed each year. 2012 Pet licenses will expire on Friday, February 15.

The Town has a number of bylaws pertaining to licensing pets, removal of pet waste and keeping control of animals in public to avoid attacks or bites.

As a friendly reminder to all pet owners, please ensure:

- Your pet's license is up-to-date
- The license is attached to your pet's collar
- All pet waste is cleaned up
- Dogs are leashed at all times, unless on your property or at an off-leash park
- Cats only roam free on your property

Control and care of your pets is essential to avoid animal bites or potential attacks on people or other animals. Failure to comply with the Town's bylaws can result in fines.

For more information on these bylaws, please visit [www.aurora.ca/bylawservices](http://www.aurora.ca/bylawservices) or call 905-727-3123 ext. 4240.

# Aurora's Borealis



**Don't miss Aurora's Borealis!**  
Come to Aurora Town Park every evening from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. until February 18, 2013 and enjoy skating under the lights on a giant outdoor ice rink (weather permitting).  
For more information, please visit [www.aurora.ca](http://www.aurora.ca)

**Sponsored by**




### Join us for The Show Band Night event

Where: Aurora Community Centre Auditorium

When: Friday, January 25 from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Ages: 14 to 18 year-olds

Come out for a night of music, friends and fun! Join us as we support local youth bands showcasing their incredible talent. If your band would like to play in the show, please call 905-726-4760.



# have your say

## aurora.ca

[www.aurora.ca](http://www.aurora.ca)

**The Town of Aurora would like your input into its new website.**  
Please take a **short online survey** or pick up a paper copy at Town Hall.

The Town of Aurora is committed to providing accessible formats and communication supports for persons with disabilities. If another format would work better for you, please contact: P. 905-727-3123 | TTY. 905-726-4766





**Aurora native Ryan Zade, pictured above at the Aurora Train Station, is spearheading nation-wide celebrations for the 200th anniversary of Sir John A. Macdonald's birth in 2015. Mr. Zade counts Sir John's championing of the Canadian Pacific Railway as pivotal in the nation's history.**

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

## Aurora native spearheads plans for Sir John A's big day

By Brock Weir

Planning someone's birthday or party can give a little bit of anxiety and maybe a sleepless night or two to the best of us. But what if you're planning the 200th birthday bash for Canada's first prime minister?

That's exactly what Aurora native Ryan Zade is doing and while he admits to getting very little sleep at the moment, he still has until 2015 to get everything in place.

2015 marks the bicentennial of the birth of Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first Prime Minister and to celebrate the occasion, a group in Kingston – Macdonald's hometown and resting place – formed the Sir John A. Macdonald Bicentennial Commission with a goal to “inspire a greater appreciation of the life and achievements of Sir John A. Macdonald” by “promoting events in the arts, education, tourism, and other sectors locally regionally and nationally” in the lead-up to 2015.

Macdonald turned a sprightly 198 earlier this month and the Commission marked the occasion with a ceremony at Macdonald's Statue in Kingston, while other commemorations fanned out across the country, including a production of Sir John Eh? The Musical in Markham.

With a \$500,000+ infusion of funds from the Federal Government, plans march on. A history buff, overseeing the celebrations as associate director of the Sir John A. Bicentennial Celebration was a dream come true for the former King City Public School and Aurora High School Student.

“When they called me, I was in Aurora at the time and I said, ‘where do I sign up?’” said Mr. Zade. “I am a little bit of a history nerd but it is so much more than just a basic history project. It is a three year endeavour leading up to 2015 to celebrate Sir John's legacy and we're doing it in so many different ways.”

Upcoming events include a cross-country train trip highlighting Macdonald's contributions to the railway, which they see as the essential link in building the country from coast to coast, as well as continuing performances of Sir John Eh? The Musical.

Mr. Zade says the musical presents Sir John in a “warts and all” manner and a holistic approach to his life and legacy. When the 198th anniversary of his birth was marked in Kingston on January 11, over 2,000 people came out to see it in Kingston on the heels of its performance at Sir John A. Macdonald Public School here in York Region.

“Engagement and getting

young people involved in politics is a passion of mine and this project allows me and allows our team to do so in many ways that are unconventional and can reach those kids and those adults that we would not otherwise be able to reach.”

With less than two years to go before the big date, the Commission is working on initiatives for the citizens at large. He concedes, however, there is still a lot of work to be done and they're pursuing public consultation initiatives in large Canadian cities to encourage all Canadians to get in touch. They hope to have a couple of roundtables on YouTube and through social media to maximise engagement.

“We want to hear how we can celebrate and how we can help people celebrate Macdonald,” said Mr. Zade.

But why celebrate Macdonald? The man has an unqualified place in Canada's history but he was also a divisive figure. That could be part of the charm.

“In Celebrating Sir John A., we are, by other words, celebrating this great country,” said Mr. Zade. “He is, of course, influential during the pre-confederation and just-barely-post-Confederation period and there is just so much exciting history here.”

“I think of the grand coalition between Macdonald and Georges Etienne Cartier and George

Brown coming together as three men, one of whom is Macdonald's adversary getting together and going to Charlottetown and going to Quebec and forming a new nation on the North American continent. I think of the Riel rebellion and Macdonald's role in the tensions between English and French and I think of the railroad.

“In celebrating Macdonald I think we're really celebrating the birth of a nation.”

For more information on the Commission, visit [www.sirjohna2015.ca](http://www.sirjohna2015.ca).

### Briefly

#### SUSPECTS SOUGHT AFTER PERFUME HEIST

York Regional Police are looking for two male suspects after a robbery last month at the Shoppers Drug Mart at Bayview and Hollandview Trail. The break and enter took place December 6 at approximately 12.30 a.m. when two male suspects entered the pharmacy carrying plastic garbage cans, according to Constable Andy Pattenden. “They proceeded to the perfume section of the store and began emptying store shelves,” he said. “The suspects fled the area, taking over \$15,000 worth of perfume. The investigation is ongoing and police are asking witnesses to come forward.”

The first suspect is described as white male wearing black pants, a black jacket, white running shoes, and a beige balaclava. The second suspect is described as a male wearing black pants and black jacket. Anyone with information is urged to contact the York Regional Police at 1-266-876-5423 x.7142 or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

#### “ART AT THE MANOR” DEADLINE EXTENDED

The deadline for artists' proposals for the upcoming Art at the Manor exhibition at Hillary House has been extended to next Monday, January 28. Now in its second year, Art at the Manor unleashes local artists chosen from proposals submitted to the Aurora Historical Society, to essentially have the run of the National Historic Site to find inspiration for their work, which will then go on display throughout the year. Artists should note that finished artwork is not expected now, but simply an expression of interest.



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## Music festival bids come up empty...for now

By Brock Weir

It was intended to give all groups in Town an equal shot at hosting a music festival in Town Park over the Civic Holiday weekend, but the controversial motion last fall from Councillor Evelyn Buck to open the park up for bids has come up empty.

At least for now.

Despite two calls for tenders, no group has stepped forward to propose a music festival in Town Park. The Park had been occupied by organizers of the Aurora Jazz Festival for the previous four years, but after Councillor Buck's motion was approved by Council, they decided not to place a bid under the new paramet-

ters, moving operations to Newmarket.

The motion called for a music festival to be proposed by an applicant with preference given to proposals not requiring fencing around the perimeter of Town Park, and evaluated on a number of criteria from experience in hosting similar festivals to the amount of local talent showcased during the event. The length of the festival was to be determined by the applicant.

No takers, however, stepped forward during the formal bidding process.

“Following Council's approval, staff prepared [an RFP] which was released on December 19, 2012 and closed at noon on January 8,

2013,” said Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation in a report to Council. “Upon closing, no proposals were received. Staff then re-issued this RFP on January 8, 2013 and closed at noon on January 14. Upon closing, no proposals were received.”

“Staff have attempted to provide sufficient opportunity for interested parties to submit and contacted known groups that expressed a desire to submit. Staff were also aware that in order for this event to occur, planning needed to commence as soon as possible. Unfortunately, no submissions were received; however, all attempts have been made and the RFP was

Continued on page 18

## MAYOR'S LEVEE CELEBRATING AURORA'S 150<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY



**Sunday, February 3, Aurora Town Park**  
(Wells Street and Mosley Street)  
**2 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

**ALL EVENTS ARE  
FREE!**

**Bonfire  
Skating  
Broomball  
Tug-of-war**

**POPCORN AND  
HOT CHOCOLATE  
PROVIDED**

**DJ entertainment  
Unveiling of the Aurora 150 flag  
Raising of the flag  
Time capsule  
Multi-faith candle-lighting ceremony  
Wagon rides**

For more information, please contact Special Events Co-ordinator Maria Schembri at [mschembri@aurora.ca](mailto:mschembri@aurora.ca) or visit [www.aurora.ca/150](http://www.aurora.ca/150)







# NEW AURORAN POLL

**Q: Whose side do you support in the battle between Ontario Teachers and the Province?**

- a) Teachers
- b) The Province
- c) Neither

Send your thoughts to [letters@auroran.com](mailto:letters@auroran.com)

RESULTS AS OF JANUARY 14, 2013	Teachers	Province	Neither
	<b>26%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>26%</b>

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



Newmarket-Aurora Special Olympics Athletes were celebrated Saturday night at Jonathan's Restaurant with a "tiki party" as a farewell before the team embarks for South Korea to represent Canada in the 2013 World Winter Games beginning January 29. Several players on Canada's gold medal winning floor hockey team live and work in Aurora.

Auroran photo by Diane Buchanan

## — Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt —

I am dedicating this column to a very special group of athletes from our community. Two alpine skiers and 15 members of the Newmarket and District Special Olympics floor hockey team will represent Canada at the World Winter Games in South Korea at the end of this month.

I had the pleasure of meeting many of them at a send off party this past Saturday at Jonathan's Restaurant in Aurora, and was impressed by their dedication to their sport and positive outlook. Their enthusiasm was infectious and it was obvious that they had been living the Special Olympics motto all their lives, "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt".

I want to introduce you to these athletes and ask you to keep them in mind as you hear and see the reports from the games that will be taking place from January 29 to February 5 in PyeongChang, South Korea.

### Members of the Newmarket and District Floor Hockey Team

When not competing in floor hockey, these athletes are also involved in other sports as referenced:

#### Dana-Michelle Damiani (Newmarket)

– competes in many other sports and volunteers in a hospital. Her heroes are her parents, who help her and love her.

#### Isaac Charles (Aurora)

– basketball, baseball and soccer and works part time at No Frills. His hero is Alexander Ovechkin.

#### Derek Perrott (Newmarket) –

baseball and soccer and works at Tim

Hortons. His hero is his mom because she helps him through everything and supports him.

#### Jessica Porter (Newmarket)

– swimming and softball. Her hero is NHL player Marc-Andre Fleury and her goal at the games is to have fun, work hard and win gold for Canada.

#### Gregory Theriault (Aurora)

– has been Male Athlete of the Year and also competes in soccer. His hero is head coach Samantha Damiani because she pushes him to play his best at all times. He works at Home Depot and volunteers as a soccer coach.

#### Ryan Damiani (Newmarket)

– softball, track and field, bowling and swimming. His hero is his friend and fellow floor hockey athlete Ben Harding, because he is able to stop many goals. He works as a print shop and mail clerk.

#### Benjamin Harding (Pefferlaw)

– soccer and softball. He admires Martin Brodeur because of how he handles the pressures of the game. He operates equipment at Harding Excavation.

#### Shane Robinson (Newmarket)

– is an all-round athlete. He competes in swimming, track and field, 5-pin bowling, snowshoeing and once won Athlete of the Year for softball. He works at No Frills in cart delivery.

#### Matthew Nighswander (Stouffville)

– is an all-round athlete. He competes in swimming, track and field, 5-pin bowling, snowshoeing and once won Athlete of the Year for softball. He works at No Frills in cart delivery.



## FRANKLY SPEAKING

Frank Klees  
MPP Newmarket-Aurora

– was recognized as male athlete of the year in 2006 and also competes in softball, swimming, golf, bocce and 5-pin bowling. He works at Chapter 21, a day program that teaches life skills. His heroes are Sidney Crosby and retired Blue Jay Paul Molitor.

#### Adam Brookes (Newmarket)

– softball, golf, basketball and swimming. He attends the ABLE Network and works for the Town of Newmarket as a facility worker. His hero is Brett Lawrie of the Blue Jays.

#### Bradley Ough (Schomberg)

– bowling and softball. His hero is his coach, Samantha Damiani. He is employed as a yard worker.

#### Jonathan Harding (Pefferlaw)

– was a gold medallist at the 2012 Special Olympics National Winter Games. He also competes in softball and enjoys playing golf. His hero is head coach Samantha Damiani. He works at Giant Tiger.

#### Brent Hoey (Newmarket)

– basketball, softball and golf. His hero is coach John Moore, because he's a cool guy. He works at Longo's.

#### Neil Paul Segouin (Keswick)

– basketball and soccer. His heroes are his parents because they tell him what is right and wrong and support

him. He works as a cook at Swiss Chalet.

#### Samantha Damiani (Newmarket) Head Coach

– is proud of her floor hockey team, known as the Newmarket Ringers. She hopes that as a coach, she can help instill confidence in these athletes, not only in their respective sports but also beyond the games and in their daily lives.

#### Kyle Damiani (Newmarket) and John Moore (Newmarket)

Associate Coaches, The Alpine Ski Team.

#### Zoe Barnes (Newmarket)

– has competed at both the provincial and national level where she has won gold, silver and bronze medals. Her hero is her mom, because no one cheers louder for her. She is an avid swimmer and is currently a high school student.

#### Joe Cowdrey (Newmarket)

– has won two golds and two silvers at provincials in 2010, and silver at the national winter competition in 2012. His hero is Ian Pavlik, because he keeps him motivated. He works as a line cook at local diners.

#### Special Olympics Ontario

#### ..... Worthy of our support

Special Olympics is a charitable, non-profit organization that provides sports training and competition opportunities for individuals with an intellectual disability. These are remarkable people doing tireless work. They deserve our encouragement and support.

*As always, I welcome your comments. [www.frankklees.com](http://www.frankklees.com).*

## The New Place

It was a beautiful spring day in 1804, and Richard Machell mopped his brow as he looked up from sweeping the porch in front of his new store.

From here he could see down the rough dirt tracks of both Yonge and Wellington. Although the land near the intersection was mostly cleared, the dense forests soon crowded the streets further along. But that was slowly changing as settlers moved up this way, and every month it seemed that there were more open areas where new farms were being established.

It was these new residents who had prompted Machell to open his dry goods store at this corner. While it was not much of a crossroads to speak of now, he could envision more growth in the area, and everyone needed the nails, cooking implements, feed and other merchandise he would be selling from his new shop.

In fact, after a lot of hard work, he'd only just opened for business that week. He was excited.

As he enjoyed his short break, he watched as a small cloud of dust resolved itself into a man on a horse,

moving up the hill towards him.

"Mornin'," said the rider, stopping in front of the merchant. "What do we have here?"

"Hello. Machell's the name, and this," he said proudly, indicating the structure behind him, "is my new store."

"New store, you say?" noted the horseman. "But I get everything I need from the place in Whitchurch. Not sure we need another store."

"Well, if you live nearby, this will be more convenient. Besides," the shop owner continued, pointing eastwards towards Red Willow Creek, and panning his arm in a wide circle, "there's rivers for mills, good land for farming, and lots of timber for building. Why, I can see this spot becoming the core of a small town before long."

"A town? That's mighty far-sighted of you," said the rider with a laugh,



## INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

looking around at the sleepy setting. "Perhaps they could call it Machell's Corners."

Before the merchant could reply to this jest, another man ambled over to join them.

"Hello, gentlemen," he said, tipping his hat. "Beautiful day." Then, looking up at the building in front of him, he asked Machell, "is this your place?"

"It certainly is," said the shop owner with pride. "My new store. Is there anything I can get you? I have a variety of items for sale."

"Why would I need anything here? I get all my goods from the shop in Whitchurch."

"That's what I told him," the horseman added.

Machell was taken aback. "But there must be something you need? A hoe? A pair of boots? Some hair tonic?" Making a sweeping

motion that took in the building behind him, he said, "Why don't you come on in? I have a whole shop full of merchandise."

"No, I'm good," said the one man.

"Me, too", agreed the rider.

"Are you sure?" asked the perplexed vendor.

"Yes, sir."

"Yup."

"Well," said Machell with a sigh, "if there's nothing I can do for you, I'll bid you both good-day, and get back to work." Surely, business was bound to pick up sooner or later, he hoped, as he headed inside.

As the two locals moved off together down Yonge Street, the horseman looked back and commented, "I wish him luck, but you know, what we need around here is a hotel or tavern."

"Yes," agreed the other man. "Maybe a bank, or post office."

"True. I guess that's the problem with this area," pointed out the rider. "There're too many retail stores."

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



# Senior recalls the Aurora movie theatre, Hurricane Hazel and Tannery Creek

You will recall that last fall, I asked if you had any memories of old Aurora that you would like to share through this column. Now that we're into Aurora's 150th anniversary, it's a great time for you to do so.

It's one small way we can help the town celebrate this special occasion.

Several of you did send me your stories, but I'd like to get more. You can send them to me at [sylvia@sylviadickens.com](mailto:sylvia@sylviadickens.com) or drop them at the Centre's reception desk.

In the meantime, here's one that I received back in August:

Having lived a lifetime in Aurora, Donna Keffer treasures a ton of memories. What surprised me with her contribution is to learn that Aurora actually had a movie theatre back then. It sat beside her father's appliance store. She and her sister, who was an usherette, often enjoyed the shows.

Afterwards, they'd head to Strawberry Hill on Wellington Street West where they would find a spot, away from prying ears, and sing the songs from the musicals they'd seen.

"I used to spend a lot of time at Tyler Park off Mill Street," she writes. "We

would play baseball. I used to be a playground assistant and helped Pat Davis with crafts and games for the kids. We used to compete with other parks in baseball games and go on bus trips to Musselman's Lake to go swimming.

"We used to play in Tannery Creek that ran alongside the park (even though we weren't allowed to). We also planned overnights at the park, but I mostly chickened out."

She especially remembers living on Tyler Hill during two major weather events. One was a terrible ice storm.

"The only way we could get out of the house was on the seat of our pants," she says. "I remember Hurricane Hazel. Because we lived on the hill, we could watch as Tannery Creek flooded out our neighbors that lived in the valley, but we were safe.

"My sister and I shared a double bed for years and that day, I got my own twin bed, but I was too scared that night, so I ended up sleeping with my sister."

They hung out at several town haunts, including the band shell at Wells Street Park and Cousins' Dairy Bar at Yonge Street

near Tyler Street. "They had a bowling alley upstairs where we would bowl," she writes. "It was great fun to have an ice cream soda and listen to the juke box or buy a cone."

Her first school was at Mosley and Yonge streets, above the fire hall.

"I went to Grade One there as they didn't have kindergarten. For Grade 2 to 4, I attended Church Street School. In Grades 5 to 8, I attended Wells Street School. Not once did my Dad drive me to school." The students went across the street to the Town Park for recess.

"In the fall, we girls would make leaf houses out of fallen maple leaves. We would push them with our hands and feet, and make bedrooms with leaf beds and kitchens with leaf appliances."

Her favorite places to browse were Stedman's Department Store on Yonge Street south of Caruso's Fruit Market, and Ardill's Clothing Store on the southeast corner of Yonge and Wellington.

Reflecting on her life, she offers this insight.

"If I could change the course of events from the past in one way, it would be to make a safer world – where children could go outside and play, instead of watch TV or play on the computer and not have to worry if they were safe or not."

**Evergreen Choir to perform**

Our ever-busy choir has yet another performance in the offing. On January 27 at 6.30 p.m., the choir will be participating in Arts Richmond Hill's Choral Extravaganza. It features a mass choir comprising eight choirs from York Region to include two male choirs, two children's choirs, two senior choirs, two church choirs and our senior choir.

Tickets are \$20 per person, available from any Evergreen Choir member or from our Reception desk.

**Walk for Wellness**

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## SENIOR SCAPE

Sylvia Dickens

Virtual Walk for Wellness to raise money for its organization which provides Meals on Wheels, respite care and training for caregivers, drives to help seniors get to their medical appointments, and much more.

Tim Jones will be walking the 40 km to help out and urges everyone to participate. The walk takes place from January 26 to February 1. Participants have seven days to walk the 40 km. You can get a free pedometer from CHATS to track your dis-

tance. The results of all walkers will be totaled to represent the walk from Aurora to New Orleans in time for the Super Bowl.

Get more information at [www.chats.on.ca](http://www.chats.on.ca) or pick up a registration form at our Reception desk.

# Letters to the editor

## Tennis Club has been "economical with the facts"

In his letter of December 18th, Mr. Brent MacKinnon of the Aurora Community Tennis Club (ACTC) was castigating Council (specifically the Mayor) for not proceeding with their proposal for a covered facility at Fleury Park.

Much of the discussion seemed to be around whether or not the ACTC had been advised by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority about the feasibility of the project.

Mr. MacKinnon stated

in that letter: "How could I inform staff if there was no document ever informing us that our project was not feasible". In his response of January 1, 2013, the Mayor clearly stated that Mr. MacKinnon had received communications from the LSRCA that the project was not feasible. In fact, not only had he received it, he acknowledged it.

(I would agree with the premise that as Mr. MacKinnon stated that the LSRCA Board could overturn a staff decision,

that he was fully aware that the project wasn't feasible.)

Now, in the January 8 edition, Mr. MacKinnon states that he has all sorts of correspondence from the LSRCA. Just give him a call and he will show it to you.

So, which is it Mr. MacKinnon? Do you or don't you have correspondence?

Given that you have been somewhat economical with the facts so far, perhaps we could have a showdown, say at centre

court. It would be Aurora's own "Thrilla in Manilla". You show us your documentation and the Mayor could show us his. Now that would be transparent.

And, my last suggestion: as you feel confident that this project would be approved by the LSRCA, why doesn't the ACTC fund the \$25,000 study? Do a deal with the Town - if it's approved, you get the money back.

**Philip Francis**  
Aurora

# Senior dismayed by vandalism at Hadley Grange

I am writing this letter to raise awareness of vandalism in our community.

On the morning of Sunday January 5, 2013 I left my apartment and went down to the building parking lot, to do some errands. When I looked in the car I was shocked to discover that the glove compartment was open and there was paper and debris strewn all over the inside of the car. The multifunction lever on the steering wheel controlling the windshield washers, had been broken off.

This cost me \$450.00 to repair, and since I have a \$500.00 deductible on my insurance policy, I have been forced to pay this sum out of my small fixed income.

When I reported it to

police I found that at least three other cars in our building had been hit, some of them with identical damage. One car apparently had an outside mirror torn off. Nothing appears to have been stolen.

It just looks like willful, thoughtless, damage, done by juveniles. Our building contains pensioners on fixed incomes, who do not deserve this kind of abuse, and can ill afford to pay for it.

I'm 75 years old and I have found this experience quite frightening as well as invasive, thoughtless, and sickening.

If you are a parent - do you know where your children are - particularly at night?

What are you doing to

ensure that your kids are engaged in positive productive activity - so that this kind of thing, with all of its ugly consequences for your children

and for the rest of us, does not happen?

**Philippa Hajdu**  
Aurora

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Mayor Geoffrey Dawe

Looking ahead at 2013

I hope that everyone had a relaxing break with friends and family over the holiday season. Taking time away from work provides an excellent opportunity to take perspective of things, collect your thoughts and plan for the challenges of the upcoming year.

On February 3, The Town of Aurora officially turns 150! This is a momentous milestone for our community and I look forward to the four events being meticulously planned by the members of our Sesquicentennial Ad Hoc Committee. These tireless volunteers have been meeting almost weekly since August to carefully budget and advance a grand set of celebrations fitting for “Canada’s Birthday Town.”

The first event to commemorate “Aurora 150” is a Mayor’s Levee. I hope that everyone will take the opportunity to come to Town Park on Sunday, February 3 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. for skating, broomball, horse-drawn wagon rides, musical entertainment and refreshments.

We will be unveiling the flag design selected from our Aurora 150 flag contest and have a multi-faith ceremony and candle-lighting to celebrate. It will be a great day of family fun!

While discussing the great work of the Aurora 150 committee members, I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to extend credit and thanks to Town staff for their efforts preparing the 2013 Capital Budget for Council’s consideration.

This annual exercise takes months of preparation and staff did an admirable job preparing and presenting a comprehensive set of priorities for our community this year. The Capital Budget was approved at General Committee last week and will be going to Council this week for final approval.

Each budget cycle offers many opportunities for public participation, where residents can have their say on the local municipal programs and services they receive. Most of our budget meetings are held in the evening to accommodate busy work and school priorities and we recently hosted a Saturday morning session for those who cannot make it during the week.

Budget meetings and deliberations are scheduled throughout January and February as we consider the 2013 Operational Budget. The meeting schedule is published weekly in our Notice Board on page 2 and our website. I encourage you to have your voice heard.

In October, we were facing a potential budget levy increase of 8.3 per cent. This number now stands at 5.17 per cent. While I am encouraged this has come down significantly over the course of our discussions, it remains too high.

Residents can be assured that our Council will work very diligently to bring this proposed increase into a more manageable range, keeping in mind that we are making significant investments in popular services and programs at the Town Library and enhanced community safety with Central York Fire Services.

I am very pleased that work is underway on redesigning the Town website. The web is an integral element in communicating to our residents. Adapting it to feature the latest in rapidly changing technologies will certainly improve our ability to keep residents informed.

A website re-design survey is available through the front page of [www.aurora.ca](http://www.aurora.ca) and I encourage residents to tell us what you want from this critical communications tool. The survey also provides an opportunity to indicate your interest in participating in focus groups for the site re-design, so please indicate if you wish to participate.

Many thanks to staff and members of the Cultural Centre Board of Directors for their work developing a stronger agreement on the provision of cultural services. Accountability in municipal affairs is paramount. I campaigned on openness and accountability in the election and I remain committed to these principles in all aspects of Town affairs.

Residents deserve to know where their tax dollars are spent. The new agreement with the Cultural Centre, which goes for final approval at Council this week, will provide the necessary oversight to show residents the value of the cultural services they are getting for their money.

My keynote address to the Aurora Chamber of Commerce will take place once again in February. Coming from the private sector, I always look with anticipation to addressing our business community on the Town’s priorities for supporting and bolstering our local economy. Plans for new development with our 2C lands and strengthening our downtown will be priorities throughout 2013 and I will discuss some of these initiatives in upcoming articles.

2013 tax hike starts week sitting at 3.93%

By Brock Weir

Aurora’s proposed 2013 tax hike started the week at 3.93 per cent before going into further negotiations Monday morning.

The reduction from the previously forecasted 5.1 per cent increase on the Town’s portion of the overall tax bill was made last week during evening talks on January 14. The 3.93 per cent hike translates to a 1.34 per cent impact on your overall tax bill, which is combined with increases from the Region of York and in school taxes. The combined overall tax hike is projected to be 2.19 per cent.

The knockdown of over a full percentage point stemmed from two suggestions from Councillor Michael Thompson on what to use the estimated \$400,000 surplus Aurora should have from 2012’s tax collection, but not before an impassioned plea by one resident coming to the podium urging Council to take a second look at how they’re spending taxpayers’ dollars.

Citing last year’s tax increase of 4.77 per cent Shelley Wister Smith said she believed there was “a lack of due diligence” on the part of Council to get things right. Taxpayers, she said, are paying close attention to what is going on around the Council table even if they don’t show up to the budget deliberation meetings in person. These people, she added, might simply not have the time to come out.

Some of the items in the proposed budget she objected to were 1 per cent cost of living salary increases for municipal staff in a world where many people are taking salary cuts, as well as the Aurora Cultural Centre, particularly their nominal \$1 lease of the Church Street School building.

“I really wonder whose interests you are all representing,” said Ms. Wister Smith. “I just want to know why we need to spend tax money on this when the people of Aurora within a very short commute can experience cultural activities. It seems to me there are a very small group of people who are very good at advocating, but are we so different here in Aurora that we need to distinguish ourselves from all of the larger communities around us who have more financial resources than we have?”

If the Centre is as popular as they say, it should not require as much financial assistance, she argued.

Following Ms. Wister Smith’s appearance at the podium, Councillors got into the meat of the debate. Before Parks and Recreation Director Al Downey had a moment to revisit his department’s

budget, Councillor Thompson’s first suggestion was to split the final phase-in costs of the new complement of Central York Fire Fighters from \$280,400 this year to two installments of \$140,200 over 2013 and 2014 to lessen the hit on taxpayers this year.

Phasing in the new crew was originally scheduled to be a three year process with less and less money being drawn from reserves to cover the cost. This year, Mr. Elliott’s plan was not to draw any money from reserves but add the remaining \$280,400 from the tax rate. Councillor Thompson’s suggestion to split this over two years and fund it out of the forecasted surplus from last year won the support of Council.

“This is one way to reduce the impact to the tax levy for residents for this year by spreading it over two years,” he said. “When you look at our budgeted outlooks from when we first took office, those numbers have changed because the expected revenues haven’t necessarily been coming in the same way. I think had we known what we know today, when the plan was first put forward in 2010 to mitigate it, we would have chosen a four year spread instead of a three-year spread to lessen the impact.”

This reduction is estimated to bring the proposed tax hike down to approximately 4.6 per cent. This number was further shaved with Council’s approval of a suggestion to take the \$235,000 to grow, remove and replace trees killed by the incoming invasive Emerald Ash Borer beetle out of the same projected surplus.

“I would rather see the contribution to the EAB reserve come out of those dollars than be an additional burden in 2013 as part of the levy,” said Councillor Thompson. “It doesn’t make sense for us to stick it into reserves and then ask for money this year from the taxpayers.”

Councillors ultimately approved this matter 5 – 4, but others expressed concern about using the \$400,000 surplus to cover the two items when the surplus numbers are not yet 100 per cent firmed up as well as not advancing it to protect the taxpayers of tomorrow.

“I would have to vote against this [because] the treasurer is cautioning us about our future surpluses and there will be a blip when the 2Cs come online but going forward we’re not going to be seeing this level of surpluses,” said Councillor Wendy Gaertner. “I want to protect the taxpayer, but I also want to protect

the viability of the corporation in the long term. I just don’t think this is wise.”

Councillor Paul Pirri also expressed concern with what will happen if the surplus turns out to be less than the expected \$400,000, but Mr. Elliott cautioned if that turned out to be the case, it would be distributed accordingly and the rest would come out of appropriate reserves.

“I would prefer to have something a little bit more concrete before we made these decisions,” said Councillor John Gallo.

Councillor Buck had a different reason for voting against this last item, looking for more information to come forward on the Town and Region’s Urban Forest Study and whether there could be a collaboration or a savings in examining the picture of the EAB with other municipalities.

Following an all-day budget session as The Auroran went to press Monday expected to focus on proposed staff changes and the amount of money going into the Town’s various reserve funds this year, budget deliberations are set to continue on Monday, January 28 with budget presentations from the Aurora Cultural Centre and the Aurora Historical Society.

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## “This can be a new day”: Cultural Centre board president

**From page 1**

“We feel that this can be a new day,” said Mr. Pulumbarit of the new agreement. “We are encouraged by the tremendous and obvious commitment of Town Staff and Council to get this just right. As I look around the room and at the table of people who have worked so hard knowing all the hours that you’ve put into this, and knowing all the hours we’ve put into it too, I hope our spirit of collaboration and genuine commitment is also obvious to you and we sincerely hope this is going to be a new beginning.”

In his remarks, Mr. Pulumbarit highlighted the recent exhibition by Aurora High School students who took on the initiative of curating their own art show after ongoing labour disputes between teachers and the province nixed any involvement from the school itself. The exhibition was held at the Centre and he said any investments made in the Centre represent an investment not just in young people but the community as a whole.

“We think having these offerings right in our back yard is critical,” he said. “It’s important for us to be able to, at a moment’s notice, enjoy our own Town on our own soil and everything that it has to offer in a way that is right at our fingertips.”

Although some Councillors expressed

misgivings with the new agreement, the majority of Council was largely pleased with what they saw, particularly the willingness of both parties to come together to hammer out a new agreement.

“When I first saw the agreement, I didn’t think it was in the best interests of the Town or the taxpayer because it didn’t have the financial accountability I was looking for,” said Councillor Michael Thompson. “It was a bumpy road, but it has been great to see the willingness of the current board and members of the ad hoc committee and members of Town Staff working together to address it.”

“In my discussions with members of the Board they still have that willingness to address [outstanding issues]. They have shown no inclination not to address any of our concerns and I think that willingness to continue to be a strong partner with the Town will continue long after today.”

Councillor Chris Ballard, a vocal supporter of the Cultural Centre and its board throughout this debate, said the new agreement represents “a new era” in the relationship between Council and the volunteers at the Centre.

“Neither side got everything it wanted, but that is called negotiation,” he said. “I am encouraged by the president’s comment that the

new agreement will not impede the Centre’s work in nurturing Aurora’s cultural and business community and I know there is more and more anecdotal evidence of money that is being brought into Aurora.

“With a signed agreement, I look forward to the Centre unleashing its fundraising and membership initiatives and I think we’re going to see some really exciting things. I think those things have been held back pending further agreements. Now they can be unleashed and we can begin to reap as a Town the benefit of fundraising and membership initiatives the Cultural Centre has wanted to get to.”

Speaking in favour of the new plan, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe addressed some concerns that the peppercorn rent the Centre is slated to continue to pay for use of the Centre — \$1 per year while the Town covers utilities and maintenance — was not a good deal for the Town, he said he believed when all is said and done, the proposed agreement was good for both parties.

“We spend annually millions of dollars on Culture, however you want to define what Culture is, whether it is facilities or activities,” he said. “The Library was here [to present their budget yesterday], trails, parks, Concerts in the Park, the Wildlife Park



The Aurora Cultural Centre was a feast for the eyes – and stomachs – Saturday as the Aurora Farmers’ Market , and vendors such as Joe from Toscana Bakery and Cafe, held their first indoor farmers market of the season. The next indoor market will take place, again at the Cultural Centre, on Saturday, February 23.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

we’re looking at in 2C, is all part of the Culture of this Town. Not everyone agrees with all the culture in Town, not everyone uses the Cultural Centre, but it doesn’t necessarily mean that they might not use it.

“I think we need to keep in mind everybody has a different idea of what culture is.”

## Misgivings over Cultural deal remain with some Councillors

By Brock Weir

While Councillors are slated to approve the new agreement between the Town and the Aurora Cultural Centre this week, some may be coming into this week’s meeting with some misgivings and unanswered questions over what is on the table.

Lingering issues from some Councillors remained over whether this is a good deal financially for the Town. Councillor Paul Pirri was one who questioned the agreement last week. A primary responsibility for a Councillor is making sure “bricks and mortar” are being taken care of. Although he said he liked the progress made on the agreement, he said he didn’t see “any investment in capital costs [of the Church Street landmark] down the road or in the future.]”

Possible solutions to this, he said, was increasing the lease rate, membership fees, or putting a levy on ticket sales.

“My feeling is if you’re going to be paying rent on a building, the funds

you’re paying would go towards capital costs,” said Councillor Pirri. “I like the agreement, I like where the board is going and I like their ideas, I just need to see something a little bit more so I can feel a little bit more comfortable with that aspect.”

“I believe that is our responsibility as a Councillor to ensure that our buildings are up to snuff, not just now, not just in five years, but down the road and any way we can help the board save money I think would be beneficial to everyone.”

The Councillor was one of two – along with Councillor John Abel – who initially got this ball rolling on a new agreement by tabling a motion to terminate what was then the existing contract late last winter. Councillor Abel said he too still had misgivings about the new draft agreement and suggested it be delayed a few more weeks for the Cultural Centre to make their budget presentation on January 28.

“There is absolutely no rush for us to go into an agreement today,” he said.

“If I was a cynic – and I can be at times – I could be somewhat burned by the proceedings before and not taking the board sincerely and saying they delayed purposely to get that first [budget] installment [paid January 1] but I am going to step back and do what I wanted to do all along and make an agreement that is in the best interests of the Town and that is to provide cultural services and to provide value to the dollar and I think this has taken the proper steps.”

Budget, however, shouldn’t be a factor in making the decision to go forward, argued Councillor John Gallo. It doesn’t help to hear what they have to say with a budget, he said, because he had a “good idea” of what they had done so far.

“Approving this isn’t conditional on what they have to say in their budget and I don’t think it should [be],” he said. “I think we need to get into the guts of this and if we are happy with it and move forward everything else should all out of that.”

For Councillor Evelyn  
Continued on page 15

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## Dust off your doubloons and buff your beads – Mardi Gras is back in town!

By Brock Weir

The annual Mardi Gras Carnival for Southlake celebrations – the annual fundraiser to raise money for Southlake Regional Health Centre – officially kicks off the week of February 2.

Celebrations get underway with a Creole poker tournament and a series of culinary events before the grand finale Bourbon Street Ball at The Mansion on February 9. The popular annual event has a new twist this year. In addition to the casino, and the Bite of the Big Easy, a series of events where local restaurants get into the spirit, there is also a shift in focus.

Fundraising efforts previously centred around the Southlake's Stronach Cancer Centre, but this year's focus is Southlake's new Pediatric Oncology Clinic. The Pediatric Oncology Clinic program is a partnership between the local hospital and Sick Kids in Toronto to provide care closer to home for kids with cancer.

"The Cancer Centre has been a focus in the past and continues to be so, and we're looking at the Pediatric Oncology Program and the great

work that has been going on there and we're right in the midst of a diagnostic imaging campaign, so we're very excited about it," Dr. Dave Williams, CEO of Southlake, told The Auroran at the official Mardi Gras launch on Friday afternoon.

"One of the things that is so amazing about Southlake as an institution is the community that surrounds it. There is this relationship between the community and the hospital. We're there to give innovative care to our patients and we're so grateful for the support we get from the community to be able to provide the level of service that we can."

Mardi Gras for Southlake has evolved and grown from a community initiative that sprang from a chance conversation between founders Carolyn Hamill and John O'Bireck 13 years ago. Putting their heads together to come up with ways of establishing ongoing fundraising activities for the Jaymor School of Dancing – where their respective daughters spent their time – they built on an idea that Mr. O'Bireck had fresh in his mind after a trip to New Orleans for the real festivities.

The philanthropic roots of Mardi Gras resonated with them and it has grown exponentially from its humble beginnings. Ms. Hamill said she is excited about the shift in focus this year.

"The kids can stay in their community, they don't have to go down to Sick Kids and it really struck me," she said. "Mardi Gras is a perfect fit because our roots have always been the children. We started off with the dance studio and most of the people involved in this group are moms and dads and most of us are fortunate enough that we don't have to go through this. Our kids are healthy and I can't imagine going through that."

"To know we're piecing our efforts and our energy and our years of experience and our networks to raise money to help kids and parents...is a good fit."

According to Corinna Jones of the Southlake Foundation, their Pediatric Oncology Clinic was one of the busiest centres within the POGO – Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario – network.

"I say that with pride, but I also say it with great sadness because there are



children out there who are dealing with that life threatening illness and the good part of it is we're allowing them to stay home, be able to get to school, their parents to be able to be close by...otherwise it separates everyone in the family, the other siblings, and it makes a big difference."

The founders have continued to build on the Mardi Gras program and are preparing to launch a title sponsorship program next year, added Ms. Hamill.

"We have built the machine now, we know how

to do this, we have got it all, and we want to take it to the next level for the Southlake community. People think it is Aurora-Newmarket but it really expands out to all the area.

"We have the carnival so we can start off with the program. We have restaurants involved and at the end of the day I would like our Bourbon Street Ball to be the celebration. We have done our job, we have raised the money to support the cause, and now we can celebrate. That is the plan."

Celebrations kick off Saturday, February 2 at The

Mansion (400 Industrial Parkway South) at 6 p.m. with the Creole Casino. Doors open at 6 p.m. with cocktails and Hurricane drinks served in Bourbon Street and food for local vendors. 7.30 brings a Texas Hold'em tournament with open euchre at 8 p.m. Last call is at 12.30 a.m.

*For more information on Mardi Gras, including registration for the Creole Casino, visit [www.mardi-grasforsouthlake.com](http://www.mardi-grasforsouthlake.com). Tickets for the casino can also be purchased from organizer Bruce Cuthbert directly at 647-880-0373.*

## Out with the old and in with the new at Library Square? That's up to you

By Brock Weir

The future of Library Square could be determined this Fall after public consultation this Spring on whether to demolish the buildings and what to replace them with.

For Councillors considering the matter last week, however, one option appears to be moving into the forefront – tearing down the old Aurora Library and Seniors' Centre and making way for something new. But as Councillors complained about the length of time it has taken to get to this point, it was a matter of whether it is best to come up with a plan first before bringing in the demolition team, or tearing them down now and coming up with a plan later.

Councillor Evelyn Buck was one Councillor who would like to see actions sooner rather than later and expressed frustration that Councillors are considering another report – which is scheduled for final approval this week – outlining a series of public consultations rather than taking firm action.

"This program of workshops to me is nothing more than a structured device to delay making a decision that should have been made," she said. "At what point does an elected body get

around to making the decisions that have to be made? How many obstacles can we put in the way of moving forward? I am not excited about this report. I am angry about it." According to Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation, the intent of the meeting is not only for the public to come forward and voice their opinions on what, if anything, should be built or created in place of the two buildings in question, but also get the public up to speed on how the Town has come to this point and ongoing issues pertaining to the site.

The future of the buildings has been in question since the construction of the new Library and Seniors' Centre in the last decade. Various proposals have come forward including a piazza, the creation of more parking space to accommodate the always trickling overflow from the adjacent Aurora Cultural Centre and Public Library, and razing both buildings to create something new, modern, and multipurpose out of Aurora's Hydro reserve account.

The buildings are currently being used by the Town and other groups who have permitted out or leased the space.

For the majority of Council, however, going forward with the public con-

sultation was essential to getting things just right.

"I too would like to see this move forward," said Mayor Geoffrey Dawe. "I appreciate getting public input and it is essential to where we want to go and I would like to see it move much more quickly."

Councillor Wendy Gaertner argued that revenue has been coming in from the users of the two buildings, so it is bringing income into the taxpayer, but agreed it has been taking a long time to bring this matter to a conclusion.

"I think because Councils have had so much trouble trying to figure out what to do with this, and this is the public land and the public's buildings, I think these workshops are a necessary step in the process."

For Councillor John Abel, moving forward with something new would get a "tremendous" support from the community and revitalize local businesses and complement local amenities such as the Cultural centre and Library. Councillor John Gallo, on the other hand, did not discount that, but said he wanted concrete plans.

"I am not necessarily in favour of knocking them down and then figuring out what we're going to do with them,"

**Continued on page 15**

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# Residents make their pitch on federal budget

By Brock Weir

Innovation, financial accountability and striking the right balance both fiscally and physically were the issues of the day when Aurora residents made their pitches to MP Lois Brown at her annual Federal budget consultation Wednesday.

Her meeting for Aurora and Newmarket residents packed the Red Gallery at the Aurora Cultural Centre bringing together such groups as the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and Sport Aurora. Individuals also made their case on how they thought the federal budget should be spent and tweaked over the upcoming year.

Speaking to the audience, Ms. Brown hailed her government’s achievements over the last number of years. A balanced budget, she said, was a top priority and while she said that was “doable”, she asked residents to look in key areas such as low cost-measures to “facilitate economic recovery and prosperity”, look for more efficient spending, and encourage private sector growth.

Innovation is essential in all of these areas, according to Paul Smith, president of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, who came to the podium to speak on behalf of both the Aurora and Newmarket chambers. He said he was “pleased” to hear of the Government’s commitment to finding a balanced budget, noting they have to set the right tone for “fiscal restraint” across the country and do more with less.

Restoring fiscal balance, he said, was essential going forward particularly when it comes between the federal and provincial levels of government. Mr. Smith said people put more back into federal coffers than they get back in services in Ontario, accounting for \$12.3 billion in resources that would otherwise be available in this province for economic growth and decreasing dept. Closing the gap would help support businesses, including those locally, be more competitive.

Competitiveness could also be tackled through addressing “inequity” in employment insurance.

“Employment insurance is just not working for Ontarians,” said Mr. Smith. “All Canadians should have equal access based on qualifying for the benefit, not on the basis of the employment rate in the area where we live,” he said. “Training and retraining, skills upgrading, are core for building a qualified and knowledgeable workforce and one that is competitive and prepared for future growth. Inequity impacts training as these funds are linked to employment insurance distribution.”

His suggestions included EI reform directly linked to funds for training to enable employees to upgrade skills through training programs. He also supported increased federal funding done on a per capita basis and more money for funding community strategic plans. An important area to make this a reality is making high speed broadband more readily available throughout the Region.

He was in accord with Ms. Brown on this front, agreeing that high speed broadband is essential for business growth, as well as in the health sector; enabling Southlake to become a teaching hospital.

Health was also in the cards in the presentation made by Ron Weese of Sport Aurora, an umbrella group for over 30 sport organizations in Aurora. Mr. Weese said it is essential for the government to invest in the future, but the problem is health concerns for children. These problems can be attributed to lifestyle – whether it is nutrition or inactivity – and it is a problem for all levels of government to consider.



Paul Smith, president of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, was just one of many residents and business owners from Aurora and Newmarket who came out to discuss the next Federal budget with Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown. Issues on the table included innovation, prosperity, investments, employment insurance, health care and education.



Although he conceded education is ultimately a provincial responsibility, something had to give.

“I believe it is time for the Federal government to work in cooperation with Ministries of Health to try and get into the schools, provide funding or grants so that our children can have the physical activity they need and they can get the advice for their parents that they need,” he said.

But it is more than just education – infrastructure dollars can go a long way as well and are the “best investment” anyone can make. While federal initiatives focused on getting Canadians onto the podium, there should be a shift to the grassroots, he said.

“Investing in those communities and those recreation facilities has been proven to be a very good investment,” he said. “This is not just a socio-economic investment, but imperative for the future.”

One of the more challenging delegations for Ms. Brown came once again from Aurora resident Bruce Annan, who has never been one to shy away from his critiques of this government’s direction. While he gave kudos to the government in several areas, including EI and CPP reforms, he also slammed them for their lack of transparency with omnibus bills.

The main purpose of his delegation was to speak about the government’s support for the auto industry.


“If giving money to companies created employment, everybody would have several jobs by now,” he said. “It is time to stop favouring the auto industry which represents only 1.5 per cent in the Canadian GDP. Out of 5,000 Canadian companies going bankrupt in 2009, you chose to bail out two of them – GM and Chrysler – for the second time.

“Why should Honda in Alliston pay taxes on its profits to subsidize a failing competitor in Windsor? Why should any profitable Newmarket or Aurora business pay corporate taxes so that you can bail out an unprofitable one? It is punishing success and rewarding failure. It didn’t make sense as an investment, otherwise they would have gone to the

bank instead of the government.”

“It’s fiscal child abuse to borrow money that will have to be paid by our children and their children. It is supremely selfish of us baby boomers to think we can smooth out the bumps in today’s economy at the expense of future generations. They will not judge us kindly.”





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## Voters could decide whether to reduce Councillors from 8 to 6

**From page 1**  
from the current complement of eight to six beginning with the 2018 term of office. The second question, if successful, could see the implementation of a ward system in time for the same term to commence.”

Should the vote go Councillor Pirri’s way, possible draft questions could be presented to Council as early as April.

Aurora Council last tackled the issue of whether it should adopt a ward system – such as the one implemented in Newmarket and Richmond Hill – in 2010 in a motion spearheaded by former councillor Stephen Granger. While some argued a ward system – in which one Councillor would be sent to the Council table by geographically designated voters to represent their interests – would result in a more efficient Council, others argued that implementing such a system would create further divisions within the community. Another argument presented against a ward system was the size of the community. Detractors of the plan argued

Aurora simply was not large enough neither in terms of area nor population to justify a ward system.

“If we really want to get it on the ballot to give people the decision of how they are represented, I think it is smart to start early,” Councillor Pirri told The Auroran. “The intent is to get it on the ballot and let the people decide how they are represented.

“I am not 100 per cent swayed either way. Part of the process is to have a couple of public meetings and I think there is going to come a time when a ward system does need implementation. I don’t know if that is 2018 or sometime in the 2030s, but I felt we should put the discussion on the table as build out in all likelihood will be nearing completion by 2018.”

With his double-barreled motion, Councillor Pirri says that by 2018 he hopes to see a very different make up of Council. If the resolution succeeds and the two questions are put on the 2014 ballot and ultimately given the thumbs-up by Aurora voters, the number of Councillors will

be reduced by two. Of these six, he hopes one will by then be Aurora’s Regional Councillor – after those plans were scuttled last year at the Regional level – with the balance of five Councillors fulfilling the same mandate as today’s councillors.

Looking back over some of the concerns expressed the last time Aurora explored a ward option, Councillor Pirri said he didn’t believe implementing a system would create divisions within the community, nor that Councillors in a ward system need to necessarily live in the ward they represent.

“I have heard people say ‘I don’t know who I am electing,’ Councillor Pirri says. “I wish I had one person or three or four people I could look into and place my vote for one person.’ I have heard people say they are just picking names to round out eight.

*What do you think? Would implementing a ward system be a good thing for Aurora and voters? Why or why not? Have your say at letters@auroran.com.*

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### HOUSE LEAGUE

**101 Timbits - Calgary Red:** 13 - Amanda Brown 1G, Tyler Brown 1A, Nicholas Ferrante 1G, Lucas Reid 3G, Andrew Mettel 4G, Yiannis Skanderis 3G, Joseph Richard 1G. **106 Timbits - San Jose Teal:** 10 - Adam Schellenberg 1G, Bryce Lamontagne 3G, Luc Warner 3G, Luca Graneri 1G, Nate Brentnell 2G.

**103 Timbits - Toronto White:** 8 - Nathan Windle 4G, Gavin Veloso 2G 1A, Riley Saltzman 1G, Alex Weir 1G. **109 Timbits - Philly Orange:** 5 - Owen Jacobs 3G, Ethan Lane 2G, Jack Charbonneau 1A, Andrew Aikens 1A.

**108 Timbits - Atlanta Sky:** 1 - Norbert Kristoff 1G, Brennan Mangat 1A. **104 Timbits - St. Louis Blue:** 0

**204 Caravan Kids - St. Louis Blue:** 6 - Nolan Parkinson 2G, Jakob Isreal 1A, Michael Munro 1G, Jeffery Belvedere 1A, Jake Couden 1G, Julian Tsukada 1G, Jakob Isreal 1G. **205 Caravan Kids - Pittsburgh Black:** 9 - Mason Scanga 2G, Zack Green 2G 1A, Harrison Ballard 1G, Anthony Carbone 3G 1A, Charlie Akkermans 1G.

**401 McDonald's - New Jersey Red:** 4 - David Moschella 2G, Harrison Gruenig 1G 1A, Andrew Pearce 1G, Gregory Welsch 1A, Shayne Smith 1A. **410 McDonald's - Philly Orange:** 3 - Matthew Cowl 2G, James Boland-Wall 1G, Ethan Mohamed 1A.

**405 McDonald's - Chicago Black:** 7 - Jackson Galbraith 4G, Aaron Murphy-Sealy 1G, Sandrine Meunier-Geoffroy 1G, Cristian Troubitsin 1G 1A, Nicholas Betioviou 1A, Dylan Thompson 1A, Tyler Moore 2A, Zachary Phillips 1A, Sam Morin 1A. **406 McDonald's - LA Purple:** 6 - Omar Ozturk 3G, Matteo Rossi 1G 2A, Andrew Flores 1G, Daniel Romas 1G, Stefano Basso 1A.

**409 McDonald's - San Jose Teal:** 5 - Justin Just 3G, Jesse Strom 2G, Josh Turriff 1A. **402 McDonald's - Vintage Vancouver Gold:** 1 - Liam Morassutti 1G.

**403 McDonald's - Ottawa White:** 7 - Ian Hilgendorff 3G, Max Railton 2G, Matthew Muxlow 2G 1A, David Ho 1A, Evan Lajoie 1A, Cole Spragg 1A, Warren Van Eeden 1A. **408 McDonald's - Carolina Grey:** 1 - Alexander Ko 1G, Ryan Cariou 1A.

**609 Aurora Lodge #148 IOOF:** 3 - Dane Kerkkamp 2G, Stephen Silverio 1G, Rony Wahab 1A, Tommy Collins 1A, Christopher Walsh 1A. **604 Orr & Associates Insurance:** 5 - Colby Harrison 2G, Cody Fisher 1G 1A, Stetson Colicchio 2G, Daniel Babcock 3A, Matthew Gram 1A.

**609 Aurora Lodge #148 IOOF:** 5 - Jacob Yap 1G, Kyle Macfarland 1G, Rony Wahab 1G, Christopher Walsh 1G 2A, Stephen Silverio 1G 1A, Ian Lafrancois 1A. **602 Aurora Chrysler:** 1 - Nathan Smith 1G.

**601 Aurora Home Hardware Bldg Ctr:** 3 **606 Benson Kearley IFG:** 3

**608 Mastermind Toys:** 2 - Dalton Slind 1G, Jack Hosmer 1A, Raffaele Parente 1G. **610 Rotary Club of Aurora:** 2 - Andrew Hoogers 2G, Ryan Funston-Clark 1A.

**608 Mastermind Toys:** 4 - Christian Ferguson 1A, Jack Chivers 1G, Jack Hosmer 1A, Raffaele Parente 2G, Anthony Miranda 1G, Ben Pitre 1A, Brayden Pitre 1A. **609 Aurora Lodge #148 IOOF:** 1 - Ethan Moulds 1G, Kyle Macfarland 1A.

**607 Crabby Joes:** 1 - Cameron Lang 1G, Connor Elbaum 1A. **601 Aurora Home Hardware Bldg Ctr:** 3 - Chris Sands 2G, Kyle Kasak 1G.

**809 Manhattan Trophies Ltd.:** 1 - Alex Sesto 1G, Thomas Young SO. **810 Neuman's Puck Bandits:** 0

**801 Diamond Groundskeeping Services:** 2 - Adam Wilson 1G, Jacob Cann 1A, Ethan Brooks 1G. **810 Neuman's Puck Bandits:** 3 - Kyle Wulle 1G 2A, Marcus Hamann 1G, Noah Murphy-Sealy 1G 1A.

**806 Backyard Pool & Spa Co. Ltd.:** 5 - Lucas Bulmer

1G, Reese Crevelle 1G, Connor Reilly 1G, Elias Pasani 1G, Ryan Cooper 1G 2A, Jordan Elliott 1A, Remington Colicchio 1A, Lucas Ackerman 1A, Gorgio Venosa 1A, Anthony Loduca 1A, Brendan Ross 1A, Adam Vanderkolff 1A, Shamus Quinn 1A, Alex Bicego SO **808 Twirl 'n' Top Yogurt Cafe':** 0

**902 Tile Master:** 8 - Graham Robinson 3G 1A, Alex Harrison 1G 1A, Alistar Johnston 2G, Tait Snedden 2G, Jason Glionna 2A, Erick Bortolotti 1A, Scott Barker 1A, Declan Johnston 2A, Keith Jarvis 1A, Etham Mills 3A. **903 BMO Bank of Montreal:** 1 - Austin Persaud 1G.

**913:** 7 - Alec Ground 2G 1A, David Gonder 2G 1A, Adam de Roos 3G 1A, Cody Child 1A, Chris End 1A, Neil Duggan 1A, Kevin Siery 2A. **907 Crabby Joe's:** 5 - Tyler George 1G, Brian Langdon 2G, Ryan Batten 1G, Tyler George 1G, Alex McDonald 1A, Zak Keller 1A.

**908 Laurion Law Office:** 3 - Liam Coll 2G, Nathan Nealon 1A. **904 A.D.C. Aluminum:** 5 - Evan Jackson 3G, Michael Tanel 1G, Austin Waite 1G, Josh DiVincenzo 1A.

**909 Inaria:** 5 - Erik Balkovec 4G, Cameron Staples 1G, Nicholas Steiner 1A, Tyler Hindley 1A, Sam Mason SO. **911 Coldwell Banker Case:** 0

**906 AHPA:** 1 - Adam Ashraf 1G, Jerryd Jensen 1A. **912 Jonathan's:** 5 - Michael Walsh 1G, Robert Ruscica 1A, Ben Black 1A, Kyle Strachan 3G, Chris Crisolago 1G 2A.

**911 Coldwell Banker Case:** 2 - Graham Killby 1G, Russell Johnson 1G, Kevin Spiering 1A. **912 Jonathan's:** 2 - Nick Delzotto 1G, Michael Walsh 1G, Kyle Strachan 1A, Ben Black 1A, Josh Lye 1A.

**1006 AHPA:** 2 - Max Lerner 1G, Ryan Antoniel 1A, Justin Killens 1G, Blake Klasios 1A, Dustin Partenan 1A. **1002 Caruso & Company:** 2 - Jim Tatum 1G, Alex Deblasis 1G, Zach Ferry 2A, Paul Ashbourne 1A.

**1004 North York Heating & Plumbing:** 10 - Liam Beresford 1G, David Roberts 2G, Trevor George 1G, Bailey Miller 1G, Cody Mulhern 2G, Brendan Beresford 2G, Jordan Nanos 1G. **1005 Continental Ingredients:** 1 - Andrew Staples 1G.

**1002 Caruso & Company:** 7 - Jim Tatum 2G, Kelly Hudson 1G, Marco Heghin 3G, Alex Woodward 1G. **1005 Continental Ingredients:** 2 - Liam Devlin 1G, Chris Blumreisinger 1G.

**1001 ATS Healthcare:** 1 **1007 Inaria:** 0

**1006 AHPA:** 8 - Max Lerner 3G, Nick Theodoropolous 2G, Ryan Antoniel 1G, Jesse Bentolilla 1G, Justin Killens 1G. **1004 North York Heating & Plumbing:** 3 - Daniel Antoniel 1G, Scott Wheeler 1G, Brendan Beresford 1G.

**1007 Inaria:** 9 **1006 AHPA:** 2

**1001 ATS Healthcare:** 3 **1004 North York Heating & Plumbing:** 6

**1005 Continental Ingredients:** 7 **1008:** 2

### REP LEAGUE

**Tyke Select A, Aurora** 4 - Bradley Gardiner 1G 1A, Matthew Lyons 2G, Charlie Cobbold 1A, Joshua Blades 1A, Jack Hunter 1A, Lucas Wilhelm 1G. **Barrie BMW** 4

**Novice AA, Aurora** 1 - Daniel Iwai 1G, Ayden Posa 1A. **Barrie** 1

**Novice AA, Aurora** 1 - Daniel Iwai 1G. **Markham** 1

**Novice AA, Aurora** 3 - William Haines 1G, Daniel Iwai 1G, Aaron Rose 1G, Adam Rame 1A. **TNT** 2

**Novice AE, Aurora** 5 - Dave Durbano 2G, Nathan Mochizuki 1G 1A, Josh McLeod 1G, Ryan Blakley 1G, Ethan Powell 1A, Alex Nechadim 1A, Ben Hilgendorff 1A. **Beeton** 2

**Minor Atom AA, Aurora** 4 - Nicholas Pisapia 2G,

Ryan Catania 1G 1A, Todd Cook 2A, Owen Papulkas 1G. **Barrie** 1

**Minor Atom AA, Aurora** 3 - Todd Cook 1G, Anton Sopov 1G 1A, Owen Papulkas 1A, Gage Gonsalves 1A, Michael Crowe 1G, Charlie Huxley 1A, Nick Giorgio 1A. **Markham** 3

**Minor Atom A, Aurora** 5 - Jake McMillan 1G, Gavin Loria 1G, Liam Taylor 1A, Max Reeves 1G, Ayden Whilby 1G 1A, Ethan Solilo 1A, Noah Ruscica 1A, Jack Sutherland 2A, Ryan Weeks 1G, Aidan Kirchmair 1A, Jack MacFarland SO. **Richmond Hill** 0

**Minor Atom AE, TNT** 3 **Aurora** 0

**Minor Atom AE, Richmond Hill** 2 **Aurora** 0

**Minor Atom AE, Aurora** 5 - Aidan Quinn 1G, Chris Childerhose 1G 2A, Riley Pearl 2G, Max McConkey 1G 1A, Luca DeCristofaro 1A, Ben Charette SO. **Markham** 0

**Atom AA, Aurora** 6 - Zachary Kolm 1G, Carson Maybury 1G, Ethan Cameron 1G 1A, Josh Lombard 2A, Ben Barber 1G, Carter Beswick 1G 1A, Jake Piper 2A, Brett Pearce 1G 1A, Jake Adams 1A. **Stouffville** 1

**Atom AA, Barrie** 2 **Aurora** 1 - Jake Piper 1G.

**Atom A, Newmarket** 4 **Aurora** 3

**Atom A, Aurora** 2 **Orillia** 0

**Atom A, Aurora** 3 **East Gwillimbury** 0

**Atom A, Aurora** 1 **Orillia** 1

**Atom AE, Aurora** 3 - Curtis Manley 1G, Carson Tidd 1G 1A, Geoffrey Wilson 1G 2A, James Sproul 1A. **Cambridge** 3

**Atom AE, Aurora** 7 - Geoffrey Wilson 2G 1A, Carson Tidd 1G 1A, Zachary Grant 2G, James Sproul 1G 1A, Mitchell Weatherall 1G, Jake Iwai 1A, Cole Nip 1A, Quinn Spicer 1A, Curtis Manley 1A. **Burlington** 1

**Atom AE, Aurora** 5 - Andrew Scott 1G, Carson Tidd 2G, Curtis Manley 2A, Geoffrey Wilson 2G 2A. **West London** 1

**Atom AE, Aurora** 3 - Geoffrey Wilson 3G, Quinn Spicer 1A, Carson Tidd 2A, James Sproul 1A. **Stoney Creek** 2

**Atom AE, Richmond Hill Stars** 3 **Aurora** 2 - Curtis Manley 1G, Sam MacLeod 1G, Carson Klein 1A, Quinn Spicer 1A, Joshua Torres 1A, Zachary Grant 1A.

**Atom AE, Aurora** 3 - Geoffrey Wilson 2G 1A, Zachary Grant 1G, James Sproul 1A, Nicholas Alvarez SO. **Orillia** 0

**Atom AE, Aurora** 2 - James Sproul 2G, Sean Haw 1A, Carson Tidd 1A, Geoffrey Wilson 1A. **Stouffville** 1

**Minor Pee wee A, Aurora** 3 - Anthony DiPietro 2G, Andrew Park 1A, Spencer Morrison 2A, Adam Wloka 1A, Sam Ashton 1G, Blair Crabbe 1A, Craig Therkildsen 1A, Will Sherman SO. **Newmarket** 0

**Minor Pee wee A, Burlington** 6 **Aurora** 2 - Luke Jarvis 1G 1A, Craig Therkildsen 1A, Adam Wloka 1A, Colby Prymnych 1G, Ben Liotta 1A.

**Minor Pee wee A, Whitby** 6 **Aurora** 1 - Connor Thomas 1G.

**Minor Pee wee AE, Georgina** 2 **Aurora** 0

**Minor Pee wee AE, TNT** 3 **Aurora** 1 - Anthony Iacovetta 1G.

**Pee wee AA, East Gwillimbury** 9 **Aurora** 1 - Cameron Tyndall 1G, Adam DePiero 1A.

**Pee wee A, Aurora** 3 - Jamie Stewart 1G, Brandon Vaughan 1A, Michael Thibeault 1A, Ben Spittle 1G, Andrew Jorgensen 1A, Ty Boisseau 1G, Jamie Stewart

1A. **Orillia** 2

**Pee wee A, Aurora** 4 - Julien Aben 1G, Peter Chimienti 1A, Carson Yeomans 1G, Ben Spittle 1G 1A, Brandon Vaughan 1G, Michael Thibeault 1A, Kyle Morning 1A, Andrew Jorgensen 1A, Anthony Capraro 1A. **Richmond Hill** 1

**Pee wee A, Aurora** 2 - Julien Aben 1G, Peter Chimienti 1A, Brandon Vaughan 1G, Jamie Stewart 1A. **Nobleking** 1

**Pee wee AE, Stouffville** 2 **Aurora** 1 - Francesco Scuglia 1G, Mathew Hastings 1A.

**Pee wee AE, Aurora** 6 - Carter Wilmsmeyer 2G 1A, Colin Windle 2G, Francesco Scuglia 2G, Callum Gorrell 3A, Mathew Hastings 3A, Justin Evans 1A, Fraser Ciocca 1A, Trevor Smith SO. **Schomberg** 0

**Minor Bantam AA, Newmarket** 3 **Aurora** 3

**Minor Bantam AA, TNT** 2 **Aurora** 2

**Minor Bantam AA, Georgina** 4 **Aurora** 3

**Minor Bantam A, TNT** 6 **Aurora** 3

**Minor Bantam A, Orillia** 6 **Aurora** 2

**Minor Bantam A, Bradford** 3 **Aurora** 0

**Minor Bantam A, Richmond Hill** 3 **Aurora** 1

**Minor Bantam A, Aurora** 3 **Markham** 1

**Minor Bantam AE , Aurora** 4 - Jack Camplin 3G, Alexander Simardone 1G, Sam Speranini 1A, Curtis Romanchych 1A. **Georgina** 2

**Bantam AA, Aurora** 1 - Zack Phillips 1G, Connor Irving 1A, Tristan Kuchar 1A. **Oshawa** 1

**Bantam AA, Aurora** 3 - Jack Pecora 1G 1A, Tristan Kuchar 1G, Ryan Coveart 1G, Connor Irving 1A, Matthew Tanel SO. **Kitchener** 0

**Bantam AA, Aurora** 3 - Connor Irving 1G 1A, Cameron Zinner 1G 1A, Bryan Manweiler 1A, Tristan Kuchar 2A, Zack Phillips 1G 1A. **Dundas** 3

**Bantam AA - Aurora** 4 - Ryan D'Antimo 1G, Zack Phillips 1G, Bryan Manweiler 1G, Tristan Kuchar 1G, Cameron Zinner 3A. **Oshawa** 2

**Bantam AA, Aurora** 3 - Cameron Zinner 1G, Evan Cherubini 1G, Connor Irving 1A, Zack Phillips 1G 1A, Tristan Kuchar 1A. **Kitchener** 2

**Bantam AA, Aurora** 1 - Zack Phillips 1G, Connor Irving 1A, Cameron Zinner 1A, Matthew Tanel SO. **Barrie** 0

**Bantam AE, Barrie** 6 **Aurora** 1 - Nicolas Pearce 1G, Harrison Lambrinos 1A.

**Bantam RS, Barrie** 4 **Aurora** 3 - Matthew Liscio 1G, Alistair Johnston 1A, Zachary Fletcher 1G, Troy Lane 1A, Connor Tripp 1G, Matthew Rotman 1A.

**Bantam RS, Uxbridge** 2 **Aurora** 1 - Matthew Liscio 1G, Adam Wilson 1A.

**Bantam RS, Aurora** 3 - Connor Tripp 2G, Noah May-erlen 2A, Troy Lane 1G, Jordi Severini 1A, Cristian Loria 1A. **Barrie** 3

**Minor Midget AA, Stouffville** 2 **Aurora** 0

**Minor Midget AA, TNT** 3 **Aurora** 1 - Daniel Middleton 1G.

**Minor Midget AE, Aurora** 4 **Pickering** 2

**Midget AA, Aurora** 3 **Markham** 0

**Midget AA, Barrie** 2 **Aurora** 1

**Midget AA, Aurora** 3 **Richmond Hill** 1

**Midget AA, Aurora** 4 **Markham** 1



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Week of January 22, 2013

## AYSC looks to for teens to help Aurora butt out

By Laura Finney

It is National Non-Smoking Week, and the Aurora Youth Soccer Club (AYSC) needs some help running a smoking awareness project.

They are looking for three to four volunteers to coordinate a contest that examines the effects of smoking and sports.

"We're just looking for some enthusiastic, motivated, high school-age students that are willing to help put this contest together with us," said Taylor Jones, a volunteer with AYSC.

This project will be partially funded by a grant from the Ontario Government.

The AYSC is supportive of smoke-free sports and decided to use the grant to create a contest.

"We already have an anti-smoking policy on our website but we wanted to sort of enhance it, promote it, and do a better job of it," said Louise Dyer, Promotions and Sponsorship Coordinator at AYSC. The contest will invite local youth to use multimedia to address the hazards of smoking in sports.

And while the AYSC supports the contest, they are not the ones who will be responsible for it. That is up to the young volunteers.

"Those two or three kids would take the project and decide on communication, marketing, promotion, organizing, judging panels, and timelines," said Dyer.

Jones said there are many benefits to volunteering for this project.

"We understand that high school students may not necessarily have work experience, so we're hoping that this could be a stepping stone into their work experience so they do have something to put on their resume."

Students could also gain some volunteer hours.

"We think it's a great opportunity for, say, a Grade 11 who's looking for some work experience, or some volunteer experience or just something in a field of interest for them, said Matthew Watt, an employee with AYSC. Some fields of interest he mentioned include health, sports management or marketing.

Jones and Watt, who are in their early twenties, will be helping the volunteers to put everything together.

They said this project is also a great opportunity for anyone looking for extra curricular activities.

When the details are sorted, the contest will be open to any high school students in the area.

You don't even have to be a soccer player to enter.

"Although we'll use our membership base for communication, it's open to anybody. So if they are not a soccer player, if they aren't a member of AYSC, they are absolutely still welcome to participate," said Dyer.

Watt is looking forward to this contest because he said it is a chance for the youth to get the message to other youth.

"The contest is interesting to me because there's a lot of anti-smoking messages out there, especially for this age group, and all those 'no smoking' messages are generally one way. It's usually the institutions or the adults telling young people that this is bad. I'm not against that, or questioning that, but I think the contest will be interesting because it sort of opens a dialogue."

Dyer said the contest offers great opportunities, but it's important to remember the issue as well.

"The ideal thing is not only to give them experience, but we want the message of anti-smoking to get out there as well."



**This is National Non-Smoking Week – and Weedless Wednesday too – and the Aurora Youth Soccer club is gearing up to get high school students to help get others to butt out.**

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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## Aurora Tigers tied with Hurricanes for first place in their division

By Laura Finney

The Aurora Tigers have tied the first place team, the Newmarket Hurricanes, for points in their division.

"I can't say I'm surprised," said Tigers' Head Coach James Richmond. "We're right where we thought we'd be." He wants to see the Tigers at the top.

"We're hoping to end up first in the North Conference."

The team has been working hard to get there.

They just finished a busy few days playing three away games, winning two.

Robert Angiolella kept the scoreboard lit all weekend. He shot five goals and one assist, and got a star in each game.

"He's playing great, he's playing wonderfully, and he's been our best player this month," said Richmond, adding since Christmas, "He's been on fire."

Thursday night saw the Tigers defeat the Stouffville Spirit 4-2, but it was a very close game

until the final period.

"We deserved to win in Stouffville," said Richmond, "We didn't play a great game, but we got our points so that was good."

Angiolella scored in the first few seconds of play, giving the Tigers and early lead that wasn't answered until almost seven minutes later.

Second period saw a power play goal from Angiolella which was quickly followed by another Stouffville point.

The Tigers couldn't get ahead until the third period when Blake Forslund and Matt Andreacchi scored a goal each, finishing the game.

Despite Aurora's four point lead over the Pickering Panthers on Friday night, Richmond said it wasn't their best game.

"We missed a lot of chances," he said, adding the Tigers were good enough to win.

"The boys have played well."

Aurora kept the Pickering goalie busy with a barrage of pucks

as the Tigers outshot the Panthers 48 to 20. Angiolella, Taylor McCloy, Justin Nice and Dylan Sikura all got goals this game.

The final score was 5-1 Aurora.

Unfortunately the winning streak ended on Sunday night against the Wellington Dukes.

Before the game Richmond said the Dukes were "tough to beat" – and he was right.

The first period did not see much action. In the second Wellington shot two points in the first five minutes.

Kory Kennedy did manage to get a goal despite the team being short handed. Angiolella netted another one a few minutes later.

In the third, Wellington's Craig Campbell broke the tie and finished the game in the final few minutes of play.

The final score was 2-3 Wellington.

The Tigers take on the Stouffville Spirit this Friday at the ACC. Game play begins at 7.30 p.m.



## Open Wide.

*It could be a pair of track shoes, a theatrical costume, or maybe even a robotics set. If your child has a passion for something, we will harness it and take it to a whole new level. We will essentially attach a big set of sub-woofers to it and allow it to be amplified to the world. If they have yet to find it, we will dig down deep and explore all the possibilities, and not stop until we unearth that one thing that opens their mind and their eyes as big as humanly possible. It's an incredible place to discover big, dreamy answers to the question,*

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ON NOW

JANUARY 3 – 24

The Aurora Public Library will host Winter Watercolours Thursdays through January 24 from 6.30 – 8 p.m. Embrace the beauty of watercolour painting with artist and teacher Alana Biasi. Both the beginner and the advanced painter will marvel at the delightful possibilities of watercolour painting. Ages: Grades 5- 100. Cost: \$36. Materials not included. For more information, contact the Library at 905-727-9494.

JANUARY 10 – FEBRUARY 14

Eating Disorders of York Region (EDOYR) will host Healthy Coping Skills for Anxiety and Depression with Flora Svinarenko for six weeks from 5 – 6 p.m. beginning Thursday, January 10 at their Aurora headquarters. (15213 Yonge Street, Suite 15) Very often depression and anxiety 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.

JANUARY 10 – 31

EDOYR launches The Hope and Inspiration Peer Support Group at their Aurora Headquarters at 15213 Yonge Street beginning January 10 from 6 – 8 p.m. for four Thursdays. Group participants will feel empowered as they ask questions, discover answers, and gain insights together into eating disorders to help and support each other on their journey to recovery. Group participants can become role models for each other, as they witness one another overcome obstacles and make progress in their lives. Registration is \$40. For more information, call 905-886-6632 or email info@edoyr.com.

JANUARY 16 – FEBRUARY 10

Southlake Regional Health 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 February 10. For more information, visit www.artcures.ca. The session is open to the public and will feature presentations on the issues that impact wait times in Southlake’s Emergency and Diagnostic Imaging Departments and what steps Southlake has taken to address these wait times. The seminar will be held from 6.30 – 7.30 in the Lecture Hall of the Medical Arts Building (581 Davis Drive, Newmarket).

JANUARY 18 – FEBRUARY 8

EDOYR hosts a free art program with Amanda Di Santo and Rebecca Vos-Van Soelen beginning Friday, January 18 for four Fridays from 6 – 7.30 p.m. at their Aurora headquarters. (15213 Yonge Street, Suite 15). The art program is designed to promote a healthy and effective way of expressing ones’ self without necessarily having to be verbal. A calm and creative approach, this program will offer support to one another through sharing art experiences, for those that choose to do so. Multi-media, no previous art experience required. All supplies will be provided. To register call 905-886-6632 or email info@edoyr.com.

JANUARY 22 – FEBRUARY 2

The Society of York Region Artists (SOYRA) host their annual SOYRA Showcase 2013 group exhibition and sale at the Aurora Cultural Centre. An opening reception featuring the artists

will be held Saturday, January 26 from 1 – 4 p.m.

JANUARY 23 – FEBRUARY 27

The BREAD (Brotherhood Reflection Education Acceptance Direction) Group will meet for six Wednesdays from 8 – 9 p.m. at 15213 Yonge Street, Suite 15 Aurora (Historic Post Office). This support group is intended for men who are currently considering making changes, changing or maintaining changes which they have made in regards to their eating behaviours. The journey to recovery may be challenging, isolating, revelatory or just plain frustrating and group support and professional facilitation may be necessary to overcome or prevent relapses. We will be seeking insights into disordered eating and exploring coping strategies with the goal of learning from each other, effective coping strategies and life skills. Working together to grow and become ourselves. \$60 (for 6 weeks). To register please call 905-886-6632, email info@edoyr.com, or register online at www.edoyr.com/support-groups.html

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce hosts Speed Networking with members of the Newmarket and East Gwillimbury Chambers this afternoon at St. Andrew’s Valley Golf Club (4 Pinnacle Trail) from 5.30 – 7.30 p.m. Cost is \$10 for Chamber members. For more information, call 905-727-7262.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents “A Sheard, Wendellful Delight”, featuring John Sheard (pianist of CBC radio’s Vinyl Cafe fame) and guitar wizard Wendell Ferguson in concert. From rock to mock, jazz to jokes, melody to parody, this duo (with guest bassist Dennis Pendrith) cooks up an unforgettable evening of music and humour. Concert 8 p.m.; tickets, \$25 plus HST. For info, or to purchase tickets call 905-713-1818, or check www.auro-raculturalcentre.ca

\*\*\*\*\*

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce will host Coffee with the President this morning from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Drop in to the Chamber office (14483 Yonge Street) to have 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. For more information, call 905-727-7262.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

The White Heather Pipes and Drums presents their annual Robbie Burns Night on Saturday, January 26, at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 385, 105 Industrial Parkway N., Aurora. Enjoy a wonderful evening of music and dance along with a dinner of roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, tatties and neeps, and, of course, haggis. Entertainment by the White Heather Pipes and Drums, and Celtic Rock group Hadrian’s Wall. Cocktails at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 pm. Tickets are \$40 per person and are available from band members or at the Legion.

\*\*\*\*\*

Winter classes continue at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street. Programs for adults (ages 16+) include painting, drawing, wood carving, creative writing, as well as guitar, ukulele and photography. New this season – Harmonise group singing class! Children’s Saturday art programs begin today. For all program information, check www.auroracultural-centre.ca or call 905-713-1818. Register over the phone with a credit card, or in person at the Centre.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Society of York Region Artists (SOYRA) host their annual SOYRA Showcase 2013 group exhibition and sale at the Aurora Cultural Centre. An opening reception featuring the

artists will be held today from 1 – 4 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum and Community Centre will host History Hands-On (H2O): Winter today from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Practice knitting and corking in the Brown House parlour learn how candles were made in the log cabin. Do you know what a megaethoscope is? Come find out! Help cook treats on the wood stove in the Brown House kitchen. Experience what life was like when this area was first settled! For more information, contact the museum at 905-727-8954.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents the first concert 2013 Great Artist Piano Series. Chu-Fang Huang, piano, Winner of the Avery Fisher Career Grant, presents a program to include works by Haydn, Chopin and Wanghua Chu. A wonderful opportunity to experience world-class classical music in the intimate salon setting of Brevik Hall. Individual tickets \$30 Adult; \$25 Seniors (60+) and Students (up to 18 years), plus HST. Series continues March 8, April 12 and May 31; special 4-concert subscription series pricing available. For tickets and info, drop by the Centre, call 905-713-1818, or check www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum hosts a P.A. Day Children’s Workshop today from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Drop your kids off at the museum for the P.A. Day! Your kids will spend the day learning how things were done in Whitchurch-Stouffville over 100 years ago. They will try out an old-fashioned soup recipe, bake in the Victorian kitchen, spend time in the pioneer classroom and much more. Perfect for children aged 8 – 12. Pre-registration is required and participants must bring their own nut-free lunch. Cost: \$40, \$32 for museum members.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

The Aurora Cultural Centre once again hosts a schoolHOUSE concert tonight at 8 p.m., this time featuring Duffy & Ebata. This incredible duo made a splash in a brief appearance at the Centre last summer during Doors Open Aurora. What a thrill to present them for a complete evening of their piano and vocal duos. The show will follow their recent CD “A Different Take” - jazz-inspired renditions of familiar tunes. From Leonard Cohen (Ain’t No Cure for Love), John Phillips’ classic California Dreamin’ , Feelin’ Groovy from Paul Simon, to John Denver’s beautiful Sunshine on My Shoulders...even Paint It Black from the Rolling Stones. Tickets are \$15.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Celtic Knot & Interlacing Patterns: the first in a series of hands-on workshops at Table For 2 & More (15160 Yonge Street) led by Celtic Artist David Rankine. The series, Portals of Grace, takes a look at Celtic Art techniques and explores how the energies of Nature inspire ancient and contemporary Celtic artists. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Tickets (\$35/session): 905-713-3788. Visit www.davidrankineart.com.

\*\*\*\*\*

Psychologist Dr. Tiffany Rush-Wilson, co-chair of the Academy of Eating Disorders will present a free training session for frontline workers and the general public this evening in the Magna Room at the Aurora Public Library from 7 – 9 p.m. Presented by Eating Disorders of York Region, a question and answer session will follow with panel members from EDOYR and individuals who have recovered from an eating disorder. This training is suitable for teachers, social workers, physicians, nurses, and other professionals. It is also suitable for individuals strugg-

ling with an eating disorder, their family and friends.

FEBRUARY 4 – APRIL 8

The Ontario Clay and Glass Association brings its FUSION: Fireworks 2011 exhibition to the Aurora Cultural Centre FUSION’S mission to promote excellence in clay and glass is fulfilled through the Fireworks exhibitions. Since 1975, the notable or award winning have been purchased by FUSION for the FUSION Permanent Collection, housed at and on permanent loan to the Burlington Art Centre.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 7

Jennifer Ettinger presents the fourth annual Women, Wine & Chocolate event tonight from 7 – 9.30 p.m. at Madsen’s Greenhouse (160 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket). Women, Wine & Chocolate invites you to guiltlessly indulge in healthy chocolates, tantalizing wines, nutritious appetizers, exciting auction items, music by Milena Viglietta and being waited on by Central York Firefighters. Tickets: \$40. All proceeds benefit the Women’s Centre of York Region. For more information and tickets, contact Shelley Chidlow at 905-853-9270.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Spirals & Animal Forms: one of a series of hands-on workshops at Table For 2 & More (15160 Yonge Street) led by Celtic Artist David Rankine. The series, Portals of Grace, takes a look at Celtic Art techniques and explores how the energies of Nature inspire ancient and contemporary Celtic artists. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Tickets (\$35/session): 905-713-3788. Visit www.davidrankineart.com

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

The Aurora Public Library presents Money Talk\$ — Using Charts for Selecting Investments. This is a free monthly discussion group to exchange ideas and unbiased financial planning information. Presentation will be followed by a question and answer session. No financial products or services will be offered or sold. Meetings are the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the library Adult Information Desk: 905-727-9494, ext. 275.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18

The Caledon Agricultural Society presents its second annual SnowFest today in honour of Family Day. Dedicated to healthy winter fun, exercise and competition for the entire family, SnowFest activities include: snowshoeing and dog sledding demos, horse drawn sleigh rides, ice sculptures and the children’s snow castle competition, plus a special “chilly” cook-off involving service clubs

and community organizations. Admission is free to the public with gates open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Caledon Fairgrounds are located on Hwy #10 (Hurontario), just south of Charlestown Sideroad (Hwy #24) in Caledon Village. For more information visit: www.caledonfairgrounds.ca.

FEBRUARY 18 – 24

It’s Heritage Weel and the Aurora Historical Society will open Hillary house for special hours during the week. In addition to being able to explore the building, guests will view something unusual: exhibit creation in full swing. Some of the processes involved include creating mounts for artefacts, creating labels and text panels, hanging artefacts, installing the displays themselves and moving the artefacts into their new display cases. Hours Monday – Wednesday will be 1 – 4 p.m., Thursday from 1 – 7 p.m., and Friday – Sunday from 1 – 4 p.m. For more information, contact the AHS at 905-727-8991 or visit aurorahistoricalsociety.ca.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Early Medieval Celtic Calligraphy: one of a series of hands-on workshops at Table For 2 & More (15160 Yonge Street) led by Celtic Artist David Rankine. The series, Portals of Grace, takes a look at Celtic Art techniques and explores how the energies of Nature inspire ancient and contemporary Celtic artists. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Tickets (\$35/session): 905-713-3788. Visit www.davidrankineart.com

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Garden Aurora! The Aurora Garden and Horticultural

Society invites you to hear David Tomlinson, Landscape Architect Emeritus and respected ornithologist speak on the ‘Making of Merlin’s Hollow’, a 30 year landmark Aurora garden. The meeting is held at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North and starts at 8:00 p.m. We look forward to welcoming both old and new members for a great evening. Further information at 905-713-6660 or visit www.gardenaurora.com.

MONDAY, MARCH 4

Illuminated Letters: the last in a series of hands-on workshops at Table For 2 & More (15160 Yonge Street) led by Celtic Artist David Rankine. The series, Portals of Grace, takes a look at Celtic Art techniques and explores how the energies of Nature inspire ancient and contemporary Celtic artists. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Tickets (\$35/session): 905-713-3788. Visit www.davidrankineart.com.

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.

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

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highlighting “the best of Aurora”?  
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# Sadiq “proud and honoured” for Diamond Jubilee Medal

By Brock Weir

Aurora’s Azra Sadiq was “proud and honoured” to receive the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal last month, in recognition of the work of her late husband, Qamar.

Qamar, best known in Aurora – and indeed in the much wider community – as “Kam” – died last year at Southlake Regional Health Centre after a brief illness. Azra was nominated for the federal honour, instituted by Canada to celebrate not only the Jubilee but those who have given back to their community, by Etobicoke North MPP Shafiq Qadri. It was bestowed on December 16.

The Sadiq family are well known in this area, and throughout Southern Ontario, for their work towards multiculturalism and on behalf of the Pakistani Canadian community. He was founder of the Multicultural Society of Pakistani Canadians, which



QAMAR “KAM” SADIQ  
Supplied photo

held many fundraisers over the years to support international disaster relief and individuals and families coming to Canada for surgery. The group also provided employment strategies, educational initiatives, and held seminars on wide-reaching issues from drug

abuse to tax clinics. As a former accountant at the Canada Revenue Agency, this was a particular area of expertise for Kam.

Notably, they also raised over \$50,000 for Southlake.

On his death last year, he was hailed by MP Lois Brown and MPP Frank Klees as a “generous, open-hearted community leader”, a “bridge builder”, and a “true humanitarian”.

“As an immigrant from Pakistan, he was a proud Canadian and made it very clear at every opportunity that he valued all Canada offered to him and his family and his community, and wanted to do what he could to strengthen the values as he described many times made Canada, and made the province such a welcoming place,” said Mr. Klees last year.

“I think what really impressed me about Kam is that many people say those things but he demonstrated in very practical ways that he really believed it.”

## Some want Cultural Centre to be self-sufficient

From page 8

Buck, a councillor who has long been a detractor of the current arrangement, the draft agreement did not show a degree of – or a goal to move towards – self-sustainability.

“I am not a philistine, I am not opposed to culture, I consider that the ultimate if you have a lifestyle where you can provide that kind of pleasure on your doorstep then you’re really having a high lifestyle, but I don’t consider that to be the responsibility of the taxpayers to provide it to

you,” she said. “Nothing could be further from my mind of what is an acceptable burden to the homeowners and the business people in the Town of Aurora. It was never the intention that the facility would become a burden on the taxpayers. We would provide the seed money at the beginning and ultimately it would be self-sufficient.

“I have heard nothing to indicate to me there is going to be any improvement.”

Indeed, Cultural Board president Frank

Pulumberit said self sustainability is not something embodied in their strategic plan, but outlined aggressive fundraising targets. Councillor Michael Thompson said, however, self sustainability is a lofty goal.

“I have worked for museums, I have had affiliations with cultural centres and art galleries and I have never seen one that is self-sustaining,” he said. “They all get some degree of taxpayer funding through the municipal level, the provincial level or the federal level.”

## Recommendations on buildings’ future could come in September

From page 9

he said. “Perhaps knocking them down is the best thing to do, but until we have a plan I don’t understand that philosophy of knocking them down and us figuring out what to do with it.”

During the debate, Mr. Downey said he was having difficulty understanding what Council would like to see out of this whole process. He was happy, he said, to move things up quickly as possible, but that would come with a price.

“One of the things you wanted with the youth centre was some information with regards to operational costs, capital costs with regards to proposed uses and those types of things,” he said. “Those are difficult to do in the absence of any direction.

“The time I am suggesting will provide what I believe will be a more fulsome review of the work. If you wish to accelerate that there are perils attached.”

Bringing it forward to April, as some suggested, is not on the plate, however, as

Councillors head into this week’s meeting. If recommendations from last week are acted upon on Tuesday,

consultations will be scheduled through June with a report coming back this fall.



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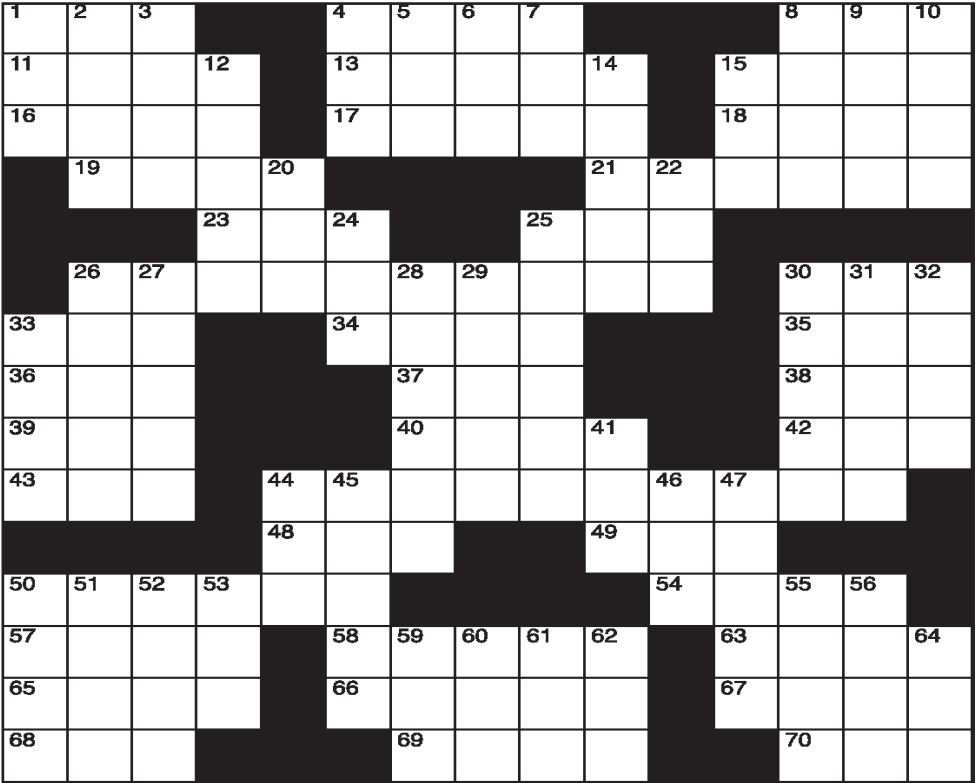


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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### CLUES ACROSS

- Point that is one point E of due S
- Slithered
- Brain and spinal cord (abbr.)
- Direct the steering of a ship
- Chops with irregular blows
- Plural of hilum
- Incline from vertical (geo.)
- Simple word forms
- Paddles
- Roman garment
- Meat skewers
- Ethiopia (abbr.)
- The cry made by sheep
- Beatty-Benning movie
- Concealed
- Political action committee
- High rock piles (Old English)
- Scottish county (abbr.)
- Goat and camel hair fabric

- A very large body of water
- Fabric stain
- Israeli city \_\_\_\_ Aviv
- Shoe’s underside
- Military legal corps
- Patti Hearst’s captors
- Undecided
- ‘\_\_ death do us part
- Supervises flying
- Many headed monsters
- Literary language of Pakistan
- Halo
- Hawaiian hello
- Lubricants
- Mild exclamation
- Greek fresh-water nymph
- Nickname for grandmother
- A restaurant bill
- Automaker Ransom E.
- A young man

### CLUES DOWN

- Singular cardinals hypothesis (abbr.)
- Small water craft
- Opposite of ecto
- The woman
- Skeletal muscle
- Devoid of warmth and cordiality
- Decameter
- Italian goodbye
- Mediation council
- Impudence
- A desert in S Israel
- Japanese seaport
- Nob or goblin
- Ingested
- Swiss river
- Protects head from weather
- Lava rock
- Designer identifier
- 34470 FL
- Petrified ancient animal
- Gas used in refrigeration

- Journeys to Mecca
- 8th month, Jewish calendar
- Small indefinite quantity
- Taps
- Extremely high frequency
- Iguanidae genus
- From the Leaning Tower’s city
- Cologne
- Moses’ elder brother (Bible)
- A minute amount (Scott)
- Hindu name for 4 epochs
- Faded and dull
- Radioactivity unit
- The face of a clock
- The inner forearm bone
- Tai language of the Mekong region
- Embrocate
- Possessed
- Public promotions
- Sorrowful

## Last Week’s Puzzle Solution

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

D	D	S				O	P	S			P	O	B
K	E	A	S			P	A	C	S		U	M	A
R	E	S	T	S		A	L	A	E		F	R	E
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	S	A	L	A	D	S			T	H	O	L	E
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POLITICS  
AS  
USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

Training our  
Lawmakers

The Globe and Mail ran an interesting letter to the editor from former MP and former leader of the Reform Party and Federal Opposition Leader, Preston Manning.

Leaving aside anyone’s political party predilections, in my opinion, Mr. Manning is a very bright, knowledgeable and honourable man who has put forward a number of thought provoking statements, policies, and platforms over the course of his career in public life. So when I saw his name in the Globe this past Friday, I read his letter with interest.

To be brief, Mr. Manning’s letter referenced the recent case of a lawyer in the federal government who has taken his own department to court over alleged “failings.” The lawyer’s (Edgar Schmidt) suit speaks to his concerns that the department of Justice is “cutting corners” and as a result there is, as the National Post reports “...a possibility that the federal government is enacting legislation that infringes Canadian’s Charter rights.”

The suit itself warrants a whole column (or two) but we’ll leave that aside for the time being. It is Mr. Manning’s insight into the matter that I think is important.

He feels that the crux of the matter goes beyond the suit itself and speaks to the effectiveness and propriety – or lack thereof – of the proposed legislation of various Members of Parliament. Specifically he states, “...Members [are] unclear as to which subjects are clearly within the constitutional jurisdiction of the federal government and which are not.”

In other words, we have legislators putting forward feel good legislation that is not within their purview – they have great ideas, that they want to codify into a law, but in actuality have absolutely no authority to do so. And the staff charged with telling them as much, (allegedly, if the suit is to be believed), are not able to do so. That’s a fairly startling situation.

Mr. Manning’s final point – and a bit of a zinger at that – is that there is a need for “...more rigorous training of lawmakers in lawmaking”.

Those who sit in parliament, in other words, need to understand what their job is, and what it isn’t. The Ford conflict of interest fiasco is a perfect example of the ramifications of a lack of training for elected officials re their roles and responsibilities and the limits thereto.

With respect to Mr. Manning’s point, I think this is even more apparent at the local level. While the stakes may be higher at the federal level, and obviously enacting legislation that fails on a charter challenge is a serious problem; however, the implications of local governmental decisions on the day-to-day lives of residents, I think, is much more pronounced.

At the municipal level, we see this occur at the Council table, many times, in a variety of forms some more obvious than others. Constituents raise concerns with members of Council – or more typically the Mayor) – and expect action regardless of whether that concern is really within the domain of local government.

Council members are then in the difficult position of trying to deal with the concern, many times not realizing that the best person(s) to address the constituent’s concern may not in fact be them.

But how do they make that distinction? Who provides that advice? And when?

We have staff reports advising Council on matters germane to the governance of the municipality. However, staff members do not generally come forward with reports of their own volition. They are usually directed to do so.

Thus, unless council directs them to comment on an issue, Council can choose to address the matter – whether it’s really part of their job or not – through self-directed motion, which can be approved regardless of the relevancy or applicability or even legality for lack of a better word of said motions.

(Caveat here – Legal staff can intercede in council deliberations when matters are ultra vires. But that advice, as we have seen, can be ignored.)

Council is charged with directing policy which staff operationalizes. Defining that policy is where things can break down. And that’s where training and education come in. Council members should be aware, and kept up to date on what it is they are supposed to be doing on our behalf – and in particular, what services the municipality is required to provide and what it is not.

As we go forward with the budget deliberations and Council considers what to cut and what to keep, Council’s core responsibilities to the residents they serve should be top of mind.

That’s all for this week. Until next week, stay informed, stay involved, because this is, after all, Our Town.

Pedestrian signals set for John West Way

By Brock Weir

John West Way might have a completely free flow of traffic from its foot at Wellington Street East to the roundabout in its north end, but that could soon change with the installation of pedestrian crossings.

As The Auroran reported earlier this month, residents in the area, which includes multiple townhouse developments, one condo (with one further currently under construction), a seniors’ residence and a well used soccer

pitch, have been pushing for something to make crossing the busy thoroughfare easier for quite some time. Aurora Town Staff, however, said their request for a crossing simply didn’t meet prescribed warrants, but Councillors overturned this decision at the committee level last week.

Set to formally put their stamp of approval on the alternative to install pedestrian signals at the intersection of John West Way and Hollandview Trail/Civic Square Gate.

“I fully support this,”

said Mayor Geoffrey Dawe. “John West Way is one very long piece of road with no traffic control and anybody who has tried to exit our parking lot knows what a challenge it is, let alone trying to cross the street. I grant that it doesn’t meet our warrants, but at this point there is one new condo going up there, there is a new Townhouse subdivision going up there and...I think it is a justifiable thing to do.”

Councillor John Gallo, a resident of the neighbourhood in question, said

he was hoping for a plan that was less expensive and more innovative (the project comes with an \$89,000 price tag) but said while the neighbourhood didn’t reach the warrants in question the current construction and future developments in the area would make this a very different street. Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora’s Director of Infrastructure, whose department oversaw the traffic study to make the original recommendation, conceded that once these

Continued on page 20

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Passed away peacefully surrounded by her family January 13, 2013 in her 97th year. Pre-deceased by husband James and brothers Charles, Albert and William. Beloved mother of Carolyn (Stewart) and James (Lori) Loving Nana of Melissa, James, Christie, Lauren. Survived by her sisters May, June and brothers Arthur and Edgar. Lovingly remembered by her nieces, nephews and extended family and friends. Special thanks to the caring staff and special friends at Aurora Resthaven. Visitation was January 17 7 to 9 p.m. Funeral was Friday January 18 at 1:30 p.m. Marshall Funeral Home, 10366 Yonge St, Richmond Hill.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Arthritis Society of Canada. On line condolences can be made at [www.marshallfuneralhome.com](http://www.marshallfuneralhome.com)

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## ASK TOM

Tom Mrakas

### Elegance doesn't have to break the bank

This week I thought I would explain a way that you can add elegance to your home without breaking the bank!

This can be achieved quite simply with the installation of wainscoting. There are many different types and ways to achieve this look, but the most inexpensive and easiest way for a DIY'r to do this is to just use a chair rail for the upper part, a moulding of preference for the boxes and you can either leave or change the baseboard you already have. It can be that simple!

The hardest part of

doing wainscoting is really the math involved in calculating the space both between the boxes and the actual size of the boxes. If you paid attention in math class, however, this part will be a breeze! Once you figure your dimensions it is a great idea to draw it all out in pencil first – on the wall – so you will be able to visualize where all the pieces will be going.

Once you're ready to cut and install all the pieces, start with your chair rail.

Proceed around the whole room installing all the chair rails. Then,

start with the boxes, one at a time, being careful to follow the pencil markings on the wall.

Now you are probably thinking, "how will they all land on studs to be able to nail them to the wall?" Well, this is where we use a good adhesive like No More Nails by Lepage.

Run a strip of this on the back side of your moulding then shoot a couple of nails through the moulding to hold it in place while the adhesive dries. Then your mouldings are in place and are secure.

Now comes my

favourite part: PAINTING!

You have three options here, you can go with a traditional white for the wainscoting, or you could paint the whole thing the same color as the wall, or you could do a contrast technique in which the wall portions of the box are all the same color and just the mouldings are a different color.

When it comes down to it though, there is no one right way, it is just personal taste! (Just remember to do all your prep before painting if you want that profession-

al finish! You know the drill by now - sanding, filling in all the nail holes and caulking.)

There you have it! A room with wainscoting. A very graceful and beautiful touch to a home. Admire it, and show it off!

Until next week, remember a good job, is a job well done! And if you have any questions you can reach me at [www.facebook.com/anastasisdesign](http://www.facebook.com/anastasisdesign) or on Twitter, @ADesign\_build and email of course [Anastasis@anastasisdesign.ca](mailto:Anastasis@anastasisdesign.ca).

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## Filmmaking duo refuses to follow the rules

By Brock Weir

20 films over the next 12 months would be an ambitious goal for anyone, but student filmmakers Steff (Sonetta) Duncan and Akreta Saim are not two women to follow the rules.

Ms. Duncan, an Aurora resident, and Ms. Saim, who came to Ontario to study from India, are both students in York University's Bachelor of Fine Arts Film Production program. The local duo recently won first place in last year's 48 Hour Film Festival with their short "Nightmare of Terrors." Building upon their success, the two women formed their own production company, Saim & Duncan Productions, last fall to guide their vision.

"Right now we're looking to be broader and dip our fingers into all areas of film and experiment around and see what our niche is, what we enjoy doing, what it is we're good at, and what it is we want to continue doing," says Ms. Duncan.

Experimentation has always been near the top of that list. If making Nightmare of Terrors in 48 short hours was not experimental enough, they took things a few steps further; lighting the entire production by candlelight, for instance. While experimenting, they also hope to continue to do while also trying to strike a balance between their own voice, vision and what more mainstream studios and audiences are looking for.

"We don't just want to follow the rules, we want to put our own experimental edge to the films and that's where we're heading," says Ms. Saim.

"We want to expand how the world sees film," says Ms. Duncan.

For wanting to expand how the world sees film, the two women bring a very diverse worldview to the table. Ms. Duncan for instance is a first generation Canadian with her parents coming to Canada from Scotland. Ms. Saim's family is still in India and she came to Canada to pursue her artistic dream.

A culture shock may have been unavoidable for Ms. Saim, who worked extensively in films in her mother tongue, Hindi, back home and her experiences there have given her a unique perspective.

"In India, girls pursuing film and anyone in film is not really appreciated and they just want lawyers, doctors, and engineers, so taking the step in doing films was a very big thing," she says. "My mom always gave me

this education for film where, 'if you study math, I will take you to see a film.' That was the education I received from my mom because she was always very inclined towards expressing yourself through art and she always saw me as being the creator of art, whereas my dad wanted me to have a particular job.

"I have come a long way, I had to prove myself over and over to my family, I am representing my country, and I am really here to prove myself."

With Ms. Saim often sitting in the director's chair with this directing and writing duo, Ms. Duncan's passion for the written word comes through. This is a passion she says she has always had, even from her days in elementary school writing journals with her mom.

"When I went off to post-secondary my whole family wondered why I wasn't in writing and throughout high school and all the courses I took were art related," says Ms. Duncan, a graduate of Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School. That was the first place film was introduced to me and I had a great teacher in Mr. McClure. I was going through a really hard time with depression and he helped me through a lot. He really changed my life and I realised film was probably what I should be doing.

With their 20 film goal by the end of 2013, Ms. Duncan and Ms. Saim have a number of things on the backburner, including a film following Olympic athletes as they travel from school to school to share their stories with students, a mystery homage in the tradition of Sherlock Holmes, as well as a documentary on a group of international dancers putting their backgrounds aside to come together with passion for the same art form.

"The journey is more important than the destination," says Ms. Duncan, of their most immediate project, a stop-motion short called "Smoking Kills" which should be ready in the next few weeks. "You don't want to rush art. If you rush it, you're not going to be happy with it. Sometimes it is best to let the process take itself.

"It's like we're all coming together to create something wonderful, something that really speaks to everyone."

For more information on Saim & Duncan Productions, visit [saimandduncan.wix.com/productions](http://saimandduncan.wix.com/productions).



Filmmakers and York University students Akreta Saim and Steff (Sonetta) Duncan have teamed up to form a production company for movies rich with experimentation and strong in voice.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir


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## Company looks to Machell Park for alternative festival

From page 3 extended in order to maximize opportunities."

Passage of the motion itself was, in part, spurred by a delegation from Bruce Cuthbert of the Aurora Rotary Club. In his appearance at Council, Mr. Cuthbert told Councillors Rotarians were interested in placing a bid for the park.

"The club has long talked about hosting a music festival in Aurora and I am here tonight on their behalf to express an interest in exploring the possibility of hosting such a music festival in August 2013," said Mr. Cuthbert at the time, noting he was authorised by the club to express an interest in hosting a festival featuring local talent and working with other "like-minded groups."

Speaking to The Auroran last week, however, Mr. Cuthbert said that last factor was the intent of his delegation and not to run the event themselves

but partner with other groups and they would handle, for instance, refreshment sales.

"Rotary came forward hoping to work with like-minded groups to run the bar so we could return any profits to the community," he said. "Was I surprised no one else came forward? I was somewhat surprised, but it was never our intent to fund such an event."

As The Auroran reported last week, there was interest late in the game expressed by Lucid Productions. Lucid Productions is a group of media personalities from broadcast journalism to reality programming, looking to use their talents to create and expand local festivals using their tools for "community development."

The group is expected to come forward to make a proposal on a music festival and other related initiatives at Council this week through a delegation by

Canadian Idol judge Farley Flex, broadcaster Christine Bentley, and executive producer George Roche.

According to Mr. Roche, his group is eyeing an arts festival featuring local talent with an eye of moving operations to Machell Park.

"The old models are not working and the old event planning models are not working and we see that the time has come for a new way to help guide Aurora on the road to being a proactive leader in developing best social practices for community improvements and community events that we feel will bring that vision about," said Mr. Roche.

"There is an imbalance between the level of participation by the Town and the manner in which that participation is perceived by the community. It's the plan right from the get go, so if we keep implementing the same planning methodology you're going to keep getting the same results."

## Aurora Historical Society

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 20**

Public is Welcome



**TIME:** 7:00 till 9:00 pm  
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**MEETING:**

- Greetings from AHS Founding President Dr. Leslie Oliver
- Year in Review / AHS Business / AHS Annual Report
- Looking ahead to 2013 – AHS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Nominations of Directors

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## Winning flag design chosen for Aurora 150 celebrations on February 3

By Brock Weir

Aurora has its official Sesquicentennial Flag.

Members of the team in charge of planning Aurora's 150th birthday, which officially kicks off next month, meet again this Wednesday to go over plans for the upcoming Mayor's Levee on February 3. When they convened this month the general structure of the program was shaping up, but many things have been confirmed in the meantime, including the winner of the official Aurora 150 Flag, chosen from over 50 student finalists from Aurora.

"The most important thing is we have a flag selected," said committee chair Alison Collins-Mrakas. "It was a very hard decision and it took three rounds. We're looking forward to raising the flag in Town Park and we think it is going to be quite special."

Mayor Dawe will name the winner at the Levee and the flag will be hoisted at Town Park for all to see. The Committee is exploring other initiatives to ensure that all 50 finalists' designs are commemorated as well.

The Levee is the first in a series of events planned for throughout 2013 to mark Aurora's milestone anniversary. It will run from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. with the formal part of the festivities wrapped up by 5.30 for people to get home – or wherever they happen to be going! – to watch the Super Bowl. Activities include skating on Town Park's outdoor rink, a pick-up broomball game featuring Team Blue facing off against Team Yellow – Aurora's official colours – and other sport activities like a traditional tug of war, a bonfire, and a multi-faith 150 Candles for 150 Years service incorporating Aurora's multifaceted religious communities and First Nations to bless the Town for the past, present, and future.

A time capsule will also be opened February 3 to mark the Sesquicentennial and will formally be closed at the final celebration event in the fall.

Invitations are also being extended to all current and former mayors and councillors to attend for a reunion and com-

memorative photo to mark Aurora's milestone.

"I am envisioning Sonja Henie kind of music," joked Committee Chair Alison Collins-Mrakas, invoking the name of the Norwegian skating-cum-movie star of the 1930s when discussing DJ music that will be played during the skating. "If there are little kids they can suffer through it!"

"We have firmed up we're going to have wagon rides, which we are thrilled about, and we're able to arrange that. We understand the weather is going to cooperate – knock on wood – for skating and we're going to have a multi-faith candle lighting service which we think is going to bring a really beautiful touch to the day's events."

While the committee has come up with a packed program for February 3 there were no shortage of suggestions on what to incorporate or what was actually feasible from a safety and economic standpoint. Following their last meeting options were being explored on how to unfurl the flag as safety dictated the flag pole needed to be operated by Town Staff, as well as whether it would be permitted for individuals to use actual candles in mason jars during the multi-faith service out of safety concerns expressed by the Central York Fire Services.

Ms. Collins-Mrakas, however, says this reticence on the part of the CYFS was due to a miscommunication with the fire department, which believed their intention was somehow to actually set fire to 150 trees rather than 150 calendars. That little kink has now been hammered out!

The committee also nixed a suggestion from Town Staff for a machine to make maple syrup candies with ice clocking in at slightly under \$3,000. As it was explained to the committee, it would only be able to churn out 100 sweets computing to a cost of \$30 a pop.

"Unfortunately, the candy making machine just wasn't viable for this event," said Ms. Collins-Mrakas. "It just was not budgeted. We're trying to be mindful of the costs and while it was a fantastic idea, it's just not within the budget."



**SOYRA – the Society of York Region Artists – host their annual art show at the Aurora Cultural Centre this Tuesday through February 2. Pictured above are SOYRA artists Heather Miller, Diane Croker, Linda Welch, Susan Walker-Ing, and Doug Miles. Thursdays hold special extended hours from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. where you can see a painting class in action.**  
Auroran photo by David Falconer

## SOYRA builds on success of milestone year with new show

By Brock Weir

SOYRA – the Society of York Region Artists – marked their milestone 50 year anniversary last year with an exhibition at the Aurora Cultural Centre, and now the group of local artists returns to the Church Street gallery this week with a new show to build on their success.

SOYRA's Showcase 2013 opens this Tuesday, January 22 at the Aurora Cultural Centre and runs through February 2, bringing together the work of over 50 area artists not just from York Region but also from Toronto, Orangeville, and Uxbridge. An opening reception to celebrate the works and meet the artists behind them will be held this Saturday from 1 – 4 p.m.

"One of the outcomes [from last year's show] was that it exposed us in a dif-

ferent light," says SOYRA's Linda Welch, coordinator of the show.

"It put us in a beautiful environment and it seems to have impressed a lot of people. I am finding that probably 20 per cent of our members are brand new members that came to visit us at the show last year, saw the quality, saw the environment, and they want to be associated with an organization that presented itself in a professional manner. That is really remarkable.

"Some of the members are actually members who belonged years and years ago and they are now coming back. There is a different kind of interest in our meetings. We have always focused on education and that is our mandate but our education in the past may have been in the form of artist demonstrations and workshops. Now we're

expanding because there are new and different ideas coming in."

While the traditional portraits and landscapes, done in the traditional oils and watercolours, will again feature heavily in the new show, there will also be new and innovative clay sculptures and plaster friezes to catch the eye, and there are lots of ideas bubbling around for future shows.

"There is a consistent high level of quality and wide range of mediums that will be shown, everything from sculptures to pen and ink and oils and the traditional forms. What I see in the artists' work is more people trying different forms of art than they have in the past," says Ms. Welch. "Traditional watercolourists might be presenting oil paintings, so there is a broadening of their own expertise.



Team celebrates their efforts in Gretzky Tournament.

Supplied photo

## Aurora Bantam team places second in Gretzky tourney

By Laura Finney

Despite the Aurora 807 Bantam Crabby Joe's team coming in second place at the Walter Gretzky tournament, Coach Chris Robertson said it felt like they came in first.

"Even though we finished second," he said, "They were number one in our hearts."

Walter Gretzky hosted the house league tournament in Brantford last weekend.

80 teams participated in five different divisions.

Seven teams came from Aurora, but according to Robertson, the 807 Bantam team was the only one to make it to the final round of its division.

"It was amazing – to go all the way to the end in the field of 16 teams was a real thrill."

Robertson said the semi-final game was the most exciting. They won ten minutes into second overtime.

"It felt like we just won Olympic Gold," he said.

For many players and parents, this was the first time on an out of town tournament.

"Hockey was almost secondary to the fun they had at the hotel," Robertson said laughing.

He added the tournament was also an excellent way to get to know some of the parents, and he wanted to thank them for all they have done.

"They were ardent supporters, cheering us every step of the way and a lot of fun to be around," he said. "We've developed a lot of really good friendships off the ice as well." "It was great to get to know everybody on a little more personal basis and to share in the victories, and it was so encouraging how they supported us."



# Council to take a closer look at Ramp Project this week

By Brock Weir

The Community Ramp Project, a new initiative out of Toronto to bring together businesses and volunteers to provide cost-effective ramps for local businesses to increase accessibility for everyone, could get a boost from Aurora this week.

Councillors are set to consider a proposal from Councillor John Abel to study whether such a project would be feasible in Aurora.

Engineer Luke Anderson co-founded The Community Ramp Project after being confined to a wheelchair following a mountain biking accident in British Columbia and experiencing many barriers he felt could be avoided. The initiative brings together businesses such as local hardware stores and chambers of commerce along with volunteers to build brightly coloured single-step ramps for distribution to local companies. A ramp may only provide one step, but one step that can go a long way, according to Mr. Anderson.

“This allows everyone to take on their own ramp project,” said Mr. Anderson, meeting earlier this month at Town Hall with Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, Councillor Abel, and members of the Town’s Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC), including Tyler Barker who

brought this item forward for consideration by the committee.

“They are super light, they are custom made to suit the step. They are amazing for many reasons, but one of the main reasons is they are temporary and you don’t have to have a building permit in order to use this ramp. It allows for the widespread deployment across the country.”

The initiative recently got the endorsement of the City in Toronto and has made inroads in communities as far away as BC, but as close as Stouffville.

The Community Ramp Project is something Mr. Anderson could also bring the community together in a fun way that is not only productive, but can make a real impact in people’s lives. An example of this was a project last summer in the Roncesvalles neighbourhood in Toronto where they held a community ramp event in conjunction with a local festival celebrating Polish heritage and it was very well received with kids out painting and contractors offering their expertise.

“It’s such a simple thing when you think about it, but we have a long way to go,” said Mr. Anderson. “A business owner from Newmarket saw us in the Toronto Star and wanted a ramp. Instead of directing that person to a website where they could get an alu-

minum wedge, we thought, ‘What a miss! Here’s somebody who really likes the project, why shouldn’t we follow through and make that service available so we get a brightly coloured ramp with the logo and carry on our intent with the project?’

“They were really inspired and felt the need and desire to get on board.”

Mr. Barker agreed that the interest is here in the Aurora business community to make their establishments more

“My friends and I love to go out and watch hockey and drink beer, so we spend money and I just find it is awareness and I find that except for one establishment in Town they are all interested. If I call them up and be polite, they ask where they are and how much they cost,” said Mr. Barker.

Mr. Anderson envisions a good first step for Aurora in taking on the Community Ramp Project is either identifying one commercial strip in Aurora to take this on as a pilot project or an individual school to get on board with a contractor to volunteer some time. Mr. Barker said in conversations with Cardinal Carter Catholic Secondary School, for instance, there is already some interest.

Mr. Barker is slated to speak to Councillor Abel’s motion at Council this week.



Tyler Barker (L) a member of Aurora’s Accessibility Advisory Committee met with engineer Luke Anderson (R) earlier this month to look at the Town implementing Anderson’s “Community Ramp Project” initiative. Mr. Barker is scheduled to make a delegation to Council this week in support of the program.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

## Staff recommendation overturned

**From page 16**

new projects are completed it is more than likely the warrants would be met.

“The need is there, but unfortunately our warrants are not met,” said Mr. Simanovskis, noting policy is not in place to forecast future growth in the area as far as traffic studies are concerned. “It is just implementing the policy as it stands and I am able to recommend the implementation.”

One councillor opposed to overturning the staff recommendation was Councillor Evelyn Buck who said people have

choices where to live and should look at traffic accordingly.

“There are choices where you live and if a seniors residence is in this area and traffic represents a particular problem for seniors who are slower, why did we allow a senior residence to be built on a collector road?” she said. “Why didn’t we think about that before we gave the permission to build [there]?”

Councillor Gallo, however, countered Councillor Buck’s position.

“I would challenge you to find a more densely populated residential commu-

nity in this Town and I would defy you to find a stretch of road from Wellington without any stop sign.”

Approval last week came after a motion to defer this matter for three weeks to the next General Committee meeting from Councillor Chris Ballard to give the residents a chance to come and speak to the matter, but Council decided to “act on it right now.”

“If the tides are moving towards that, I think the residents will be happy anyway and I won’t support the deferral,” said Councillor Gallo.



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- Walking distance.** Just a short walk to downtown Aurora where you can experience great shopping, dining, and loads of entertainment. Or, if you prefer some big city excitement, you're just minutes from the GO Station and easy access to Toronto.



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